

# On to state



Several Lady Pirate swimmers will represent Pagosa Springs High School at the state swim meet Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 10 and 11. From left to right are Aubrey Gerdel, Grace Cram, Chloe Gantt, Leah Blackman, Marlowe Hedgecock, Asia Gorman and Gianna Shaeffer.

Photo courtesy Heather Miller

# Record high temperatures set

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Pagosa Country has been experiencing an unusually dry winter, with little to no snow on the ground in most parts around town.

Wolf Creek Ski Area has recorded 119 inches of snow so far this season, with the majority of that falling before the new year.

Along with the lack of snowfall, Pagosa Country experienced record high temperatures on Feb. 2, 3 and 4, according to a report from Shawn Prochazka with Pagosa Weather.

The high on Feb. 2 was recorded at 55 degrees, breaking the previous record of 53 degrees set in 1935. On Feb. 3, the high was recorded at 57

degrees, breaking the previous record of 54 degrees set in 1991. The high temperature on Feb. 4 was recorded at 55 degrees, breaking the previous record of 54 degrees set in 1941.

In an email to The SUN, Prochazka notes that climatology data for the Pagosa area is “incomplete and in some cases, not reliable,” explaining that data is pulled from the Western Region Climate Center and the Colorado Climate Center, as well as a database known as the Southwest Climate and Environmental Information Collaborative.

Prochazka also mentions that the data isn’t reliable enough to answer questions such as, “Is this our warmest winter?”

Prochazka’s January weather summary. See Record A8

# Fire district board approves impact fees

By Garrett Fevinger  
Staff Writer

Citing a rapidly expanding community with increased demand for emergency response services, the Pagosa Fire Protection District (PFPD) Board of Directors voted Tuesday to impose new impact fees on a broad range of future construction projects located within the district’s jurisdiction.

The resolution establishing the fees passed by a vote of 2-1, with directors Ryan Foster and James Martin voting in favor and Wayne Hooper

objecting. Board chairman LeRoy Lattin was absent for the vote due to illness, according to the board.

With its passage, the resolution authorizes the PFPD to assess fees upon an array of construction projects within its jurisdiction, including “new buildings, structures, facilities, or improvements, including oil or gas wells and related equipment, on previously improved or on unimproved real property.”

The new fees took effect Feb. 5 and will collect \$1,426 from new single-family residences built within the

See Fees A9

# Commissioners discuss potential impacts of federal funding freeze

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Feb. 4, the BoCC discussed potential impacts of the federal funding freeze issued by President Donald Trump and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on Jan. 27.

County Attorney Todd Weaver prefaced the discussion by explaining that two of the county’s departments — the Department of Human Services and the Public Health Department — receive a “significant amount of state funding,” which he further explained originates as federal funding.

“A lot of that state funding comes from federal. It’s federal funding,”

See Funding A8

# Tempers flare at PAWSD board meeting

By Josh Pike  
Staff Writer

Tensions erupted at the Jan. 30 meeting of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors, where a dispute over the procedure for setting agendas turned into a heated argument between

board members that included accusations that staff were subverting board authority and the district manager offering his resignation.

The dispute began early in the meeting, with PAWSD board member Glenn Walsh moving to defer consideration of amendments to the

See PAWSD A8



Photo courtesy Four Corners Safari Club International

Lea Lindsay has been named the recipient of the prestigious Safari Club International 2025 Young Hunter of the Year.

# Lea Lindsay named 2025 Young Hunter of the Year

By Jason Deweese  
Four Corners Safari Club International

Four Corners Safari Club International (SCI) is proud to announce that local member Lea Lindsay has been named the recipient of the prestigious SCI 2025 Young Hunter of the Year Award.

Lindsay received this honor recently during the SCI Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn., where her dedication to conservation, education and outdoor traditions was celebrated on a national stage.

The SCI Young Hunter of the Year Award is presented annually to young sportsmen and women aged 15-25 who exemplify leadership, initiative and a commitment to passing on the tradition of ethical hunting and conservation. Her tireless efforts in encourag-

ing young adults to embrace the outdoors and her advocacy for responsible hunting practices made her a standout ambassador for these values.

A proud member of the Four Corners community and the state of Colorado, Lindsay has actively worked to inspire others to experience the joys and responsibilities of the hunting tradition. Through her involvement in local conservation projects and her dedication to mentoring fellow young hunters, Lindsay has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to preserving hunting and conservation for future generations.

“It’s such an honor to represent our small community and the great state of Colorado,” Lindsay shared. “I’m incredibly grateful for the support from Four Corners SCI and the

See Hunter A8

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# County approves letter of intent to purchase Cornerstone property

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Feb. 4, the board unanimously approved a letter of intent (LOI) with Pagosa Partners I Inc. for the purchase of a property located at 2901 Cornerstone Drive for the purpose of constructing a new county administration building.

The decision came after the BoCC entered into an executive session,

which lasted approximately 15 minutes. Following the executive session, County Attorney Todd Weaver explained that the LOI is nonbinding and includes two purchase options.

One option is for the county to purchase four acres, with a right of first refusal on an additional 1.5 acres. The second option is for the county to purchase the entire 5.5-acre parcel, Weaver explained.

During a work session held by the BoCC on Dec. 17, 2024, County Manager Jack Harper indicated that the county could purchase four acres for

\$1,879,000 with the option to purchase the additional 1.5 acres of the Cornerstone property for \$700,000.

In August 2024, the BoCC considered a different LOI and a purchase and sale agreement with Arenalabs LLC for a property located at South Pagosa Boulevard and U.S. 160, across from Pagosa Springs Medical Center.

The BoCC ultimately tabled its decision on both of those matters until Dec. 17, 2024, when it approved giving staff direction to moving forward with purchasing the property

located at 2901 Cornerstone Drive.

Commissioner Veronica Medina did not vote on the matter in the Dec. 17, 2024, meeting, but did vote in favor of approving the LOI on Feb. 4.

In December 2022, the county approved the sale of the old courthouse building located at 449 San Juan St., which currently houses multiple county offices.

According to the sale agreement, the county received \$550,000 for the courthouse as well as a 10 percent undivided ownership interest in a

See Property A8



# Opinion



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## OUR VIEW

### Professionalism, civility and service

It seems our hope for more civility following the November election was just that — hope.

It didn't take long for contentious moves by the new administration to create more division across the nation and world despite Americans vowing to work together just months before.

We also continue to see divisiveness, as well as a lack of professionalism and civility, among local boards.

We deserve better.

We're not saying everyone has to agree on everything. It can be dangerous for the health of an organization if they do. But, we should be able to act with the professionalism expected of us when entrusted with a position, whether that be for a government board, advisory committee, nonprofit or job.

We would never fathom acting at our office or at meetings for boards we serve on the way we see some local appointed and elected officials act. We're pretty sure we'd be shown the door and asked to not return if we were to treat our colleagues how we've seen some treated or seemingly disregard the law.

The recent Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) meeting is one example. The meeting turned dramatic before the board of directors could even approve the agenda, and that continued when staff started a discussion on interpreting the bylaws concerning how the board should bring up proposed agenda items and to whom.

The conversation started with disagree-

ment presented in a mostly civil way. However, the conversation devolved into cursing and experienced staff threatening to quit.

We wish we could say we were surprised. We applaud board member Alex Boehmer for reminding his fellow board members they represent the ratepayers and should speak to each other professionally and without cursing.

Unfortunately, his reminder was met with more negativity.

Out of fairness, and because we like to look on the bright side, we'll note District Manager Justin Ramsey apologized multiple times for his "outburst" and board member Glenn Walsh acknowledged the "emotional absurdity" of the discussion and suggested how the board can move forward with more understanding. The tone of the rest of the meeting was much better and showed a lot more professionalism and care for staff. We hope that and board chair Jim Smith's request for a "little more love" are apparent at future meetings.

PAWSD wasn't the only disappointing situation lately. We're also disappointed that the Pagosa Springs Main Street board noticed its recent strategic planning sessions as meetings, then proceeded to fail to record those meetings or take minutes, which state law mandates.

The board has opted to take on serious roles in the community, among them helping to put out information on the upcoming U.S. 160 reconstruction project, and it should stay in the light if it hopes to be trusted in what is a confusing and, for

many, scary time.

But, because we like looking at the positive, we'll also point out that the PAWSD meeting wasn't all bad. We appreciate that the board is finally discussing a strategy to disseminate up-to-date information to the public about its water sources and availability in a simple and accessible way so the community can better understand what our local water supply looks like now and as we move into the future.

We also want to point out that there are a number of special district elections approaching this spring, and locals who would like to help better our community can throw their hats in the ring now.

The PAWSD board has three open seats in its spring election. It's been a while since there's been a contested election in the district.

If water governance isn't up your alley, there are several other special district boards with openings up for grabs this spring. Please, take a look at the articles on the elections in this week's SUN and last week's and see if there's a place you'd like to serve where you can help better this place we call home.

If elected boards also aren't your cup of tea, there are numerous town and county boards, as well as many opportunities to volunteer throughout the community.

With so many positions open to serve this community and the glimpse we get of how many people want to better our community, we're going to hang on to our hope.

Randi Pierce

## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

### 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
February 6, 1925

L.A. Desjardines of Denver, the school architect, and J.A. Meehan of Alamosa, the plumbing contractor, were arrivals Saturday to confer with the school board regarding the heating and other problems of the new school building. We understand that the hot water will be turned into the building within a few days, and plastering and other interior work will then be rushed to completion.

L.J. Goodman left yesterday for St. Louis on a buying trip for the store.

Wm. Peterson, veteran of the World War and brother of John Peterson of the Dyke section, and who had been engaged in work at the sawmill camps in this vicinity for some time, sailed from New York on Thursday of last week for his old home in Finland to visit with his wife and children, who have not been well in recent months. He plans to bring his family to this country in the near future and make his permanent home here.

### 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
February 4, 1950

Mrs. Rachel Tishner left last Wednesday for Greeley where she spent the week-end attending a state-wide conference of County Superintendents.

Late Saturday night Ed Bules slipped on the shale trail on his way home in South Pagosa and fell into the river. He managed to crawl onto the ice, but couldn't climb the icy embankment. Alex Sanchez and Floyd Bramwell heard his cries for "help" and came to his rescue.

George Yamaguchi is sporting a new Chevrolet. He plans to go to the ski meet at Aspen next week.

Mr. Albert Petry spent the week-end in Pueblo purchasing equipment for the dining room which is to be installed in the rear of the lobby at the Hotel Pagosa. The lobby has been completed and is a very attractive improvement to the hotel. This gives downtown Pagosa Springs as modern and attractive a hotel lobby as there is in the state.

### 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
February 6, 1975

The season total snowfall on Wolf Creek Pass is mounting these days and appears to be getting near normal. Total snow for the winter, through Sunday morning was 285 inches. January snowfall totaled 129 inches and contained 6.07 inches of melt-water.

January this year didn't show much promise for a while but the 66 inch snowfall last week brought snowfall to above average for the month. Last winter was a record January with 164 inches. January of this year was third high in the past 20 years. Second high for January was in 1969 when 1.33 inches fell.

Unless there is some unusually heavy snowfall for the remainder of the winter this won't be a record season. However, it could happen. Record snowfall for any one winter on Wolf Creek in the past 20 years was in 1973-74 when 619 inches of snow fell.

Ed Team, weather observer at the East Side Highway camp on Wolf Creek, reports that the past week saw 66 inches of new snow in a four day period.

### 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
February 3, 2000

County Manager Dennis Hunt has been authorized by the county commissioners to proceed as needed so the county can take over operation of the county landfill and transfer stations. Those steps include hiring help and purchasing equipment.

Waste Management Inc. has been managing the landfill for the county. Waste Management also picks up solid waste from homes and businesses around the county. That firm has indicated a desire to end its management role at the county-owned landfill, but will continue community-wide solid waste collections.

"Waste Management said they wanted out by March 1, but I think April 1 is a more realistic date," Hunt said.

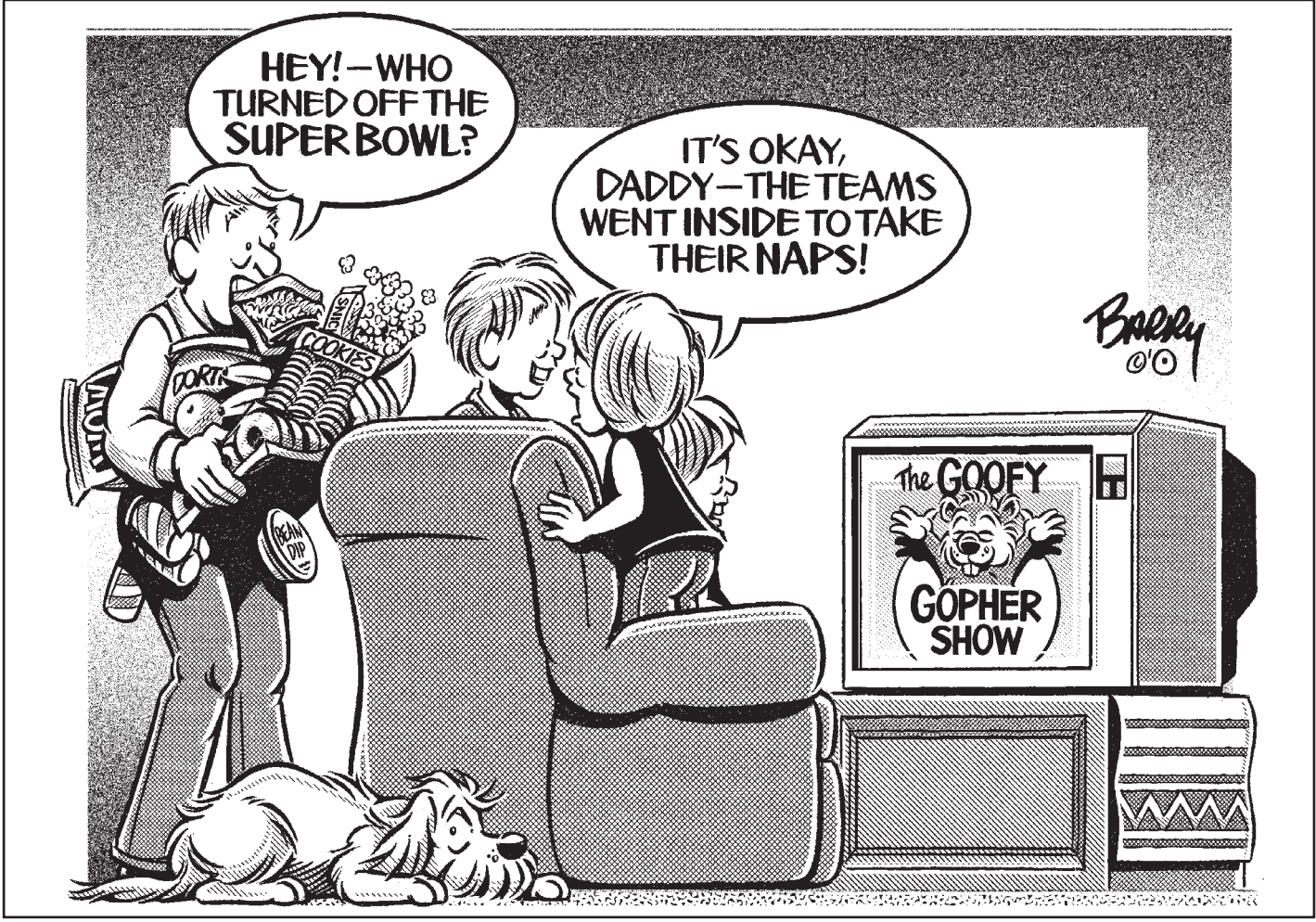
Hunt has hired Clifford Lucero to head the county's new Solid Waste Division created by the commissioners last week. Lucero reports to work Monday. He and Hunt have joined heads in organizing the new division. Lucero will have an office in the county garage and one staff person in the office.

Two people will be hired to work at the landfill site on Trujillo Road. One will man the gate and the other will operate equipment used to move and cover refuse. Two people will be hired for the Trujillo Road transfer station and one for the Arboles transfer station. Another person will be hired to drive a truck carrying recyclables between Durango and Pagosa and also to move refuse bins between the transfer stations and the landfill.



From the Feb. 5, 1987, Pagosa SUN — MOVING RIGHT ALONG — Winter Fest 1987 activities are moving into the home stretch. Snow sculpturing will take place in Town Park tomorrow. Saturday the noon parade will move through the downtown area following the pie eating contest at the landfill parking lot, and the water volleyball game will be played at The Spa Motel pool. The Lion's Club pancake breakfast Sunday morning and the Anything Goes Downhill Sled race at 1 p.m. on Reservoir Hill will conclude the festivities.

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## Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation			
			Depth	Type	Moisture	
1/28	49	13	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/29	37	20	0.00	NA	0.00	
1/30	31	10	3.80	S	0.28	
1/31	46	3	T	S	0.10	
2/1	48	16	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/2	56	20	0.00	NA	0.00	
2/3	59	22	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.

## Fix our Forests Act

Dear Editor:

A bipartisan bill intended to manage and improve forests on federal land, increase resilience to wildfires and boost forest restoration projects, H.R. 471 Fix our Forests Act, was passed last week in the House with a vote of 279 to 141. It has now moved onto the Senate.

Additionally, the bill supports reducing community wildfire risks, carrying out forest restoration and stewardship activities (including watershed protection and restoration), conducting biochar demonstration projects, advancing technologies to address forest wildfires, and assisting wildland firefighters and their families.

Healthy forests contribute to our community by providing essential resources like clean water, air purification, food sources, recreation opportunities, and by regulating climate, thus impacting the overall health and economic well-being of the people living within that area. They also serve as important habitats for wildlife and can even improve our mental health through access to nature.

Thank you to Rep Jeff Hurd for supporting and co-sponsoring this vital legislation, especially in our vulnerable area from the more frequently occurring heat and drought events over the last 20 years.

Susan Atkinson  
Durango, Colo.

## PLPOA gymnasium vote

Dear Editor:

If you live in the PLPOA community, you are being asked to vote on a proposed gymnasium project that, as proposed, will be funded by a onetime assessment of \$255 that is addition to the \$350 we already pay annually.

As proposed, the \$255, is supposed to cover the construction costs and the existing rec center is “supposed” to have enough excess funds to cover the future annual operating costs of the gym.

That kind of sounds like the rec center fees might be too high!

The question I would ask myself and the PLPOA board is this: If it were to be part of the PLPOA rules that NO ONE outside of PLPOA could use this gymnasium for ANY reason whatsoever, including Wyndham, would this still be a viable project?

If the answer to that is NO, then I would ask why are we, the property owners in PLPOA being the only ones asked to fund it? As I understand it, the PLPOA Board plans to make it available to anyone outside PLPOA through usage fees.

Do we know how long it would take to pay for the cost of this gymnasium through those usage fees? Is there a plan that we, the Property Owners part of PLPOA, might eventually get our \$255 back from these usage fees that the rest of the county would pay to use this gym? Is there really enough interest outside PLPOA in such a facility to actually fund all or even part of it? Would I even be alive to get my \$255 back?

I’m pretty sure I know the answer to those questions! We, PLPOA, will build it and they will come! Isn’t this just another “Field of Dreams”?

I have voted accordingly!

Gary Hardin

## Don’t breathe easy

Dear Editor:

So the tariffs with Canada and Mexico are on hold for a month. Don’t breathe easy.

Much more troublesome than the tariffs is that last week, the federal purse strings were handed over to Elon Musk. Anyone who cares about Social Security, Medicare, their tax return or confidentiality of their personal information, now risks all of this being affected by unauthorized political goons with no national security clearance.

Today, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was ordered to cease operations. This agency oversees banks and other financial institutions; as its name indicates, it protects consumers – you and me.

In his first few days in office, one of Trump’s executive orders was to freeze all federal grants. Under pressure,

that order was rescinded a day or two later, however many federal agencies and non-profit organizations still do not know if they will be able to access funds that are already established by contract.

Look around you. The people who will lose their jobs if the federal funding freeze is implemented are sitting next to you in church, standing in line behind you at the grocery store, perhaps sitting at the next table in your favorite local restaurant enjoying a meal out with what may be their last paycheck.

Are you worried about wildfire this summer (or earlier)? Do not expect the wildland fire crews we have seen every year, cutting firelines and standing by to protect structures if need be.

Meanwhile, hundreds of violent criminals are now free, pardoned not just for storming the Capitol in 2021 but many for other heinous crimes. If you’re a white supremacist with an eye patch, it’s now OK to murder police officers?

Donald Trump has handed over the federal purse and so far, a few federal agencies to Elon Musk, a billionaire from South Africa who was never elected. This is not a partisan issue: all of this country’s and your personal data and finances are now in the hands of people with no security clearance, no knowledge of how and why security systems are in place, no interest in your wellbeing nor national security, and no compassion.

Congressman Jeff Hurd, a Grand Junction lawyer, was elected to our district on a campaign about caring about Colorado. His website indicates he has offices in Durango, Pueblo and Grand Junction, however there is no phone number for any of those offices and the only way to contact him is at his Washington, DC office. He has not responded to any of my calls or emails. Hopefully he is there, working on our behalf. Hopefully we still have a functioning Congress.

At today’s BoCC work session, Commissioner John Ranson reported that Jeff Hurd told our commissioners to “stay in touch” and that Hurd does not see much impact to Archuleta County. From the number of initiatives already in place and pending that the commissioners put on hold during the same work session, it seems at least some of them see there will be impacts here.

Lisa Jensen

## Trump’s economy

Dear Editor:

President Trump started a trade war this week. He imposed massive tariffs on three of our largest trading partners, including one of our closest allies. He ignored the advice of economists and the complexity of the trading relationships, particularly with Canada and Mexico.

Because, why? Stopping fentanyl is a compelling motive. But most fentanyl enters the US through legal border crossings carried by US citizens. If the President is committed to fighting fentanyl use, he should be supporting the very local organizations from which he wants to drain federal funds.

As you watch the moves on tariffs

play out, remember ...

Trump inherited a strong economy from the Biden administration.

Unemployment was steady at the low rate of 4.1-4.2% for the last 7 months of 2024. Inflation ranged from 2.3% to 2.6% between October and December 2024, down considerably from COVID-era highs. The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline was \$3.12.

Investors thought Trump would be a boost for business. In the past three months, they drove the S&P stock index up 5.44%, the Dow Jones up 5.93%, and the NASDAQ up 7.61%. News of Trump’s tariffs knocked the market back on Friday. How far the markets react to the chaos of Trump – we’ll have to watch.

On top of Trump’s tariffs, the President’s spokesperson says he will be bringing forward new orders to stop loan and grant funding to state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofits. A court blocked his first attempt, but he’s undeterred. Federal dollars employ people – in Archuleta County, at least 50 federal employees plus jobs in local government and nonprofits supported with federal grants. The work those people do benefits us here in Pagosa. They also spend their wages buying goods and services from local businesses and paying local taxes.

The President is firing federal employees and indiscriminately pushing others to resign – including from understaffed positions like air traffic controller. Mass unemployment is not a good strategy for keeping the economy strong.

Soon enough we will see how people fare in the Trump economy.

Candace Jones

## Disastrous pick

Dear Editor:

Robert Kennedy, Jr.’s nomination as secretary of Health and Human Services is just one in a series of Trump’s disastrous picks. This is an especially egregious selection because the HHS secretary is, literally, in charge of the health of our country. Kennedy is the wrong person on any number of issues, but one that stands out is his position against vaccines.

Let’s review the long history of vaccines. Perhaps the best example is that of smallpox, caused by the variola virus, and the only human disease that has been completely eradicated. Smallpox was a scourge across more

than 3,500 years, with the oldest evidence in Egyptian mummies dating to 1500 BCE. Although when, exactly, people determined that the human immune system could be turned against smallpox is not known, the practice of inoculation, that is, the introduction of the live virus via an incision in the skin, goes back to at least the 1500s. Yes, because live virus was used, patients sometimes developed the disease and died, with a mortality rate up to about 2%. However, people accepted this risk because it was much lower than the 20-30% mortality rate of smallpox itself.

The Founding Fathers are often venerated for their wisdom: how did they behave in the face of the smallpox epidemics that ravaged America in the 1700s? John Adams was inoculated in Boston in 1764, and his wife Abigail and their children, including the future president John Quincy Adams, in 1776. Thomas Jefferson was inoculated in 1766. George Washington contracted smallpox in his youth and survived, giving him immunity for life, and perhaps playing some role in his decision to inoculate the Continental Army in 1777. In the late 1700s, it was discovered that cowpox, a virus closely related to but much less virulent than smallpox, also imparted immunity. It was again introduced via an incision in the skin, and “vaccination” was invented (the root word “vacca” is Latin for cow). Thomas Jefferson worked closely Benjamin Waterhouse, the American physician who introduced cowpox vaccination to this country; in fact, Jefferson vaccinated 200 people at Monticello, and kept statistics about its efficacy. Jefferson later sent the cowpox vaccine with Meriwether Lewis on the Lewis and Clark expedition but it did not survive past the Ohio River.

Fast forward more than 200 years. We now find ourselves in the position where Trump has nominated a person who is as willfully ignorant as he is about the history and scientifically proven efficacy of vaccines, truly one of the miracles of modern medicine. Kennedy’s confirmation would put the country at peril, both for the spread of childhood diseases that are now under control, and for the next pandemic, a question of when, not if.

Are we prepared to run counter to the wisdom of the Founding Fathers and return to the tragic past when now preventable diseases were un-

■ See Letters A5

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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

### Mike Le Roux, Archuleta County Sheriff



#### What are your three biggest accomplishments of 2024?

With the start of a brand-new year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the community of Archuleta County a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025. I would also like to reiterate what an honor it is to serve this community as Sheriff and to thank you for entrusting me with public safety in our region.

As I outline our achievements and goals I need to reinforce that any accomplishments over the past year are underpinned by the dedication, loyalty, and passion of the capable men and women at Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO). It is truly a privilege to work and serve with such a professional, honorable, and loyal team, who continue to go above and beyond in what is often an arena with limited external reward.

I'd like to point out that many of the goals and achievements listed are largely the same as my first two years in office, and will be similar again next year, as these are no short order goals. During my tenure I aim to build upon these until we see significant, meaningful and lasting change.

ACSO is one of the few elected offices in the region that are required to be fully functional and actively responsive 24 hours a day 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Our lights are always on and we are always ready. This is a challenge and requires me to ask more than I would like to of an organization's employees. The dedication of my staff continues to impress me as they willingly sacrifice holidays, family time, heavy snow days and sleep to keep our county safe.

#### What are your three top goals for 2025?

1. Sustaining the Volume and Intensity of Calls for Service in 2024  
In 2023 ACSO more than doubled calls for service over the previous 5 years, totaling a little over 13,000 calls. In 2024, that call volume again increased by another 1%. Our population, particularly over summer months, continues to place excess demands on our county's resources.

We were able to successfully respond and provide county-wide coverage throughout this unprecedented time of growth in our region, modifying our approach to coverage and building stronger relationships with other community agencies.

#### 2. Staff Recruitment and Retention

Building on the success of our collaborative efforts with the Board of County Commissioners in significantly raising salaries, we were able to endure meaningful staff retention throughout the year. We met our goals in respect to promoting from within the Office, as well as expanding our knowledge and skill base with increased training and attendance at the law enforcement training academy, and detentions academy. We also launched a recruitment video for Archuleta County

Sheriff's Office showing the appeal of working in our exciting team environment and beautiful county surrounds.

#### 3. Technological and Resource Advances

In collaboration with Oracle and their Public Safety Implementation team, ACSO transitioned into utilizing a new Record Management System (RMS) and Jail Management System (JMS), which included the roll-out of mobile CAD systems installed within our fleet of patrol vehicles. The new system vastly enhances our efficiency, which in turn increases our productivity. By having the ability to access pertinent information real-time away from the office, our Deputies can spend more time on the road and in the field.

#### What is your action plan to meet your goals?

##### Staff Retention and Recruitment

We continue to focus on stabilizing the staff contingent we now have, with an emphasis on creating a cohesive team of experienced professionals. Our goal is to achieve and maintain a 100% staff complement, to reduce the impact of overtime and burnout for our staff. We continue to battle a nationally felt decline in an interest in a career path in law enforcement, as well as local challenges of cost of living; lack of affordable housing; lack of day care facilities and the transient nature of a tourist location.

##### Action plan

I am passionate about recruiting the right people to our agency because I believe:

- Law Enforcement is still a top career path, with unparalleled prospects for skills and training, and a unique and profound opportunity to serve your own community;
- Archuleta County is an unique place of community and natural beauty and a great place to call home;
- ACSO is a meaningful place to work, with an enviable team environment.

We continue to develop career and training paths and opportunities for those who show potential for long-term team fit, and support those willing to expand their skill base to complement our team.

We also actively seek alternative funding sources for recruitment, retention, training and technology.

##### Active and Ongoing Community Engagement

Our ongoing commitment is to provide frequent, clear, and transparent communication through easily accessible channels; to be approachable and available to engage; and to respond reliably, punctually, courteously and professionally.

In 2023 we partnered with the community of Arboles to support and augment their community Neighborhood Watch initiative.

##### Action plan

We are continuing to build on partner relationships within the county and to develop new connections and opportunities to interact with the public, responder agencies, private enterprise, and other stakeholders. Wherever possible we intend to represent the office at public events in support, and to give the public the opportunity to engage with our personnel. We will continue to be committed to communicating frequently and transparently through information releases in public platforms.

## Pagosa Fire Protection District

### Robert Bertram, Pagosa Fire Protection District Chief



2024 has seemingly come and gone at a blink of an eye. During the first year as the Pagosa Fire Protection District Chief, I quickly learned how fortunate I was to be handed such a great team of volunteer and career members. The year was spent observing and evaluating all aspects of operations and looking for opportunities to further develop the team to serve the citizens to the best of our abilities.

#### What are your three biggest accomplishments of 2024?

1. Several of our firefighters were able to earn new certifications over the year. These certifications include Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Hazardous Materials Operation, Fire Instructor I, Fire Officer I, and Driver Operator. Additionally, we had our first two firefighters complete the Driver Operator Pumper Certification. Aside from certifications our fire fighters have attended Wildland Fire Academy's, Leadership Conferences, and Rope Rescue Technician Classes. Their participation shows the commitment our team has to continued education to enhance their ability to provide service to our community.

2. We were able to bring on board 5 new volunteer firefighters after their completion of our recently revamped candidate academy. Volunteers are a key part of our emergency response team.

3. Our prevention team has expanded to three members. The additional team member assists with prevention activities and aided in expansion of our Community Risk Reduction Programs.

#### What are your three top goals for 2025?

1. In 2025 we plan to increase our staffing levels of our 24/7 career shift personnel. We look to add an additional member to each shift creating a 5-member shift with a minimum staffing of 4. This will better prepare us for response to the increase number of simultaneous calls for service. In addition to the shift personnel, we hope to bring on board a Training Captain, dedicated to further the training of our volunteer and career members.

2. When large incidents occur, effective response cannot happen without our dedicated group of volunteers. Recruitment and Retention programs for our volunteers will be a priority for 2025 and the future.

3. As the need for emergency response increases, we need to anticipate future needs of the community and figure out how to get there. In 2025 we will dive heavily into our strategic planning process to create a roadmap for the future. Some major components of the plan will include future staffing needs, future staffed stations, and apparatus replacement plans.

#### What is your action plan to meet your goals?

1. Additional staffing was included in the adoption of the 2025 budget. We will work hard to recruit the best personnel to add to our team.

2. Development of our Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention programs will be a collaborative effort of our volunteer and career personnel. These programs will be developed through a series of surveys, study of other fire department programs, and focused meetings.

3. Strategic planning process will involve all members of Pagosa Fire Protection District, including the Board of Directors. Similar to the Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Programs, the strategic planning process will receive input from all members through surveys and focused meetings. The process will require extensive review of past and projected statistics of Fire District operations, while evaluating current national standards.

We are always accepting applications for volunteer firefighter and auxiliary members. Please call (970) 731-4191 for more information.

## H&R BLOCK

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# JoAnn Howell

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■ **Continued from A3**  
checked? Make your voice heard and let the Senators know that you oppose a return to the Dark Ages. Your life depends on it.

John Kappelman

## Weatherization Assistance Program

Dear Editor:

Dear Residents of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County,

My name is Holly Leann Metzler. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as one of our community's Directors on the Board of La Plata Electric Association. Over the five years I have been a director, I have come to appreciate that the most resilient energy systems are based on a solid foundation of energy efficiency. To that end, please consider a program the State of Colorado has for low-income residents available right now called Weatherization Assistance Program. If you get currently receive TANF, SSI, SNAP or LIHEAP/LEAP, you may automatically qualify.

I am passionate about this weatherization program, because I have seen it in action. It serves energy savings and a more comfortable home to some of our most vulnerable populations. Renters are eligible, so long as the landlord agrees to participate. The application can be filled out online (search online: Colorado Weatherization Program, link at the bottom of the page, where you can also find income guidelines and other information), but in support of folks who may need assistance, I will be available at the Ruby Sisson Library Turner Reading Room on Thursday nights 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, and 2/27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Bring your benefit letter for TANF, SSI, SNAP or LIHEAP/LEAP if you have one of them. You will also need your natural gas and electricity account numbers to complete the application. If you cannot come to the library or have questions, please feel free to call me at 970-946-0037. Please note that some time very soon, there will be a new State energy efficiency rebate program open for additional homeowners, multi-family units and mobile homes. You can sign up for updates for these programs on the Colorado Weatherization Program website as well.

With appreciation,

Holly Metzler

## Beautiful architecture

Dear Editor:

If one travels to any city in Europe, and a majority of the older cities in the Eastern United States, you will notice something strikingly different from what is seen in the new more modern cities of America, especially our western cities and towns.

Beautiful architecture.

In most of these places, you will find awe inspiring, heart felt, artful architecture. These buildings stand in stark contrast to what we see being built in these modern times.

Our ancestors understood something different about a building. Building projects regardless if undertaken to fulfill a civic, commercial, or even residential need were not limited to just several walls and a roof. An artistic component played heavily into the design. The architect, the builder, and the one commissioning the construction understood more was at play than just the simple functionality of the building. They understood, and required, that the building contribute to the greater improvement of the area. Apart from what was to take place within those walls, the building had, one could argue, the greater responsibility to be beautiful.

When did we in America turn our backs on art? Primarily in architecture?

Take notice of what characteristics the most desirable locations in any city or town share in common. The buildings. The ones that were created, with local stone and brick. The buildings that projected artful beauty from their foundations to their peaks; these are the structures that still resonate with people today. These buildings touch your soul. They inspire passersby with just their warmth and artistic intentions.

People today and projects undertaken, have a responsibility when considering the design of any building. Not only do we have the responsibility to our fellow citizens to enrich and add beauty to their lives today, with artistically designed architecture, but we owe it to our descendants. Future generations will reap in their time what we sow in ours.

If the question is asked, what are we leaving of ourselves? How will generations one hundred, two hundred, five hundred years from now look at our time? Will we leave them

architecture built to last, with a utility encased in a truly beautiful form? Or will we settle for the lowest bid? Only considering the functionality of a structure and not the artist potential that it could have had?

If we are to leave a lasting legacy, one that is tangible, one that plants itself and grows into the very fabric of a community and a people, we must change our expectations on architecture. What we build today, if not built with an aesthetic eye, is only a soulless form, a lost opportunity, destined to be demolished within a century and forgotten.

Everything we build is an expression of the soul of our civilization. We must do better in our time of laying a strong civilizational foundation. Egypt, Athens, Rome, and London, are all known and experienced by what the builders left of themselves. Let us leave the best part of ourselves for the future.

Caleb Monroe

## Trump's response

Dear Editor:

Disgusting, , heartless, despicable, deranged, deceitful, cruel, racist, sexist, and decidedly unchristian. There are not enough words in the English language to describe Trump's response to the tragic accident at Washington National Airport. Before we knew the death toll, while bodies were being extricated from the aircraft, and while families were not even aware that their loved ones were probably dead, Trump blamed the accident on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in the FAA. He had NO, I repeat NO, evidence that DEI

had anything to do with the calamity. His words insinuate that DEI means incompetence. The inference that FAA would assign a mentally or emotionally disturbed person as an air traffic controller is blatantly absurd. When quizzed on his statement, Trump said it was "common sense." No, "common sense" would be to sympathize with the victims and their families, praise the brave first responders (many of whom were people of color), and wait until there was a shred of evidence as to the cause before making outrageous (and false) accusations.

As it turns out, a preliminary evaluation suggests that the helicopter, manned by three white soldiers, was flying higher than authorized. The single tower controller was apparently doing the work of two people. The airspace around Washington National, which I have flown into many times, is incredibly overcrowded. The airport handles far more passengers than it was designed for, partly because members of Congress want convenient flights back to their hometowns. But none of this mattered to Trump. He has no interest in truth or compassion (or common sense) when he can turn a human tragedy into a denunciation of his political "enemies."

What is DEI? For hundreds of years, white males had nearly exclusive access to skilled employment, housing, credit, justice, government, and education - "white male privilege." The civil rights struggles of the 1960s began to change that, to begin to level the playing field. DEI is an extension of this struggle, which is far from over. Why shouldn't American life reflect that wonderful "diversity" of

our citizenry, which has shaped the fabric of our culture? "Equity" refers to fairness, equality, and justice, such as women receiving equal pay as men for the same job. And, among other things, "inclusion" means that my wheelchair-bound wife can cross the street, enter buildings, use restrooms, and travel by air, train, or bus. It means that my deaf daughter-in-law can get a sign language interpreter at meetings and can't be denied a job because of her deafness.

DEI does not simply mean that people of color, women, LGBTQ citizens, and the disabled are automatically given jobs for which they are unqualified, as Trump claims. Rather, it means that people are given an opportunity to compete fairly and are included in our society. Isn't this what America should strive to deliver? Aren't equality and inclusion fundamental tenets of religion? Isn't equality guaranteed by our Constitution, which Trump and his disciples claim to revere? This is what DEI affords!

John Porco

## LPEA

Dear Editor:

LPEA Customers; This letter has been sent to LPEA's comment email. To the LPEA board; We're writing you to discuss the reasons behind "the board's" decision to separate from Tri-State. I did attend the informational meeting in Pagosa last fall.

You've already notified the coop members that our rates will go up in March.

It doesn't make sense to us on why we're paying so much (\$250 million ■ See Letters A6



# Thank You, Pagosa Springs, for a Generous Year of Bell Ringing!

By: Neil Umali, Director of Archuleta Salvation Army

As we reflect on another incredible year, the Salvation Army of Archuleta County is filled with gratitude for the generosity, kindness, and community spirit that made our 2024 bell-ringing campaign a resounding success.

For 31 days, from November 24 through December 24, the sound of bells ringing filled the air at City Market as volunteers and supporters came together to spread hope and joy. With the help of 16 dedicated community organizations and countless individual volunteers, we raised funds to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

This campaign wasn't just about donations; it was about the spirit of Pagosa Springs coming alive. Every smile, every act of kindness, and every moment spent ringing the bell reflected the heart and soul of our community.

## How Your Generosity Changed Lives

Every dollar raised directly impacts the community of Pagosa Springs, supporting vital programs that provide relief and hope to our neighbors. Your generosity has made a meaningful difference in countless ways:

- Rotary Club's Feed the Children Backpack Program: Providing meals to children who might otherwise go hungry on weekends and school breaks.
- Aspire's Diapers and Wipes Initiative: Helping parents care for their babies with essential supplies.
- Rise Above Violence: Offering emergency housing and support for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Pagosa Outreach

Connection (POC): Assisting families in crisis with rent, utilities, and transportation.

- Vets for Vets: Supporting local veterans with emergency housing and transportation fuel.
- Firewood Program: Helping families stay warm during the winter through firewood distribution.
- Pagosa Community Initiative: Providing enriching after-school programs for local youth.
- Aspen House: Supporting individuals with special needs through meals and training programs.
- Homelessness Assistance: Offering critical resources such as one-night hotel stays, shower vouchers, sleeping bags, and transportation fuel.

These programs, supported by your generosity, have transformed lives and brought hope to those who need it most, showing them they are not alone and that their community cares.

## A Special Thanks to Our Volunteers and Supporters

The success of this year's campaign would not have been possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the 16 community organizations who gave their time to ring the bell and spread the message of hope.

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to City Market, whose staff and customers provided the platform for our efforts. Your partnership and unwavering support have been invaluable to this mission.

Finally, to every individual who donated—whether it was spare change, a thoughtful contribution, or a simple word of encouragement—we thank you.

Every single act of generosity made a difference and brought light to someone's life.

## Celebrating the Spirit of Pagosa Springs

This campaign was a beautiful reminder of what makes Pagosa Springs so special. It's the way we come together in times of need, the way we turn compassion into action, and the way we lift one another up.

Your contributions, time, and energy have not only helped meet immediate needs but have also inspired hope for a brighter future in our community.

## Looking Forward to Next Year

As we celebrate this year's success, we invite you to continue this tradition of giving next holiday season. Whether you ring a bell, drop a donation in the red kettle, or support our efforts in other ways, your involvement makes all the difference.

Together, we can ensure that every individual and family in Pagosa Springs has access to the support and resources they need.

## From the Salvation Army of Archuleta County:

"To our volunteers, donors, and supporters: thank you for your compassion and commitment to our community. You are the reason we can continue to serve and make a difference. Your generosity inspires us every day, and we look forward to another incredible year of giving and growth."

See you next holiday season at City Market!

*With heartfelt gratitude,  
The Salvation Army of  
Archuleta County*

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## Maurice Woodruff

Sept. 25, 1939-Dec. 6, 2024

Maurice was born in Hollywood, Calif., to June Whitaker and Maurice Woodruff Sr. His dad was in the Coast Guard and his mom would later work for the LA County Sheriff's Department. Maurice loved sharing memories of his grandpa "Slim" Whitaker, who seemed to always play the bad guy in early western movies. Maurice was very proud of the time he served in the U.S. Army. He served in Korea and his reserve time was spent in California. Maurice did many things in his life

after the Army. He drove roll-off trucks, was a big rig truck mechanic, built his own motorcycle, installed water tanks, was a butcher and meat cutter, did construction on military bases, went to school to become a water treatment operator, and retired to Pagosa Springs in 1996. Retired is a subjective description, though. He got



his first handyman job in Pagosa, just because he showed up. He didn't work on "Pagosa time," which endeared him to his many clients. He loved to hunt and fish with friends and family. It was the comradery and time spent together that he appreciated the most. He enjoyed helping out with the women's shooting classes and the hunter education classes. He retired for the second time when he turned 80, but still managed to run to Ace or Ponderosa to help his buddies out. He traveled to Alaska for the first time when he was 77 and went several times over the next few years. He

enjoyed seeing the aurora and fishing for halibut.

Maurice is survived by his wife of 43 years, Natalie; children Lisa (Peter) Tryk, Ken (Michelle) Woodruff and Kimberly Woodruff; grandchildren Cassie Rios, Anthony (Rachel) Caezza, Trinity Tryk, Brandon Woodruff, Courtney (Tristan) Hernandez, Andrew Thayer, Matthew Thayer and Brianna Parris; and great-grandchildren Elizabeth and Lyla.

Maurice was loved by many and he will be sorely missed. A celebration of life will be held April 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. at his favorite restaurant, Ramon's.



■ Continued from A5

dollars) to separate from Tri-State when from what we understand is that Tri-State is going green (environmentally friendly power generation technology). We don't believe the technology is in place yet for these green technologies to be reasonably priced.

We don't believe that most LPEA customers support this move. If they all knew what the board has in the works I think they would be against it. The support the board receives from the green organization (The San Juan Citizens Alliance) is also disturbing to regular LPEA members. The agenda of the board appears to be way more concerned about being "green" than being cost conscious.

Please don't do this.  
Jim and Ann Shepherdson

## Immigration

Dear Editor:

In the news cycles I listen to, the subject of immigration figured heavily in Americans' choices in last year's elections. Most folks I listen to would say in some way, "our immigration system is broken." The question of how to fix that system begins with a common understanding of what the system is meant to do. If my 6-cylinder car forms a crack in the block, I can't solve the problem by installing a giant battery.

That's not how gas engines work.

We need to establish a philosophy of immigration for the United States. A good place to start that work is to look at the Declaration of Independence, which asserts that "all men [and we understand women] are created equal." But very early in the Constitution (Article 1, Section 2) we find the term "citizen." Defining the term "citizen" limits the number of people for whom the government claims equality. For instance, we might want to say that a woman born in Colorado is equal to a man born in Tanzania—but they are not equally voters in the United States. Citizenship puts practical limits on equality.

The first question about immigration is, "If we claim that all people are equal, how much do we diminish equality by assigning privileges exclusively to US citizens?" Some examples: Are non-citizens equal to citizens in the right of due process of law? Are non-citizens equal in freedom of speech? How about freedom of movement? To the degree that we assign rights and privileges to citizens only, we are moving on the spectrum away from "all people are created equal" to a structure that privileges and protects only citizens.

Congress could go quite far in privileging citizens over non-citizens. And if we believe that the United States exists

to serve and protect the interests of its citizens, we might say that Congress should deny non-citizens as many rights as possible, to preserve those blessings of liberty for its citizens. Many nations do this. But then we depart from the declared ideal of equality for all humanity. And we look away from the fact that much of America's existence was enabled and empowered by non-citizens seeking to own and realize that ideal for themselves and their families.

To begin a productive debate about solving a "broken immigration system," I think we need to start with establishing where on this spectrum we stand: Toward which end will we risk error for good? Both ends will entail costs; both ends will produce benefits. Do we seek, and err on the side of, privileging and protection of citizens? Or do we seek, and err on the side of, offering equality to all people?

Emrys Tyler

## Be informed and speak up

Dear Editor:

President Trump clearly won the election by electoral votes, but not so much by the popular vote. Of those voting in the popular vote, Trump received 49.81% of the vote and Harris 48.34% ([https://www.presidency.](https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/statistics/elections/2024)

[ucsb.edu/statistics/elections/2024](https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/statistics/elections/2024)). So, it was not a sweeping mandate; there are many, many voters who do not agree with President Trump's positions. Whatever issues President Trump is backing that concern you, keep informed and speak up.

With that in mind, you may be interested in watching an event on-line: On Wednesday, February 12, 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM MT, The New Republic is streaming a virtual presentation entitled America in Crisis: Navigating the Dark Road Ahead, with discussions about the Trump administration, Christian Nationalism and "what we can expect in the months ahead." It is sponsored by The New Republic, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and Rachel Carson Council.

The presentation has political commentators Jared Bernstein, Jamie Raskin, U.S Representative Bennie Thompson, Olivia Troye, Mark Zaid, and others. The agenda includes a Key-note Address; The Dangers of Christian Nationalism and Project 2025; Retribution Trump 2.0 Style; The New Economy; and Bad Business: Corporate Complicity in the Climate Crises.

If any of these topics concern you, you can register to stream the event at <https://www.atlasarts.org/events/the-new-republic-america-in-crisis/>.

Joan Yuhas Ward

# Apply now for Colorado's free universal preschool

Colorado Department of Early Childhood

Colorado families continue shaping history, with more than 19,000 applications already submitted for Colorado Universal Preschool's 2025-2026 enrollment.

This nationally recognized program provides up to 15 hours of free, high-quality preschool weekly for children in their pre-kindergarten year, with additional hours available for qualifying families.

"Free preschool is saving Coloradans an average of \$6,100 every year while giving students the best possible start. We are thrilled that so many families have already signed up for the next school year to better prepare their child for success," said Gov. Jared Polis.

"Colorado's Universal Preschool Program is transforming lives and has propelled Colorado from 27th to seventh in preschool enrollment across the nation," said Dr. Lisa Roy, executive

director of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood. "With over 85,600 children served in just two years, now is the time for all eligible families to apply for the upcoming school year."

### Key enrollment deadlines

Families can apply at [UPK.Colorado.gov](http://UPK.Colorado.gov) following the steps below:

- Feb. 3: Preregistration deadline for families continuing care with a participating provider, with a sibling enrolled or family member employed by a provider.
- Feb. 5: First family-provider matching round deadline. Families applying by this date increase their chances of securing a top-choice preschool.
- March 5: Final matching round deadline. After this, families can directly enroll with providers as space allows.

Colorado's innovative enrollment process provides multiple pathways,

including preregistration, general registration and direct enrollment.

Families can choose from diverse settings — home-based, school-based or community-based — to find the best fit for their child. Families can check to see when they are eligible based on their district's kindergarten eligibility dates using the Age Eligibility Lookup Tool.

Program Director Dawn Odean said, "With one in three eligible children enrolled for the upcoming year and a history of matching 90 percent of families with their first or second choice, it's exciting to see that our continuous improvement and strong partnerships across the state are delivering real results for families."

### How to Apply

Families can easily apply online and explore resources at [UPK.Colorado.gov](http://UPK.Colorado.gov).

For support:

- Visit: [Help.Upk.Colorado.gov](http://Help.Upk.Colorado.gov).
- Email: [universalpreschool@state.co.us](mailto:universalpreschool@state.co.us).
- Call: (303) 866-5223 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ). Interpreters are available in more than 100 languages.

## Early education: a critical investment in Colorado's future

"Investing in high-quality early education is one of the most impactful steps we can take," said Roy. "With 90 percent of brain development occurring by age 5, preschool helps build essential skills for lifelong success, from early literacy to social-emotional growth. Colorado families: Don't wait. Apply today to give your child the best possible start in this nationally celebrated program."

# Eligible Coloradans can get assistance to pay a portion of their home heating bills

By John Rosa  
Colorado Department of Human Services

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) reminds residents statewide that they may be eligible for assistance to pay a portion of their home heating bills this winter, as well as lower their energy costs for years to come.

So far this season, a record number of Coloradans have applied for — and received — benefits through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) when compared to this same time in previous seasons.

Nearly 61,500 Coloradans have already received benefits through LEAP this heating season. That's an 11 percent increase from this same time last season. Coloradans have through April 30 to apply for assistance.

During the 2023-2024 heating

season, more than 85,000 Coloradans received benefits through LEAP.

"No one should go without heat this winter, and we encourage anyone who thinks they may be eligible for LEAP to apply," said Theresa Kullen, LEAP manager. "While the program cannot pay the entire cost of heating your home this winter, LEAP can lessen some of the burdens that come during the colder months."

LEAP helps by making a onetime payment of up to \$1,000 directly to the utility company on behalf of each LEAP-eligible household. LEAP recipients may also be able to get furnace repair and replacement.

To qualify, Coloradans may have an income up to 60 percent of the state median income, which is a household income of less than

\$78,060 a year for a family of four.

Additionally, LEAP recipients must pay home heating costs directly to a utility company or landlord as part of their rent and have at least one U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident of the U.S. living in the household.

To apply for LEAP, visit CDHS's website ([cdhs.colorado.com/leap](http://cdhs.colorado.com/leap)). Online applications are processed through the Colorado PEAK system. You can also call the HEAT HELP line at 1-866-HEAT-HELP, or 1 (866) 432-8435, to receive an application via mail or email, or you can visit your county human services office to pick up or drop off an application.

Colorado LEAP is a federally funded program that helps eligible hard-working Colorado families, seniors and individuals pay a portion of their winter home heating costs.

## Health insurance tax time enrollment period underway

By Ashley Springer  
Archuleta County

Though the open enrollment deadline of Jan. 15 has passed, there is one more opportunity for residents to explore options for health insurance through Colorado Connect for Health during an easy enrollment period — also known as tax season.

The Archuleta County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is here

to help anyone with questions about this opportunity for open enrollment options.

Residents who are uninsured, eligible for financial assistance, and who have not yet filed their Colorado state tax return are urged to call ACPHD health navigator Madeline Sutton prior to filing.

By simply filling out a separate form and checking a box on their return, they may be eligible for open



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# Special districts announce May elections

**By Garrett Fevinger**  
Staff Writer

Election activity resumes this month in Archuleta County as several special districts in the area seek nominations for director seats to be filled during May elections.

In addition to the Upper San Juan Health Service District, detailed in the Jan. 30 edition of The SUN, the following districts have also announced upcoming elections, scheduled for early May.

## Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District

Three directors will be elected to serve four-year terms during the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District election, scheduled for 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

Eligible electors interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain self-nomination and acceptance forms from Designated Election Official (DEO) Renee Lewis at 100 Lyn Ave. Lewis can be reached via email at DEO@pawsd.org; self-nomination forms are also available at [www.pawsd.org/district-business/pawsd-board-of-directors](http://www.pawsd.org/district-business/pawsd-board-of-directors).

The deadline to submit self-nomination and acceptance forms to the DEO is 5 p.m. on Feb. 28. The deadline to submit an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate is 5 p.m. on March 3. Absentee ballot applications can be filed with Lewis from April 22 through 5 p.m. on April 29, and must be returned to the DEO administrative office by 7 p.m. on May 6.

## Pagosa Fire Protection District

Three directors will be elected to serve four-year terms, and one director will be elected to serve a two-year term on the Pagosa Fire Protection District board when voting takes place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

Eligible electors interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain self-nomination and acceptance forms from DEO Tomi Bliss, who may be contacted at 165 N. Pagosa Blvd. Bliss can also be reached at (970) 731-4191 or at [tbliss@pagosafire.com](mailto:tbliss@pagosafire.com).

The DEO office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The deadline to submit self-nomination and acceptance forms to the DEO is 5 p.m. on Feb. 28, and the deadline to file absentee ballot applications is 5 p.m. on April 29.

## Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District

Four directors will be elected to serve four- or two-year terms as Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District voting gets underway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 5.

Eligible electors interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain self-nomination and acceptance forms from DEO Molly Risinger, whose office is located at 55 Milton Lane in Arboles. Risinger can also be contacted at (970) 946-0240 or [piedrapark@yahoo.com](mailto:piedrapark@yahoo.com).

The deadline to submit self-nomination and acceptance forms to the DEO is close of business on Feb. 28.

The deadline to submit an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate is close of business on March 3.

The deadline to file absentee ballot applications is close of business on April 29.

## Aspen Springs Metropolitan District

Three directors will be elected to serve four-year terms for the Aspen Springs Metropolitan District when voting gets underway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

Eligible electors interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain self-nomination and acceptance forms from DEO Chelsa Windscheffel, whose office is located at 718 Evergreen Drive. The DEO may also be reached at (719) 588-9779 or [windscheffelchelsa@gmail.com](mailto:windscheffelchelsa@gmail.com).

The DEO office is open by appointment only.

The deadline to submit self-nomination and acceptance forms to the DEO is 5 p.m. on Feb. 28. The deadline to submit an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate is 5 p.m. on March 3, and the deadline to file absentee ballot applications is 5 p.m. on April 29.

## Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District

Three directors will be elected to serve three-year terms for the Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District during the district's mail-ballot election.

There will be no election precinct or polling place, and all ballots must be received by DEO Gary Lansdale no

later than May 2.

Eligible electors interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain self-nomination and acceptance forms from [alpharockridgeroad-district.com](http://alpharockridgeroad-district.com) and mailed to the DEO at PO Box 5673, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. The DEO can also be reached at (505) 486-1437.

The deadline to submit self-nomination and acceptance forms, as well affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate forms, is Feb. 27.

## Los Pinos Fire Protection District

The Los Pinos Fire Protection District serves a portion of Archuleta County.

Two directors will be elected to serve four-year terms when voting gets underway from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 6.

Eligible electors interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain self-nomination and acceptance forms from DEO Rebecca Flinders, whose office is located at 275 Brown-ing Ave. in Ignacio. Flinders can be reached by phone at (970) 563-9501.

The DEO office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The deadline to submit self-nomination and acceptance forms to the DEO is 5 p.m. on Feb. 28. The deadline to submit an affidavit of intent to be a write-in candidate is 5 p.m. on March 3, and the deadline to file absentee ballot applications is 5 p.m. on April 29.

[garrett@pagosasun.com](mailto:garrett@pagosasun.com)

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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](mailto:agadomski@pagosasprings.co.gov).

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute a lasting symbol of community pride and artistic vision!

# Chamber Gala and Community Awards set for Feb. 7

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

The Chamber will host its Annual Gala and Community Awards on Friday, Feb. 7, starting at 6 p.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse.

This event recognizes the work done throughout the year by businesses, organizations and individuals.

This year's event will be a great networking event with many new businesses already having purchased tickets in the hopes of meeting others in our business community.

Therefore, seasoned businesses are encouraged to attend this gala of an evening to meet new business owners and celebrate some successes.

As we roll into several important years with a major highway construction project planned for our community, it is never more important for our businesses to band together to forge through this next phase of

our community.

In addition, although only one person or business can win in each community award category, it is important to thank all of the nominees for their contributions to Pagosa Springs.

For the low price of \$35 for a delicious gourmet dinner and live entertainment with Maxwell Miller, you can also show your support for one of the many nominees.

The nominees are as follows:

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

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

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

You'll need to come to the event to see who will win in each category; however, each and every nominee is really a winner for all they have contributed to this community. The event is open to the public and tickets will

be available at the door.

Don't miss this elegant and fun evening.

### U.S. 160 construction update

Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter on Groundhog Day, and we are certainly crossing our fingers that the Pagosa Springs area will see some moisture soon before we officially get into spring.

Because the weather is holding, the construction company chosen for the U.S. 160 reconstruction project is already working on some preplanning activities.

One of the best ways for our business community to find out about the latest information is to attend the next Cone Zone meeting. This meeting will be held on Feb. 27 starting at 6 p.m. at Motel SOCO.

At this meeting, representatives from CDOT will update the public on the potential start date and rollout schedule of the project.

The group will also be updated on

parking and transportation options, and marketing and communication efforts. This is also the opportunity for the community to hear your input and suggestions.

As we get down to the wire on the start of the project, businesses also need to find the time to work together and plan for any options in business hours, special offerings to the public or other important logistics that will run in sync with the rollout of the project.

The meetings are open to the public and all interested are encouraged to attend.

# County landfill to open on Wednesdays

**By Clayton Chaney**  
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County landfill located at 9179 County Road 500 will now be open on Wednesdays to receive trash.

The decision to open on Wednesdays was unanimously approved by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners during a regular meeting held on Feb. 4.

According to the meeting's agenda, the landfill will be open from 8

a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The agenda also notes, "This closure was put in place while repairs were being made last year, since all repairs have been made there is no need to continue with this current schedule."

Earlier in the day at a work session, Public Works Director Mike Torres explained that the Wednesday closure was initiated to give staff time to make repairs on cell 4B in the landfill.

"I see no need to stay closed on Wednesdays," he added.

The landfill will now be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Torres indicated that commercial trash hauling companies and multiple disgruntled constituents have reached out requesting the landfill open on Wednesdays.

Torres also explained that staff is working on Wednesdays anyway, and that no additional staff hours will be required to accommodate the new schedule.

# Public Meetings

*The following meetings are subject to change.*

**Tuesday, Feb. 11**  
**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=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

**Pagosa Springs Planning Commission meeting.** 5:30 p.m. Town Hall, 551 Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

**Archuleta School District Board of Education meeting.** 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School, 309 Lewis St. Visit [www.mypagosa-schools.com](http://www.mypagosa-schools.com) for more information.

**Thursday, Feb. 13**  
**Main Street Advisory Board meeting.** 4 p.m., Visitor Center, 105

Hot Springs Blvd. See town website for participation information: <https://pagosasprings.civicweb.net/portal/>.

**Monday, Feb. 17**  
**San Juan Water Conservancy District meeting.** 4 p.m., 46 Eaton Drive, Suite 5. Visit <https://www.sjwcd.org/> for Zoom option.

**Tuesday, Feb. 18**  
**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=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, 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=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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**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/>.

**Wednesday, Feb. 19**  
**Pagosa Peak Open School Board of Directors meeting.** 5 p.m., 3133 Cornerstone Drive. For more information, visit: <https://pagosapeakopen.school.org>.

**Thursday, Feb. 20**  
**Archuleta County Board of Health meeting.** 3 p.m., Archuleta County administration building, commissioners' meeting room, 398 Lewis St. View Zoom meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/91609048375?pwd=d1FFV0J1cGVKa1NHWHFsa2taeGxtZz09>, meeting ID: 916 0904 8375, passcode: 4141885. For more information, visit <http://archuletacounty.org/agendacenter>.

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# PAWSD

## ■ Continued from front

PAWSD board bylaws until after the May board elections, citing that the proposed changes would be “fundamental” to the power of the board and individual board members, and that they should be considered by the new board after the election.

He also raised concerns that the content of the proposed changes had been altered up to three hours before the meeting.

The proposed changes Walsh referenced added onto language in the bylaws stating, “Any one Board Member may request that an item be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting.”

The proposed addition states, “Requests shall be made at a meeting prior in advance of the requested date for consideration. The Board through a majority vote shall approve said request.”

District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey commented that the agenda item was for clarification of how to interpret the bylaws, not to change

them.

He added that the board needed to discuss “some ground rules of how the board contacts our staff” and that the current situation was “unacceptable.”

PAWSD board member Gene Tautges commented that he agreed with the revisions to the bylaws and understands “the things that are sometimes put on staff.”

He stated that he would be willing to consider it at the present meeting.

PAWSD board member Alex Boehmer stated that the changes were “dropped on us a little quick” and that he would like more time to review them.

He added that he also would support delaying considering the changes.

The board then voted on Walsh’s motion, with Hudson, Walsh and Boehmer voting for it, and Tautges and Smith opposing.

The dispute continued approximately an hour and a half later when Ramsey, during his manager’s talk-

ing points, explained that, since the board did not discuss changes to the bylaws at the meeting, he would continue interpreting the bylaws as he had been interpreting them.

This meant that, according to Ramsey, any directions given to staff would have to be approved by the entire board and any changes to meeting agendas would also require board approval.

Walsh stated that the requirement for board direction to staff to be approved was well-understood, but that the ability of the board members to put items on the agenda for discussion was “fundamental to the board.”

He added that he did not feel that the board had superfluous items on its agendas and that discussions would only last as long as the board wished them to, limiting time spent on “foolish” items.

Ramsey commented that placing items on the agenda is “becoming a problem” due to staff being asked to place items on the agenda by some board members while others ask to

year from now.

Weaver also mentioned that the county will likely not have to worry about a funding freeze for “a significant amount of time,” estimating six months to a year.

County Finance Director Chad Eaton indicated that in 2023 the county received approximately \$2.3 million in federal funding, which increased “more closer” to \$3 million in 2024 from funding received for the county’s new transit center.

He noted those amounts do not include funds received from the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked if this would have any affect on the county’s ability to request additional funds from the Colorado Department of Transportation for the transportation building, “which we still have on the table,” noting the county is waiting on a final cost to make that request.

Eaton indicated that “it could,” but with the project already in process, he did not anticipate any issues.

Eaton also noted that federal funding covers wages and certain programs in the county’s Department of Human Services, mentioning that, “after this year, if there is anything continuing, there is concerns.”

*clayton@pagosasun.com*

filed by nonprofits and a lawsuit was filed in Rhode Island district court by 22 states and the District of Columbia, including Colorado.

Federal judges blocked the funding freeze from going into effect, and the memo outlining the freeze was rescinded.

A press release from Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser’s office issued on Jan. 31 states, “The White House’s illegal order created considerable confusion and would have had immediate harmful impacts on Coloradans who depend on federal programs for basic needs.”

During the work session, Weaver explained that a temporary restraining order was issued on Jan. 31, “basically restraining the federal government from freezing any funding to the plaintiffs in the case, which includes the state of Colorado.”

He indicated that a temporary restraining order typically has a “short” time frame and the next step is for the states to file a motion for preliminary junction.

“And I do believe a preliminary junction, and usually a preliminary junction stays in place until the case is resolved,” he said.

Weaver indicated that the case could “very likely” go to the U.S. Supreme Court, which could be up to a

gust as high as 30 mph.

For Wolf Creek Pass, the high is forecast to be 32 degrees with sunny skies and breezy with wind gusts as high as 50 mph. The low is forecast to be 25 degrees with a 30 percent chance of snow showers after 11 p.m.

The high for Saturday, Feb. 8, is forecast to be 50 degrees with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow showers before 11 a.m. The low is forecast to be 20 degrees.

For Wolf Creek Pass, the high is forecast to be 28 degrees with a 40 percent chance of snow showers and wind gusts as high as 45 mph. The low is forecast to be 19 degrees with a 20 percent chance of snow showers.

For Sunday, Feb. 9, the high is forecast to be 48 degrees with mostly sunny skies and a low of 16 degrees.

For Wolf Creek Pass, the high is forecast to be 26 degrees with a 20 percent chance of snow showers mainly after 11 a.m. and wind gusts as high as 35 mph. The low is forecast to be 16 degrees with a 20 percent chance of snow showers after 11 p.m.

## Fires and drought conditions

ing county offices at no cost for five years.

More recently, during the Dec. 17, 2024, BoCC meeting, Commissioner Warren Brown indicated that its “unrealistic” to assume the owner of the

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remove these items, and board members asking staff to put items on the agenda that staff believe the board previously voted to not consider.

Hudson objected to Ramsey raising the issue again after the board voted to not consider the changes and Ramsey countered that he was clarifying how he would be interpreting the bylaws.

Hudson challenged Ramsey’s interpretation of the bylaws, and Ramsey explained that he interprets the current bylaws as saying that any board member could make a request to Smith, the board chairman, to place an item on the agenda, which he could then approve or deny.

Ramsey added that he wants board members to take their requests to Smith, not to PAWSD Programs Manager Renee Lewis, who writes the agendas.

Lewis stated that she does not set the agenda and that agendas are set through conversations between her, Business Manager Aaron Burns and Ramsey where they attempt to interpret the board’s direction.

She added that the proposed agenda is then brought to Smith.

Walsh stated that the bylaws do not give the PAWSD chairman agenda-setting capacity.

He then raised the issue of the board’s previous decision in May 2024 to not grant further affordable housing fee waivers until after the May 2025 board election, stating that he believed that this motion did not bar discussions of affordable housing before that date.

He added that he did not support a concept Hudson wished to present concerning affordable housing, but felt that a board member should be able to place the item on the board agenda and that the manager deciding to deny these requests would be “unsupportable.”

Lewis commented that staff time is required for each agenda item and that agenda items were previously funneled through the board chair, who would give staff direction on what they should do to prepare for each item.

Walsh raised concerns that requiring board approval of agenda items would allow a majority of board members to “gag” a minority of the board and prevent those board members from raising issues.

He stated that he previously served on such a board and that this practice is “undemocratic.”

Lewis commented that she agreed and had been in a similar situation.

Tautges noted the difference between discussion and action and questioned why a topic should be discussed if it cannot be acted on and would be “in the hands of a new board.”

“I understand somebody wanting to put something on the agenda, but if it’s a moot point, why?” Tautges asked.

“How do you know it’s moot until you discuss it?” Walsh countered. “Do you have a preconceived notion of how you’re going to vote?”

Walsh continued that board mem-

bers are supposed to come into meetings with an “open mind” and stated that allowing items to be placed on board agendas for discussion, after which they would receive staff time if the board wanted them considered further, would be acceptable.

However, he reiterated his opposition to a majority of the board being able to limit what items are on the agenda.

Lewis commented that Ramsey believed that the board’s previous motion concerning affordable housing meant that the board would not discuss affordable housing topics, in addition to voting on them, until after the next election.

She added that the intention was not to prevent board members from being able to place items on the agenda.

Walsh commented that board members might have to wait months to put items on the agenda while staff could put them on the agenda “three hours” before a meeting.

Hudson then explained that he asked Lewis on Jan. 23 to put an item on the agenda concerning workforce housing.

On Jan. 27, Hudson stated that Ramsey responded, stating that changes to the agenda would need to be approved by the board and requesting that discussions concerning affordable housing be delayed until after the board election.

Hudson objected to this interpretation of the previous motion and he, Ramsey and Lewis then discussed the issue, according to Hudson, but neither Ramsey or Lewis would “believe me.”

Hudson then read the text of the May 2025 meeting concerning the affordable housing motion, where the board discussed not approving further waivers until after the 2025 board election, as well as receiving applications for waivers before the election.

Hudson reiterated his view that this motion did not bar discussion of affordable housing waivers before that point.

Ramsey attempted to clarify his interpretation of the issue and Hudson responded, “Don’t interrupt me, please.”

“[Expletive] you, Bill,” Ramsey replied. “This is my resignation. I’m not dealing with this, sorry. ... You guys want me to run this district ... talk to staff and have them running around all over the place whenever you guys want to ...”

“To put one [expletive] sentence on an agenda,” Hudson said.

“That’s not it,” Ramsey said. “You guys are running staff ragged.”

“I asked her to put one sentence on the agenda,” Hudson said.

“This time, but there’s other things as well and I talked to Jim and ... he had the same interpretation as I did,” Ramsey said.

Walsh apologized for running staff “ragged” in December 2024, but added that he did not make significant mistakes in the budgeting process that were not corrected.

“I’m sorry ... if people are but-

thurt,” Walsh said. “I’m not going to impose massive 30 percent rate hikes on customers based on an absolutely, deeply, unprofessionally flawed rate study.”

Walsh continued that the rate study was not created in accordance with board direction.

“I would love not to bother the staff if maybe sometimes the staff would kind of adhere to decisions that we’ve made,” Walsh said.

He continued that, if Ramsey could not accept the compromise about placing items on the agenda without committing staff time to them, “then maybe he needs to go, and I wish him all the best and I thank him for his service.”

“I’d like to say, continuing on in this discussion, everybody in this room right now, we are here to represent our ratepayers, and we need to be as professional as possible in how we’re speaking to one another and how we’re discussing this issue,” Boehmer said, “because yelling, cursing is not beneficial to our ratepayers and it doesn’t make us look like a very professional organization. So, let’s tone this down a little bit and, if we’re going to continue this discussion, let’s continue it with a little more professionalism and understanding for each other.”

Hudson emphasized that the board tabled the agenda issue and Ramsey reintroduced it while Walsh commented that he did not believe he raised his voice and that he is willing to make compromises.

“Somebody came into the room spoiling for a fight,” he said. “They stood up, they uttered, I’m not really uttering really gutter profanities at people, never have in this boardroom, never will. Justin did.”

He added that he understood that he created work for staff at the end of the year, but that there were errors in the budget and the district’s rate study.

Walsh commented that the debate over agenda items was a “MacGuffin” and that it was an excuse to “blow up and quit.”

Hudson then continued his presentation of information relating to the decision to not place his item on the agenda, concluding by stating, “I started to feel like staff doesn’t want to work with me. ... It’s very upsetting to me. I’m sorry that my voice is a little loud because it’s very upsetting to have a person that works for me, a person that is my employee, tell me, ‘No, Bill, you cannot put this on the agenda because I’m misinterpreting what happened in May.’”

Smith objected to the idea that Ramsey works for Hudson, stating that he works for the board.

Smith, Hudson and Tautges then debated the issue, with Hudson objecting to Ramsey’s conduct, Smith stating that he serves the board and Tautges questioning the value of discussing affordable housing waiver since a new board will be seated in May.

During the debate, Walsh commented that he appreciates Ramsey’s

■ See PAWSD A9

# Record

## ■ Continued from front

mary, which he notes was compiled with incomplete data, indicates that the Pagosa area received just 18 percent of its average precipitation for the month.

Additionally, it notes that the ski area received just 20 percent of its average January snowfall.

## Weather forecast

Warm and windy weather is expected to continue this weekend with a slight chance of precipitation in town and on Wolf Creek Pass on Saturday, Feb. 8, according to the National Weather Service (NWS).

Today, Feb. 6, in Pagosa Springs the forecast is sunny skies high and a high of 56 degrees with wind gusts as high as 20 mph. The low is forecast to be 20 degrees with a southwest wind of 5 mph in the evening.

For Wolf Creek Pass, the forecast is mostly sunny with a high of 31 degrees and breezy with wind gusts as high as 35 mph. The low is forecast to be 21 degrees.

For Friday, Feb. 7, the high is forecast to be 54 degrees with sunny skies and 10 to 15 mph winds that could

# Property

## ■ Continued from front

40-acre property on Condor Drive near Stevens Field airport.

The agreement also gave the county the option to lease back the portion of the old courthouse hous-

# Hunter

## ■ Continued from front

hunting community. My hope is that this recognition will inspire others to chase their dreams and play an active role in conservation.”

Four Corners SCI President Jason Deweese congratulated Lindsay on her achievement, stating, “Lea is a shining example of the positive impact of young hunters in shaping the future of conservation and education. Her leadership and dedication are a source of pride for our organization, and we look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the years to come.”

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# PAWSD

■ Continued from A8

frustration due to his large workload and felt that the agenda debate was an excuse for him to quit.

He also withdrew his complaints about Ramsey using profanity and said that he would be willing to continue working with Ramsey if withdrew his resignation, but would also be willing to accept it and move on.

Tautges and Walsh then debated whether placing items on the agenda needs to be controlled, with Tautges raising concerns about the potential for excessive numbers of agenda items and Walsh commenting that this has not happened in the past and reiterating his view that the debate was an excuse to “blow up and quit.”

Smith then stated that the board would take a 10-minute recess, adding that “this is getting way out of hand.”

He added that he did not see why affordable housing needed to be discussed at the meeting since action would not occur until the new board is seated.

Smith and Hudson then began arguing about whether Smith had allowed Ramsey to take power from the board.

In response to a question from Tautges about why Ramsey demanded to discuss the issue, Hudson replied that “he wanted to be more powerful than the board.”

Following more dispute about Ramsey’s reasoning, Lewis clarified to Tautges that Ramsey asked for clarification on the issue during the manager’s talking points.

Ramsey then apologized for his “outburst” and said that he was trying to get clarification on how items should be placed on the agenda.

He added that he did discuss not placing Hudson’s item on the agenda with Smith.

Hudson then questioned if

Ramsey discussed the issue with Smith before writing his response to Hudson stating that the item would not be placed on the agenda, citing that Ramsey’s message did not mention Smith.

Smith asked if the board could put Hudson’s item on the agenda for its next meeting.

Burns attempted to offer a suggestion to the board, but both Hudson and Smith told him he could not make one.

Hudson replied to Smith that Ramsey wanted a “clarification.”

In response to a question from Tautges, Ramsey stated that he got the clarification he needed.

Walsh then began speaking on “taking a step back” and appreciating “the emotional absurdity of the last 15 minutes, which I’ve contributed to.”

He commented that he found putting items requested by board members on the agenda only for discussion with no staff time dedicated to them to be an acceptable interpretation.

He proposed that the board re-wind and that board members should not put on excessive numbers of items on the agenda, although he added that he does not believe board members did that.

“And we can chalk up all the histrionics and emotions to it being a pretty intense time in the district and maybe we don’t put the genie back in the bottle, we kind of respect everybody’s frustrations, and just move forward understanding everyone’s frustrations and see if we can’t just continue to make a go of this thing,” Walsh said.

He added that he was “embarrassed” with himself over his objections to “using the f-word” and that he appreciated people who express their emotions “honestly.”

Walsh commented that if Ramsey was actually unwilling to continue

working for the district, then the board could seek alternatives, although he would prefer not to.

Walsh and Tautges then discussed the issue, with Walsh stating that he would like to hear from Ramsey about whether he would be willing to continue working for the district and Tautges noting that the board could discuss the agenda issue and difficulties with Ramsey in several ways.

Tautges proposed that the procedure for setting the agenda could be discussed at the next meeting.

Hudson suggested that the board voted to table discussion of this issue until after the board election and commented that Tautges’ suggestion was “inappropriate.”

He added that he would like to clarify to Ramsey that the board by-laws mean that any board member can add an item to agenda and that the staff and the board chairman cannot deny these requests.

Hudson moved to do this. Boehmer asked if items requiring staff activity would have to be voted on by the board.

Hudson stated that he would make that part of his motion, with Boehmer then seconding the motion.

Walsh noted the importance of discussion to the board and how discussion of items with limited board interest would be limited.

The board then voted on the motion, with Smith, Walsh, Hudson and Boehmer voting in support and Tautges voting against, noting that he was not sure he understood what was happening and that he was opposing the motion and would explain his position more next month.

Smith then asked Ramsey to continue his talking points.

Before doing so, Ramsey apologized again to the board and stated that he received the clarification he

needed.

“You got it. You’re fine,” Smith concluded.

In a Feb. 5 interview, Ramsey confirmed that he is continuing to work for the district and that a solution to the issues raised at the Jan. 30 meeting has been reached.

josh@pagosasun.com

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## Fees

■ Continued from front

district and \$1,104 from new multi-family dwellings.

Nonresidential structures will be assessed a fee of 65 cents per square foot.

The 2024 law granting the district authority to establish the fees also allows it to administer waivers for new housing developments built for low- and moderate-income households, as well as affordable employee housing.

Those developments all received waivers in the resolution adopted by the board.

Tuesday’s vote marked the end of a formal process that began in October 2024, when the PFPD commissioned a study examining how new development taking place within the district might impact its services and equipment.

The results of that study “quantified the reasonable impacts of both new residential development and non-residential development on the District’s capital facilities,” according to the adopted resolution, and prompted the PFPD leadership to recommend fees “at levels no greater than necessary to defray such impacts ...”

The district presented the town and county with a 60-day notice declaring its intention to adopt the fees on Dec. 4, 2024. Neither entity submitted com-

ments during that window, according to the resolution.

Board members heard from two members of the public during their Jan. 7 meeting and also one on Tuesday, with earlier comments focused on the affordable housing waivers.

In a brief exchange on Tuesday with commenter Marybeth Snyder, a self-described “fiscal conservative” opposed to the fees, PFPD board members reiterated what prompted them to seek the fees, as well as what those fees can be used for within the district.

“The department’s ability right now to provide services is getting more and more difficult,” Martin said. “Our community is getting bigger. We’ve got I don’t know how many units of apartments going in right now — all this stuff has to be serviced somehow. But yet there’s not enough revenue stream to update the equipment.”

He added, “Basically, these fees can only be used for equipment [and] facilities. It can’t be used for some random purpose.”

According to the adopted resolution, the PFPD can spend the money collected from the fees on any improvements directly related to district services and with an estimated useful life of five years or longer.

Under those guidelines, using the

fees to fund items like fire stations, administration buildings, crew quarters, vehicles and other equipment is all permissible.

The district will be required to deposit the fees into an account separate from other funds and provide yearly reports detailing how much was collected and how it was spent.

Early projections from the PFPD estimate around \$150,000 in fees could be collected in the first year.

That estimate was low enough to give pause to Hooper, who applauded the resolution’s verbiage but questioned if the fees would hamper future PFPD efforts to raise money for more costly projects.

“My concern is, if we pass this tonight, it might jeopardize the big-ticket items that we’re really going to need in the future to sustain growth and provide the public safety that we need to,” Hooper said.

He added, “Will this upset enough people that we would lose that margin when we really need a big-ticket item?”

PFPD Chief Robert Bertram described surrounding protection districts as all having adopted impact fee schedules, including Upper Pine River and in Durango.

“Essentially, we’re late to the table,” added Martin.

## Daughters of the American Revolution will meet Feb. 15

By CiCi Stuart

Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Are you aware of the clues from your quilts? Come find out “What Quilts Can Tell You About Your Family History.”

Those of us who have family quilts might know who made the quilt and where it came from, but many quilts are anonymous as to their origin other than just handed down through the generations. We treasure our family quilts as they act as a link to our historic past.

Our presenter will be Patricia Joy, professional quilter and quilt historian.

Come to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) meeting on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 10:30 a.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building at 1550 Main St. in Durango.

For more information or to carpool, call Sherryl Egy at (970) 507-0646 or come to the meeting.

The Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonpolitical/nonprofit service organization representing the Archuleta and La Plata counties. Membership is open to all women over the age of 18, regardless of race, religion or ethnic background who can trace their lineage from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence.



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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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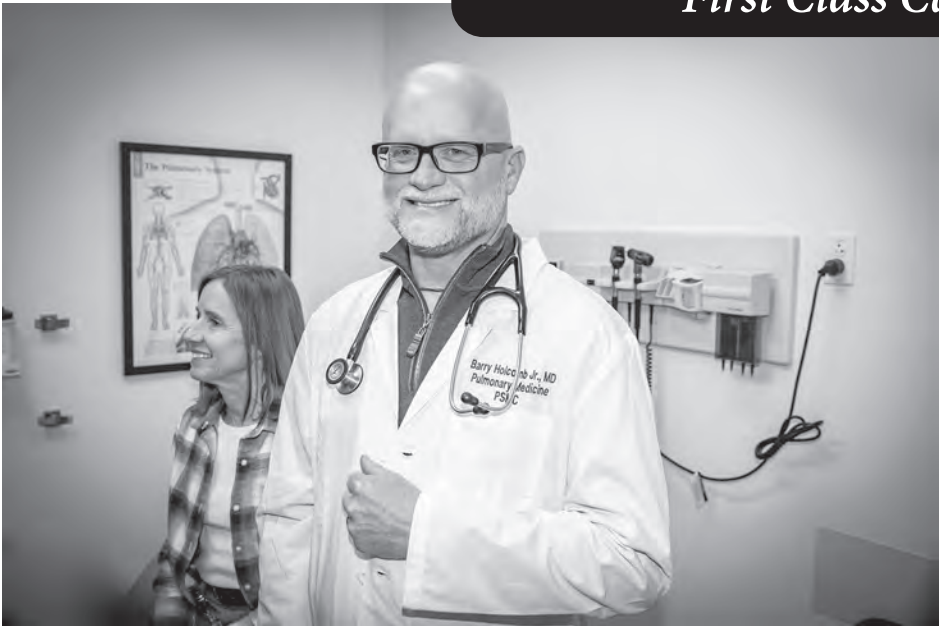


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# Sports

## SWIMMING

# Lady Pirates ready to set sail for state championship competition

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

Seven members of the Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team will represent the school at the 2025 Girls Swim and Dive State Championship next week in Thornton.

Aubrey Gerdel, Grace Cram, Chloe Gantt, Leah Blackman, Marlowe Hedgecock, Asia Gorman and Gianna Shaeffer will compete in two events at the state meet: the 200-yard medley relay and the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The state meet is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 10 and 11, with preliminaries set to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Feb. 10 and finals slated to begin at 5:15 p.m. on Feb. 11.

“We are working on the little things that can help drop a little more time,” coach Heather Miller wrote in an email to The SUN about how the team is preparing for the season's final meet.

That includes, she notes, “watching head position on a breakout or a tighter streamline to shave off another second or two from the relays.”

She adds the swimmers are also working more on sprinting since everyone is swimming 50-yard stretches.

The Lady Pirates capped off the regular season by taking to the water for the Southwest Conference Championships in Grand Junction on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.

“The meet was phenomenal,” Miller wrote. “Nearly all swims were personal best times and those that were not had best times in other events or on Saturday.”

The Lady Pirates advanced to the finals in several events at the meet and notched a new achievement for the team.

“Everyone really stepped up and pushed outside of their comfort zone,” Miller wrote. “All swimmers were able to qualify for finals meaning everyone got to swim again on Saturday which is a first for us.”

In the 200 medley relay, the squad of Hedgecock, Blackman, Gantt and Gorman finished 13th in the preliminaries with a time of two minutes, 18.39 seconds. The squad improved in the finals, swimming a time of 2:16.16 to finish ninth and earn 18 points for the team.

“The 200 medley relay was very exciting because both relays moved up from the seeding and the A relay was able to win the consolation final heat moving from 13th to 9th and dropped over 2 seconds,” Miller highlights.

The squad of Gerdel, Shaeffer, Cram and Katelyn Fricke took 16th in the prelims with a time of 2:31.96. The squad finished 15th in the finals with a time of 2:34.33 to earn four points for the Lady Pirates.

In the 200-yard freestyle prelims, Shaeffer took 21st with a time of 2:51.90, with Kaiya Lyons following in 22nd with a time of 2:53.33.

Four Lady Pirates competed in the 200-yard individual medley, with one making the finals.

In the prelims, Gantt finished 13th with a time of 2:46.01, sending her to the finals. In the finals, Gantt finished 11th and earned six points with a time of 2:45.39.

Gorman took 20th in the prelims with a time of 3:03.16. Blackman followed in 21st with a time of 3:22.00. Snell took 22nd with a time of 3:32.85.

Four Lady Pirates competed in the 50-yard freestyle prelims. Hedgecock took 22nd in the prelims with a time of 29.71 seconds. Cram finished 28th with a time of 31.98 seconds. Gerdel

finished 30th in 32.55 seconds. Lucia Rivera finished 36th in 40.52 seconds.

In the 100-yard butterfly, Gantt finished 11th in both the prelims and the finals, swimming a time of 1:14.15 in the prelims and 1:14.29 in the finals to earn six points. Bella Gutierrez finished 20th in the prelims with a time of 2:01.54.

In the 100-yard freestyle prelims, Hedgecock finished 23rd with a time of 1:07.40. Fricke finished 27th with a time of 1:14.22. Brooklyn Trujillo finished 30th with a time of 1:30.97.

Four Lady Pirates competed in the 500-yard freestyle, with two making the finals. Cram finished 14th in the prelims with a time of 6:55.63 before taking 13th in the finals with a time of 6:54.91, earning four points. Gorman took 15th in both the prelims and the finals with times of 6:56.90 and 6:58.55, respectively, earning two points. Lyons finished 22nd in the prelims with a time of 7:53.77, with Gemma Slingerland following in 23rd with a time of 7:55.76.

“Gemma Slingerland and Kaiya Lyons had big time drops in their 500 free cutting over 60 seconds total between the 2 of them,” Miller highlights.

Both Lady Pirate squads made the finals in the 200 freestyle relay.

The squad of Hedgecock, Gantt, Gorman and Cram finished 12th in both rounds with times of 2:01.49 in the prelims and 2:02.5 in the finals to earn 10 points.

The squad of Fricke, Shaeffer, Blackman and Gerdel took 13th in both rounds. The crew swam a time of 2:14.83 in the prelims and a time of 2:15.04 in the finals, which earned eight points for the Lady Pirates.

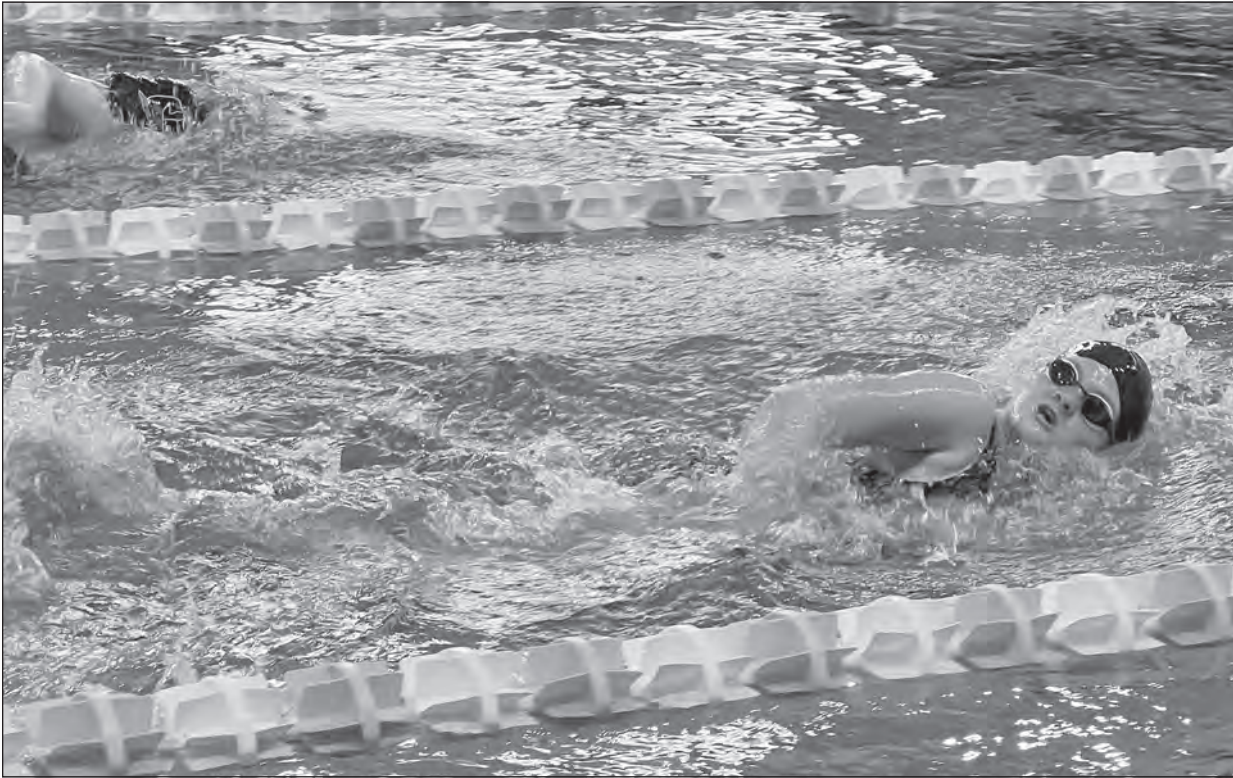


Photo courtesy Heather Miller

**Asia Gorman pulls ahead of the competition during the Western Slope Conference finals in Grand Junction on Saturday, Feb. 1.**

In the 100-yard backstroke, Trujillo finished 30th in the prelims with a time of 1:44.51, with Gutierrez following in 31st with a time of 1:50.67.

Blackman took 15th in the 100-yard breaststroke prelims with a time of 1:28.19, which sent her to the finals. In the finals, she finished 14th and earned three points with a time of 1:29.70.

Shaeffer finished 24th in the prelims with a time of 1:35.30. Slingerland finished 26th with a time of 1:39.08.

Rivera finished 29th with a time of 1:51.40.

Both Lady Pirate relay squads made the finals in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

The crew of Fricke, Lyons, Slingerland and Gerdel finished 12th in the prelims with a time of 5:18.70 before shaving several seconds off that time to finish 11th in the finals with a time of 5:13.85. That finished earned 12 points for the team.

The crew of Rivera, Gutierrez, Tru-

jillo and Snell finished 14th in the prelims with a time of 5:56.63. The squad also shaved seconds off, finished 13th in the finals with a time of 5:52.94, earning eight points.

The Lady Pirates finished with 81 points, placing them ninth overall at the 10-team conference meet, which included 3A, 4A and 5A teams.

That total, according to Miller, is more points than the team has scored at the conference meet in the past.

*randi@pagosasun.com*



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

**Leah Blackman edges out a competitor during the finals of the Western Slope Conference meet in Grand Junction on Feb. 1.**

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Estate of DAVID FRANCIS BLAKE, also known as David F. Blake, Deceased  
Case Number 2025PR30004  
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before June 6, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.  
Pilar Krawchuk, Personal Representative  
1134 Charles Street  
Clearwater, Florida 33755  
(727)434-7007  
Published February 6, 13, and 20, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (257098)

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION**  
**PURSUANT TO § 15-12-801, C.R.S.**  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
Estate of Warren Joseph Grams, AKA Warren Grams, Deceased  
Case Number: 2024PR30067  
All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to District Court of Archuleta County, Colorado on or before March 13, 2025, or the claims may be forever barred.  
Roxanne Latlin  
P.O. Box 1385  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
Published February 6, 13, and 20, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (257099)

**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) 582-9501.** 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*. (255640)

**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 Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District of Archuleta County, Colorado.  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that an election will be held on the 5th day of May 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, 4 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms or 2-year terms. Eligible electors of the Piedra Park Metropolitan Improvement District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO): **Molly Risinger**  
55 Milton Lane  
970-946-0240  
piedrapark@yahoo.com  
Self-Nomination Forms can be picked up at the Water Plant address above.  
The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business on **February 28, 2025**. 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** preceding the election, **April 29, 2025**. Designated Election Official Signature  
Published February 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (257052)

**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 Aspen Springs Metropolitan District of Archuleta County, 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, 3 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms.  
Eligible electors of the Aspen Springs Metropolitan District interested in serving on the board of directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from the District Designated Election Official (DEO): **Chelsa Windscheffel** (DEO Address) 718 Evergreen Dr (DEO Address) Pagosa Springs CO 81147 (DEO Telephone) 719-588-9779 (DEO email) windscheffelchelsa@gmail.com  
The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: **UPON APPOINTMENT** from a.m. to p.m.  
The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business 5:00 pm 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** preceding the election, **April 29, 2025**. Chelsa M. Windscheffel  
Designated Election Official Signature  
Published February 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (257056)

**ALPHA ROCKRIDGE METRO DISTRICT**  
**A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**  
**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, and, particularly, to electors of the Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District of Archuleta County, State of Colorado.  
Notice is hereby given that an election shall be conducted as a mail ballot election in accordance with all of the code. The Designated Election Official shall develop a Plan for conducting the mail ballot Election, which will be made available to the public. There shall be no election precinct or polling place. All mail ballots shall be returned to the designated Election Official's mailing address and be received no later than the 2nd day of May 2025. At that time, 3 directors will be

elected to serve 3-year terms. If an eligible elector of the Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District is interested in serving on the board of directors, a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form may be obtained on the districts website as follows:  
Alpharockridgeadddistrict.com  
The district Designated Election Official is Gary Lansdale. Self-nomination forms should be mailed to him at: P.O. Box 5673, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Telephone (505) 486-1437.  
A Self-Nomination and Acceptance form that is not sufficient may be amended once at any time prior to Thursday, February 27, 2025. The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form is Thursday, February 27, 2025. Affidavit of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate forms must be received in the mail of the designated election official by Thursday, February 27th, 2025.  
Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District  
Gary Lansdale, Designated Election Official  
Published February 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (257046)

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR**  
**PAGOSA AREA WATER AND**  
**SANITATION DISTRICT**  
**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, and, particularly, to the electors of the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District of Archuleta County, Colorado.  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a regular election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. At that time, three (3) Directors will be elected to serve a term of four (4) years.  
Eligible Electors of the District interested in serving on the Board of Directors may obtain a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form from Renee Lewis, the Designated Election Official for the District, on the District's website at [www.pawasd.org/district-business/pawasd-board-of-directors](http://www.pawasd.org/district-business/pawasd-board-of-directors) or by emailing the Designated Election Official at [DEO@pawsd.org](mailto:DEO@pawsd.org). Self-Nomination and Acceptance forms must be filed with the Designated Election Official, either by email at [DEO@pawsd.org](mailto:DEO@pawsd.org) or by mail to the District's administrative office at 100 Lyn Ave Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, no earlier than January 1, 2025 nor later than Friday, February 28, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Affidavit of Intent to Be a Write-In Candidate forms must be submitted to the office of the Designated Election Official by Monday, March 3, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that applications for absentee (replacement) ballots shall be filed with the Designated Election Official from April 22, 2025 to close

of business on the Tuesday preceding the election, April 29, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. All absentee (replacement) ballots must be returned to the District's administrative office at 100 Lyn Ave, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 by May 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

**PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT**  
By: /s/ Renee Lewis  
Designated Election Official  
Published February 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (257058)

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR**  
**PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**, and, particularly, to the electors of the Pagosa Fire Protection District of Archuleta County, 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, 3 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms and 1 director will be elected to serve a 2-year term. Eligible electors of the Pagosa 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): **Tomi Bliss**  
165 N. Pagosa Blvd.  
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
970-731-4191  
tbliss@pagosafire.com  
The Office of the DEO is open on the following days: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance is close of business 5:00 p.m. on **February 28, 2025** (not less than 67 days 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** preceding the election, **April 29, 2025**. By: /s/ Tomi Bliss, Designated Election Official  
Published February 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (256646)

**PERSONAL PROPERTY**  
**DECLARATION SCHEDULE**  
**(Media Release)**  
NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTACT:  
Sherri Boyce – Hinsdale County Assessor  
PO Box 28

Lake City, CO 81235  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 970-944-2225 ext. 140  
All persons owning, possessing, or controlling taxable personal property with a total actual value greater than \$56,000 (per owner, per county) on January 1, 2025, are required to report the personal property to the assessor by April 15, 2025. Personal Property Declaration Schedules have been mailed to every person, business, or company known to own, possess, or control taxable personal property in the county. Non-recipient of a declaration schedule DOES NOT excuse taxpayers from declaring taxable personal property to the assessor. If you have not received a declaration schedule and own personal property with a value greater than \$56,000, contact the assessor at 970-944-2225 Ext. 140.  
All personal property with a total actual value in excess of \$56,000 (per owner, per county) is taxable unless specifically exempt by law.  
Taxable personal property includes:  
• All residential household furnishings used to produce income  
• Equipment, furniture, and machinery used by commercial, industrial, and natural resource operations  
• Property used in an agribusiness that does not qualify as agricultural pursuant to § 39-1-102(1.6)(a), C.R.S.  
• Expensed assets with a life greater than one year  
• Fully depreciated assets still in use  
• Personal property in storage that is subject to IRS depreciation  
• Leasehold improvements  
Equipment that is licensed as a motor vehicle (SMM plate or Z-Tab) is not reported on the Personal Property Declaration Schedule.  
Completed declaration schedules are due April 15, 2025. You may extend the deadline if, prior to April 15, the assessor receives your written request for an extension along with \$20 for a 10-day extension, or \$40 for a 20-day extension. If you do not meet the April 15 deadline and do not request an extension, a penalty in the amount of \$50 or 15% of the taxes due (whichever is less) will be applied to your account.  
If you fail to file a declaration schedule, the assessor will establish a taxable value based on the "best information available" and add a penalty of up to 25% of assessed value for any omitted property that is subsequently discovered.  
Published February 6, 2025 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (256693)



## BASKETBALL

# Lady Pirates remain undefeated in league play

By Garrett Fevinger  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball squad extended its run of undefeated league play last week after notching wins against Intermountain League (IML) rivals Bayfield and Centauri, propelling the team to the top of the 3A/4A IML standings as it embarks on the second half of the season's league play.

With the wins, the Lady Pirates are now 6-0 in league play and 12-4 overall.

The Lady Pirates also now sit as the No. 4 team in Colorado 4A girls' basketball.

"Overall we are very excited to have gotten through the first round of league play 6-0," coach Sarah Osborn wrote in an email to The SUN. "However, we have to continue to get better and play our best basketball going into the second round of league play."

Visiting Bayfield on Jan. 31, the team held the Wolverines to three points in the game's first half and led by 27 heading into the final quarter before closing out the game 51-20.

The Wolverines sit at seventh in the IML.

"We wanted to execute and focus on the details against Bayfield," Osborn wrote. "I think our team did a good job of getting everyone involved in the game and getting a large lead early so that our younger varsity girls could get some playing time and experience."

In Bayfield, Elizabeth Currier led the Pagosa offense with 19 points, while Lexi Campbell added seven and Kylie Ketchum added six.

The team brought down 19 offensive rebounds, with Adelyn Hittle and Campbell each tallying five. Karsyn Shahan led the defensive rebounding effort, contributing five to the team's total of 20.

The Lady Pirates sunk three of 12 free-throw attempts and counted 15 steals against the Wolverines — five from Currier — as well as 15 assists, with Shahan responsible for five of them. The team had 14 total turnovers.

Matters would grow significantly more complicated for the Lady Pirates at home one day later against Centauri in a game Osborn states she knew would be a "close battle."

"Centauri is well coached and has a talented team that has been playing well all season," Osborn wrote. "We knew that it would be close and that



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

The Lady Pirate bench erupts in cheers during the team's contentious Feb. 1 victory over the Centauri Falcons. Both squads arrived for the game undefeated in league play, with Pagosa prevailing 30-27.

no matter the score we had to play our best all four quarters."

The Falcons arrived for the Feb. 1 contest — the first between the two squads this season — riding a five-game win streak and with a loud contingent of support.

Trailing 9-8 after one quarter of play, the Lady Pirates kept the score within five points throughout the second but trailed by four at halftime — a first in league play for the squad.

"Our team is used to playing in close games against Centauri and we talked about how it would take composure and execution to get the win," Osborn writes.

The Pagosa defense held Centauri to two points in the third quarter, with the Lady Pirate offense adding nine. That effort set the stage for a contentious final quarter that saw both teams trading leads and the score tied with less than a minute to play.

Recalling the game's electric final stretch, Osborn wrote, "In the last minutes ... when we were tied we talked about continuing to play great defense without fouling and giving ourselves good opportunities to score. [Shahan] had a huge steal and fast break close to the end that gave

us the lead by 3."

She adds, "We also had all 7 girls that played score, that is tough to defend when all 7 girls are contributing on offense."

Trailing 27-30 with seconds remaining, the Falcons attempted a 3-point shot at the buzzer to send the game into overtime. Fans erupted from both cheering blocks as that attempt fell short, with the visitors bemoaning the clock and the home court celebrating a Lady Pirate win.

Shahan led Pagosa's offense against Centauri with 10 points, followed by Currier, who had six, and Ketchum and Amber Snarr, who each had four.

The team finished with 13 defensive rebounds — which included five each from Snarr and Shahan — and seven offensive.

There were 20 Pagosa turnovers on the day, as well as six steals and six blocks. The Lady Pirates made nine of 19 free-throw attempts.

"Next time we play them we need to do a much better job taking care of the ball, we had too many turnovers in a close game and we could have put them away a little earlier if we had made our free throws," Osborn wrote.

Centauri now sits as the No. 2 team in Colorado 3A girls' basketball.

Looking ahead, the squad will get second looks at conference opponents beginning Friday against Monte Vista.

The two teams last faced one another Jan. 17, with Pagosa winning 42-26.

With a 3-2 league record, Monte Vista is currently ranked third in the IML standings.

Friday's game is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Pagosa Springs High School.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Lady Pirates are set to host Ignacio for a 2:30 p.m. game.

The teams last faced-off Jan. 18, with Pagosa winning 51-22.

Ignacio, 1-4 in league play, is currently ranked fifth.

"We have a very tough league with a lot of good teams," Osborn writes. "We will need to be ready for everyone's best game against us." [garrett@pagosasun.com](mailto:garrett@pagosasun.com)

# 'Never say die': Pirate boys basketball squad bringing fight to league matchups

By Garrett Fevinger  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School boys' basketball team sustained two gritty losses against league opponents last week, falling to the Bayfield Wolverines on Jan. 31 and the Centauri Falcons one day later at home.

With the losses, the Pirates are now 2-4 in the 3A/4A Intermountain League (IML) and 4-12 overall.

"We're not winning games, but we're fighting hard," coach Wes Lewis said. "Teams are having to realize they're in a dogfight because we're not going to go away easily."

In Bayfield on Jan. 31, the Pirates found themselves down early after a Wolverine run of 3-pointers, but according to Lewis, "clawed our way back into it" and made it a tight, "see-saw type of game."

The Pagosa offense added 13 points in each of the game's first two quarters, with the hosts outmatching that effort only slightly, adding 18 and 14 points to the board by halftime.

The Wolverines built on their momentum throughout the third, scoring 12 points to the Pirates' five, but the Pagosa defense would return the favor in the fourth quarter, limiting Bayfield to five as its offense rallied for 13 points.

Despite outscoring the Wolverines in the second half of play, it wasn't enough to secure a win for the Pirates, who came up just short, falling 44-49.

"We were pleased with the boys' effort," Lewis said. "Kind of got that never say die attitude going on right now."

The Pirates would draw on that attitude against the undefeated Centauri Falcons on Feb. 1 inside Pagosa Springs High School.

Still without varsity starter Colt Lewis, who injured his ankle Jan. 25, the first quarter of play saw streaks from both teams, with the Pirates countering a 10-point Centauri run with one of their own and ending the quarter tied 10-10 thanks in part to a tip in by Seth Zeigler at the buzzer.

Intensity continued to build



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Jayton Ross looks to elude Centauri defenders Feb. 1 in Pagosa Springs. The Falcons would go on to defeat the Pirates 54-39.

throughout the second quarter as the teams exchanged leads four times, ending with the Falcons ahead 24-22 at the half.

The Falcons made the Pirates pay for early turnovers to open the third, sprinting to a nine-point run that would have their hosts playing from behind for the remainder of the game.

Pagosa chipped away at that lead throughout the fourth quarter, getting to within five points, but was

outpaced by a Centauri squad that features five seniors.

The visitors would go on to outscore the Pirates 30-17 during the second half of play to preserve their undefeated streak with a 54-39 final score. The Falcons are now 16-0 on the season, sit atop the IML and are the No. 6 team in Colorado 3A boys' basketball.

"The kids fought hard. I was proud ■ See Basketball A12

## JIM GARRETT

✦ ATTORNEY ✦

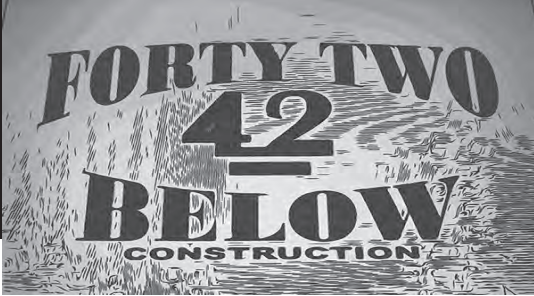
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## WRESTLING

# Pirates grapple with Alamosa, prep for regionals

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team hosted its second Intermountain League dual of the season on Saturday, Feb. 1, against Alamosa.

The Pirates lost by a team score of 45-28, with Alamosa earning a total of 24 points due to Pagosa forfeits in the 113-pound, 126-pound, 165-pound and 190-pound weight classes.

The Pirates earned six points due to an Alamosa forfeit in the 215-pound weight class, and were also awarded one point for a technical violation by Alamosa in the 190-pound forfeit.

There was a double forfeit in the 144-pound weight class.

Despite the team score, coach Dan Janowsky mentioned that “it was a good experience for us in our preparation for the regional tournament.”

Janowsky noted that outside of the forfeited matches on the day, the Pirates split the remaining eight matches with Alamosa, winning four.

Antonio Quezada was the first winning Pirate on the day, pinning his opponent in the 285-pound weight class in one minute, 56 seconds, earning six team points.

Janowsky noted that Anthony Manzanares “had a very, very good wrestle” in the 106-pound weight class, even though he was pinned in 3:50.

Janowsky commented that Manzanares was able to score points in some new positions.

“We’re gonna keep getting better,” he added. “It was good wrestling for sure.”

Stetson Osborn wrestled in the

132-pound weight class and pinned his opponent in 3:57, earning six team points.

Janowsky mentioned that Hudson Mazur’s match in the 138-pound weight class was “another highly competitive match.” Mazur was defeated by his opponent by a decision of 8-5.

Janowsky explained that Mazur was “in it all the way to the end,” noting that he was looking for a take-down in the waning seconds to send the match into overtime.

Taylor Hancey returned to the Pirates’ lineup for the first time since early January, wrestling in the 175-pound weight class. Hancey pinned his opponent in 1:38, earning six points for Pagosa.

“We’ve missed him,” Janowsky said of Hancey, noting that his presence in the lineup makes a “noticeable difference” for the Pirates’ team score.

Eric Smith competed in the 120-pound weight class and was pinned in 1:29, giving up six team points.

Colton Lucero wrestled in the 150-pound weight class, defeating his opponent by a decision of 3-2, earning three team points.

Michael Thomas wrestled in the 157-pound weight class for the Pirates and was pinned in 3:20, giving up six team points.

Janowsky explained that he wants the Pirates to be “fresh and energetic” going into this weekend’s regional tournament in Parachute at Grand Valley High School.

The tournament will take place Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8, with matches scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Members of the Pirate wrestling bench look on as Taylor Hancey pins his opponent in the 175-pound weight class in a home dual against Alamosa on Saturday, Feb. 1.

Saturday.

Janowsky noted that the Pirates will be looking to “sharpen our techniques” and “keep the intensity up” over the course of this week’s

practices, with the main goal of being fully recovered and ready to compete on Friday.

“The bulk of the work has been done,” Janowsky said, noting that

each wrestler has specific areas to work on in preparation for regionals.

He added, “I just think we finished on the rise,” mentioning the Pirates had some struggles throughout the

season with keeping a full lineup.

“We’ve been wrestling much better and our lineup is getting back to strength,” he said.

clayton@pagosasun.com



Photo courtesy Ashli Stretton

The Lady Pirate wrestling team won its first tournament in the program’s history last weekend in Del Norte at the Rio Grande Women’s Showdown. The Lady Pirates took first out of seven teams with a total score of 72.5.

## Lady Pirates take first in Del Norte tournament

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team won its first tournament of the season on Saturday, Feb. 1, in Del Norte at the Rio Grande Women’s Showdown.

The Lady Pirates took first out of seven teams with a team score of 72.5. West Grand took second place with a team score of 59.5.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained that the Rio Grande Women’s Showdown is still a young tournament, noting how it can be difficult for the Lady Pirates to gauge where they sit among their regional competitors with Pagosa being “kind of isolated.”

He explained that being in the southwest corner of the state makes it difficult for the Lady Pirates to compete against teams in other areas of the state.

Janowsky also spoke about how the Pagosa Springs High School girls’ wrestling team got a somewhat late start and was “one of the later ones” to get involved in the sport.

“We got a late start,” he said, noting that the team’s success in competition this year “shows a rapid growth on our part that’s caught us up.”

He added that the boys’ wrestling

team has a “great reputation” around the state and that the girls’ team is extending that reputation.

“We’re building the sport, and I think we’re helping build the sport,” Janowsky said of high school girls’ wrestling in Colorado.

Three Lady Pirates earned first place in their respective weight class at the Rio Grande Women’s Showdown, which included Madisen Stretton in the 105-pound weight class, Kylie Matyniak in the 130-pound weight class and Laykyn Baxstrom in the 190-pound weight class.

Stretton won her opening-round match by a 13-0 major decision. She then pinned her opponent in the second round in three minutes and 52 seconds.

Stretton then won her third-round match by a decision of 7-5 to claim first place.

Matyniak also won all three of her matches on the day to claim first place.

Matyniak pinned her opponent in the first round in 21 seconds and then won on a 15-0 technical fall in 1:19 in her second-round match. She then defeated her opponent in the third-round by a decision of 6-4 to secure first place.

Audriana Smith also competed

in the 130-pound weight class, winning two of three matches on the day to claim third place in the weight class.

Smith lost her opening-round match after being pinned by her opponent in 58 seconds. Smith and Matyniak faced off against each other in the second round, with Matyniak winning on a 15-0 technical fall in 1:19. Smith then won her third-round match by pin in 41 seconds.

Baxstrom pinned her opponent in the opening round in 1:41 and won her second-round match due to opponent forfeit.

Bella Jackson and Katie Lucero both competed in the 100-pound weight class, with Jackson earning second place.

Jackson received a first-round bye and then defeated her opponent in the second round by a decision of 12-11. Jackson lost the first-place match after being pinned in 4:22.

Lucero lost her opening-round match by getting pinned by her opponent in 17 seconds. She then received a second-round bye and was pinned by her opponent in the third round in 3:08.

MacKayla Beach wrestled in the 110-pound weight class, winning one of three matches on the day to take

third place.

Beach lost her opening-round match by pin in 2:43. She then won her second-round match by pinning her opponent in 4:15.

Beach lost her third and final match of the day by getting pinned by her opponent in 33 seconds.

“I know we have improved immensely,” Janowsky said of the Lady Pirates, noting that the three first-place finishers from the Rio Grande Women’s Showdown are all sophomores with multiple years of wrestling experience that began at the middle school level.

“They’re picking it up,” he added.

He also commented that the Lady Pirates are “eager” and “confident” with their wrestling lately, which he noted are “crucial” attributes to have.

“They feel good about what they’ve put in, and they feel good about where they are,” he said.

The Lady Pirates will travel to Gunnison this weekend to compete in the regional tournament on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8.

Matches are scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday.

“We’re wrestling better all the time,” Janowsky said.

clayton@pagosasun.com

## RECREATION NEWS

# Youth volleyball leagues to start in March

By Matt Zaborowski  
Town of Pagosa Springs

Get ready to bump, set and spike your way to success in the 9- and 10-year-old youth instructional volleyball league.

This exciting program is designed for young athletes looking to learn the fundamentals of volleyball in a fun and supportive environment. Whether your child is a beginner or has some experience, they’ll receive expert coaching and valuable hands-on experience.

The league will run from March 3-26 on Monday and Wednesday nights with eight nights of instruction and practice.

The program will be led by Allison Hart, the assistant coach for Pagosa Springs High School volleyball.

With her expertise and passion for the game, your child will be guided through skill-building drills, team-oriented exercises, and friendly competition. Register now to secure your child’s spot in this fantastic opportunity to learn the game of volleyball while having fun with their peers. This league is perfect for introducing young athletes to volleyball, teaching them teamwork, and helping them build confidence on the court.

### 11- and 12-year-old youth volleyball league

Get ready for an exciting volleyball experience with the 11- and 12-year-old youth volleyball league.

This league is designed for young athletes who are ready to take their volleyball skills to the next level while enjoying some friendly competition.

The program will run from March 4 to April 10 on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with two weeks of practice followed by eight games.

The league offers the perfect balance of skill development and game play, ensuring players can practice and refine their abilities before hitting

the court for some exciting matches.

During the first two weeks, participants will focus on building their skills through practice sessions that cover everything from serving and passing to positioning and team play. After that, they’ll take part in eight competitive games where they can put their new skills to the test.

### Calling all coaches: Volunteer for youth sports programs

Are you passionate about sports and looking for a way to get involved in your community?

We are currently seeking volunteer coaches for all youth sports programs, including baseball, tee-ball, basketball, volleyball and soccer. This is a great opportunity to give back while helping children develop their athletic skills and love for the games.

Volunteering as a coach not only allows you to make a positive impact on young athletes, but it also comes with a great perk: Your child plays for free in the sport you coach. Whether you have experience coaching or are simply looking to be involved in your child’s sports journey, your involvement will help create a fun and educational environment for all participants.

Interested in coaching? You can easily volunteer during the online registration process for any of the youth sports programs, or you can stop by the Ross Aragon Community Center to sign up in person.

Coaching is a rewarding experience that brings communities together while providing valuable leadership to our next generation of athletes.

Don’t miss out on this fantastic opportunity to give back to the community and help shape the future of youth sports in Pagosa Springs.

For more information or to volunteer, register online through the Town of Pagosa Springs website or visit the Community Center.

## Basketball

■ Continued from A11  
of them,” Wes Lewis said. “It was a game that got away from us, but I was really proud of the effort.”

He added, “We’re certainly a little bit shorthanded as a whole on the year, and then we lose one of our leading guys, and we’re still fighting hard and competing and battling.”

As the league portion of the season enters its second half, the Pirates

currently ranked fourth in the league and 31st in Colorado 4A boys’ basketball — will get second looks at IML opponents beginning this weekend as they host Monte Vista and Ignacio.

Friday’s game against sixth-ranked Monte Vista (1-4) is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in Pagosa Springs.

Monte Vista prevailed in the teams’ last encounter on Jan. 17, defeating Pagosa 51-36.

Looking ahead to that contest, Wes Lewis underscored the importance of quieting Monte Vista’s Azariah Hurtado, who — at 6 feet, 1 inch — dominated the court when the teams last played.

“He had a career night against us,” the coach reflected. “Some of that is probably a credit to him playing well and some of that is a credit to our defense not playing so well. We need

to take better care of the basketball.” On Saturday, the Pirates will host the Ignacio Bobcats at 4 p.m.

The fifth-ranked Bobcats, 2-4 in league play, lost their last encounter with the Pirates 46-40 on Jan. 18.

“Ignacio is a good team,” Wes Lewis said. “We aren’t looking past anybody.”

garrett@pagosasun.com







# 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**  
Jan. 13 — Agency assist, Indian Land Road.

Jan. 14 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Beucler Lane.

Jan. 14 — Warrant arrest, Betty's Court.

Jan. 15 — Reckless driving, U.S. 84.

Jan. 15 — Speeding 20-24 over limit, Colo. 151.

Jan. 15 — Second-degree burglary-forced entry-nonresidence, criminal mischief \$1,000 to \$5,000 private, second-degree criminal trespass, East McCabe Street.

Jan. 15 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 84.

Jan. 15 — Weapon-prohibited use-drunk with gun, crimes against at-risk adult/elderly>70 criminal exploitation, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, obstruction of telephone or telegraph service, driving under the influence of alcohol, Chokecherry Glen.

Jan. 15 — Information only, Dandelion Drive.

Jan. 15 — Assault in the third degree, menacing use of deadly weapon not specified, domestic, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Canyon Circle.

Jan. 16 — Second-degree burglary-no force entry-residence, criminal mischief \$20,000 to \$100,000 private, Talisman Drive.

Jan. 16 — Fourth-degree arson-endanger building or occupied structure damage, County Road 175.

Jan. 17 — Driving under restraint-second offense, driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, U.S. 160.

Jan. 17 — Information only, Settler Drive.

Jan. 17 — Information only, County Road 600.

Jan. 18 — Habitual domestic violence offender, domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, Park Avenue.

Jan. 18 — Violation of a court order/warrant arrest, Park Avenue.

Jan. 18 — Agency assist, North Pagosa Boulevard.

Jan. 18 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, red light-fail to stop, Boulder Drive.

Jan. 18 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Jan. 18 — Warrant arrest, Talisman Drive.

Jan. 19 — Death investigation, West Peregrine Circle.

Jan. 19 — Theft-\$2,000 to \$20,000 from building, Turkey Lane.

Jan. 19 — Assault in the third degree, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Hummingbird Place.

Jan. 19 — Prohibited use of weapons, possess weapon by previous offender, criminal attempt to commit class three felony, second-degree assault-aggravated-police officer-strongarm, menacing-felony-aggravated-public official-weapon, violation of protection order-criminal, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, possession of loaded firearm in vehicle, Talisman Drive/Buttercup Drive.

Jan. 21 — Theft-\$300 to \$750 other (includes gas), Rob Snow Road.

Jan. 22 — Speeding 25-39 over limit, U.S. 160.

Jan. 23 — Vehicular eluding, driver's license-driving without, lane usage violation, driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, South 10th Street/San Juan Street.

Jan. 24 — Trespass warning, Corral Court.

Jan. 24 — Information only, Hurt Drive.

Jan. 24 — Parking on roadway, driving under the influence of alcohol, Ute Drive.

Jan. 24 — Information only, View Drive.

Jan. 25 — Assault in the third degree, felony menacing-real/simulated weapon, reckless endangerment, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, obstruction of telephone or telegraph service, Hummingbird Place.

Jan. 25 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, unlawful distribution/manufacture/dispense/sale-amphetamine, drug paraphernalia-possess, false reporting of identifying information to law enforcement, careless driving, Harman

Park Drive/U.S. 160.

Jan. 25 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Jan. 26 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Oakwood Circle.

Jan. 26 — Information only, Lake-wood Street.

Jan. 26 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Jan. 26 — Second-degree burglary-no force entry-residence, theft-\$2,000 to \$20,000-from building, Carefree Place.

Jan. 27 — Agency assist, County Road 600.

Jan. 28 — Theft-less than \$50 parts from vehicle, Midiron Avenue.

Jan. 28 — False reporting to authorities, Oakwood Circle, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 28 — Stalking-repeated communication, harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 28 — Nuisance dog, Hills Circle.

Jan. 28 — Disorderly conduct-petty offense, obstructing highway/passageway, Hersch Avenue.

Jan. 29 — Driving under restraint, driving under the influence of alcohol, County Road 359.

Jan. 29 — Information only, Pan-orama Place.

Jan. 29 — Violation of a protection order-criminal, Midiron Avenue.

Jan. 29 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Jan. 30 — Crimes against at-risk adult/elderly>70-injury, crimes against at-risk adult/elderly>70-neglect, crimes against at-risk adult/elderly>70-criminal exploitation, Alamosa Place.

Jan. 30 — Warrant arrest, Bonanza Avenue.

Jan. 30 — Agency assist, County Road 542.

Jan. 31 — Information only, Colo. 151.

Jan. 31 — Obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, driver's license-driving without, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, reckless driving, Village Drive.

Jan. 31 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, Vista Boulevard.

Feb. 2 — Unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon, possess weapon by previous offender, resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, tampering with physical evidence, Indian Land Road.

Feb. 2 — Warrant arrest, Indian Land Road.

Feb. 2 — Violation of protection order-criminal, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, failed to display valid registration, eluding a police officer, Ute Place.

Feb. 2 — Failure to appear, Harman Park Drive.

Feb. 2 — Driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), failed to display valid registration, failure to display proof of insurance, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 2 — Warrant arrest, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 2 — Possession of a controlled substance, controlled substance-distribution-MT/HR/KT/CT-7-112G, drug paraphernalia-possess, Aspen Village Drive.

Feb. 2 — Trespass warning, Seminole Drive.

**Pagosa Springs Police Department**

Dec. 30 — Theft-\$300 to \$1,000, forgery of money, stamps, securities, Pagosa Street.

Jan. 1 — Second-degree assault, assault in the third degree, Talisman Drive.

Jan. 1 — Lost/found property, East Pagosa Street.

Jan. 2 — Driver's license-driving without, no insurance-driver, fail to yield right of way/yield sign, County Road 600.

Jan. 4 — Driving under restraint, Talisman Drive.

Jan. 4 — Warrant arrest, Village Drive.

Jan. 4 — Theft, West U.S. 160.

Jan. 4 — Theft/intending to deprive, trespass warning, West U.S. 160.

Jan. 4 — Driving under restraint-

alcohol/drug related, improper pass-sign/markers, Great West Avenue.

Jan. 4 — Criminal trespass, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 6 — Forgery of a public record, San Juan Street.

Jan. 7 — Harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks a person, Trinity Lane.

Jan. 7 — Open burning, Eaton Drive.

Jan. 7 — Shoplifting/alters or exchanges labels, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 8 — Information only, North 2nd Street.

Jan. 9 — Theft/intends to deprive person, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 9 — Marijuana prohibited under age of 21/less than 12 ounces, South 8th Street.

Jan. 10 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, Aspen Village Drive.

Jan. 11 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 11 — Warrant arrest, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 11 — Death investigation, Lewis Street.

Jan. 11 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, North 2nd Street.

Jan. 11 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Jan. 12 — Death investigation, Lewis Street.

**Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**  
Jan. 13 — Mary Kaelin, unsafe backing, two points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$72.

Jan. 13 — Javier Hernandez-Reyes, speeding 25-39 mph over PFL, six points off, fine and costs — \$335.

Jan. 13 — Rick Bailey, speeding 10-19 mph over PFL, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$197.

Jan. 13 — Juvenile, speeding 10-19 mph over PFL, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$197.

Jan. 13 — Genesis Garcia, careless driving, four points off, owner operated vehicle without insurance, four points off, fines, surcharges and costs — \$502.

Jan. 13 — Lena Geren, failed to yield when proceeding from stop sign, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

Jan. 13 — Dorothy Matthews, failed to yield when proceeding from stop sign, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.

Jan. 13 — Cassandra Martinez, assault, fine and costs — \$335.

Jan. 14 — Angelina Westfall, possession/consumption of alcohol by underage person, fine and costs — \$100.

Jan. 14 — Brooke Bevan, false reporting to authorities, fine and costs — \$135.

Jan. 14 — Wyatt Kelm, two counts shoplifting, 10 days incarceration.

Jan. 14 — Breanna Kirsop, criminal trespass, fine and costs — \$135.

Jan. 14 — Jacob Kovacs, three counts shoplifting, three counts criminal trespass, six months unsupervised probation, fine and costs — \$185.

Jan. 14 — Devin Whomble, harassment/makes repeated communications at inconvenient hours, fine and costs — \$135.

Jan. 14 — Juvenile, marijuana prohibited, 20 hours community service, six months supervised probation, fine — \$100.

**Archuleta County Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**

Jan. 22 — Julian Derrick Caler, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Jan. 22 — Paulino Serratos, careless driving, fines and costs — \$263.50.

Jan. 22 — Joshua David Alderson, careless driving, fines and costs — \$185.

Jan. 22 — Andrew Theodore Burch, ownership of dangerous dog-bodily injury, fines and costs — \$199.50.

Jan. 22 — Wendy L. Vicenti, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 22 — Naomi R. Haskell, speeding 20-24 over limit, moving

violation in construction sentence enhancer, fines and costs — \$449.50.

Jan. 22 — Lanton J. Carlton, speeding 10-19 over limit, moving violation in construction sentence enhancer, fines and costs — \$368.50.

Jan. 22 — Michael Jerome Wright, driver's license-driving without, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$201.50.

Jan. 22 — Damian Brett Pinon, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$105.50.

Jan. 22 — Lisa Ann Machado, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.

Jan. 22 — Jacob Christopher Holyfield, speeding 202-4 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Jan. 22 — Christina R. Glassmoyer, fail to yield right of way/stop sign, fines and costs — \$142.50.

Jan. 23 — Carl Wayne Matthews III, criminal mischief-under \$300, 10 days jail, fines and costs — \$228.46.

Jan. 24 — Jose Horacio Cruz, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$142.50.

Jan. 27 — Luke Edward Lachowsky, failed to use turn signal, fines and costs — \$105.

Jan. 28 — Joshua J. Taylor, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 29 — John Zasadzinski, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$98.50.

Jan. 29 — Charles Christopher Martinez, careless driving, fines and costs — \$238.50.

Jan. 29 — Kevin Thomas Inman, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.

Jan. 29 — Timothy Elledge, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.

Jan. 29 — Utsa Rashique, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Jan. 29 — Kylea R. Tafoya, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Jan. 29 — Brittany M. Hilborn, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Jan. 29 — Mitchell J. Crider, speeding 5-9 over limit, fines and costs — \$139.50.

**6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**

No report.

**6th Judicial District Court: Judge Jeffrey R. Wilson**

No report.



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# Outdoors



Photo courtesy Jennifer Walterscheid

Boy Scout Troop 807 members Bruce Kubelka, Skyler Zarate, Koltin Bassett, Scoutmaster Jennifer Walterscheid, Bennett Walterscheid, Reese Jenkins and Ashton Zarate are pictured during their recent snow camping trip.

## Boy Scout Troop 807 camps in the snow, announces fundraising dinner

By Jennifer Walterscheid  
Boy Scout Troop 807

Boy Scout Troop 807 completed its annual winter campout during the weekend of Jan. 24. While the troop camps out all year long, one campout is always in the snow.

This year, the troop camped on

Wolf Creek Pass, off of Wolf Creek Road, to find snow. The weekend was spent working on rank requirements and testing the scouts' knowledge of snow and cold-weather camping.

### Fundraiser dinner planned

Troop 807 will be hosting its third

annual fundraiser dinner on Feb. 22.

The dinner will be held at the Community United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m.

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP at (970) 946-8687.

Join us and learn about the troop and the experiences the scouts continue to gain each year.

## Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition work to shape the future of outdoor recreation

By Bob Milford and Amanda Gadamski  
Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition

Like many Colorado mountain towns, Pagosa Springs thrives on tourism and outdoor recreation, with over 50 percent of its land base as public lands.

Visitors and residents can float the San Juan River and summit a 13,000-foot peak in a single day. However, increasing recreation demand has highlighted the challenge of balancing growth with preserving natural resources, wildlife and community character.

Recognizing this need, the Pagosa Area Trails Council (PATC) established the Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition (PARC) — a local coalition with a broader interest dedicated to addressing outdoor recreation opportunities and challenges in the region.

The PARC was formed to address the growing demand for outdoor recreation while preserving the natural resources and wildlife that make our region special.

As an initiative led by the PATC, PARC is developing a long-term, community-supported outdoor recreation plan for the greater Pagosa Springs area, covering Archuleta County, portions of Hinsdale County south of the Continental Divide, and portions of Mineral County east of the Continental Divide.

Our goals:

- Develop a regional outdoor

recreation plan that balances sustainable recreation with conservation. Collaborate with land managers and stakeholders to implement strategies that ensure quality outdoor experiences while protecting public lands.

- Engage the community through surveys, meetings and data collection to shape the plan based on local needs.

- Work collaboratively to implement and monitor PARC's outdoor recreation plan.

In 2024, PARC secured \$125,000 from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and \$30,000 from the U.S. Forest Service, joining the Colorado Outdoor Regional Partnership Initiative. This partnership provides access to funding and aligns us with other Colorado communities facing similar recreation challenges.

With guidance from SE Group, an experienced outdoor recreation planning firm, PARC is laying the groundwork for a sustainable future — one that protects our local natural resources and wildlife while ensuring equitable and high-quality outdoor recreation.

A PARC Leadership Committee — including representatives from the Town of Pagosa Springs; Archuleta Hinsdale and Mineral counties; Forest Service; Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association; PATC; and the Southern Ute Tribe — leads the effort.

Additionally, a PARC Task Force of 35-40 local stakeholders with diverse

interests is working collectively and in smaller groups focused on summer recreation, winter recreation, education and information, partnerships and funding, and data collection.

### Community involvement key

The PARC leadership team has thoroughly reviewed past recreation management plans, assessed current community needs and is now guiding the development of a comprehensive recreation plan.

Over the past several months, the PARC Task Force has identified challenges, priorities and opportunities that reflect the shared values of our community.

PARC will continue to host public meetings, send out surveys, gather input and data to ensure the plan reflects local priorities. Your participation — whether through discussions, feedback, or trailhead data collection — will directly shape the future of recreation in our region.

Together, we're creating a sustainable recreation legacy that benefits both our community and the environment. We are excited about the progress being made and remain committed to ensuring that the voices of our residents guide this effort. Thank you for your dedication and support.

For updates or to get involved with PARC initiatives, please visit <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/cdfcf8e2973d474f85a88c8bfa7bae48?item=1>.

## BLM, Forest Service announce 2025 grazing fees

Bureau of Land Management

The federal grazing fee for 2025 remains \$1.35 per animal unit month for public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and \$1.35 per head month for lands managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

An animal unit month or head month — treated as equivalent measures for fee purposes — is the use of public lands by one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.

The newly calculated grazing fee takes effect March 1. The fee will apply to nearly 18,000 grazing permits

and leases administered by BLM and nearly 6,250 permits administered by the Forest Service.

The formula used for calculating the grazing fee was established by Congress in the 1978 Public Rangelands Improvement Act and has remained in use under a 1986 presidential executive order. Under that order, the grazing fee cannot fall below \$1.35 per animal unit month/head month, and any increase or decrease cannot exceed 25 percent of the previous year's level.

The annually determined grazing fee is established using a 1966 base value of \$1.23 per animal unit month/head month for livestock grazing on public lands in Western states. The

figure is then calculated according to three factors: current private grazing land lease rates, beef cattle prices, and the cost of livestock production. In effect, the fee rises, falls or stays the same based on market conditions.

BLM and Forest Service are committed to strong relationships with the ranching community and work closely with permittees to ensure public rangelands remain healthy, productive working landscapes. The grazing fee applies in 16 Western states on public lands administered by BLM and the Forest Service.

Permit holders and lessees may contact their local BLM or Forest Service office for additional information.

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# preview

## ARTS & LIFE

# Cabin Fever Book Sale

Feb. 8 • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library



Photo courtesy Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

February 6, 2025



# Cabin fever book sale set for Saturday

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

Let it snow.  
Pick up a book or two in case you find yourself stranded in snowstorms for the next couple of months. (We can hope, right?)  
Come to the book sale Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to

2 p.m. at your Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library for some fantastic bargains.  
All books are in great condition and are lovingly donated by your neighbors to benefit the Friends of the Library. Proceeds benefit library programs and acquisition of new collections.  
Members of the Friends of the Library, teachers and first responders enjoy our buy-one, get-one-free discount. Just show proof of membership and/or your employment.

## Our Community Eats announces weekend hours

By Sandra Dillon  
Our Community Eats

Our volunteers are amazing. Since many of our patrons hold jobs during daytime hours, they have not been able to shop the pantry. So, several volunteers stepped up and committed to run the pantry on Saturdays to accommodate those who could only visit the pantry on weekends.

Starting Feb. 8, Our Community Eats will be open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.  
Now open five days a week, the other days of operation are Monday (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), Wednesday (4 to 6 p.m.), Thursday (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and Friday (10 a.m. to noon). We are closed on Tuesdays and Sundays.  
Given that we receive last-minute

donated perishables on Friday, we will be able to get this food into the hands of our patrons sooner.  
We welcome anyone in the Archuleta County area that needs food assistance. Our Community Eats is located at 197 Navajo Trail Drive.  
You can learn more about our impact, donate or volunteer by visiting us at [www.ourcommunityeats.com](http://www.ourcommunityeats.com).

### Live Performers

- Thursday**  
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday**  
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Ron and Susan, 5 p.m.
- Saturday**  
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Tuesday**  
The Springs Resort lodge atrium: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

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# Geothermal energy expert meets with local food production group

Healthy Archuleta

Last Thursday, a local geothermal expert, Kirsten Skeehan, and Courtney King met with the Growers and Producers Forum and community members to discuss potential access to hot water energy and growing food year-round in heated greenhouses.

Both speakers are well-versed in accessing geothermal energy, such as those used by the Town of Pagosa Springs and the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership greenhouse domes. Sponsored by Healthy Archuleta, this meeting took place at the Ruby Sisson Library.

Skeehan presented slides pertaining to the location of a number of public geothermal wells in Archuleta County, and the history, depth and temperature of these wells.

She also discussed some of the hurdles in exploring for potential geothermal wells.

As interest grows and efforts continue to search for clean energy sources, there is a realization that some natural resources, geothermal energy in particular, have valuable benefits to our local agricultural industry. Living in a mountain community and experiencing a short growing season, it is difficult to provide fresh produce year-round. However, with the development of technologies in harnessing geothermal energy, it has been proven that crops can be grown inside heated greenhouses in the deepest parts of winter.

King demonstrated this concept as she shared slides of her recent trip to Iceland, a small but highly volcanic land mass roughly about the size of the state of Kentucky.

She mentioned some of the ways in which the Icelandic population utilizes this natural resource in its cooking and baking, heating, and growing root crops, which they have been doing for hundreds of years. More recently, Iceland has used geothermal energy by building large greenhouses over areas where the heat can be accessed.

Tourism, just like in Pagosa Springs, benefits through access to geothermal water, and geothermal power plants provide clean, cheap energy to Icelandic households. There are now greenhouses being built situated over the ground with direct access to the heated waters. In one example, a local tomato grower has produced two tons of tomatoes in a single year. The heated water is piped directly into some of the local restaurants growing produce such as cucumbers, strawberries, bananas, roses and peppers onsite to be used in their menus.

The matter of looking at geothermal energy in Archuleta County is double-sided. According to Skeehan, the initial start-up for anyone looking into this resource is first to consider where the energy is located. There are a number of areas in the county that fall under state and local conservation author-

ity. The other issue is cost. It can be very expensive to dig a well to access geothermal waters.

However, the other side is that once the wells have been completed, the operational costs are low. It becomes a never-ending access to clean energy to heat greenhouses and other structures at minimal expense. This potential

provides anyone wishing to grow food, either commercially or just for themselves, a way to do so regardless of climate conditions.

There are a number of websites that provide more information about access to geothermal energy in our state. Visit the Colorado School of ■ See Food on page 6

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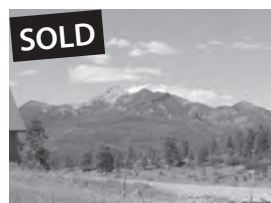
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Photo courtesy Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

Representatives of the 2024 grant recipients of the 19th hole concerts are pictured in June 2024: the San Juan Back Country Horsemen, the Ruby M. Sisson Library Foundation, the Cornerstone Project and the Early Childhood Council of Archuleta County. Archuleta County nonprofits are invited to apply to participate in the annual 19th Hole concerts.

# 19th Hole Concerts nonprofit grant application open

By Rachel Rosenthal  
Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado announces a grant opportunity for Archuleta County nonprofits to participate in this summer’s 10th annual 19th Hole Concerts at the Pagosa Springs Golf Club.

The nonprofit application opens on Feb. 6 and closes on March 6.

The concert series features local musicians and provides a vital opportunity for nonprofits to earn funds while sharing their work with community-minded attendees.

The cover charge for each concert is a \$10 donation to support the four selected nonprofits. Earnings will be pooled and distributed equally to the organizations. In 2024, each participating organization received \$2,500.

The concerts will take place on Thursday evenings in June from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The official dates are June 5, 12, 19 and 26. The selected organizations and performing musicians will be shared at a later date.

“We’re excited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the 19th Hole Concerts this year,” said Briggen Wrinkle, executive director of the Community Foundation. “It’s been a wonderful way to support the



Photo courtesy Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

Archuleta County nonprofits are invited to apply to participate in the annual 19th Hole concerts. The concerts, in their 10th year, are presented through the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado.

nonprofits of Archuleta County, and we’re proud of how much it’s grown and become a must-go event in the area. Over the past nine years, we’ve raised \$68,000 for nonprofits. We look forward to seeing everyone come to the concerts this year and celebrate a decade of empowering local phi-

lanthropy.” The nonprofit application for the 19th Hole Concerts can be found online under the “Nonprofit Resources” tab on the Community Foundation’s website, [swcommunityfoundation.org](http://swcommunityfoundation.org). The selected nonprofits will be announced in late March.

# Food

■ continued from page 3  
Mines website at <https://www.mines.edu/>, the Colorado Energy Office at <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/>,

or the Colorado Geological Survey at <https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/>. To learn more about the efforts of

Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at [www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org](http://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org) or send us an email at [fsfearchuleta@gmail.com](mailto:fsfearchuleta@gmail.com).

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# Thank You, Pagosa Springs, for a Generous Year of Bell Ringing!

By: Neil Umali, Director of Archuleta Salvation Army

As we reflect on another incredible year, the Salvation Army of Archuleta County is filled with gratitude for the generosity, kindness, and community spirit that made our 2024 bell-ringing campaign a resounding success.

For 31 days, from November 24 through December 24, the sound of bells ringing filled the air at City Market as volunteers and supporters came together to spread hope and joy. With the help of 16 dedicated community organizations and countless individual volunteers, we raised funds to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

This campaign wasn't just about donations; it was about the spirit of Pagosa Springs coming alive. Every smile, every act of kindness, and every moment spent ringing the bell reflected the heart and soul of our community.

## How Your Generosity Changed Lives

Every dollar raised directly impacts the community of Pagosa Springs, supporting vital programs that provide relief and hope to our neighbors. Your generosity has made a meaningful difference in countless ways:

- Rotary Club's Feed the Children Backpack Program: Providing meals to children who might otherwise go hungry on weekends and school breaks.
- Aspire's Diapers and Wipes Initiative: Helping parents care for their babies with essential supplies.
- Rise Above Violence: Offering emergency housing and support for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Pagosa Outreach

Connection (POC): Assisting families in crisis with rent, utilities, and transportation.

- Vets for Vets: Supporting local veterans with emergency housing and transportation fuel.
- Firewood Program: Helping families stay warm during the winter through firewood distribution.
- Pagosa Community Initiative: Providing enriching after-school programs for local youth.
- Aspen House: Supporting individuals with special needs through meals and training programs.
- Homelessness Assistance: Offering critical resources such as one-night hotel stays, shower vouchers, sleeping bags, and transportation fuel.

These programs, supported by your generosity, have transformed lives and brought hope to those who need it most, showing them they are not alone and that their community cares.

## A Special Thanks to Our Volunteers and Supporters

The success of this year's campaign would not have been possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the 16 community organizations who gave their time to ring the bell and spread the message of hope.

We also want to express our deepest gratitude to City Market, whose staff and customers provided the platform for our efforts. Your partnership and unwavering support have been invaluable to this mission.

Finally, to every individual who donated—whether it was spare change, a thoughtful contribution, or a simple word of encouragement—we thank you.

Every single act of generosity made a difference and brought light to someone's life.

## Celebrating the Spirit of Pagosa Springs

This campaign was a beautiful reminder of what makes Pagosa Springs so special. It's the way we come together in times of need, the way we turn compassion into action, and the way we lift one another up.

Your contributions, time, and energy have not only helped meet immediate needs but have also inspired hope for a brighter future in our community.

## Looking Forward to Next Year

As we celebrate this year's success, we invite you to continue this tradition of giving next holiday season. Whether you ring a bell, drop a donation in the red kettle, or support our efforts in other ways, your involvement makes all the difference.

Together, we can ensure that every individual and family in Pagosa Springs has access to the support and resources they need.

## From the Salvation Army of Archuleta County:

"To our volunteers, donors, and supporters: thank you for your compassion and commitment to our community. You are the reason we can continue to serve and make a difference. Your generosity inspires us every day, and we look forward to another incredible year of giving and growth."

See you next holiday season at City Market!

*With heartfelt gratitude,  
The Salvation Army of  
Archuleta County*





# New free database for foodies, chefs and casual cooks available

**By Carole Howard**  
PREVIEW Columnist, and the library staff

We have just purchased a new database called A to Z World Food that gives you free access to recipes from countries and cultures around the world. It is a bonanza of information for anyone who loves preparing and eating good food at home or enjoys dining in restaurants while traveling. You'll find more than 7,000 popular recipes from 174 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, along with information on global food cultures, explanations of diverse ingredients, cooking preparation and techniques, hints on how to stock your pantry, and much more.

For access to this culinary treasure trove, go to your library's website at <https://pagosalibrary.org> and click on "Digital Collection" at the top of the home page.

There you'll find all our online resources in alphabetical order, so A to Z World Food is at the top. You'll need to enter your library card number to explore the site.

Enjoy.

## Friends book sale Saturday

This Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 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.

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

## Online author talks

Our highly popular free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in February with two opportunities for you to interact with bestselling authors.

## 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>.

## Healthy relationships for teens

This 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.

## Teen/tween takeover tomorrow

We are setting aside the large meeting room and some of the computers for tweens and teens to use and spend time with friends Friday, Feb. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

## Chess Club Saturday

Learn how to play chess with free quick lessons and game time to practice your skills on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. All ages and abilities are welcome.

## Adult knitting Saturday

Join new and experienced knitters Saturday, Feb. 8, for our free Knitters Circle from 1 to 3 p.m. It is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to knit together or get some help if you are stuck on your project.

## 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

■ See Library on next page



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# Library

■ continued from previous page  
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. 10, 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.

## Ruby's Book Club next Tuesday

Ruby's Book Club will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 11, to discuss "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare. Copies are available at your library.

This book club is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is welcome to attend. Snacks will be provided.

## Dungeons and Dragons

Next Tuesday, Feb. 11, and Thursday, Feb. 13, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., join our Dungeons and Dragons game free for teens and young adults. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

## Therapy dog visit

Next Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 11 to 11:45 a.m., all ages are invited to a free visit with a certified therapy dog. The visits will be limited to 10-15 minutes — just the right amount of time to pet the dog, read to the dog or just say "Hi."

## Legal clinics resume

This month's free legal clinic is by appointment Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 2 to 3:40 p.m. Come to the library to meet privately via Zoom with our volunteer civil attorney.

To schedule an appointment, phone (970) 264-2209. When you call, let us know if you need a translator. Registration opens the first of the month and is required as space is limited.

## 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.

## Ruby's Writers Guild

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

## ESL classes

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

## Tech Time

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

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

## Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays

■ See Library on next page



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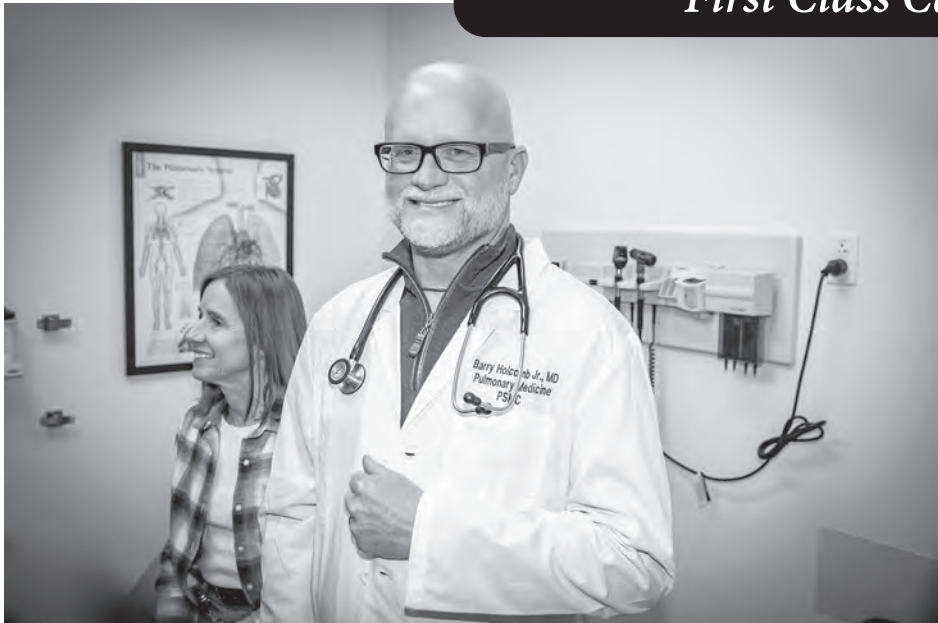
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# Library

■ continued from previous page

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.

## Local authors

"A Marathon of Purpose: A Journey Through Life, Love and Legacy" by Dr. Michael J. Marx, with his family and friends, is a memoir of a life marked by resilience, compassion and unwavering faith. He recounts his experiences from growing up in New Jersey with immigrant roots to a career as executive coach and mentor, as well as his battle with brain cancer.

"A Window to Happiness" is a collection of poetry by Joy Wiersma. As she writes, "I want to smooth over the sharp angles in my eyes, polish the surface with the tears that I cry, till everything I see sparkles and shines. Life. I want to see it."

## Spanish language books

"Tratado de Culinaria para Mujeres Tristes" ("Culinary Treaty for Sad Women") by Columbian author Hector Abad addresses female psychology with subtle humor. "Abuelita Fe" ("Grandmother Faith") by second-generation Cuban-American author Kat Armas, who lives in Miami, combines personal storytelling with Biblical reflections, focusing on marginal voices.

## Books on CD

"Never Say Never" by Danielle

Steel is a romance set in France. "Dark Hope" by Christine Feehan is a Carpathian paranormal romance. "Die. Respawn. Repeat." is book one in a new fantasy series. "Four Ruined Realms" by Mai Corland is book two in the Broken Blades fantasy trilogy.

## Large print

"Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell" by Nicholas Meyer contains extracts from Dr. John H. Watson. "Where the Creek Bends" by Linda Lael Miller is a southern romance. "Shattering Dawn" by Jayne Ann Krentz is the final book in the Lost Night Flies paranormal romantic suspense trilogy.

## Mysteries, suspense and thrillers

"Furever After" by Sophie Kelly tells of a librarian and her two cats solving an art heist mystery. "The Texas Murders" by James Patterson and Andrew Bourelle features a Texas Ranger and a Tribal policewoman. "One in a Million" by Janet Dailey begins when a wealthy Texas rancher's body is discovered.

## New donations guidelines

The Friends of the Library have announced new guidelines for donations to the library.

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 non-print 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 dropbox at City Market, please. No more than two boxes at a time because of space constraints and all books in excellent condition, please.

## Quotable quote

"Cooking is at once child's play and adult joy. And cooking done with care is an act of love." — Craig Claiborne (1920-2000), former food editor and restaurant critic for The New York Times, author of numerous cookbooks and winner of the James Beard Award for Lifetime Achievement.

## 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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# Consider food safety, allergens when preparing party treats and snacks

By Cindi Galabota  
PREVIEW Columnist

Valentine's Day is just a week away, and Valentine's Day parties are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate friendship and community in your classroom, day care center or home.

As you prepare your treats and snacks, it is important to consider both food safety and food allergies.

Here are some important items to consider as you plan your sweet celebrations, provided by the Colorado State University (CSU) Extension Family Matters Newsletter-February 2025.

Children's developing immune systems and smaller bodies make them more vulnerable to foodborne illnesses.

According to Anne Kozil, MS RDN, and CSU Extension Specialist in Nutrition, you can follow these safety tips to help ensure the treats you prepare and share are safe:

- Avoid choking hazards by offering soft, age-appropriate foods. Skip hard candies, whole nuts and popcorn for children under age 4. Cut fruits and vegetables into small, easy-to-chew pieces.
- Handle food safely by washing

## Extension Viewpoints

your hands before preparing any food and making sure all surfaces, utensils and storage containers are clean. Make sure your children/students also are washing their hands before eating.

- Offer allergy-friendly treats or share nonfood items such as stickers, crayons and small toys (make sure toys are not too small to cause choking hazards).

If you are a parent planning to make a treat for a classroom party, you should always check with your child's teacher for specific school policies, guidelines for handmade treats and a list of food allergies in the classroom. If you are planning to provide store bought treats, consider these allergen-free options: apple sauce or fruit and veggie packets, fruit snacks, popcorn (for children over 4 years old), frozen popsicles, and baked potato chips.

Try this simple recipe for a healthy

### Valentine's Day treat. Heart-Shaped Fruit Kabobs

Ingredients: This recipe calls for three types of melons, but you can use any melon or fruit that you would like. Melons are easy to cut with a cookie cutter and easy for small mouths to nibble.

- 1/4 seedless watermelon, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1/4 honeydew, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1/4 cantaloupe, cut into 1/2-inch slices

Directions:

1. Wash hands and food contact surfaces with soap and water.
2. Cut the watermelon, honeydew, and cantaloupe into 1/2-inch slices. Use a small heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out the desired number of hearts from each fruit (or use other shapes of cookie cutters for different designs and patterns).
3. Using plastic or wooden skewers, thread the hearts onto each skewer or arrange hearts on a plate and serve.

Optional Dipping Sauce

■ See Viewpoints on next page

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# Preview Calendar

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

## 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."

**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.

**T'ai Chi Chih.** 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and

better.

**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

■ See Calendar on next page

## HUD Publisher's Notice



## EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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

# Viewpoints

## ■ continued from previous page

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 cups plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup honey (Please note: Children under 1 year old should not consume honey.)

- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Directions:

1. Wash hands and food contact surfaces with soap and water.
2. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl and refrigerate for 1 hour to combine flavors before serving.

For more information, ideas and recipes visit the CSU Food Smart website at [foodsmartcolorado.colorado.edu](http://foodsmartcolorado.colorado.edu).

## 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](mailto: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.

# SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

## 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!

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

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# Preview Calendar

## ■ continued from previous page

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](mailto:sanjuanoutdoorclub@gmail.com).

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 Meeting.** 10 a.m., virtual. Register at [archuletadems.org](http://archuletadems.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 proj-

ect, 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 Figgs at (970) 749-0614 or [arboleshiker@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**High School Math Tutoring.** 4-5:30 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](http://pagosabiblechurch.org).

## Tuesday, Feb. 11

**Stretching and Mobility Class.** 9:30-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those age 55 and up.

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

**Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.** 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with

vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

**Tech Time.** 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to

■ See Calendar on next page



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# Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page** computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

**Hand and Foot Card Game.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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

**Ruby's Book Club.** 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to discuss "The Girl with the Louding Voice" by Abi Dare. Pick up a copy at the library.

**Dungeons and Dragons.** 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

**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.

**Online Author Talk: Waubgeshig Rice.** 5 p.m., virtual. Dystopian tropes from an Indigenous perspective with Waubgeshig Rice. For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

**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. 12**

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

**Introduction to Pickleball.** 8:30-11 a.m., Ross Aragon Community Center. Register on the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation page at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/pagosa-springs-co/catalog>.

**Kids Kare.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at [ceflittlekids@gmail.com](mailto:ceflittlekids@gmail.com).

**Family Storytime.** 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for great stories, fun songs, and plenty of reasons to get up and move. It's a great way for kids to have fun while building the skills they need to become independent readers. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

**Emotional Freedom Technique Session.** 10-11 a.m., Senior Center.

**Therapy Dog Visit.** 11-11:45 a.m., Sisson Library. Stop by and visit with a certified therapy dog.

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

**Mindful Drawing.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

**Legal Clinic.** 2-3:40 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via Zoom at the library. Registration is required and opens on the first of each month. Call the library at (970) 264-2209 to register. Space is limited.

**Elementary Tutoring.** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Sisson Library. After-school tutoring in reading and math for grades 1-3. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information or to sign up.

**Pagosa Springs Photography Club.** 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Socializing and discussion on various photography topics will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting, featuring discussion on low-light photography, will begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 13**

**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."

**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.

**T'ai Chi Chih.** 2:30-3:30 p.m., Senior Center. Free for those 60 and better.

**Dungeons and Dragons.** 4-5:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join the adventure. Preregistration is required because space is limited. Contact Josie@pagosalibrary.org to join.

**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.

**Pagosa Weather Discussion.** 5:45 p.m., Ski and Bow Rack, 354 E. Pagosa St. Pagosa Weather will talk about the weather and snow forecasting.

**Friday, Feb. 14**

**Indoor Pickleball.** 8-11:30 a.m., Ross

■ **See Calendar on next page**

## 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](mailto:agadomski@pagosasprings.co.gov).

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute a lasting symbol of community pride and artistic vision!



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# Preview Calendar

## ■ continued from previous page

Aragon Community Center.

**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.

**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](mailto:ceflittlekids@gmail.com).

**Friday Flix.** 2-3:30 p.m., Sisson Library. Join for a fun family movie and snacks. For all ages.

**Pagosa Springs Valentine's Day Soiree Fine Food and Wine Pairing.** 6-8 p.m., Community Center. Enjoy a selection of wines, savory appetizers and chocolates, as well as live music and a silent auction. Tickets are available at <https://givebutter.com/ValentinesWinePairingSoiree>, by calling (970) 264-2167 or visiting the Senior Center. A fundraiser for Archuleta Seniors Inc.

## Saturday, Feb. 15

**LEGO Play.** 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

**Pokémon Club.** 12:30-2:30 p.m., Sisson Library. For ages 6-11. Bring your cards to battle against others who love Pokemon too. No experience is required.

## Monday, Feb. 17

**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.

**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](http://pagosabiblechurch.org).

## Tuesday, Feb. 18

**Stretching and Mobility Class.** 9:30-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. A stretching and mobility class for those age 55 and up.

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

**Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta**

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

**Tech Time.** 10 a.m.- noon, Sisson Library. Basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc. Bring your device charger. We provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

**Hand and Foot Card Game.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center. No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

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

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

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

**Men's Fellowship.** 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms.

## Wednesday, Feb. 19

**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](mailto:quilters@ihmjp2.org).

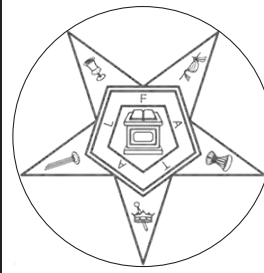
**Kids Kare.** 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. For more information, email Frank and Connie Porter at [ceflittlekids@gmail.com](mailto:ceflittlekids@gmail.com).

**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.



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## MILD DEHYDRATION IMPAIRS COGNITIVE PERFORMANCE AND MOOD OF MEN

Life today requires a degree of mental sharpness and clarity that it may not have in the past. Something as simple as a glass of water can make the difference in terms of what kind of 'day' we have. Gentlemen, especially, need today's excerpt.

Recently two large, carefully designed studies were conducted at the University of Connecticut, USA, to examine the effects of mild dehydration on cognitive function in healthy individuals. To measure mental function, tests of cognitive performance, mood and symptoms of dehydration were used by the scientists.

One study was conducted with 26 men and another with 25 women. Both studies examined the effects of mild dehydration on cognitive function using identical procedures. Men and women all took part in two mildly dehydrated conditions and a fully hydrated condition which could be directly compared using standard statistical procedures. To assess the level of dehydration, body weight was measured using special, high accuracy scales. Men on average were 1.59% dehydrated, women were 1.36% dehydrated. Most adults reach this level of dehydration one or more times during the course of a week.

The results showed that, in both men and women, mild dehydration had an adverse effect on mood as well as ability to concentrate. When mildly dehydrated, both men and women were more likely to feel fatigued and to have diminished cognitive performance, specifically vigilance.

Men were more likely to experience short-term memory degradation when mildly dehydrated, but overall, women were more sensitive to dehydration than men. For example, women were more likely to report a headache, fatigue, confusion and lack of energy. Women also felt moderate exercise was more difficult when dehydrated.

Source: "Mild dehydration impairs cognitive performance and mood of men." By Matthew S. Ganio and Lawrence E. Armstrong. <http://www.h4hinitiative.com>

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

"...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." John 7:37-38

*A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.*

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# Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week’s Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the brown creeper.

Tucked within the bark crevices of mature conifers and cottonwoods are life forms concealed from our eyes, but not from those of the brown creeper. Either dormant in winter or active in summer, insects and spiders are hiding in bark in stages of development from egg to adult.

In this environment, the methodical and thorough searches of the brown creeper uncover food missed by more active birds. On short legs with long, curved claws, the small creeper hops in spirals up the trunks of trees. Using its long stiff tail as a brace, it stops to peer into the bark and uses its long, thin, curved bill to extract the food it finds. The creeper lives in an upward pursuit of bark-dwelling invertebrates.

In our area, the brown creeper is a year-round resident of mature forests with large trees having deeply furrowed bark. Those birds that live at higher altitudes may move downslope in winter and show up at bird feeders on trees to eat suet or seeds.

This creeper needs both live trees for foraging and dead or dying ones for nesting. The female builds a hammock nest built of twigs and bark shreds held together by spiderweb silk. The hard-to-find nest is tucked behind a loose flap of bark on a dead tree. After logging, the presence or absence of brown creepers may be used to gauge the health of the forest left behind. Dead and dying trees are essential for this bird and for many cavity-nesting species.

The cryptic plumage streaked in brown and buff that the brown creeper wears on its back provides amazingly effective camouflage. Its white belly is typically pressed against the bark. When threatened, the brown creeper spreads its wings against the tree, remains motionless and disappears against the bark.

Although the high-pitched, soft songs and calls of the brown creeper are beyond the hearing range of many people, sound identification cell-phone apps can help in locating this common but often hard-to-see bird.

For information on events, visit [www.weminucheaudubon.org](http://www.weminucheaudubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/weminucheaudubon/).



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The cover of the Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide features a vibrant hot air balloon with yellow, blue, and red stripes against a backdrop of snow-capped mountains. Text on the cover includes "PAGOSA SPRINGS OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE", "SHOPPING DINING LODGING", "MEET THE PEOPLE OF PAGOSA SPRINGS", "ENTERTAINMENT THE ARTS & EVENTS", "OUTDOOR ADVENTURES & MORE", and "FREE". At the bottom, it says "SPRING/SUMMER/FALL 2024 • A PUBLICATION OF THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN".

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Photo courtesy Andy Butler

Photographs taken in the evening have a special feel, but require careful technique to overcome the limited light available. The Feb. 12 Pagosa Springs Photography Club meeting will feature discussion on low-light photography.

# Pagosa Springs Photography Club to discuss low-light photography

By Andy Butler  
Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The next meeting of the Pagosa Springs Photography Club will be held on Feb. 12 at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., but feel free to join us for socializing and discussion of various photographic topics at 6 p.m.

Photography Club meetings are open to the public. Please enter the church through the side door next to the parking lot.

This month's discussion will be on the topic of low-light photography.

Making photos when the light is low, such as after sunset, in the deep forest or, at times, indoors has its challenges. However, modern cameras and good technique can overcome many of these and open up a new world of photographic opportunities.

This month's program will center on a 30-minute video presentation on low-light photography by National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore. We will then discuss some of the situations where you are likely to be faced with low light and solutions to allow making of great photographs under these challenging conditions.

Following the program, we will have our monthly image share. Photography Club members may bring up to five images (on a flash drive) each to share and discuss.

This meeting will also be available on Zoom for those who can't attend

in person. Contact [abutler@mac.com](mailto:abutler@mac.com) for the zoom link.

### Virtual Shutter Therapy

Each month the Photography Club sponsors a Virtual Shutter Therapy session on our Facebook page.

For the February topic, explore the art of minimalism through your lens. Focus on simplicity, negative space and intentional composition. Highlight subtle details, clean lines or a single striking subject. Use light and shadow to emphasize your vision. Let less tell more — what story can you convey with only the essentials?

Before March 2, please share up to three photos by commenting on the post on this theme at the club's Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/PagosaPhotoClub>. This challenge is open to all photographers, whether a club member or not. Please show your appreciation by liking and commenting on the works of others.

### Photography Club membership

Did you get a new camera or lens for Christmas? If so, joining the Photography Club would be a great way to get tips on using your gear and learn more about photography.

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club is open to everyone who loves making and viewing great photos. Our members use cameras of all types, from smartphones to medium format. Benefits of membership include our educational programs,

image sharing and discussion, photo outings, and contests to help each other improve our photography.

Club membership is just \$25 per year. You can apply for membership on our website at <https://pagosaprinssphotoclub.org/about/>, or at one of our meetings.

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ALBINISM
- BLINDNESS
- BRAILLE
- CATARACTS
- CONTRAST
- DIABETES
- EYES
- GLAUCOMA
- IMPAIRMENT
- LOSS
- LUMINANCE
- MACULA
- MAGNIFIER
- NIGHT
- NYSTAGMUS
- OPTIC
- OPTOMETRIST
- PERIPHERAL
- RETINA
- SENSITIVITY
- SPECIALIST
- STRABISMUS
- TECHNOLOGY
- VISION

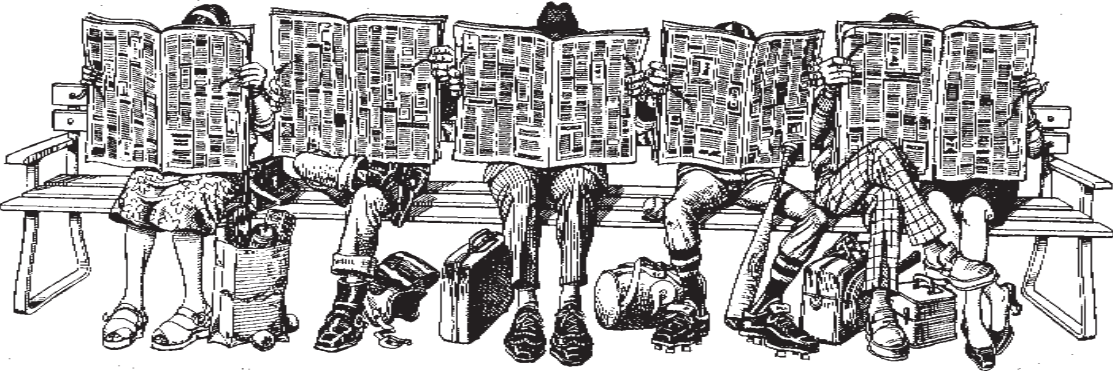
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# DivorceCare support groups to offer spring sessions for adults, kids

By Holly Shook  
Centerpoint Church

DivorceCare is a support group which features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics and have experience in the journey of divorce.

You are not alone on the path to healing. You will find caring people who understand the issues you face and practical counsel for decision making and managing your stress.

Centerpoint Church is offering this 13-week program with a series of videos followed by a discussion group. Some examples of the videos you will watch are "Facing My Anger," "Facing My Loneliness" and "Kid Care."

Meetings will run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. each Monday from March 3 to May 26.

The church is located at 2750 Cornerstone Drive in Pagosa Springs.

There is no fee, and all materials will be provided.

For more information, please

contact Jim and Holly Shook at [jshookup@gmail.com](mailto:jshookup@gmail.com). You may go online to register for the class by going to [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org). Click on "Find a group" and follow the prompts or register in person at the class. You may join up at any time during the 13 weeks.

## DivorceCare for Kids

Centerpoint Church is also offering a new program for children ages 5 to 12 who are also going through the journey of divorce.

DivorceCare for Kids is a children's program that will meet simultaneously with the adult program, discussing the same topics. This will allow the parents and kids to discuss what they are learning.

Our program is designed to keep your children safe while meeting with other children who are going through life-changing issues of divorce.

Our program uses games, stories, music, videos, book reading, crafts and prayer. Snacks will be provided. There is no fee for this program.

Parents do not have to attend the DivorceCare class for their children to attend.

For more information, contact Jim and Holly Shook at [jshookup@gmail.com](mailto:jshookup@gmail.com) or contact the church at (970) 731-2205.

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## Unitarian Universalists announce February schedule

By De Anna Hoyle

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

"Make Friends, Grow Your Spirit, Do Good" — the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship's motto continues to serve as inspiration as we come together in all the mystery and wonder that life brings.

In last week's talk by author Julie Loar, we heard about fascinating brain science, including studies on prayer and meditation. There is still so much we don't know or understand, and this Sunday, Feb. 9, we will explore more on this topic and how it applies to our daily life.

The Going Deeper Sharing Circle will begin at 10:30 a.m. All are invited to share in this small-group setting. We practice deep listening, sharing from our own experience and from a place of curiosity. We explore themes of recent topics and leave space for reflection and for whatever else is on our hearts. Come make friends and grow your spirit in this lightly facilitated group. Light refreshments are offered.

Each Sunday a guided meditation practice is offered beginning at 9 a.m. This Sunday also includes a dharma talk ending at 10:15 a.m. Dan Dempster, a certified meditation teacher, offers the following:

The next dharma talk at our Feb. 9 Buddhist meditation practice will include a teaching on the eight worldly dharmas from Pema Chodron's book "When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times."

This practice is open to all those interested in deepening their practice or just starting out with a meditation practice. You are encouraged to email [info@PagosaUU.org](mailto:info@PagosaUU.org) to be added to the email list for announcements or changes.

Join us in-person at our services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship is held on the first and third Sundays of the month, with the second and fourth Sundays being the Sharing Circle and Action Sunday, respectively.

We are located at Unit B-15 of the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing Pagosa Peak. We offer Zoom streaming of our service, and a link to join online can be found at [PagosaUU.org](http://PagosaUU.org), where you will find our current newsletter with information on all our programs.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is a welcoming congregation. We believe that all of who you are is sacred, and all of who you are is welcome. Find out more at <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq>.

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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Catholic Community  
During Mass on Monday, Feb. 3, Pagosa Springs Catholic parishioners and guests had their throats blessed by Father Samuel Auta. It was the Feast Day of Saint Blaise, saint of throat ailments.

# GriefShare support group to start spring sessions March 1

By Holly Shook  
Centerpoint Church

GriefShare is a network of thousands of small support groups meeting worldwide to provide a safe place for those experiencing the death of a loved one. With GriefShare, you will learn how to walk through the journey of grief with others, as we learn together, how to move from mourning to joy. This is a 13-week program offering biblical concepts for healing from your grief over the death of your loved one. The support group meets weekly and provides a welcome environment for those grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent or other family member or friend. Centerpoint Church is offering this program from March 1 through May 24. Sessions will run from 10 to

11:30 a.m. Three key elements work together to assist you in the healing process: a video segment on grief-related topics from professionals as well as lay people, a discussion facilitated in a group setting and a personal handbook for you to use as you choose. Regardless of how long it has been since your loved one passed, the grieving process is vital to healing. Centerpoint Church is located at 2750 Cornerstone Drive. There is no cost, and all materials will be provided. For more information, call Marie Rascoe at (970) 946-9379 or Centerpoint Church at (970) 731-2205. You may also register or learn more about GriefShare by visiting [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org). Click on "Find a Group" and follow the prompts to register online, or you may register in person at any of the sessions.

# SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure  
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

Spiritual topics are discussed every Tuesday at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center. **Upcoming events** Feb. 12, 1 p.m.: Talk on getting to know your gut health with Andi O'Connor, health gut coach entrepreneur. 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. The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their "best self." 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](mailto:pagosacommunitynewthought@gmail.com); mailing P.O. Box 1052, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or calling (970) 510-0309.

## The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wagon part
  - 5 Give lessons
  - 10 Full of energy
  - 14 Chowder chunk
  - 15 Like some trigger fingers
  - 16 Small combo
  - 17 Top tunes listings
  - 19 Piece next to a knight
  - 20 1995 film, "Waiting to \_\_\_\_"
  - 21 Walkman insert
  - 23 Midterm, e.g.
  - 25 Babel, for one
  - 26 Window-opening rope
  - 30 Blossom bits
  - 33 Mouse, to an owl
  - 34 Castle defense
  - 36 Knotted neckwear
  - 37 NYC rep. in "The Squad"
  - 38 Successful show
  - 40 Bunion's place
  - 41 Mirrors' partner
  - 43 Croquet area
  - 44 Got to one's feet
  - 45 Kind of space flight
  - 47 Type of light
  - 49 Audition tapes
  - 51 Mentioned
  - 52 Brought in
  - 55 SWAT specialist
  - 59 Ballet move
  - 60 Like innovative art
  - 62 Animal rights org.
  - 63 "Walk Away \_\_\_\_" (1966 hit)
  - 64 Robe for Caesar
  - 65 Kind of dog
  - 66 Closed, as curtains
  - 67 Fancy pitcher

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
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59					60			61						
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

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- DOWN**
- 1 Tooth trouble
  - 2 Nero's 49
  - 3 Wood strip
  - 4 "I feel your pain" feeling
  - 5 Humdrum
  - 6 SFO posting
  - 7 Aussie rockers
  - 8 Deal from the bottom
  - 9 Mint-family herb
  - 10 Bourbon and Beale
  - 11 Math student's purchase
  - 12 Wild time
  - 13 Oxen linkage
  - 18 Smart-\_\_\_\_
  - 22 Worry beads?
  - 24 Online menace
  - 26 Muscle twitch
  - 27 Coffeehouse draw
  - 28 Inferior
  - 29 \_\_\_\_ Lama
  - 31 Relaxed

- 32 Mighty mount
- 35 Criers' places
- 38 Has the earmarks of
- 39 Disconnect
- 42 Skateboarder's accessory
- 44 Give off, as heat
- 46 Aged one
- 48 One year in a trunk
- 50 Make the cut?
- 52 View in northern Italy
- 53 Projector load
- 54 Comedian Carvey
- 56 Ship's forward facer
- 57 Periphery
- 58 Caboose's spot
- 61 Without precedent

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

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# Community United Methodist Church to host ‘Matters of the Heart’ workshop Feb. 13

Community United Methodist Church

Are politics getting you down? Is your job stressing you out? Are your kids driving you up the wall? Are you feeling pressure from finances, an overloaded schedule, health issues or even no snow?

On Thursday, Feb. 13, at 12:30 p.m., Cheri Minnier-Wells, LPC, will be offering practical tips on how to feel calmer and happier. What a gift for Valentine’s Day.

This one-hour workshop will meet in the fellowship hall of the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St. Admission is free and all are welcome.

“We’ll look at how stress impacts the way we think and how we act,” said Minnier-Wells. “This seminar will help you to respond in a healthy way rather than reacting angrily or withdrawing. Together, we’ll explore how stress impacts relationships with people we love. You’ll come away from this talk with specific tools for calming and de-escalating.”

Cheri is a licensed professional counselor in practice for more than 10 years. She was formerly the director of behavioral health at Native Americans for Community Action—with many years of experience as a therapist working with individuals and couples on and off the Navajo reservation. She is trained in cognitive behavioral therapy and the concepts of positive psychology. She moved to Pagosa Springs with her husband and dog Zas from Flagstaff in the summer of 2022. Her husband is a general contractor and to-



Cheri Minnier-Wells

gether they built their new home here. They love the Pagosa lifestyle: skiing, river sports, live music and soaking.

“You can feel less stressed and happier quickly with the information and tools I will be presenting,” she said. “Cognitive behavioral therapy techniques can dramatically improve people’s quality of life in a short period of time.”

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

“As United Methodists, we are committed to promoting abundant health for all,” said Pastor Ken Daniell. “Our denomination has always been a catalyst for good health and wellbeing, in our own communities and around the world. Our programs

## They walk on high places

By Betty Slade  
PREVIEW Columnist

Our daughter came home Sunday morning with sermon notes. “God doesn’t call qualified people. He calls them and then He qualifies them.”

It’s so true; it’s the Holy Spirit He puts in us in order to qualify us for the journey He’s called us to walk. As we trust Jesus, face trials and our fears, we become qualified on the way so we can walk on high places.

At first, we are not even aware of who we have in us or what we’ve been called to do, or where this heavenly power will take us in this life’s journey. All we know is we must answer the call.

I had just seen a documentary on Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. They are Colorado’s state animal, and our state has the largest population of bighorn sheep in the world. As the tiny newborn lamb timidly trusts and follows its mother across the steep, rocky slate of wall, it has built-in suction feet and a balance that holds it to the side of the mountain. The commentator said lambs don’t know they have that balance in them. It’s born

### Artist’s Lane

in them to climb high rocky canyons and cling to the rocks.

Well, people of God, aren’t we born again to climb to high places in the spiritual world? Has not God fortified us to fight the darkness and have victory?

I immediately referred to Habakkuk, who wrote about his doubt and how God gave him faith. In the last sentence he wrote, “The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places” (Habakkuk 3:19, NKJV).

He calls them mine high places. Mine high place is different than yours. It’s what God builds into each one that is uniquely ours and designed for our success.

When God touched me, He poured into me a desire to walk in  
■ See Lane on next page

help to enrich all aspects of wellness: emotional, spiritual, mental, and physical. We are proud to continue this legacy here in Pagosa Springs.”

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” — John 10:10b (NRSV).

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# New caregiver support group will begin in March

By Rose Chavez  
PREVIEW Columnist

Here in Pagosa Springs, the Senior Center will be hosting a new support group beginning in March.

If you are caring for a family member or friend with physical/mental disability, emotional health needs or cognitive decline, this group was created for you.

Note: This group is not limited to only caregivers of older adults. Caregivers of all types are welcome. This group offers a safe, welcoming space for caregivers seeking connection, empathy and encouragement. Whether you're looking for understanding during difficult times or just need a community to lean on, we're here for you.

These sessions will also offer educational resources to grow you in the knowledge and skill to strengthen self-care, to care for your loved ones and empower you to navigate your role as a caregiver, one day at a time.

Dates for the monthly caregiver support gathering in 2025 include: March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

All meetings will be held at the Ross Aragon Community Center in the West Conference Room (except the August gathering will be in a local park) from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

If you have questions or would like to be added to our announcement list, please contact Yeun Fiedler at (970) 946-5810 or Madeline Sutton at (970) 507-1574.

## 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.

# Lane

■ continued from previous page  
the heavenly realm. He gave me Holy Ghost fire in my gut, excitement in my mind, a want to in my heart, hands ready to serve, feet to walk on high places, and he's provided years to qualify me for the journey.

This call doesn't afford us to linger in meadows of flowers. It's not an easy journey, but a must do. And a satisfying one.

The call God put on my heart gave me the hunger of needing more — much more. I needed hours in the Bible every day. I needed to soar above the mundane. I needed a relationship with Jesus where I knew He loved me and had my back. I did not need to fear, and I had the power to face the trials of walking on high places.

A prophetic word came to me that I was a path builder. Not a pioneer who follows the deep ruts of a wagon party or even one sitting in the wagon, but a path builder where there is no path. I was to make a way for others.

## Senior News

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.

## New time for T'ai Chi Chih

The Senior Center offers T'ai Chi Chih with accredited instructor Patti ■ See Senior on next page

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# Senior

## ■ continued from previous page

Popovich each Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. to support older adults who want to discover purpose and fulfillment in this transitional phase of life. Meet in the Senior Center dining hall.

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

All classes will be free for older adults (age 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 acupuncture 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.

## 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](mailto:copenhavercreative@gmail.com) and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

## 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

■ See Senior on next page

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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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# The Salton Sea's weirdness is what's appealing

By Dennis Hinkamp  
PREVIEW Columnist

Fascinating and fetid, the Salton Sea in southern California lures me back, every year.

Driving south from Utah, I take bits of historic Highway 66 and then skirt Joshua Tree National Park to cruise through little known Box Canyon to Mecca, Calif. When the landscape opens up, I see the beautiful wreck of the Salton Sea, created by the collision of geology and bad luck.

The sea occupies a much smaller footprint of what used to be Lake Cahuilla, which disappeared in the late 1500s. Then, in a wild spring runoff in 1905, the Colorado River blew out a diversion dam, and for the next three years the mighty Colorado drained into the Salton Sink. Agriculture runoff replenished the shallow lake over the following decades, though recently lined canals in the Imperial Valley have resulted in diminished flows.

If the lake were to completely dry up there would be a horror to behold.

## Opinion: Writers on the Range

While at shrinking Lake Mead a few gangster cadavers showed up in the mud, the Salton Sea contains crashed planes and practice bombs, the targets simulations during the 1940s for the real atomic bombs dropped on Japan.

The lake is bracketed by opulent Palm Springs to the north and the arty squalor of Slab City to the south, home to about 150 full-time residents but temporary home to as many as 4,000 in the winter. In between there are hot springs RV resorts, date palm groves, geothermal energy plants and the town of Bombay Beach sitting atop the San Andreas fault.

Is the diminished sea worth saving? It's too late to ask the question because, like the Great Salt Lake, the

cost of not saving it is likely higher than the rescue. Like many invasive species around the West, there is no easy way to get rid of it. Yet most of its fish are already dead and migrating birds have little to eat.

Dust is the issue, and most conservation programs attempt to miti-

■ See Writers on next page



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## Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.ps-seniors.org/>.

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# Writers

■ continued from previous page gate dust. The 1950s and '60s brought out the excesses of post-war revelers to the Salton Sea. You can see the salt-encrusted remains of former resorts and second homes of the Los Angeles fancy people. You can imagine the ghosts of boat races and cocktails.

Those folks even named the local wildlife refuge after Sonny Bono, but what came next was toxic salinity and decay as less water came in and the water that remained increased in salinity.

Still, the sea persists. Its salt-encrusted shores circle about 340 square miles of sea. A silo-full of conspiracy theories features the Salton Sea: The military may have accidentally dropped a real bomb that did not explode.

The bomb might even be under the water along with hundreds of other dummy bombs and fallen planes. Bodies may still sit in the planes. We know for certain that Slab City is what's left of a decommissioned military base built about 70 years ago.

Most of the people I meet around the lake seem happy. The place brings pleasure to pre-apocalyptic people like me and those creating outsider art on the actual beach near Bombay Beach. Thousands of Canadians migrate there each winter

because the highest temperatures rarely top 80 degrees.

I look forward to my week at the hopefully named Fountain of Youth Spa RV Resort. I joke that I have been coming there since 1906, so it must be working.

It attracts so many Canadians that the resort hosts the U.S. vs. Canada Games featuring geezer sports of pickleball, horseshoes, bocce and karaoke. Poutine and box wine flow freely, and people sometimes stay up into the double-digit hours of the evening.

The Salton Sea will likely remain a curiosity and hiding place for the weird until some real monster beneath the sea emerges, which could be a rush to start mining lithium made by the sea.

On the other hand, the San Andreas fault might just swallow the whole thing in one glorious gulp. Meanwhile, it's my refuge, my winter solace away from anxious headlines, and just strange enough to be hospitable.

*Dennis Hinkamp is a contributor to Writers on the Range, writer-sontherange.org, the independent nonprofit dedicated to spurring lively conversation about the West. He writes in Utah. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.*



Photo courtesy Dennis Hinkamp

Hay bales near Bombay Beach and Salton City are a project meant to reduce dust and save bird habitat. At first glance, they look like an art project.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**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](http://pagosasun.com), [explorepagosa.com](http://explorepagosa.com) and [visitpagosasprings.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.aa.org), [www.aa-westerncolorado.com](http://www.aa-westerncolorado.com), (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

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Holidays will have alternate deadlines.



## PAGOSA SPRINGS STORAGE

### ALL SIZE STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE

Call for Winter Specials!



RENT  
TO  
OWN

### Cargo Containers

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RENT TO OWN  
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*We deliver!*

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## Blueprints

Have your plans drawn now.  
Don't wait!  
Be ready to start your house,  
barn, garage or deck on time.



Call Rick  
946-1737

## FIREWOOD

### Snow Removal



## FIRE & ICE

Call Dan • (970) 582-0006



## Remodeling

### Security Checks Snow Removal

High Meadows Properties, LLC  
Call today (970) 403-2263

**LOCAL MOVING SERVICES.** Reasonable and reliable. (970)946-2061.

**MINT ROOFING** Re-roofs, commercial and maintenance. Contact Mint Roofing at (970)426-5255.

**PAGOSA SPARKLES, LLC.** Group of high standard cleaners, reliable, trustworthy and affordable. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

## Cole Plumbing

### 24/7 Service

EMERGENCIES SAME DAY  
in most cases

Boiler service & repair  
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**Adam 575-574-7284**  
Located in Pagosa Springs

**PAGOSA SPRINGS STORAGE** has all size units available. 24 hour access, gated, with security cameras. Call for specials. (970)731-0007 [www.pagosaspringsstorage.com](http://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.

SERVICES

SERVICES

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REMODELING  
NEW ADDITIONS  
COMMERCIAL



(970) 731-9700

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.

TRAVELING PUBLIC NOTARY Services. Call or Email Renea Harris (512)576-1795 or travelnotary81147@gmail.com. Small fee applies for service and travel.

SNOW PLOWING/ SHOVELING. Commercial and residential. Call now to schedule. Eric (970)946-2061.

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.

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.

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.ngmpagosa.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.

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.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for an experienced HVAC Installer. Requirements: Valid driver's license, clean driving record, 5+ years HVAC experience, EPA universal 608 certification. Must have own tools, Ability to work in confined spaces, Reliable and self-motivated, Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal skills, Team player, Fabrication skills a plus!! Weekly pay, Direct deposit, Bonus opportunities, Competitive pay (\$28-35+, depends on experience) Paid holidays, Sick pay, Matched IRA, Family environment, Locally owned (under new ownership) Area Best Heating & Cooling. Send resume to: Office@areabesthvac.com (970)946-6314.

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 week-ends. 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.

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.

New Construction  
Remodeling • Houses  
Garages • Barns • Decks

Licensed, insured & references  
Plans drawn & submitted



Call Rick  
(970) 946-1737

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Certified Bulk Potable Water Delivery  
Cistern Deep Cleaning

You call,  
we haul!  
Since 1999

(970) 731-5022

Chadd Carnley, owner

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.



(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

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED



## We're Hiring: Digital Marketing Consultant

Are you passionate about driving results through innovative marketing strategies? Do you thrive on helping businesses grow their online presence? Join our team as a **Digital Marketing Consultant** and make an impact!

### What You'll Do:

Develop, implement, and optimize digital marketing campaigns across multiple platforms—Search Engine Marketing, SEO, Facebook, Video and much more. Plus, have a competitive advantage by including our own Pagosa Springs SUN digital and print audience. Bring cost-effective, website development opportunities to local businesses to help build long-term, win-win partnerships. Analyze campaign performance and generate actionable insights to maximize ROI. Collaborate with clients to understand their business goals and create tailored marketing strategies. Stay ahead of industry trends and identify new opportunities for growth.

### What We're Looking For:

2+ years of experience in digital marketing, preferably in a consultancy or agency role.  
Proven expertise selling digital advertising solutions.  
Strong analytical skills with proficiency in tools like Google Analytics, Ads Manager, and SEMrush.  
Exceptional communication skills and a client-first mindset.  
A passion for creativity, strategy, and measurable results.

### Why Join Us?

Competitive salary + performance-based incentives.  
Access to professional development and growth opportunities.  
Be part of a collaborative, innovative, and supportive team.

*O'Rourke Media Group is a family-owned, diversified media company that was formed in 2018. Originally just a holding company that owned a few newspapers, O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) has established itself as an industry-leading, digital media company comprising a cutting edge digital agency and an impressive group of award-winning, hyper-local print newspapers and niche magazines. OMG now operates in eight states, 36 markets with over 50 publications and hyper-local websites. In Pagosa Springs, we publish The SUN, Preview and a number of niche publications.*

**Ready to take the next step in your career?**  
Send your resume and a brief cover letter to  
CEO Jim O'Rourke at [jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com).

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

## ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOW HIRING!

We're looking for Outstanding Employees to join our team!



### Archuleta School District

strives to achieve  
"Success for Every Student —  
Every Class — Every Day."

Currently accepting applications  
for the following positions:

### Lead Mechanic

Full-time position with a starting salary of \$49,496-\$54,711  
for a 250-day work schedule..

### Elementary School Mild to Moderate SPED Teacher

Two Full-time positions with a starting salary \$51,645-  
\$66,724 for 175 days paid over a 12-month period.

### Middle School Instructional Aides

Full-time positions with a starting salary \$27,899-\$31,175 for  
173 days paid over a 12-month period.

### High School Significant Support Needs Aide

Full-time significant support needs paraprofessional  
position with a starting salary \$29,283-\$32,559 for 173 days  
paid over a 12-month period.

Benefits for all FULL-TIME positions include (but are not limited to)  
PERA State Retirement, Life Insurance, optional Health  
and Dental Insurance and paid Discretionary Days.

**You belong on the  
Archuleta School District Team!**

For more details and to apply for these positions  
click on "Job Postings" on the following web-site:  
[www.mypagosaschools.com](http://www.mypagosaschools.com)  
EOE



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](mailto: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.

## 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

**SAN JUAN DENTAL** We are looking for a great coworker 4 days per week. We are looking for a permanent addition to join our fun work family. **We are not a corporate dental practice.** We are a growing private practice with a fantastic reputation for our quality care and exceptional friendliness. Our patients enjoy their time with us and especially with our team. We are a boutique practice with a close-knit work family. Our reputation in the community is stellar. **Our Core Values are behind everything we do, including hiring. We are committed to:** Care, Commitment, Communication and Compassion. Pay rate will be determined based on experience, \$23+.  
**Benefits may include** Paid time off, Holiday pay, Health benefits, Uniform Allowances, Dental benefits for you and your immediate family. Weekly hours are CONSISTENT. (M-Th 7:45a.m.- 4p.m. with an hour lunch break.  
**Requirements for employment include:** Remarkable friendliness and personality. Knowledge of oral health and ability to educate in a kind manner. Team-based attitude, willingness to cooperate and pitch in. Competent in digital charts, typing 50+ WPM and navigating computer software. Taking health histories and medical records. Making people laugh. **Please email resume to** [drsmith@pagosa.dentist](mailto:drsmith@pagosa.dentist) **or stop by 308 Pagosa St.**

## BWD Construction is NOW HIRING!



Office Assistant:  
Detail oriented,  
tech savvy, must be  
able to lift  
incoming orders.

Email us at [classads@pagosasun.com](mailto:classads@pagosasun.com)  
to submit your classified. [PagosaSUN.com](http://PagosaSUN.com)



**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.



(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

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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](http://www.walmart.com/careers)

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:office@pagosasmiles.com).

**a job.  
with purpose.**

**Archuleta County is now hiring for multiple positions. Benefits could start in first month of hire. Let's build a better community together.**

**Apply today.**



**archuletacounty.org**  
**-or call-**  
**970.264.8379**

**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](mailto:director@habitatarchuleta.org) to apply.

**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](mailto:foundation@pagosalibrary.org)

**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](http://pagosasun.com), [explorepagosa.com](http://explorepagosa.com) and [visitpagosasprings.com](http://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](mailto: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.

**4 TIRES LT285/70 R17**, \$350 or best reasonable offer. 3 tires P245/55 R19, \$300. Twin mattress and box spring, \$20. Please text (970)946-8598.

**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.

**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](http://pagosasun.com), [explorepagosa.com](http://explorepagosa.com) and [visitpagosasprings.com](http://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](mailto:shari@pagosasun.com).

**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](http://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](http://www.Dun-eViewFrenchies.com).

**BLUE HEELER MALE** puppies for sale. 8 weeks old on 2/17. Mother/ father great disposition and working dogs. \$500. Call Craig (765)730-9960.

**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](http://leslieslittles.com).

**AUTOS**

**2003 VW TDI**, 285K miles, runs good but needs transmission work. \$2.5 OBO. Call (970)946.9148.

**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.

**GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL!** 4X4 Auto Sales. 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

**YARD SALES**

**BE SURE TO CHECK** for more yard sales in the Too Late To Classify section.



(970) 264-2100

## Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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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150+ SW Colorado  
Property Owners Served  
19+ Years. Mortgage &  
Real Estate Exp  
FULL LT TENANT SCREENING  
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING  
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



## YARD SALES

**KP PAWN ESTATE SALE!** House and Shop. Shop full of tools, hunting gear, firearms, reloading equipment and much more. 6660 CR 510 Bayfield and pics on [estatesales.net](https://www.estatesales.net) or on facebook KP Pawn Durango. FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY 2/7, 2/8, 2/9 with Sunday 50% OFF!

## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**2000 SQ. FT. SHOP/ WAREHOUSE** 14x 14 overhead door. Restrooms and natural gas. Good parking. Call Doug (970)946-3762 or (970)731-4792.

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**DOWNTOWN OFFICE** Upstairs with skylight. Month-to-month, \$325/ month including utilities, internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

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## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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## COMMERCIAL

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## HOMES FOR SALE

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## LAND/ BUILDING SITES

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# Entering eternity and the eternal now

By Gregg Heid  
PREVIEW Columnist

I wonder. If I pray in the morning for the end of the Israel-Hamas war and for peace of mind and spirit for Daniel who is suffering alone in his room from a stroke, how can God receive and answer my prayers along with the billions of prayers and petitions said throughout the day by others around the world?

As C.S. Lewis states, “Our life comes to us moment by moment. One moment disappears before the next moment comes along.” We live in the past, present and future.

Unlike us, God lives outside the realm of time and space. His is in the “eternal now.”

He’s also omniscient and omnipresent. So, if a million people are communing with Him at 7 a.m. in the morning, He can listen to every request at exactly 7 a.m. whether they are in Africa, Asia or the United States.

It’s like Mailchimp, the email program that allows up to 2,000 messages to be sent at the same time to people all over the world. Even though they are sent at the same time, the messages are received and read by each recipient at his or her leisure.

Applying this analogy to God, who is outside of time, it makes sense that He can “open” and receive our prayer requests — one by one — no matter where they are, at the same time.

Here is another way to look at this. Let’s say I’m writing a story. As the author, my story starts with a rock shattering a window and then landing on the living room carpet. The crowd shouts, “Come out and face us, you coward.” Mark, the main character in my story, picks up his gun and holds it behind his back with his left hand as he opens the door with his right.

The plot thickens and Mark is in the moment of my narrative. But I, the author, can get up for a soda and think about the next scene for several minutes before continuing to write.

I am outside the time element of the story, just as God is outside the

## A Matter of Faith

moments of our prayer requests. Just as an author has time to attend to the actions of all his characters, God has infinite time to attend to each one of our concerns and prayers.

For God, it is still the first day of creation and the last day of the Israel-Hamas war; the day I was born and the day I die.

The Greeks had two words for time, *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* is the concept of time marching on. *Kairos* is the timeless moments in our lives — moments or special events that touch eternity: the birth of a baby, a daughter’s wedding or a prayer for someone’s healing.

Through prayer, our mind’s thoughts are invoked by the Spirit and enter eternity.

Eternity is the “eternal now” where God exists to tend to our prayers.

If we see time as a continuous line, then eternity is the page or plane upon which the line is drawn. God can see and process each dot on the line individually and uniquely. As the our time line is drawn or completed, He sees and attends to it all within His own time.

All time is simultaneously present in eternity, as are the events in a novel that are present in the mind of the author. In other words, all our petitions and prayers are present in the omniscient mind of God. They are present in eternity and exist forever.

From our perspective, God answers our prayers in a variety of ways. He can answer “yes” in a timely manner. Later, as He sees fit. Or “no,” which means out of time in a different way than we expect or imagine.

The beauty is not knowing His timeline. The beauty is that, no matter how our prayers are answered, it’s always for our good and the good of those we pray for.

So, when the Lord seems slow to answer your prayer, never give up. As the loving author of your story, He might be getting a soda.

*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.*

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