



Festival of Trees



SUN photos/Randi Pierce
Santa made a stop in Pagosa Springs — one of several he's making as Christmas nears — at last week's Festival of Trees at the Ross Aragon Community Center. The Festival of Trees, which serves as a fundraiser for nonprofits that decorate trees that are then voted on and auction off, made a record amount this year, with the event raising \$96,187 for the 20 nonprofits involved.

County October sales tax collections drop 16.3 percent

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Sales tax collections in Archuleta County for the month of October 2025 were reported to be down 16.3 percent compared to figures from October 2024, according to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on Dec. 8.

Eaton's report notes that the 16.3 percent decrease translates to a total of \$284,462.27 less received in October 2025 compared to October 2024.

Sales tax collections have been up in the county every other month so

far this year in the month-to-month comparisons with 2024, with the biggest increase coming in February, which showed a 11.6 percent increase, or \$143,191 more.

The smallest increase in sales tax collections in the month-to-month comparison was in August, which saw just a .73 percent increase, or \$12,169.21 more in August 2025 than in August 2024.

Sales tax collections in January were up 3.96 percent, or \$67,565.22 more than January 2024; March collections were up 9.12 percent,

■ See Tax A8

Archuleta County man charged with DUI and theft after crash

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Dec. 10, an Archuleta County man was taken into custody after allegedly being involved in a single-vehicle rollover, stealing the vehicle of a witness who stopped at the scene, ramming into an Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) patrol vehicle and crashing the vehicle.

According to an ACSO press release, at approximately 5:05 a.m. a single-vehicle accident involving

a vehicle rollover was witnessed and called in at approximately mile marker (MM) 134 on U.S. 160.

"A witness exited his vehicle to ascertain the nature and extent of the accident," it explains. "While the witness was out of their vehicle, the driver of the vehicle involved in the initial vehicle rollover stole the witness's vehicle and left the scene heading eastbound at a high rate of speed."

The press release further explains that, while en route to the crash, an ACSO patrol deputy "located the sto-

■ See Crash A8

School district staff offers input on new K-8 school site

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

On Monday, Dec. 8, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) held a staff listening session in regard to the district's plans to build a new kindergarten through eighth-grade school at either the high school campus site downtown or the Vista Boulevard site uptown near Veterans Memorial Park.

The BoE previously held a community listening session on the topic on Dec. 2, at which multiple community members provided input on the district's plans.

For more information on the at meeting, see the article "Community members voice opinions on proposed new school sites" in the Dec. 4 issue of The SUN.

During the Dec. 8 listening session, BoE president Bob Lynch explained that the district hired engineers, architects and surveyors to provide the board with analysis of the

two proposed sites.

"They have not made a recommendation," Lynch said, explaining they have presented facts for the board to consider.

"We know the voters ultimately decide," Lynch added, noting that the board has to decide what to put before the voters.

ASD Superintendent Rick Holt provided information on what the district has done over the past year by holding community meetings, Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) meetings and conducting a community poll.

Holt also reviewed the seven criteria the BoE is using for evaluating suggested options during the facilities master plan process. Those criteria include: safety and security, fiscally responsible, high-quality learning environments, flexibility of facilities to accommodate future needs, supported by the community, aligns with district mission/goals/

■ See School A7

On to state



Photo courtesy Toni Gallegos, Pagosa Springs High School
The Pagosa Springs High School cheer team will compete at the spirit state championships this week at the Denver Coliseum. The Pirate squad is set to take on the competition in the coed 2A/3A cheer division on Friday afternoon.

County commissioners review power line upgrade and land talks with LPEA

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular work session held on Tuesday, Dec. 9, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) met with La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) CEO Chris Hansen and LPEA board president Nicole Pitcher, discussing various projects in Archuleta County, including upgrading an existing 69kv line to a 115kv line from along U.S. 160 from Yellowjacket Pass to the Piedra River.

The meeting between the BoCC and LPEA followed discussion the BoCC had during its Oct. 21 work season in regard to a letter of condemnation filed against Archuleta County residents.

For more information on that, see the article, "County discusses petition in condemnation filed by LPEA" in the Nov. 13 issue of The SUN.

During that meeting, Commis-

■ See Power A4



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Tourism board reviews 2025 visitor sentiment, traffic data

By Ella Slade
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board met Dec. 3 to review and discuss the 2025 Visitor Sentiment Survey, as well as a report comparing visitor traffic by state within the last five years.

Executive Director Of Tourism Jennifer Green presented data collected through Placer.AI and Datafy that analyzed Colorado's number of domestic visitors from 2023 to 2025, broken down by season and market, and national data comparing visitors by state.

Green explained visitor center traffic has been increasing over the last three years in Pagosa Springs, with data reporting 51,000 visitors in the last 12 months and only 15 percent being locals.

"Our visitor center traffic actually is more than what some of the state welcome centers in the state see," she added. "So, we definitely have a pretty vibrant visitor center, traffic-wise."

Data showed that, within the last five years, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado have remained the top-producing states.

Green noted that while the state's core markets remain dominant, the order shifted this year. Colorado was ranked No. 1 in annual visitors in

2025, moving past New Mexico and Texas from its rank of No. 3 in 2023 and 2024.

The data found that Colorado's visitors average a two-night stay, according to the presentation.

"The longer visitors have to drive, the longer they stay in the market," Green shared, adding that it makes a significant difference as to what season visitors from other states are willing to visit Colorado in.

The presentation showed that nearby markets equal more-frequent, shorter trips, while farther markets yield a significantly higher economic value per visitor.

"If states as a whole are able to spend more money in their market,

it's going to benefit all of the businesses in the community," Green said.

Seasonal traffic

Data showed Colorado had the highest number of spring visitors in both 2024 and 2025, moving up from its No. 2 ranking behind New Mexico in 2023.

The presentation also showed that Colorado, Texas and New Mexico all drive meaningful volumes, with Denver and Albuquerque, N.M., remaining as the top two spring designated market areas (DMAs).

Colorado also held the highest number of visitors in summer and fall of 2025, Green shared.

■ See Tourism A9

Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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OUR VIEW

Alarming perceptions

A disturbing, sad headline hit our inboxes this week: "Half of U.S. teens think journalists make up quotes and do favors for sources, new report finds."

The headline from Editor and Publisher focuses on a News Literacy Project report that was released last month on the perceptions of news media and journalism among U.S. teens.

In our opinion, the study is a good look at where media, from small-town newspapers to huge international companies, should focus. It also indicates where communities and families should focus.

The News Literacy Project is, the report states, "a nonpartisan education nonprofit that works with teachers, school districts, states and community partners like libraries and after-school clubs to ensure students in all 50 states receive news literacy instruction before they graduate from high school."

For more information on the News Literacy Project, visit newslit.org.

The first of the key findings in the report is that the majority of teens — 84 percent — expressed a negative sentiment when asked about what word best describes news media now, with words like "fake," "false" and "lies" common and others indicating chaos and "overwhelm."

The second key finding states, "More

teens believe journalists are skilled at lying and deceiving than informing the public." Other, positive skills listed include informing the public and uncovering the truth.

The third key finding indicates that young people want journalists to get the facts right and minimize bias.

The fourth states, "More teens believe professional journalists regularly engage in unethical behaviors than they believe journalists regularly engage in standards-based practices."

The fifth key finding notes that most teens can't think of any representations of journalism on screen. If they do, chances are it's from "Spider-Man."

Some of those findings hurt because of our firm belief that having an informed public is better for everyone. They represent a misunderstanding of what journalism largely is and should be, and shows we have a lot to do to build and maintain trust.

But, we also completely understand where those teens who took part in the study are coming from because we share some of the same sentiments about a lot of news media sources, and we continually work to practice what some call "dinosaur journalism," focusing on providing facts so folks can form their own opinions.

We also know that we are fortunate that

several of our local schools help introduce media literacy skills, and we're grateful to have been included in career days over the years.

In 2021, The SUN began partnering with area schools for our Newspapers in Education program. Through the program, students at multiple local schools receive copies of the newspaper each week, with research showing that newspapers as a teaching tool offer myriad benefits.

Among other things, the program seeks to help students gain a better understanding of local government, links real-world experience to the classroom and encourages critical thinking.

Beyond that, we are also happy to be a part of education surrounding media literacy, which continues to be a critical skill in our world, especially with evolution of AI.

We also know that local journalism is incredibly important and will continue to be important as these students grow and become community leaders themselves.

We hope next year's report reflects changes and progress in how news is presented, perceived and consumed.

Journalism — local journalism in particular — is what keeps communities informed and connected, and is vital to a healthy democracy.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Dec. 10, 1987, Pagosa SUN — **EARLY MORNING INFERNO** — Pagosa Springs and Pagosa Lakes firemen fought a roaring blaze, bitter cold, and slippery ice to subdue a 6 a.m. blaze at the River Center on the east edge of Pagosa Springs. Considerable damage was done and it was felt the fire started in a motor coach parked behind the River Center.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 11, 1925

W.J. Nossaman is now producing coal in his new mine recently opened on a state lease on Coal creek, for public consumption. He has been engaged in development work for some months, building roads, tunneling, etc. and now has a 9-foot vein of good coal which he has commenced hauling to local consumers.

There will be no delivery of mail on Christmas day with the exception of special delivery mail. First class mail will be dispatched to trains and incoming mail will be received but not "worked."

The postponed November term of the district court for Archuleta county will convene next Tuesday, Dec. 15. The docket is very light, there being but one case for trial by jury — that of Jose S. Rodriguez vs. William H. Hurt. The jury has been summoned to appear on Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Mrs. R.P. Hott of Tiffany spent the past week at this resort, bathing and visiting with old-time friends.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 15, 1950

The town is rapidly assuming a Holiday aspect with the many nice decorations in private homes and businesses. The REA crew and Town Marshall Sanders have put up the city decorations and the big Christmas tree at the flag pole, was erected by members of the Lions Club. The tree was donated by Lion Paul Decker.

The students at the local school have made large wreaths which will be placed on the lamp standards some time this week. They will add much to the appearance of the business section and all that will be needed is a little of mother Nature's beautiful white.

Many of the homes and businesses entered in the lighting contest are being readied and it is anticipated that even more will be entered than in previous years.

The purpose of the contest is to spread the spirit of Christmas by means of decorations and light. The contest will provide pleasure for everyone participating, and will help beautify our city this Christmas time.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 11, 1975

Along about this time of the year, when wood hauling increases, coal buying is on the rise, and so are the other fuel bills, it would seem to be a good time to think about solar heat. The Pagosa Fire Protection District is building a new firehouse that will use that form of heat. This is an area where there are many, many sunny days and some very cold nights.

This might be an ideal place for a pilot project by some agency of the government to determine if such a form of heat is economically desirable. Latest reports indicate that much of the design work on solar heating systems is being done for new buildings and the heating system is built into the design. However, there are so many homes already built that it would seem wise to start some kind of planning to use solar heating in these homes already constructed. We have read of only one such system and it is estimated to cost about six to ten thousand dollars.

It is said that this system will provide about 50% of the heat needed for an average 1000 to 1500 square foot home. It isn't hard to figure the economics of this.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
December 14, 2000

For the second time in three months, Randall Davis, president of the board of education for Archuleta County School District 50 Joint, has been named for an exclusive honor.

The Colorado all-state school board awards program annually recognizes five individual school board members and one whole board for outstanding leadership.

The program contends these members demonstrate excellence in board leadership, sound reasoning, foresight in planning, and the ability to build relationships. Individuals are nominated for the honor by their school board and whole boards are nominated by the superintendent.

The citation for Davis said, in part: "Randall insists on the development of sound district policies and refers to those policies when making decisions. He believes in looking at all sides of an issue and strives to see that all viewpoints are heard. Randall deals with all issues that come before the board in a calm, intelligent and thoughtful manner, and he maintains the dignity of each individual who appears before the board."

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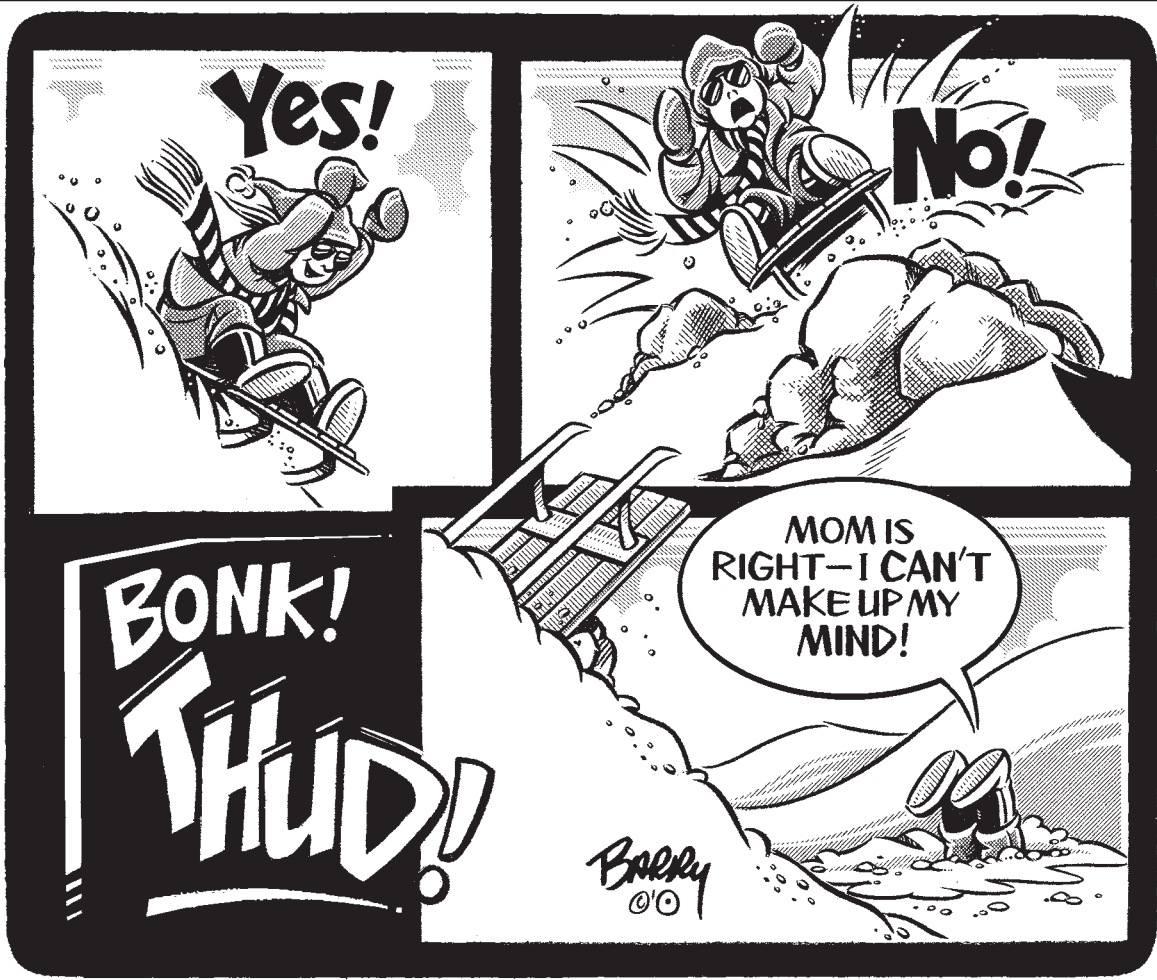


Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation	Moisture Type		Depth
12/2	35	14	T	NA		NA
12/3	29	22	0.21	S		1.5
12/4	29	15	0.45	S		7.5
12/5	31	15	0.01	NA		NA
12/6	35	14	0.00	NA		NA
12/7	42	8	0.00	NA		NA
12/8	45	10	0.00	NA		NA

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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.

Mis Crismes

Dear Editor:

Across Pagosa Springs, many elders still remember a Christmas ritual called Mis Crismes, when children walked from house to house calling “¡Mis Crismes!” and neighbors — even those with very little — shared oranges, nuts, or a warm bizcochito.

These were not gifts of abundance. They were gifts of recognition — the kind of relational nourishment that strengthens children for life.

My mother, Alice Archuleta y Chavez, now 84, recalls it this way:

“It wasn’t about the treat. Era that every door opened to us. Even people with very little still shared. That made us feel like we belonged.”

Belonging is not sentimental; it is a protective factor documented in public health research. Children grounded in culture and community develop stronger identity, emotional resilience, and intergenerational connection.

Journalist Jeremy Jojola recently revived memories of Mis Crismes in his Cuentos y Corazón Instagram reel, describing it as “a village effort to make sure every child felt joy when families had little” (citation: @jeremyjojola).

As a public health practitioner shaped by curandera kitchens, I know that traditions like these are not ornamental — they are foundational. They are community medicine.

And yet, whenever our communities uplift our traditions, someone eventually asks, “Why is she pushing her culture?”

But mainstream Christmas imagery — Anglo-European icons, commercial whiteness, imported mythology — is never labeled as “pushing culture.” Only ours is. This subtle double standard reveals who is allowed to be seen as “neutral,” and who is marked as “too cultural.”

Reviving Mis Crismes is not “pushing culture.”

It is restoring what helps our children, elders, and families thrive.

We can bring it back in ways that honor both tradition and modern needs:

- Community routes supported by local organizations
 - Elder storytelling circles
 - Youth-led oral histories
 - Borderlands foods that nourish body and memory
 - A deeper understanding that culture itself is preventative medicine
- As my mamá says:
“Traditions don’t die. La gente just stops practicing them. Pero we can remember again.”

Mis Crismes is not nostalgia.

It is a blueprint for belonging — a celebration that strengthens identity, deepens connection, and reminds

Letters

every child: you are part of us.

Sincerely,

Rosa D. Chávez

LPEA concerns

Dear Editor:

Rumors of potential property condemnations in Archuleta County raise a fundamental concern: Are these projects truly necessary to ensure affordable, reliable, local power, or is LPEA expanding into costly, unproven ventures without demonstrating real benefit to the communities it serves? We need answers before any project moves forward that could displace landowners or increase long-term financial risk.

At the same time, LPEA’s recently announced rate freeze is being advertised as relief for members, but it is funded by drawing down the cooperative’s rainy-day reserves. That may make for good headlines, but it is a temporary Band-Aid, not a solution. Without addressing the underlying cost pressures, those funds simply mask future increases and leave the co-op less prepared for emergencies or system failures.

These issues also highlight broader concerns about leadership. CEO Chris Hansen continues to maintain his permanent residence in Denver while renting locally, and he holds multiple affiliations with statewide and national energy organizations whose priorities may not align with the needs of rural and local La Plata and Archuleta Counties. Members deserve clarity about how these outside networks influence LPEA’s direction.

Before LPEA proceeds with condemnations, large capital projects, or further financial commitments, it must answer three simple questions: Will this improve reliability and affordability for local ratepayers?

Are board members acting solely in the best interest of the communities they serve?

Do the projects support local energy producers so that jobs and tax revenue stay in our counties?

Until LPEA provides transparent, data-driven answers, skepticism from the public is both reasonable and responsible.

Kelly Hegarty
Durango, Colo.

Editor’s note: According to La Plata Electric Association, no residents will be displaced.

Government and charity

Dear Editor:

Do we really need the government in the charity business? During the shutdown many churches and organizations picked up the slack left by the absence of SNAP benefits. The needy did not see a cut at all in their needs. Catholic charities, the Methodist and Episcopalians, plus other churches and organizations such as Rotary, El Pomar, Care And Share, Food Bank of The Rockies, Salvation Army all pitched in to help. These organizations can do it more efficiently and cheaper than the Government. They don’t have the overhead expense, so more dollars would go to those in need and Politicians would be denied a vote-buying tool. The

recipients would also appreciate it more instead of thinking of the help as an entitlement. I saw an interview where the person receiving food stamps said “If they cut off my food stamps I will start looting.” Isn’t that extortion? Remember the hoodlums running “protection” rackets. If business owners did not pay their fee, they would get their windows broken or worse. In 2026 a charitable deduction will be available to those taxpayers who do not itemize which should help charities and organizations receive more funds and Government can get out of the charity business. It will save tax dollars; more money will go to the needy and the recipient’s will appreciate it more instead of counting it as an entitlement.

John Meyer

Same mistake

Dear Editor:

In your ongoing attempt to negotiate a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia, you are making the same mistake that the Obama and Biden regimes did with Iran. No amount of money or sanctions stopped Iran from trying to build nuclear bombs. The only thing that did stop them was your use of force. The same thing now applies to Russia, but in this case, you don’t have to use force, the Ukrainians are doing that for you. Why not give them all the resources you can to help them?

Putin wants to take over part of Ukraine which is only the beginning because the entire Russian economy is geared for war. Putin is telling young Russians that they are meant to be warriors. This is very similar to what Hitler did leading up to WWII. Another similarly that you must be aware of Mr. President is that Putin, just like Hitler, has never abided by a peace agreement with Ukraine.

So Mr. President, don’t be so anxious to make a peace deal, that you cripple the one country that is willing to stand to this new threat to peace. With more support, Ukraine can hold its own. Don’t be like Neville Chamberlain who brokered a peace deal with Hitler only to have Hitler start WWII. Forcing a peace deal on Ukraine will only emboldened Putin to be more aggressive. He’ll only be stopped when he’s defeated and Ukraine, with adequate support, just might do that.

Charles Newton
Highlands Ranch, Colo.

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Dec. 15-20

Work activity

- 8th Street intersection: The project team is continuing curb, gutter and sidewalk work on the 8th Street intersection. The plan is to have the intersection completely open before the holiday break.
- The team will wrap up work on the U.S. 160 project by the end of the day, Friday, Dec. 19, returning to the project on Jan. 5, 2026.
- Changes in pedestrian crossings: With the new traffic shift there will be several locations that will no longer have pedestrian barriers where the sidewalks, curb and gutter have been completed. Please pay attention when traversing the roadway and use identified crossings.

Snow removal plan

A coordinated snow removal team has been assembled to support the U.S. 160 reconstruction project and help keep downtown Pagosa Springs safe and accessible throughout the winter. This team includes Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) maintenance personnel, the WW Clyde construction team and Town of Pagosa Springs Public Works staff.

How the snow removal team will work

The team has developed a unified plan to quickly respond to major snowstorms. The shared goals are to:

- Keep U.S. 160 through downtown clear and passable.
- Support emergency access routes.
- Maintain access to schools, businesses and essential services.

CDOT snow removal duties

- CDOT will maintain the U.S. 160 main business corridor.
- CDOT will provide an additional snowplow dedicated to supporting operations in the downtown corridor.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

- To allow for safe and efficient snow clearing in this new configuration:
 - On-street parking will be unavailable between 1st Street and 10th Street due to space constraints and snow removal operations.

Snow will be pushed to the center median, next to the concrete barrier, until crews can haul it away.

Town of Pagosa Springs snow removal duties

- The town will plow town streets.
- The town will prioritize school bus routes during snow events.
- After prioritizing school bus routes, the Town of Pagosa Springs has agreed to prioritize the alleyways behind main street (100-400 blocks) to help businesses maintain rear access for needs such as ski rentals, prescription pickups, bakery access, deliveries and similar services.
- The town will be responsible for hauling away snow piles.

Business owner responsibilities

We kindly remind downtown business owners that they are responsible for clearing the sidewalks in front of their buildings.

Do not shovel or push snow into the roadway. This creates safety hazards and disrupts the coordinated snow removal efforts. Colorado law (Colorado Statute 43-5-310) and local ordinances prohibit the plowing, blowing or shoveling of snow onto public roadways.

Stay informed and connect with the project

- Call the project information line: (970) 335-9230.
- Email the project team: Pagosa160reconstruction@gmail.com.
- Visit the project website: www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosasprings.
- Subscribe to project updates: subscription.cotrip.org.

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Thanks

Breakfast with Santa

PSHS’s National Honor Society would like to thank Vianca Ortiz, Ernesto Renteria, Matt Kossler, Amy Wilson, Jacob Lowe and the Doziers. We also extend our gratitude to Jason Hibbert, Pagosa Springs High School, and Leo Baughman and the PSHS Music Department for helping make Breakfast with Santa a success.

Festival of Trees

The Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank the community for their generous support, as well as all the staff, volunteers and sponsors who helped make the Festival of Trees a success. This year’s event raised a record \$96,187 for the 20 nonprofits involved.

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Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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



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Power

■ **Continued from front**
sioner John Ranson expressed that he wanted to meet “face-to-face” with Hansen.

During the Dec. 9 work session, Hansen explained that questions about LPEA’s investment in Archuleta County were asked the last time he met with the BoCC and what future plans would look like.

Hansen explained that, after multiple analyses, he’s pleased to be able to report “some really positive steps forward on each of those fronts.”

Hansen went on to state that, “first of all, Archuleta County is a priority area of investment for us,” explaining that Archuleta County makes up approximately 25 percent of LPEA’s members.

He added that, over the past year and next year, more than 25 percent of all LPEA investments are being made in Archuleta County.

Hansen noted the new Trujillo substation planned to be installed next spring is a “sizeable” \$7 million investment into the county that will provide additional capacity.

He also noted that another substation would eventually be needed for the proposed Pagosa West development.

Hansen explained that currently there are 25 megawatts available with the infrastructure currently serving the county, and that the new Trujillo substation will double that, providing 50 megawatts to the area.

He also noted that if another substation for the Pagosa West development goes in, that would increase the available power to the area to 80 megawatts.

Hansen then explained that the other “priority area” is around the upgrade of a 69kv line to 115kv from the Bayfield area to Pagosa Springs area, creating multiple loops to increase reliability of service in Archuleta County.

He also noted that LPEA currently only has one 115kv line, which it will own as of April 1, 2026, and the one being upgraded will provide a second 115kv line.

“And that is really why we think it’s so important to upgrade the existing lower voltage line to this higher voltage. That gives us the ability to serve all of the Pagosa Springs area with high-voltage service even if one of those lines were to be damaged,” Hansen said.

He mentioned that maintaining higher reliability and safety within the system is why LPEA wants to do the upgrade.

“So, that’s why we started this process of doing transmission upgrades,” Hansen said.

In this upgrade phase, there are 25 different landowners with easements that LPEA is working with, Hansen explained. Of those 25, 15 have completed negotiations and eight have initial offers, with the remaining two in the last and final offer stage, Hansen stated.

“We have worked for over a year with these landowners,” he said, restating why the project is important.

“Well, again, higher reliability in Archuleta County depends on upgrading this line.”

Hansen stated LPEA always tries to start the negotiation process early, “and try very hard to get to a mutually agreeable conclusion to that negotiation.”

He noted that the “absolute last resort” is to go through a legal process with a court determination.

“We try to avoid that if we possibly can,” he said, noting that LPEA would “always prefer to have a settlement reached.”

Pitcher also commented on LPEA’s transition in separating from a 50 year contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

“That’s already shown to be a very economically wise decision,” Pitcher said, explaining that Tri-State is raising its rates this year.

Pitcher stated that LPEA is able to keep its rates stable while rates around the country are rising, calling LPEA a “very well-run organization” that is “making very strategic decisions about the future.”

She added, “We are now going to be the manifesters of our own destiny.”

Ranson explained that he had questions on the case with a petition in condemnation filed against Archuleta County residents Jack and Rosemary Barrett, who are the owners of one of the properties associated with the voltage line upgrade project.

“I’ve had concerns with the lack of communication over the past year with these guys,” Ranson said, explaining that he thought that a better alternative was found, suggesting that LPEA should move the line across the highway off of the Barretts’ property where there are no residential buildings.

Ranson indicated that LPEA had expressed that moving the line across the highway would cost around \$400,000 and would have to be paid by the Barretts.

“But in the past year there really hasn’t been any cooperation with these guys,” he said.

Ranson explained that he is helping the Barretts through this process, which has been going on for more than a year, because they are his constituents “and I’m elected to protect the people in Archuleta County.”

He added, “I think the communication back and forth has been not good with these folks.”

Hansen replied, stating that he would “respectfully disagree that [LPEA has not] been in good communication,” claiming that he has a large set of documentation with back-and-forth communication with the Barretts.

“I think we have tried very earnestly to negotiate this with the landowner,” he added.

Hansen then acknowledged two alternatives that Ranson referred to: to relocate the line to the other side of the highway, or to relocate the line on a different end of the Barretts’ property that would also cross into an adjacent

property with a different owner.

Hansen explained that an engineering analysis determined that moving the line across the highway would cost around \$300,000.

He then commented on the other option, explaining that his understanding is that the owner of the adjacent property was not interested in having the power line moved onto their property.

“If that has changed, we’re happy to take another look at it,” he said.

Hansen then commented on the cost implication of moving the line across the highway, explaining that it would be the “responsibility of the property owner that wants the change.”

He also noted that the easement associated with the property goes back to 1953 and that if a change is needed because of the desire of the property owner, “that is the responsibility of the member.”

“We don’t socialize that cost across all of the membership,” he said.

Hansen went on to explain that the other alternative of moving the line through a different portion of the Barretts’ property, also crossing a neighbor’s property, would not pose an additional cost.

He added LPEA is willing to consider that if the other property owner is interested.

“If we go across the highway, there will be significant cost associated with that alternative route,” Hansen said.

Pitcher asked for clarification on what exactly was being asked of the property owners and if that included asking for movement of a structure.

“Absolutely not,” Hansen replied.

Ranson asked Jack Barrett if his neighbor is willing to have the line cross over their property, to which Jack Barrett stated that the neighbor is not willing.

Jack Barrett also stated that the increased voltage will take away from the appearance of his property, and that “the communication hasn’t been like Chris Hansen has described.”

He added, “It’s not the pretty picture that was painted by Chris this morning.”

Ranson indicated that the property owner across the highway is willing to look at that option.

The BoCC allowed for public comment on the matter, with Commissioner Warren Brown explaining that public comment is not usually allowed at work sessions, but that “a number of folks have gone through trouble to be here.”

The first commenter stated he is a friend of the Barretts and expressed concerns over the health effects of a high-voltage power line, suggesting the line should be moved across the highway.

One commenter asked what kind of profits LPEA makes, to which Hansen replied, “We are a nonprofit corporation. All of our profits are returned to our members.”

The commenter responded that means “we the people have to pay for

that” and, even though the line was built in 1953, “things can be changed all the time.”

He suggested LPEA should figure it out and absorb the cost.

Hope Scheppelman commented stating that she is a candidate for congress, to which Brown interjected stating that no campaigning is allowed.

Scheppelman then continued her comment, stating Jack Barrett is a veteran and that she wants “to make sure our veterans are taken care of,” suggesting that LPEA could pay for the cost to move the line across the highway.

Another commenter stated she is a La Plata County resident, expressing that LPEA has not exhausted all options.

She also mentioned that LPEA invests time and resources into projects such as electric school buses and various community electrification programs, claiming “those are not core responsibilities.”

She stated that LPEA could pull funds from those types of programs to pay for moving the line across the highway.

She added, “I think we have a lot of decisions that are made by our board and our LPEA CEO that are influenced more by broader ambitions” and suggested that several of them have privately held affiliations outside of LPEA and that they have “those things in mind as opposed to actually what’s really good for La Plata County and Archuleta County.”

The last commenter stated he is a resident of Cortez and supported the suggestion of LPEA covering the cost to move the line across the highway, and that he has seen it done in other similar projects.

Pitcher clarified again, “We’re not asking anyone to leave their home.”

Pitcher explained that currently there is only one line running into Archuleta County and that if it is taken out, there is no other power for the Pagosa Springs area.

Pitcher also encouraged everyone to take ownership.

“[LPEA] is us, it’s we the people,” she said, explaining that LPEA is a cooperative.

“When you say it’s taking money out of Chris Hansen’s pocket, no; it’s taking money out of every member’s pocket to pay for these,” she said.

Pitcher also stated that LPEA is not a corporation that’s responding to shareholders, but that “we’re a cooperative that’s listening to our members.” Ranson commented that he agrees that LPEA is “we the people,” but, “the board of LPEA made a \$209 million decision without our vote.”

Ranson indicated that all that’s being asked is for the LPEA board and/or CEO to pay for the line to be moved across the highway.

“I can’t buy the fact that, well, all the others shouldn’t pay for it,” he said. “This is the right thing to do and move it across the highway. I just think it’s the right thing to do.”

Commissioner Veronica Medina indicated that she agrees with Ranson and that the LPEA board “should reconsider and help support a veteran that has already served his country and to do the right thing for all of us.”
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Obituary

Larry (Ray) Baisdon

On Monday, Nov. 10, 2025, Larry (Ray) Baisdon, of Woodville, Texas, passed into eternity, where he rejoiced in seeing the face of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Larry was also gloriously reunited with his only child, Travis Baisdon, who had preceded him into heaven only 18 months earlier. Larry was born in Woodville, Texas,

on July 6, 1948. He graduated from South Houston High School and went on to earn his degree in music education from North Texas State University School of Music in Denton, Texas. It was there where he met the love of his life, Kathy Winn, a fellow music education major from the Panama Canal Zone, and spent 55 1/2 years together.

Even as a young man Larry felt called to devote his career to teaching high school band, taking him to Eagle Pass, Clear Lake, Crosby and, finally, Bridge City, Texas. In addition to music excellence, he had a passion for character building, teamwork and leadership. He encouraged the band parents of his students to become an integral part in developing the total band program, extending the spirit

of the band family.

When Larry retired in 2000, he and Kathy moved to their beloved mountains of Colorado, where they lived for 25 years. Larry was greatly involved in growing the quality of the music scene of Pagosa Springs by teaching private lessons, performing in musicals, community bands and the Pagosa Brass. He was also quite the singer, performing in the community choir and several local churches, as well as performing on stage.

Larry leaves behind a legacy of influence as a committed man of God and lover of people. While he has left a huge hole in our hearts, we are all comforted knowing he is experiencing all of the Lord’s promises of peace, love and joy in our Savior.

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Business



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation

Concrete blankets protect newly poured concrete curb, gutter and sidewalks at the 8th Street intersection as crews work. The team construction team will take a break over the holidays, wrapping up work by the end of the day on Friday, Dec. 19, and returning to the project on Jan. 5, 2026.

Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board opens 2026 event funding process

By Jennifer Green
Visit Pagosa Springs

The Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board has officially opened the 2026 Event Funding Application process, adopting several important updates to the funding process during its recent meeting.

These changes are designed to streamline the application experience, encourage broader participation and ensure continued support for high-quality community events that enhance Pagosa Springs' tourism economy.

For 2026, all previous funding criteria have been removed. Existing and new events will now be evaluated

equally, with the board placing strong emphasis on supporting well-organized, professional and thoughtfully executed events.

Applicants are encouraged to provide detailed responses throughout the application to help the board accurately assess each proposal.

As part of the updated process, the

tourism board will review funding requests on a quarterly schedule.

Application deadlines and corresponding review dates for 2026 are as follows:

- Dec. 31 — for consideration at the Jan. 14, 2026, tourism board meeting.
- March 20, 2026 — for consideration at the April 8, 2026, meeting.

Additional quarterly deadlines will be announced later in the year.

The 2026 Event Funding Application is now available online at bit.ly/4rjwje0.

For more information about the application process or tourism event support, contact Visit Pagosa Springs at coordinator@visitpagosasprings.com.

Child care businesses in Colorado gain access to no-cost business support program

State of Colorado

On Tuesday, the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) announced a new initiative to support child care providers across the state at every stage of business.

The SBDC is a division of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT).

"Child care is essential to strengthening our workforce and economy while supporting families. This new initiative is giving providers more of the support they need while expanding opportunities for Colorado families. I look forward to seeing the impact of this work in our communities," said Gov. Jared Polis.

"Access to child care is critical for working parents and an essential part of a thriving economy. By providing child care providers with no-cost

training and advising, we can help them take steps to start and grow their businesses while ensuring more families have access to quality child care," said OEDIT Executive Director Eve Lieberman.

The Essential Business Skills for Child Care Administrators program pairs an expert-designed child care curriculum with no-cost, confidential one-on-one advising and no- to low-cost training to help child care professionals confidently start, grow or exit their child care business.

New and existing child care administrators, home-based child care businesses, and individuals interested in starting a child care business can all benefit from the program, which is currently available on-demand with in-person and hybrid events starting in January 2026.

The program comes in response to the Colorado Shines Brighter Needs Assessment, which identified

opportunities to improve knowledge and support around child care licensing and offer essential business support to child care providers.

Various Colorado SBDC locations will offer the Essential Business Skills for Child Care Administrators program, including:

- Four on-demand child care business modules focused on general business, financial management and marketing at no cost.
- Four one-on-one confidential advising sessions with Colorado SBDC advisors at no cost.
- Access to a series of supplemental business tools, training programs and resources at no or low cost.

For more information about the Essential Business Skills for Child Care Administrators program and information on how to register for training and advising, visit the Colorado SBDC Child Care webpage at sbdc.colorado.gov/child-care.

Grants awarded to Southwest Colorado projects supporting substance use abatement

By Claire West

Region 9 Economic Development District

The Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) is pleased to announce that eight applicants have been awarded funding totaling \$466,744 in its second round of community grants.

The awardees span the Southwest Colorado region, supporting the entire continuum of care from prevention to treatment and recovery.

They include Axis Health System, Celebrate Recovery Ignacio, Healthy Archuleta, Indigenous Wellbriety, Manna Soup Kitchen, Silver Lining

Recovery Homes, Southwest Health System and Team Up of Southwest Colorado.

The grants are funded through Colorado's opioid settlement funds, allocated to Southwest Colorado and the projects must address opioid use and co-occurring behavioral health and substance use disorders in

Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

This year's grant cycle had more than 20 applications totaling more than \$1.4 million in funding requests.

For more information, please email west.claire@outlook.com or go to the SWORD webpage, https://www.region9edd.org/sword.

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Education



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

The Pagosa Peak Open School’s Strings Orchestra Club hosts its debut winter concert at the Pagosa Center For the Arts on Sunday, Dec. 7, raising \$1,200 to benefit the school. The String’s Orchestra is a new after-school program that meets twice a week featuring 25 Archuleta School District students.

Strings of success: Pagosa Strings Orchestra’s debut concert strikes a chord for arts education

Pagosa Peak Open School

The Pagosa Springs community rallied to support local arts education on Dec. 7, as Pagosa Peak Open School’s (PPOS’s) Strings Orchestra Club hosted its debut concert at the Pagosa Center for the Arts.

The evening was a resounding success, drawing a full house of 120 people and raising an impressive \$1,200 to benefit the school.

The funds raised will directly support PPOS’s mission to provide a holistic education — one that prioritizes the arts and hands-on learning.

“Integration of the arts is a crucial component to project-based learning,” PPOS School Director Emily Murphy said. “Providing students multiple modalities to think

about academic concepts makes learning equitable and pushes everyone as an individual learner. Students who do not normally see themselves as an artist or performer have opportunities to try new things through enrichment opportunities like these.”

The Strings Orchestra is a new after-school program this year that meets twice a week. The debut performance featured 16 students from PPOS alongside nine students from outside the school, demonstrating the program’s reach and its positive impact on the broader Pagosa Springs community.

The success of the evening is a testament to the dedication of several key individuals and organizations. PPOS extends its heartfelt gratitude to

Payton McIntyre, the orchestra club’s passionate teacher and organizer, for her hard work in building the program and preparing the students for the stage. McIntyre, who works with Stillwater Music, a nonprofit, believes in the power of orchestra experiences for students.

Students, many of whom had never played an instrument before, echoed the sentiment of shared success.

“I was so nervous before we started,” PPOS student Anderson said. “But it went really well. And if there are other kids who are thinking about joining, I want to say — just do it. Because you can do it. Even for kids who join late, they get caught up and they can practice at home, too.”

The program would not have been

possible without the extraordinary generosity of the Be Frank organization, which graciously donated the instruments. The contribution eliminated a major barrier to participation, allowing these talented students to access music and share their gifts.

“I wanted to join orchestra because I love hearing beautiful sounds and I wanted to be a person who makes those beautiful sounds,” PPOS student Ellie said. “I’m so happy we have this program at our school.”

The community’s enthusiasm, from the students on stage to the audience filling the seats, proved that the arts are thriving in Pagosa Springs, with PPOS supporting the next generation of performers.

To learn more about PPOS, visit pagosapeakopenschool.org.

Hands-on food system learning: High school students explore local food pathways

Healthy Archuleta

On Nov. 20, plant science students from Pagosa Springs High School stepped out of their classroom and into Archuleta County’s food system.

As part of a growing partnership between Healthy Archuleta, the high school plant science class and local organizations, students spent the day learning firsthand how food moves through our community, from seed to soil, from kitchen to table, and from packaging to recycling.

This field trip is one piece of the food system curriculum developed by Healthy Archuleta. The curriculum helps youth understand where their food comes from, who is involved in preparing and distributing it, and how our community works together to keep residents nourished.

“By engaging youth directly in our county’s food system,” said a Healthy Archuleta team member, “we help them build knowledge, confidence and a sense of connection to the health and resilience of our com-

munity.”

The day began with students stepping inside climate-controlled dome greenhouses designed to grow food year-round. They learned about sustainable growing techniques and the technology that protects crops from Colorado’s unpredictable weather.

One student shared the realization that, “... if you grow it inside, you really don’t have to worry about weather.”

Students then had the opportunity to see how fresh ingredients turn into homemade salsa, discovering how cooking can bring a community together.

As one student noted, “The community can come together to eat various types of foods of different cultures.”

With fresh flavors still on their minds, they traveled to see a busy commercial kitchen in action.

“The kitchen has more room than the one at my house,” a student noted. “There are also a lot more machines here than at my house.”

During the journey, students were

also introduced to what happens when food is shared.

At the Healthy Archuleta Food Distribution Center, they learned how donated items are stored and distributed to the local food pantries across Archuleta County. They also helped plant seedlings in the grow towers to start lettuce production for distribution to food pantries through the food distribution center. The students saw how these support services help families facing financial challenges access healthy food options.

“Feeding people good food that they can’t afford for free,” one student reflected, “and it brings the community together.”

To understand the full life cycle of food, including what happens after packaging and containers are used, the students ended their day at the local transfer station. There, they observed recycling equipment, learned about waste streams and even noticed how much cardboard moves through the county during different seasons.

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Colorado Roadhouse and Uncle’s Bar & Social Club announce a new holiday partnership with Pine Ridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center.

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School

■ Continued from front

outcomes, and supports a broad range of student activities and needs.

Holt also explained that the district intends to apply for a Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant, which could provide up to 45 percent of funds for the district's project.

"That's a real big win if you can get a BEST grant," Holt said.

The initial total cost for building a new K-8 school was around \$123 million, Holt noted, explaining that, based on responses from the community poll, about 50 percent responded they would be willing to approve a bond for that amount.

Holt noted that that percentage went up when presented with information on the BEST grant, which if awarded would bring down the total bond put before voters.

"One interesting thing that came out of that survey is that people have strong opinions about the location," Holt said, explaining the community poll asked if people would be more supportive of one location over the other.

"For me it was a big eye-opener how much this decision was gonna be based on opinion and fact," Holt said, explaining he initially thought by pulling all the facts together that would guide a decision. "That's not the case. People have a lot of heart behind their decision and they feel strongly about that, so the board again said, very wisely, 'We should listen to people.'"

Holt explained a site analysis of the locations that included things such as drainage reports, topography, initial traffic evaluation and natural resources in order to provide some basis for decision making.

He also explained that two options for building on the high school site have been presented, with one having the building placed into the hillside and the other placing the building on top of existing ballfields within the existing school loop road.

Holt explained that when reviewing a comparison matrix compiled by engineers, the Vista site appeared to be the more viable site at first.

He mentioned the high school campus site has "two big struggles" with a wetland in the building area and the slope of the property.

"That led to the board saying, 'Is that really the best spot on the high school property for that building?'" Holt said, explaining that a new proposal was developed placing the K-8 building on the existing ballfields and reducing the additional building cost for that location. "The new site started to look a lot like Vista when it came to the numbers."

The original proposed high school site came with a projected additional cost of \$12 million to \$18 million, while the alternate high school site has a projected additional building cost of \$7 million to \$11 million, compared to the Vista site with a projected additional building cost of \$6 million to \$9 million.

ASD paraprofessional Joe Lister was the first to provide comment, encouraging the district to account for meeting Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements in designing the new school.

"If we just take care of our handicap, then we're taking care of everybody else in between," Lister said.

High school social studies teacher Holly Blackman commented that upgrades to current facilities may be included in the bond amount, noting that "cutting corners were done perhaps years ago when some of these current facilities were built."

Blackman went on to provide examples of corners that were cut when the high school was built, explaining that not all classrooms have adequate ventilation or temperature control.

She explained that she had been collecting temperature data three

times a day for three months and found that her classroom ranges in temperature from 69 degrees in the morning to 90 degrees in the afternoon.

Blackman noted she uses fans and air conditioning units, but that those cause a distraction in the classroom. "There is no immediate help," she said.

Blackman also explained that she has wasps in her classroom daily, claiming they are coming out of the ceiling vents.

"In our library, there are tons of [wasps] in our windows," she added.

Blackman closed her comments by expressing that the community has the ability to plan for growth with a new K-8 school, but also wants the district to improve the high school.

Lynch noted that there is a list with "other items" being compiled that the district will be consider with its bond.

Scott White, a middle school coach and San Juan Mountain School social studies teacher, commented on the available playable space for kids, speaking against the alternate high school site option that would place the building on existing ballfields.

Pagosa Springs Middle School Principal Josh Sanchez commented that "safety must remain the top priority" while acknowledging the potential benefits of having all of the district's students on one campus.

"I also have significant safety concerns about concentrating our entire student population in a single location," he said.

Sanchez noted that historically the district's safety plans have relied on the availability of its other school sites.

"And that flexibility would be greatly reduced with a single megacampus," he added.

Sanchez went on to explain that the middle school has operated without the space it needs for decades, relying on the generosity of other agencies to host athletics and physical education classes.

"And while those partnerships have allowed us to get by, they've also forced our staff and students into constant compromise. Whenever another entity needs the space, our plans change ... and each time that happens, the quality of their experience is diminished," he said.

Sanchez spoke in support of the district building at the Vista site.

"The Vista site is a chance to build a learning environment that honors our students' needs first," he said, explaining there is an opportunity to provide reliable, dedicated space students and teachers need. "This is the kind of long-term investment that transforms a school experience for generations."

He explained that choosing the high school site would be choosing ongoing scarcity by asking multiple schools and programs to compete for limited space during the busiest times of the year.

"Yes, the Town of Pagosa Springs has been a wonderful partner, but relying on them means our students' access will always be determined by someone else's priorities," he said, stating the Vista site will provide something the district has never truly had: autonomy, consistency and space for high-quality learning spaces students deserve. "This is the opportunity to correct decades of limitations and finally provide our middle schoolers with the facilities they should have had all along."

Pagosa Springs High School Principal Sean O'Donnell also expressed concern over field space, noting that the alternate high school option taking away ballfields could cause difficulty with multiple sports teams needing practice space.

"I do think that after-school programming, especially in the fall, could be tricky," he said.

O'Donnell expressed concern over the amount of traffic that would

be generated with the high school location.

"I have a really hard time wrapping my head around the volume of folks driving down 8th Street and Hot Springs Boulevard," he said.

ASD Gifted and Talented Coordinator Carrie Steadman explained that she works at each of the district's schools, stating that students thrive by utilizing "place-based learning," such as on the river or Reservoir Hill.

Steadman also commented on the importance of kids being able to access the library for after-school programs or simply as a safe space after school.

"I definitely have a lot of kids that depend on the library," she said, questioning what safe spaces would be available for students uptown.

High school art teacher Kelly Lewis spoke in support of keeping the K-8 school downtown, noting that it is "infinitely easier" with dropping off kids in different grades.

Lewis also mentioned that having schools close together allows for more collaboration opportunities between students in different grades.

Lewis also commented on the temperature control issues at the high school, stating, "Having a way to regulate temperature in my room would be awesome."

High school English teacher Darcy DeGuise explained that she attended every MPAC meeting.

"I care a lot about what happens in this school district," she said.

DeGuise explained that she lives downtown and that, initially, she wanted the K-8 school to be downtown.

She explained that the majority of ASD students live uptown or in Aspen

Springs, and that the town is planning to build a new wastewater treatment facility near the high school campus location.

DeGuise also asked if another site evaluation was performed for the alternate high school proposal of putting the building on top of existing ballfields and posed questions to the board about where funds would come from to cover the additional building costs associated with either site.

Lynch asked DeGuise if she was "leaning" toward one location or the other.

DeGuise indicated that she was mostly struggling with the board's goal of providing a high-quality learning environment, explaining the more she thought about it, building at the high school site that would mean disrupting quality learning environments for students.

DeGuise went on to state that building at the Vista location is more fiscally responsible while also providing more space.

Two more coaches also spoke about field space concerns and the need for an additional track.

Pagosa Springs Elementary School Principal Kelly Vining commented that one of her biggest concerns currently with the elementary school is the traffic loop.

Vining noted that people are concerned about the school moving uptown, but also noted that many students would be able to walk or bike to school with the Vista location.

Vining also acknowledged the concern of safe places for students to go after school.

"I also do believe that if we build ■ See School A8

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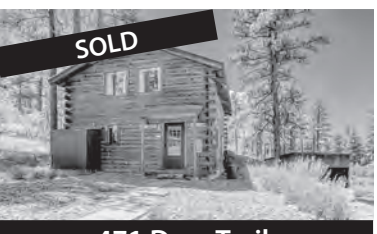
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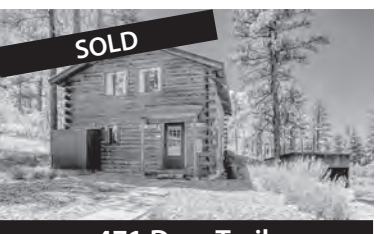
1.7 Acres without a property owners association and great views of Echo Lake and the East Range. 1 bedroom, 1 3/4 baths, an office, a large open loft and unfinished basement with a 2 car garage, 4 carports and RV parking, 3 covered decks, lots of storage and did I say it is only 4 miles from town. The circular driveway is large and the front porch is screened in. Close to shopping and dining and close to paved roads. Please note, the basement square footage has not been included with this listing as the basement is unfinished.



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MLS # 826138

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471 Deer Trail \$339,108

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109 Carol's Curves \$230,000

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109 Carol's Curves \$230,000

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School

■ Continued from A7

it, they will come,” she said, indicating that if the school is built uptown, that may spur other developments and resources for kids could be moved uptown.

San Juan Mountain School Principal Stewart Bellina suggested that if the school is built uptown that a bus program to shuttle kids downtown for after-school programs could be an option.

Bellina also noted that the alternate option for the high school would take away all adult softball field space.

BoE meeting

The following day, Tuesday, Dec. 9, the BoE held its regular meeting, at which more the board received more public comment.

Elly Heitkamp commented with concerns over the proposed designs for the high school site, stating that using the same design for the Vista site “does not feel fair.”

“I feel like you still have some work in front of you to present something that is really concrete,” she added.

Heitkamp also commented on the community poll, indicating that 50 percent of respondents chose the high school site as more favorable, while 28 percent responded that it made no difference and 21 percent voted for the Vista site.

“So, if we’re going to the polls and asking for a bond, I feel it is in the best interest to pick the site that is projected to win,” she said.

The next commenter spoke in favor of the downtown location, stating that no crime statistics for either site have been reviewed or shared.

“Through a student-centered lens, the downtown site clearly stands out,” she said, explaining it builds on existing infrastructure, minimizes travel burdens and supports younger siblings.

She noted that downtown supports local businesses and provides independence for middle school students.

Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis commented that his children who’ve been through the school system all pre-

ferred keeping the school downtown.

“The importance of having ... the school downtown is the investment and the amenities that’s been put in downtown for our children,” he said, stating the investments will continue to be put in.

Darren Lewis also commented on the trail system in the Vista area, explaining that there are no destinations for students.

He then commented from a parks and recreation standpoint, saying, “Don’t let those three ballfields that you guys don’t use ... should have no part of your decision ... and how that’s gonna affect the Town of Pagosa Springs.”

He added, “That’s my job to figure out once your guys’ decision is made.”

Bill Hudson commented next, explaining that MPAC received a detailed analysis of immediate repairs needed in the district at its meeting in January, noting that urgent needs at the elementary school were estimated around \$19 million.

“Amazing amount of repairs that are needed at the elementary school, according to this document,” he said, explaining that now almost a year later the district does not know if the estimate it received includes athletic fields or not.

Hudson explained that after analyzing the chart of immediate repairs and costs, he was able to bring the cost down closer to \$9 million.

“It was less than half of what they told us it would cost. I don’t think you can trust this architect firm to give you the right numbers. I think these numbers are inflated, and I think you need to get a second opinion from a different architect’s firm before you move ahead and put something in front of our community that is badly budgeted,” Hudson said.

Lynch commented that the BoE is really just getting started on deliberating and will be over the next month, at least, on its decision.

Later in the meeting, the BoE further discussed the district’s master plan, with Holt explaining that he spoke with the architects to determine what is included in the cost projections.

Holt explained that the original proposed high school site design dollar amount includes a 140,000-square-foot building with a two-story academic wing, two full-size gyms, pick-up and drop-off areas, lane improvements, playground areas and some off-site upgrades.

“Any upgrades to any of the fields” was not included, he indicated, explaining that what is assumed is that the middle school would be accessing fields at the high school.

Holt also noted that the K-8 school will be almost twice the size of the current high school.

Lynch explained that the BoE asked for an analysis of another option and will be pushing to nail down the unknowns compared to the other sites.

Holt explained that the cost esti-

mated for the Vista site does not include costs associated with upgrading the intersection of U.S. 160 and Vista Boulevard.

BoE member Amanda Schick commented that she needs the public to understand this is the setting the board is having discussions in with regard to choosing a site.

She explained that the BoE is not calling executive sessions or having private conversations on the matter.

“This is where we are receiving this information, and literally we are hearing it just as you are hearing it,” she said.

Lynch commented that one thing coming from the public the board could consider is if there are different building layout options for each potential site.

clayton@pagosasun.com

Celebration



Garrett and Megan Campbell proudly announce the birth of their twin daughters, Elsie and Leila, born Dec. 3, 2025. They were welcomed home by big brothers and sister, Cooper and Dawson, and Raylee. Proud grandparents are Nate and the late Ann Bryant, John and Carrie Weiss, and Clay Campbell and Laura Daniels.

Tax

■ Continued from front

or \$129,489.44 more than March 2024; April collections were up 9.32 percent, or \$117,621.93 more than April 2024; May collections were up 3.07 percent, or \$43,987.42 more than May 2024; June collections were up 4.5 percent, or \$75,391 more than June 2024; July collections were up 2.3 percent, or \$42,590.88 more than July 2024; and September collections were up 7.78 percent, or \$128,366.45 more than September 2024.

According to Eaton, prior to the October report, the last decrease in a month-to-month comparison was in the August 2024 to August 2023 comparison, which was an 11.38 percent decrease.

Eaton also notes that the county is

still 3.11 percent higher in the year-to-date comparison of January through October. That translates to \$481,315.07 more so far this year than the year prior.

In an interview, Commissioner John Ranson commented, “We’re still up on the year of what was budgeted, but it definitely had an impact,” in regard to the decrease reported for October sales tax collections.

Ranson also mentioned that lodgers have expressed at Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board meetings that they were down in bookings and experiencing cancellations due to the flooding events that occurred on Oct. 11 and 14.

“I’m sure it didn’t help us,” Ranson said, explaining that both the tourism

board and the lodgers’ association are “working pretty aggressively” on marketing campaigns promoting visitation after the flooding events.

Ranson added it “definitely shows what tourism means to us.”

For the month of October, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,460,697.02 from the sales tax and retail marijuana sales tax revenues, with \$728,925.05 going to the county and \$728,781.34 going to the town.

Categories that were up in comparison to October 2024, according to Eaton’s data, include:

- Manufacturing at 14.05 percent, or \$8,497.04.
- Information at 4.16 percent, or

\$1,114.54.

- Finance and Insurance at 5.01 percent, or \$134.96.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 1.71 percent, or \$200.15.

Categories that were down in the month-to-month comparison include:

- Construction at 52.48 percent, or \$28,464.58.
- Retail Trade at 21.39 percent, or \$221,255.09.
- Real Estate, Rental and Leasing at 15.69 percent, or \$4,917.61.
- Accommodation and Food Services at 4.87 percent, or \$13,289.49.
- Other Services (except Public Administration) at 15.78 percent, or \$4,873.92.
- Miscellaneous at 9.82 percent, or \$21,608.27.

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Crash

■ Continued from front

len vehicle traveling east at approximately MM 136. The deputy turned on the vehicle and attempted to affect a routine traffic stop. The deputy followed the vehicle southbound on S. Pagosa Blvd., continuously attempting to make a traffic stop. The suspect vehicle turned around in a cul-de-sac and rammed the ACSO patrol vehicle. The vehicle continued northbound on S. Pagosa Blvd at a high rate of speed until eventually it crashed into the bar ditch, coming to a complete stop.”

The driver, Ronnie Elward McCauley, 55, of Archuleta County, was taken into custody and transported to Pagosa Springs Medical Center for a

medical evaluation, then transported to the Archuleta County Detention Center, according to the press release and Sheriff Mike Le Roux.

According to the press release, “The driver was booked by the Colorado State Patrol on the following charges: Drove Vehicle While Ability Impaired by Alcohol or Drugs or Both (Fourth [or] Subsequent Offense), Reckless Driving, Careless Driving, Vehicular Eluding Created a Risk of bodily Injury by Operating a Motor Vehicle in a Reckless Manner, Theft, Drove Vehicle Other Than Vehicle Equipped with Approved Ignition Interlock Device.”

The press release adds, “We are extremely grateful that there were no

injuries sustained to the witness, any members of the public or Sheriff’s Office employees.

“We adopt a zero-tolerance approach to driving under the influence of any substance. As we approach the holiday season, please be responsible by planning a sober ride, never let an impaired person drive, wear your seatbelt, and call 911 if you see an impaired driver on the road.”

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Tourism

■ Continued from front

2025 winter data was consistent with previous years, showing Texas holding the highest number of visitors in the winter, followed by New Mexico, Colorado and Arizona. The data found that Denver and Colorado Springs are consistently among the top DMAs across all seasons, with Denver leading in fall and summer, according to the presentation, with Colorado's strong seasonal appeal driven by summer activities and fall foliage.

Overall, Green shared, Colorado is dominant in both summer and fall compared to other states.

Spending

According to the presentation, 2025 data showed that Colorado accounts for 62 percent of the total spending by state, making it the highest contributor.

Data also found that Colorado's strong performance in spending is driven by its position as a top visitor destination across all seasons, Green shared, with Denver and Colorado Springs being key markets.

Visitor Sentiment Survey

The board also saw the results of the 2025 Visitor Sentiment Survey, which outlined visitor demographics and behaviors and aims to use data to make actionable improvements for marketing and guest experience in Pagosa Springs.

"This is just to help us gauge what our visitors think when they come through Pagosa, or if they chose another destination," Green said.

The survey yielded more than 750 responses as of Nov. 25, Green shared, surpassing its goal of 500 within a month of it being live.

The survey was linked on the welcome landing page of the Visit Pagosa Springs website and included in the monthly e-newsletter to more than 79,000 subscribers. The outreach campaign also encouraged local businesses to send a link to their audiences through a weekly email, and paid Meta ads to an expanded audience.

Visitor demographics

Based on responses from the survey, it was found that roughly half of respondents reported more than \$100,000 in household income, which Green explained supports positioning Pagosa as a premium but good-value mountain getaway rather than a budget destination.

"Less than 50 percent was under \$100,000 a year for household income, which I think does help for people having the ability to take a vacation or maybe travel more than that now," she added.

The results also found that the current visitor base is strongly aged 55 and up, with relatively few younger adults, Green shared, adding that the age skew is strongly older and mid- to late-career adults. Data showed the highest percentage of visitors at age 65 and up, with 42 percent, and 23 percent between ages 55 and 64.

Green added that one goal is to increase the percentage of annual visitors between ages 35 and 54 to 25 percent, from 16 percent this year.

There was both a larger number of older people who answered the survey and a disproportionate number of older visitors compared to younger ages, Green explained.

"Just hanging out at the visitor center, we see the families during

the summer, but the rest of the year, it's going to be empty nesters a lot of times, or couples that don't have children," she said.

The survey also observed that nearly half who visit Pagosa Springs are frequent visitors, with around another 1 in 5 being brand-new, Green shared, which means Pagosa has both a loyal base and a healthy stream of first-timers. Of those surveyed, 47 percent said they have visited the town four or more times.

"Repeat visitation is key," she added.

Visitor spending

Fifty-seven percent of visitors spend more than \$500 per visit with the maximum being around \$2,500 spent, which Green explained lends itself to the data on visitors' average household income.

"We're really pulling more of the more affluent people that are able to spend some money," she said. "I would also say those may not be the ones that typically fill out surveys, but what we saw in this is at least from those that completed the survey, the booking window when they're choosing a destination to go to is usually about one to three months before they arrive."

For those who have never visited, survey results found that the main reason is not resistance but timing, with 62 percent responding that they plan to visit, but have not had the chance.

Lodging and attractions

Based on those that completed the survey, Green continued, hotels were the single largest category chosen for lodging. Short-term rentals and Wyndham accounted for about 36 percent.

The survey showed dining, hot springs and outdoor activities as the three strongest draws for visitors of Pagosa Springs, with 64 percent of visitors motivated by scenic beauty, 57 percent by the hot springs and 45 percent by outdoor recreation.

Those surveyed reported being open to visiting during all four seasons, data showed, with fall as the top "would consider" season.

Green added that this is a big opportunity for shoulder-season growth.

"From those that completed the survey, we're not seeing events necessarily play a driving role in bringing visitors as much as giving them something else to do when they're in the market," she said. "So, there's an opportunity to perhaps change that."

Friction points

Survey respondents reported their main visit issues being cost, disruption by construction, restaurants, food, downtown, parking/traffic and the resort. Considering traffic and construction, one-third of visitors saw no impact on their visit and about 23 percent experienced moderate or major disruption, while another third at least noticed delays.

"As we dug in a little more on this, the construction and traffic frustrations are not damaging our loyalty to Pagosa," Green added. "It's just a frustration. So, it may have a negative connotation to their experience, but again, they're still going to visit."

She continued, "The good news is, when construction is over, we have a whole bunch of people that may have to delay their trip in 2026 until we're done, and they will all be ready

to come back. I think there's an opportunity for a big campaign to say, 'Hey, we're done.'"

Green explained that the visitors surveyed are also asking for more indoor options when they visit, even though they come because of the scenery and outdoor recreation.

"Some of these themes, again, the perceived expense, there's an opportunity to maybe change that narrative that there's a psychological value over the affordability of it," she continued. "So, I think that we need to tailor the messaging to be focused on the experience and [that] it's worth it."

Return rates

According to the presentation, those surveyed reported an overall satisfaction rating of 4.62 out of 5, with a welcoming score of 4.54 and a recommendation score 4.68. Eighty-four percent of visitors said they plan to return within two years and 63 percent within a year.

This shows very strong loyalty and suggests good potential for repeat-focused campaigns, Green shared.

The general, big-picture takeaway from the survey results, she continued, is that visitors really like Pagosa Springs.

"We have strong loyalty; they feel welcomed by us," she continued, adding that the net promoter score was very high, which is good. "That means that they're going back and they're talking to their friends and family and telling them about Pagosa."

2026 Visit Pagosa Springs marketing plan

Green explained that the data sets on visitor traffic and results of the Visitor Sentiment Survey are used in shaping the town's annual marketing plan.

Strategic priorities of the 2026 plan include maximizing high-value, long-stay markets like Texas, Arizona and Oklahoma while nurturing short-stay destinations like Colorado and New Mexico, and shifting that demand into shoulder seasons like fall and spring while maintaining a summer audience.

Other strategic priorities include reframing the perception of Pagosa Springs as "expensive," Green shared, and growing younger family segments between ages 35 and 54 without alienating the 55 and older base.

Green added that the plan can be adjusted as needed to optimize results and address current situations.

One major change to take into consideration in 2026, Green explained, is the increase in the amount of information available to potential visitors, adding that where there were three to five main touch points in advertising before, there are now 17 to 20.

"We know that they're interested

in visiting Colorado," Green continued. "We just have to differentiate ourselves from other destinations."

Different touch points for advertising in different places is going to help with brand retention and make sure that people are aware of Pagosa, she noted.

Green explained that the tourism board is looking to make sure it utilizes a broad mix of tactics and marketing campaigns.

"What I have in the marketing plan is for us to be flexible," she shared. "As we're seeing different campaigns be very successful, we can move more money and put more money into that so that we're capitalizing on those that are, in fact, performing well."

The presentation showed that Pagosa Springs also has funding from the state marketing grant to hire a videographer, which would bring new professional drone footage.

Green emphasized that this would be especially important to showcase downtown after major construction is finished, which is likely to be prioritized in the 2027 budget.

The tourism board has been maintaining a constant effort to make sure it is making as strong of an impact as possible with the limited advertising dollars available, Green continued.

"I understand, from a Pagosa perspective, we have a large budget," she said. "Compared to pretty much every other destination in Colorado, we have a very small advertising budget."

Green shared that the 2026 marketing plan will tailor campaigns seasonally, running shoulder-season promotions and emphasizing special attractions like fall foliage. There will also be a focus on destination management efforts for things like fire restriction and water level education, Leave No Trace campaigns and road maintenance.

The marketing plan aims to grow emerging markets, increase local business engagement and participation through the town's free programs and take advantage of social media tools like the ambassador program.

"While campaigns are running, we are constantly optimizing them to make sure that we're getting the best results," Green said.

The plan is structured around the board's goal of being as flexible as possible, she continued, allowing room to address different challenges and persistent headwinds as they arise.

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Sports

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates ride unselfish offense, aggressive defense to 2-0 start

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team opened its season strong, posting a 2-0 week at the Wolf Creek Classic.

The Lady Pirates leaned on unselfish offensive, aggressive defense and overall toughness on their way to an undefeated start to the season.

"We're really pleased with how we opened the season," wrote coach Sarah Osborn in an email to the SUN. "Our energy, effort, and toughness stood out in both games, and we did a great job sharing the ball and creating good shots for each other. Defensively, we were active, aggressive, and executed well for our first games, which helped us get stops when we needed them."

The Lady Pirates opened their season at home with a 53-27 win against the Grand Junction Central Warriors on Thursday, Dec. 4.

The Lady Pirates' unselfish attack led to four players scoring at least seven points.

Bella Adkisson led the Lady Pirates with 12 points. Liana Vega scored 10 points, and Adelyn Hittle and Ahrianna Martinez each added seven points for the Lady Pirates.

"Our energy, effort, and toughness stood out in both games, and we did a great job sharing the ball and creating good shots for each other."

Coach Sarah Osborn

As a team, the Lady Pirates dominated on the glass, posting 38 rebounds with 21 of them coming on the offensive side of the ball.

The defense had 24 steals while also adding five blocks.

The Lady Pirates were aggressive in every aspect of their game on Thursday, getting out to a 13-8 lead after the first quarter and never looking back on their way to the 26-point win, Lady Pirates scoring in double digits every quarter while holding their opponents to single digits each quarter.

The Lady Pirates faced off against the Gunnison Cowboys in the second game of the tournament, winning 41-37 on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Once again, the Lady Pirates got significant contributions from multiple players, with three players scoring at least nine points. Ximena Garcia led the Lady Pirates against the Cowboys with 12 points, Adkisson added 11 points of her own and Martinez added nine more.

The Lady Pirates ended the game with 13 steals and five blocks.

The unselfish offensive play was once again on display for the Lady Pirates as they finished the game with 13 assists on 17 made field goals.

The Lady Pirates took a nine-point lead at halftime, but the Cowboys fought back, tying the game up in the fourth quarter. The Lady Pirates



Lady Pirate Ahrianna Martinez puts up a shot during the team's Dec. 6 win over the Gunnison Cowboys. The Lady Pirates went 2-0 at the Wolf Creek Classic to open the season, with Martinez tallying nine points against Gunnison.

SUN photo/Randi Pierce

stayed composed late in the game and ultimately came away with the four-point win.

"We had all our younger players really step up this past weekend to secure our 2-0 start," wrote Osborn. "Our upperclassmen have set the tone in practice with their work ethic, communication, and composure. They've been great about keeping the team focused and encouraging the younger players."

Despite the 2-0 start for the Lady Pirates, Osborn notes that they still

have plenty they want to improve on.

She emphasizes that they need to fix their turnovers as a team after combining for 41 turnovers in the two games, and notes that the girls will be working to execute more consistently in the half court and tightening up some of their defensive rotations.

The Lady Pirates play the Salida Spartans this Saturday, Dec. 13, at home for their next game.

Osborn explains that the Spartans are a tough team to beat, especially

since they are returning most of last year's team.

The Spartans are 2-1 on the season.

Tip-off is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. "This week we're working on tightening our defensive execution, and making sure that they have to fight for every shot they get," wrote Osborn. "We are excited to play on Saturday and look forward to tough competition, because that is how we get better each week."

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Triple Impact
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Gianna Shaeffer
Swimming



Comments from coach Heather Miller: "Gianna truly embodies the qualities of a triple-impact athlete. She consistently pushes herself in practice to discover what she's capable of, and she is always one of the first in the pool, leading by example. Her hard work showed in this week's meet, where she achieved all personal best times.

"Gianna also strengthens our team by mentoring and supporting our newer swimmers. She is always willing to demonstrate drills, ex-

plain techniques in different ways, and encourage her teammates.

"Beyond our team, Gianna makes the sport better by modeling what it means to compete with integrity, kindness, and determination. Her enthusiasm for learning, her respect for others, and her willingness to help, elevate the environment for everyone involved in the sport.

"Gianna's dedication, leadership, and positivity make a noticeable impact on everyone around her."



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WRESTLING

Pirates place in top five at Wolverine Classic

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys' wrestling team finished in fifth at the Wolverine Classic on Saturday, Dec. 6, in Bayfield, with five wrestlers placing in the top three of their individual brackets.

After the first tournament, coach Dan Janowsky noted that the team showed "a lot of promise, but there is still a lot of work to be done."

The Pirates scored 82.5 points on the day.

Lady Pirates place third at Wolverine Classic

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team placed third at the Wolverine Classic on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The Lady Pirates were led by three juniors on Saturday, with each winning their individual brackets.

Coach Dan Janowsky explained he is proud of the girls, noting that placing third out of the 10 competing teams represented a strong start for the Lady Pirates.

The Lady Pirates returned four girls who qualified for last year's state tournament and each of those four girls were impact performers in Saturday's tournament.

Madisen Stretton, Kiley Matyniak and Laykyn Baxstrom were the three juniors who led the team, each taking first place in their individual brackets.

Stretton won her first-round matchup in the 110-pound weight class with a technical fall score of 19-3 in two minutes, 49 seconds. She won her second-round matchup by pinning her opponent after 1:34. In round three, she pinned her opponent after 1:03, in round four she pinned her opponent after 1:30, and in round five she pinned her opponent after 2:44 to take first place, earning 33.5 points for the team.

Matyniak pinned her opponents in all three rounds in the 130-pound weight class. In the first round she pinned her opponent after 1:42, in round two she pinned her opponent after three minutes, and in round three she pinned her opponent after 51 seconds, earning 26 team points.

Baxstrom won both her matches in the 190-pound weight class, pinning her opponent after 2:16 in the second round and after 21 seconds in the third round to earn 22 team points.

Sophomore Bella Jackson placed second in her bracket, wrestling in the 105-pound weight class. In round one, Jackson defeated her opponent by pinning her after 1:10. Jackson then pinned her opponent after 26 seconds in round two. She took second in her bracket after getting pinned in the first-place match in 1:22. She earned 18 points for the team.

There were a couple of first medals for the Lady Pirates on Saturday, as well.

In her first high school tournament, freshman Corinna Galabota placed third in the 125-pound weight class. Galabota lost by fall in the first round in 2:29, then rebounded to pin her opponent in 30 seconds in the second round. In the third round, she lost by fall in 1:13 and in the fourth round lost by fall in 2:54. She ended with a win in the fifth round with a fall in 1:03 to earn 15 team points.

Sophomore Audrina Smith also got her first medal, placing third in the 135-pound bracket. Smith lost by fall in the first round in 1:04, then won in the second round by pinning her opponent in 29 seconds. After receiving a bye in the third round, she won by technical fall 18-1 in 4:54 in round four. She fell in round five in 31 seconds and earned 14.5 team points.

In the 120-pound weight class, Neveah Castañeda pinned her opponent in 54 seconds in her round 1 match, received a bye in the second round and pinned her opponent after 38 seconds in her round 3 matchup. She lost by fall in the fifth round in 1:54 and by fall in the third-place match in 4:34, earning 12 team points.

MacKayla Beach finished 7th in the 115-pound weight class. She lost by fall in 1:19 in the first round, in 1:50 in the second round and by a 14-0 major decision in the third round. She received a bye in the seventh-place match.

Kelsey Matyniak took fourth in the 115-pound bracket at the tournament. She received a bye in her round 1 match and won her round 2 match, pinning her opponent after 49 seconds. She fell in round three in 1:07,

Junior Jimmy Elledge led the way for the Pirates. Competing in the 215-pound weight class, Elledge took first place in his bracket in what was his first varsity tournament and earned 21 points for the Pirates.

Janowsky emphasized the leadership and growth that Elledge showed on Saturday after a very promising sophomore season on junior varsity.

Elledge pinned his opponent after one minute and two seconds to win in the first round. He then won a closely contested match in round two by outscoring his opponent 9-5. In round

and was pinned in the third-place match in 27 seconds. She earned eight points for the team.

Carli Duncan won two matches as well, pinning her opponent after 57 seconds in round two and pinning her opponent in round four after 2:53. She fell by pin in 1:57 in round three and by pin in 42 seconds in the fifth round.

The Lady Pirates took third with a team score of 149.

"The schedule gets tougher," said Janowsky, "but this was a great way to start off the season."

Next up, the Lady Pirates will be in action at the Rob Mickel Invitational in Salida, where matches are set to begin at 9 a.m.

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three, Elledge pinned his opponent after 1:10. In the championship bracket, Elledge won by fall in 4:53, moving him onto the first place match, which he won by a 13-4 major decision.

Hunter Martinez, a sophomore wrestling at 285 pounds, placed second in his bracket and earned 14 points for the team.

Martinez pulled off some key upsets in his first varsity match to earn some valuable points for the Pirates.

Martinez won in the first round after pinning his opponent 2:39 into the match. He was then pinned in 55 seconds by his opponent in round two. In his final match, Martinez pinned his opponent in the last 10 seconds of the match (5:52), bringing the Pagosa Springs faithful to their feet.

Senior Truman Vasek also played a vital role on the team Saturday. Wrestling at 190 pounds, he placed third in his individual bracket and scored 8.5 team points.

Last year, Vasek wrestled at 175 pounds, but Janowsky elected to move him up to start this year.

Vasek lost his first-round matchup after getting pinned in 1:27, but won his round two matchup, pinning his opponent after 2:31. In round three, Vasek won with a technical fall score of 21-5 in 4:49. After losing in the fourth round, Vasek ended his day with a win in round five with a major decision score of 15-5.

"He did a fantastic job. He just learned how to win," said Janowsky. "His 15 takedowns in five matches was the highlight of the day."

Junior Devin Gonzalez and sopho-

more Ryker Hanson also played valuable roles in the Pirates top-five finish on Saturday.

Gonzalez finished second in his bracket, wrestling in the 165-pound weight class and earning 16 team points. Hanson finished third in his bracket, wrestling in the 175-pound weight class and earning 13 team points.

Gonzalez received a bye in the first round, lost by fall in 48 seconds in the second round, won by pin in 3:03 in the third round, won by fall in 3:29 in the championship bracket and won by fall in 3:11 in the third-place match.

Hanson lost by 12-10 decision in the first round before rebounding to win by fall in 1:25 in the second round and in 29 seconds in round three. Hanson lost by pin in 1:49 in the championship bracket, then won by fall in 1:29 in the third-place match.

Eric Smith placed sixth in the 132-pound weight class, earning four points for the team. He lost by 15-0 technical fall in 1:30 in the second round, lost a 12-10 decision in the third round and won by fall in 53 seconds in the fourth round.

Mark Ray placed eighth in the 132-pound weight class, losing by fall in 1:48 in the first round, winning by pin in 1:47 in the third round, losing by fall in 17 seconds in the fourth round and losing by fall in 1:04 in the fifth round.

Stetson Osborn placed sixth in the 144-pound weight class, scoring five team points. He lost by 22-4 technical fall in 5:44 in the opening round, won by fall in four minutes in the third

■ See Wrestling A13

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BASKETBALL

Pirates split opening-week matchups at Wolf Creek Classic

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team opened its season by splitting their matchups against Delta and Gunnison at the Wolf Creek Classic.

In the first game the Pirates lost to the Delta Panthers 61-60, but bounced back a day later, defeating the Gunnison Cowboys 73-45.

"I think we played really well," said coach Brandon Forster. "We just have

to continue to fight and figure things out as the season goes on."

The Pirates faced off against the Delta Panthers on Thursday, Dec. 4, in the first game of the season.

Pagosa started slow, only scoring 23 points in the first half, but the team picked it up after halftime.

A 37-point second half led the way for the Pirates comeback efforts, but Delta hit the eventual game-winner and the Pirates lost by one to open the season.

Creede Dozier led the way for the

Pirates with 14 points, with Jerry Dean and Duke Ketchum both adding five points.

As a team, the Pirates shot 55 percent from the field and 71 percent from behind the 3-point line. Thirteen of the Pirates' 20 made shots were assisted on, as well.

The Pirates finished the game with 19 turnovers.

Additional stats were not available by press time Wednesday.

Two days later, on Saturday, Dec. 6, the Pirates squared off with the Gun-

nison Cowboys.

It looked like the Pirates were in for another close game as they held a 29-28 lead at the half, but Forster dialed up a full-court press coming out of halftime and the shots started to fall for the Pirates.

The Pirates outscored the Cowboys 44-17 in the second half on their way to a 28-point win.

Stats from the game were not available by press time Wednesday.

Forster noted he told the boys in the locker room at halftime to keep shooting and to shoot with confidence.

He also emphasized that he wanted to play a little more up-tempo in the second half, implementing a press that helped the Pirates gain momentum.

The Pirates finished the game with seven 3-pointers and 11 steals.

Though the season is young, Forster emphasized that he wants the Pirates to play team basketball on offense, which means making the extra pass and sticking with the hot hand.

He added he also wants the team to continue to work hard and stay disciplined in its man-to-man defense.

The Pirates' next game will be against the Salida Spartans, who are 1-2 on the season.

Forster explained the Spartans will be the first team the Pirates have faced that runs a man-to-man defense, which allows them to run a new offense.

He also emphasized that the Spartans have great guards and the team can shoot very well, so the Pirates will have to work hard on defense.

The Pirates will host the Spartans beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Jeremiah Jones goes up for a dunk against the Gunnison Cowboys on Saturday, Dec. 6. The Pirates went 1-1 at the Wolf Creek Classic and defeated Gunnison 73-45.

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The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking applications from Town residents interested in serving as a regular or alternate member of the Planning Commission. This position is appointed by the Town Council and plays an important role in reviewing development proposals and guiding the future growth of our community.

Planning Commission members serve a four-year term and generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Additional meetings or work sessions may be scheduled for specific planning and development topics. Interested individuals must be a Town resident.

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The Pagosa SpringsSUN



Outdoors

Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) app shares trail closures to protect wintering wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Ahead of the winter season, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) wants to remind the outdoor community that the Colorado Trail Explorer (COTREX) mobile app displays active trail closures, including those on trails and in areas around the state that are meant to protect wintering wildlife.

COTREX provides the most comprehensive map of seasonal winter wildlife closures across the state.

COTREX is a free, easy-to-use app that provides authoritative trail information across local, state and federal agencies, helping users feel capable and confident in planning outdoor activities.

“COTREX is the only app in Colorado that displays all of this seasonal wildlife closure information in a

single place,” said Joe O’Brien, State Trails Program coordinator. “We hope this effort makes it easier for recreators to understand where they can go and where they should give wildlife space during the winter.”

More than 36 agency partners use the COTREX app to post real-time advisories, including trail closures, safety hazards and other essential trail alerts. Users can plan routes, view allowed use types (such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, as well as summer uses), download offline maps, and see trip recommendations from participating partners around the state — all for free, providing a convenient experience for outdoor enthusiasts.

CPW encourages recreators to educate themselves on local winter wildlife closures for migrating wildlife as they search for food and shelter in

the state’s snowy regions. Winter can be hard on wildlife, and every calorie counts as deer, elk and other species try to survive until spring. Increased recreation in areas with significant wildlife movement can impact the resilience of these animals and displace them into unsuitable areas.

Seasonal closures feature

- Alerts will automatically appear on the website and app, providing descriptions, boundaries and links to additional resources.

- Seasonal closures shown on COTREX apply to all types of activity, both motorized and nonmotorized.

- The closures shown on COTREX are mandatory and enforceable. Visitors may incur a fine for entering boundaries or trails that are closed.

“When it comes to seasonal clo-

tures, COTREX is the best place to see a comprehensive map of these closures across federal, state and local properties,” said O’Brien. “We’re proud to include this one-of-a-kind resource focused on protecting wildlife across the state. Even if you use other trail apps, we recommend checking COTREX for alerts or closures and to download a free map in case you have poor cell service.”

This tool is designed to help outdoor recreationists make informed decisions about exploring an area. While all information in COTREX comes directly from the best available public sources, it can still vary in accuracy and timeliness. However, users can be confident that information comes from a trusted source.

For more information on Colorado state parks and outdoor recreation, visit cpw.state.co.us.

Seasonal road, trail closures in place across San Juan National Forest

U.S. Forest Service

The San Juan National Forest has begun seasonal closures of National Forest System roads (NFSRs) to wheeled motorized traffic, as well as motorized and some nonmotorized trails, based on snow conditions and seasonal wildlife closures.

These roads will open in the spring as conditions allow, generally around May 1.

Travelers should always be prepared for winter conditions and travel with shovels, tire chains and appropriate safety equipment necessary for winter conditions.

Please visit the San Juan National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Maps and Road Conditions webpages at www.fs.usda.gov/r02/sanjuan for up-to-date road closures and conditions across all districts.

Even if snow levels are not deep, wheeled motorized use can damage road surfaces during freezing and thawing periods. Seasonal road and trail closures also protect critical habitat for deer and elk in winter and early spring when temperatures are cold, snow is deep and food is scarce. During these critical times, human disturbance can threaten the survival of deer and elk, especially pregnant

females.

The Pagosa Ranger District will be seasonally closing most NFS roads on Dec. 15. For specific road conditions visit the Roads Conditions webpage.

The Columbine Ranger District began seasonally closing most NFSRs on Dec. 1. NFSR 578 (Hermosa Park Road) closed on Nov. 14 and will remain closed until April 30, 2026, as marked on the Motor Vehicle Use Map. The seasonal closure is in place to protect the road surface, visitor safety and to allow Purgatory to safely operate the resort under its special use permit. South Mineral, Little Molas and Andrews Lake have been

closed by snow.

The Dolores Ranger District began seasonal closures of several roads and trails Dec. 1 and will continue based on snow conditions. These closures are implemented to protect critical winter habitat.

Visitors to the national forest should be prepared to encounter additional closed gates on roads and trails across the San Juan National Forest as winter conditions develop.

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

Colorado State Patrol offers tips to avoid wildlife collisions

Colorado State Patrol

Was that Rudolph? Seeing the reflection of two eyes from an animal on the road in front of you can send a wave of adrenaline and fear through even the most experienced drivers, so the Colorado State Patrol (CSP) would like to assist by providing some general recommendations to lower the chance of a wildlife collision.

“Last December troopers investigated 431 wildlife crashes around the state,” warned Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the CSP.

The most common time for crashes this time of year is between 3 and 7 p.m. or 5 and 9 a.m.

Two of the most essential things a motorist can do are to drive the speed

limit and use their high beams when not around other motorists in rural areas or neighborhoods adjacent to open space areas. Increase your chances of seeing wildlife crossing up ahead or on the side of the road by staying alert. You can give yourself the time to adjust your speed or stop if no one is behind you.

“The worst choice you can make is to swerve outside your lane or slam on your brakes with vehicles behind you,” explained Packard. “People can end up in serious crashes when they let their emotions take over to save Rudolph or his friends.”

Be prepared to make a tough decision when encountering animals. If you have time and space, you can flash your lights and slow

down in a straight line, coming to a stop. If you have very little time and distance and no one is behind you, you can brake hard in a straight line. However, if you don’t have time and there is traffic behind you, the right choice is to drive through, keeping in the lane, but with a slight angle toward the butt of the animal only if by the white side lane line. Never swerve or jerk the wheel.

Tips for avoiding a wildlife crash

- Don’t exceed the speed limit.
- Scan roads (or shoulders) for movement and eye shine.

- Use bright lights at night when safe and flash your lights at oncoming cars to warn of wildlife on the road.

Wrestling

■ Continued from A11

round, lost by pin in 2:38 in the quarterfinals and won by fall in 3:01 in the first consolation round.

Vinny Fish and Asher McKennie both placed 12th in the 144-pound weight class, according to the results.

Fish lost by fall in 2:44 in the first round, lost by pin in 2:51 in the third round, won by forfeit in the fourth round and lost by pin in 1:40 in the fifth round.

McKennie lost by disqualification or forfeit in each round.

Hudson Mazur placed eighth in the 150-pound weight class, earning two team points. Mazur lost by fall in

4:47 in the second round, lost by pin in 3:54 in the third round, won by fall in 44 seconds in round four and lost by 7-6 decision in the fifth round.

Tevor Faber placed eighth in the 157-pound weight class, losing by fall in 1:58 in the opening round, losing by fall in 3:29 in the second round, losing by 16-6 major decision in the third round and losing by pin in the consolation bracket in 1:27.

The Pirates were also without Colton Lucero, the only returner from last year’s team who qualified for the state tournament, with the coach reporting Lucero was on an official football visit at Adams State

University on Saturday.

Janowsky noted that the Pirates would likely have been contending for first place had Lucero been able to make the tournament.

The Pirates definitely left some points out there on Saturday, Janowsky explained, adding he feels that if they are able to clean up their mistakes, they can be a dangerous team this season moving forward.

The Pirates will be back on the mat for another tournament on Saturday, this time at the Columbine Tournament, where action will begin at 8 a.m.

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EARLY DEADLINES

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, December 25

This edition will be distributed Wednesday, December 24

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 19

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Monday, December 22

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Friday, December 19

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Thursday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 1, 2026

This edition will be distributed Wednesday, December 31

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 26

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Monday, December 29

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Friday, December 26

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of New Year's.

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**

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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
Nov. 17 — Information only, County Road 973.

Nov. 18 — Fraud in effecting sales, Chestnut Court.

Nov. 18 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 18 — Warrant arrest, Park Avenue.

Nov. 18 — Information only, U.S. 84.

Nov. 18 — Information only, no location listed.

Nov. 19 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 20 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 21 — Warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 21 — Death investigation, Colo. 151.

Nov. 21 — Speeding 25-39 over limit, U.S. 160.

Nov. 21 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.

Nov. 21 — Lane usage violation, driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, Pike Drive.

Nov. 22 — Information only, Industrial Circle.

Nov. 24 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 25 — Warrant arrest, County Road 359/U.S. 84.

Nov. 25 — Registration-fictitious plate, failure to display proof of insurance, Valley View Drive.

Nov. 25 — Driver's license-driving without, lane usage violation, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol-after three or more convictions, failure to display proof of insurance, U.S. 160.

Nov. 26 — Failed to display valid registration, speeding 25-39 over limit, U.S. 160.

Nov. 26 — Warrant arrest, Colo. 151/U.S. 160.

Nov. 26 — Violation of protection order, West Golf Place.

Nov. 26 — Failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, U.S. 160.

Nov. 26 — Driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), driving under the influence of alcohol, careless driving, turning without signaling, West U.S. 160.

Nov. 27 — Information only, Colo. 151.

Nov. 28 — Information only, Hersch Avenue.

Nov. 29 — Lost/found property, Eagles Loft Circle.

Nov. 29 — Driving after revocation

prohibited (HTO), speeding 20-24 over limit, failure to display proof of insurance, U.S. 160.

Nov. 30 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.

Nov. 30 — Driving under restraint, information only, County Road 975.

Nov. 30 — Information only, West U.S. 160.

Nov. 30 — Information only, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 1 — Driving under restraint-second offense, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, Eagle Drive.

Dec. 2 — Third-degree criminal trespass, Eagle's Loft Circle.

Dec. 2 — Warrant arrest, Paradise Ridge Place/Harman Park Drive.

Dec. 2 — Trespass warning, Navajo Trail Drive.

Dec. 3 — Information only, County Road 600.

Dec. 3 — Violation of protection order-criminal, Great West Avenue.

Dec. 4 — Domestic violence, harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, Forest Circle.

Dec. 4 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.

Dec. 4 — Death investigation, County Road 988.

Dec. 4 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges DV, Solomon Drive.

Dec. 4 — Information only, Winchester Drive.

Dec. 4 — Domestic violence, resisting arrest, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, driving under the influence of alcohol, Far View.

Dec. 5 — Information only, U.S. 160.

Dec. 5 — Agency assist, information only, U.S. 160.

Dec. 5 — Agency assist, information only, North 5th Street.

Dec. 5 — Driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to display proof of insurance, Eagle's Loft Circle.

Dec. 6 — Theft M, criminal mischief under \$300 private, information only, Easy Drive.

Dec. 6 — Dog at large, information only, U.S. 160.

Dec. 7 — Littering, Alpha Drive.

Dec. 7 — Information only, Park Avenue.

Pagosa Springs Police Department

Nov. 17 — Fraud, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Nov. 18 — Fraud, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Nov. 19 — Marijuana prohibited under age of 21/less than 12 ounces, South 8th Street.

Nov. 20 — Death investigation, Village Drive.

Nov. 20 — Vehicle accident no injuries, Eagle Drive.

Nov. 20 — Third-degree burglary, theft-less than \$300, East Pagosa Street.

Nov. 22 — Harassment by phone or computer injury or damage threat DV, Talisman Drive.

Nov. 23 — Harassment, Aspen Village Drive.

Nov. 23 — Disturbance, San Juan Street.

Nov. 23 — Threats, Bienvenido Circle.

Nov. 24 — Unlawful possession of a controlled substance, warrant arrest, Harman Park Drive.

Nov. 24 — Traffic stop, West U.S. 160.

Nov. 27 — Criminal mischief, Pagosa Street.

Nov. 27 — Warrant arrest, Pagosa Street.

Nov. 28 , Warrant arrest, Mesa Drive/U.S. 160.

Nov. 28 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, East Pagosa Street/Pagosa Street.

Nov. 28 — Trespass warning, East Pagosa Street.

Nov. 29 — Following too closely, careless driving-cause injury, U.S. 160.

Nov. 30 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, North 5th Street.

Nov. 30 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, Aspen Village Drive.

Dec. 1 — Lost/found property, Hot Springs Boulevard.

Dec. 4 — Information only, East Pagosa Street.

Dec. 5 — Trespass warning, Cornerstone Drive.

Dec. 5 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI per se, turning without signaling, San Juan Street/U.S. 160.

Dec. 5 — Careless driving, County Center Drive.

Dec. 5 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, North 5th Street.

Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Nov. 18 — Vickie Paxton, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

Nov. 18 — Gabriel Bankston, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Regina M. Walter

Nov. 13 —David C. Neve, driving under the influence, 60 days jail, 48 hours community service, one year jail suspended imposition, 60 days jail, three years probation, three years probation alcohol supervision, fines and costs — \$2,668.50.

Nov. 14 — Tiffany Lee, littering-

first offense, fines and costs — \$139.50.

Nov. 14 — Andrew Jonathan Romero, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs —\$125.

Nov. 14 — Jerome Leandro Moya, obedience to official traffic control device, fines and costs — \$170.

Nov. 14 — Matthew Harris Moore, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$225.

Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards

Nov. 18 — Jamie Marie Black, speeding 10-19 over, fines and costs — \$190.

Nov. 19 — Richard Manuel Garcia, burning during stage 1, 2, fines and costs — \$269.

Nov. 19 — Michael Dean Beckel, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation alcohol evaluation and supervision, fines and costs — \$1,320.50.

Nov. 21 — Alan Scott Jorgensen, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$255.

Nov. 21 — Maya C. Vigil, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Nov. 21 — Lillian R. Githara, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.

Nov. 24 — Christopher Steven Car-radius, speeding 20-24 over, fines and costs — \$290.

Nov. 26 — Lara Taylor, speeding 10-19 over limit, child restraint not used, fines and costs — \$315.50.

Nov. 26 — Kristopher M. Mahar, seat belt not used, fines and costs — \$133.50.

Nov. 26 — June Juanita Balizan, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, two days jail, 48 hours community service, 12 months probation, fines and costs — \$2,006.

Dec. 2 — Ryan Mason, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.

Dec. 3 — Patrick J. Eagle, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$210.50.

Dec. 3 — Allan Henry Vanness, assault 3-know/reckless cause injury, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$1,172.50.

Dec. 3 — Allan H. Vanness, driving under the influence, 365 days jail suspended imposition, 48 hours community service, 18 months probation, fines and costs — \$2,245.50.

Dec. 3 — Timothy L. Bean, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$198.50.

6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay

Dec. 5 — Skyler James Bilazzo, weapon-possess/previous offender/use, three years probation, fines and costs — \$2,273.50.

The Blotter



DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Phone Number: 970-264-8160
Attorney for Plaintiff:
Daniel L Fiedler #47916
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
970-507-8528
Case Number: 2025CV30062
Plaintiff:
GREG ELLIOTT and CARLA R. ELLIOTT
v.
Defendants:
BRANDY CASTER, ARCHULETA COUNTY PUBLIC TRUSTEE, and All Unknown Persons Who Claim Any Interest In The Subject Matter Of This Action,
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
PLAINTIFFS: GREG ELLIOTT and CARLA R. ELLIOTT

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to appear and defend against the claims of the Complaint to Quiet Title Pursuant to Rule 105 filed with the Archuleta County District Court in this action, by filing with the clerk of this Court an Answer or other response. You are required to file your answer or other response within 35 days after service of this summons upon you. Service of this summons shall be complete on the last day of publication. A copy of the Complaint may be obtained from the clerk of the court.

If you fail to file your Answer or other response to the Complaint in writing with 35 days after the date of the last publication, judgment by default may be entered against you by the Court for the relief demanded in the Complaint without further notice. This is an action to quiet the title of the Plaintiff in and to the real property situated in Archuleta County, Colorado more particular described as follows: LOT 10 OF BLOCK 13 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JULY 6, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74567, BEING AN AMENDMENT OF ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3 FILED ON APRIL 9, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74284.

LOT 11 OF BLOCK 13 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JULY 6, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74567, BEING AN AMENDMENT OF ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3 FILED ON APRIL 9, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74284.

LOT 12 OF BLOCK 13 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JULY 6, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74567, BEING AN AMENDMENT OF ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3 FILED ON APRIL 9, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74284.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2025.
/s/ Daniel L. Fiedler
Daniel L. Fiedler
First publication: December 11, 2025
Last publication: January 8, 2026
Published December 11, 18, and 25, 2025, and January 1 and 8, 2026 in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (281053)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Petitioner: LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., a Colorado corporation,
v.
Respondents: DIAMOND A PROPERTIES, LLC, a

Colorado limited liability company; ELSA P. WHITE in her capacity as ARCHULETA COUNTY TREASURER; and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action.

Attorneys for Petitioner:
Amanda A. Bradley, Reg. No. 29489
Carrie S. Bernstein, Reg. No. 34966
ALDERMAN BERNSTEIN LLC
101 University Boulevard, Suite 350
Denver, Colorado 80206
Phone: 720-480-4200
E-mail: aab@ablawcolorado.com; csb@ablawcolorado.com
Case Number: 2025CV30058
Division: 3

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
The People of the State of Colorado
TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENTS: DIAMOND A PROPERTIES, LLC, AND ALL UNKNOWN PERSONS WHO CLAIM ANY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS ACTION.

You are hereby summoned and required to file with the Clerk of this Court an answer or other response to the Petition in Condemnation filed with the Court in this action. You are required to file your answer or other response within thirty-five (35) days after the service of this Summons upon you. Service of this Summons shall be complete on the day of the last publication. A copy of the Petition in Condemnation may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.

You are hereby informed that this is a special statutory proceeding brought pursuant to C.R.S. §38-1-101, et seq., to condemn a permanent easement on the property described below in order to construct public improvements as part of the Archuleta Reliability Upgrade project, as further set forth in the Petition in Condemnation. This Summons is being issued pursuant to C.R.S. § 38-1-103. You are notified that if you fail to appear and defend, the Court, without further notice, shall cause the compensation to be determined and title to be vested in the Petitioner according to law. C.R.S. § 38-1-103.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
Electric Transmission Easement
A tract of land located in the NE1/4SE1/4S10, T34N, R5W, N.M.P.M., County of Archuleta, State of Colorado, being a portion of land described in a Bargain & Sale Deed to Diamond A Properties, LLC, filed for record March 10, 2021 in the Office of the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder at Reception No. 22101626, being more particularly described as follows:
COMMENCING AT A POINT (POC), the National Geodetic Survey's PID DQ5989 (GSVS 050) a 3- 1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete, where the National Geodetic Survey's PID DQ5954 (GSVS 015) also a 3-1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete bears South 89°18'16" West, 147654.52 feet;
THENCE, South 89°59'08" East, a distance of 84662.86 feet to the Northwestern angle point of the previously described Electric Transmission Easement, the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'B');
THENCE, along North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement, South 65°43'36" West, a distance of 10.22 feet;
THENCE, North 12°22'44" West, a distance of 19.80 feet;
THENCE, North 77°37'16" East, a distance of 20.01 feet;
THENCE, South 12°22'44" East, a distance of 19.80 feet to the North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement;
THENCE, along the North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement, South 89°30'41" West, a distance of 10.22 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'B');
Containing 375 square feet or 0.009 acres, more or less.
Dated: December 5, 2025.
ALDERMAN BERNSTEIN LLC
By: /s/ Amanda A. Bradley
Attorney for Petitioner
Published December 11, 18 and 25, 2025, January 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (281390)

for record March 10, 2021 in the Office of the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder at Reception No. 22101626, being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING AT A POINT (POC), the National Geodetic Survey's PID DQ5989 (GSVS 050) a 3- 1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete, where the National Geodetic Survey's PID DQ5954 (GSVS 015) also a 3-1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete bears South 89°18'16" West, 147654.52 feet;
THENCE, South 89°59'08" East, a distance of 84662.86 feet to the Northwestern angle point of the previously described Electric Transmission Easement, the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'B');
THENCE, along North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement, South 65°43'36" West, a distance of 10.22 feet;
THENCE, North 12°22'44" West, a distance of 19.80 feet;
THENCE, North 77°37'16" East, a distance of 20.01 feet;
THENCE, South 12°22'44" East, a distance of 19.80 feet to the North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement;
THENCE, along the North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement, South 89°30'41" West, a distance of 10.22 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'B');
Containing 375 square feet or 0.009 acres, more or less.
Dated: December 5, 2025.
ALDERMAN BERNSTEIN LLC
By: /s/ Amanda A. Bradley
Attorney for Petitioner
Published December 11, 18 and 25, 2025, January 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (281390)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Case No.: 2025CV30007
Plaintiff:
Peregrine Property Owners Association, Inc
v.

Defendants:
James M Kaufmann, et al.
COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE

This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Protective Covenants and Internal Ownership for Peregrine Townhouses, recorded on August 2, 1990, at Book 303, Page 104, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered July 8, 2025, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows:

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof
Owner(s):
JAMES M KAUFMANN; NORMA K KAUFMANN;
DENNIS M PATTERSON; JAMES H CAID and DONNA J CAID, TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES AND DONNA CAID REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JANUARY 23, 1996; LINSLEY DENNING; JAMES B WILEY, JR., SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF SHARON D WILEY, DECEASED; PANDORA ARMSTRONG; GENEVA ROBINSON, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF C GEORGE ROBINSON, DECEASED; CLIFFORD MAG IE; ARLAN ROBERT GREENING; G

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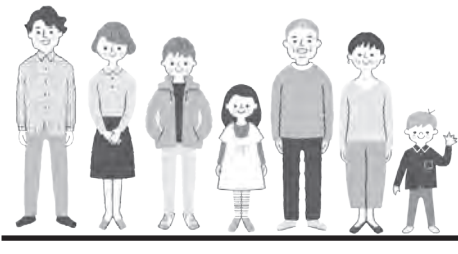
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ARCHULETA COUNTY
Public Health
DEPARTMENT



www.PAGOSASUN.com

NOTICE OF RIGHTS
YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO REDEEM SAID REAL PROPERTY OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED. A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO. A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE PURSUANT TO §38-38-104 C.R.S., SHALL BE FILED WITH THE OFFICER AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED SALE DATE OR ANY DATE TO WHICH THE SALE IS CONTINUED. IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED. A NOTICE OF INTENT TO REDEEM FILED PURSUANT TO §38-38-302 C.R.S. SHALL BE FILED WITH THE SHERIFF NO LATER THAN EIGHT (8) BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE SALE. THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN. IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN §38-38-103.1 OR THE PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN §38-38-103.2,

EXHIBIT "A"
Peregrine Townhouses Matter Amount
JAMES M KAUFMANN and NORMA K KAUFMAN (C#170210678) A 126,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee

Continued on A15

PUBLIC NOTICES:
YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The notices you see on this page include important information from local governmental bodies and attorneys that may be of interest to you. These notices can include information about public hearings, property assessments and changes in assessment, assumed names, name changes, claims notices, public meeting dates and financial statements.

Legal advertising

Deadline: Friday 4 p.m. *

Bring your legal advertisement or public notice to our offices at 457 Lewis Street, or email to legal@pagosasun.com

**Deadlines are moved up for holiday weeks. Please check for an ad in the paper for specific dates and times.*

■ Continued from A14

simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$901.40
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,140.24
DENNIS M. PATERSON (C#1730001001) A 175,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7837-7838 in Building Number(s) 19.
Unpaid Assessments: \$887.49
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,126.33
PAUL A. JORDAN (C#139903819) A 105,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7843-7844 in Building Number(s) 22.
Unpaid Assessments: \$751.15
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$1,989.99
JAMES H. CAID and DONNA J. CAID, TRUSTEES OF THE JAMES AND DONNA CAID REVOCABLE TRUST, DATED JANUARY 23, 1996 (C#179904578) A 105,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7845-7846 in Building Number(s) 23.
Unpaid Assessments: \$751.15
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$1,989.99
LINSLEY DENNING (C#171008980) A 64,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7803-7806 in Building Number(s) 2 and 3.
Unpaid Assessments: \$934.81
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,173.65
JAMES B. WILEY, JR., SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF SHARON D. WILEY, DECEASED (C#179506910) A 84,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7803-7806 in Building Number(s) 2 and 3.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,007.65
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,246.49
PANDORA ARMSTRONG (C#170014013) A 105,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,030.91
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$3,269.75
GENEVA ROBINSON, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF C. GEORGE ROBINSON, DECEASED (C#170409726) A 126,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,511.40
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$3,269.75
CLIFFORD MAGIE (C#17006226) A 77,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$611.86
Costs: \$1,000.00
Attorney's Fees: \$238.84
Judgment Amount: \$1,850.70
ARLAN ROBERT GREENING (C#171304884) A 154,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$3,596.50
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$4,810.34
G. OWEN CLARK, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF MARIA L. CLARK, DECEASED (C#179604954) A 105,000/ 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,771.84
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$4,010.68
CHARLES S. WATTS (C#179605456) A 77,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Costs: \$238.84
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,825.87
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$3,064.71
JULIANNE MICHAELS (C#179608335) A 49,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$825.65
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,064.49
PAUL A. JORDAN and BROOKE A. JORDAN (C#179607171) A 77,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,292.55
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$3,531.39
MEYLER R. ANDERSON and JOYCE M. MCCULLOUGH (C#179607650) A 105,000/ 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7807-7810 in Building Number(s) 4 and 5.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,259.55
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,498.39
ISABEL M. PACHECO, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF H. PAUL PACHECO, DECEASED (C#179700497) A 84,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7811-7812 in Building Number(s) 6.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,073.24
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,312.08
SANDRA E. KENNEDY, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF JESS SCOTT KENNEDY, DECEASED (C#179701511) A 154,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7811-7812 in Building Number(s) 6.
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,802.42
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$4,041.26
FRANK GRANDINETTI (C#179705991) A 49,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7811-7812 in Building Number(s) 6/
Unpaid Assessments: \$927.80
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,298.17
WILLARD A. DUNN and ULRIKE DUNN (C#179702634) A 105,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7813-7816 in Building Number(s) 7 and 8.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,194.04
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,432.88
BILLY H. THOMPSON (C#179704309) A 300,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7813-7816 in Building Number(s) 7 and 8.
Unpaid Assessments: \$5,680.50
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$6,919.34
JANE LEE ARKUSH (C#179704382) A 105,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7813-7816 in Building Number(s) 1 and 8.
Unpaid Assessments: \$5,677.35
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$6,916.19
WARREN W. MCCANE and MAXINE V. MCCANE (C#179705025) A 84,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7813-7816 in Building Number(s) 7 and 8.
Unpaid Assessments: \$679.70
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$1,918.54
WARREN W. MCCANE and MAXINE V. MCCANE (C#170011498) A 154,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7877-7878 in Building Number(s) 39.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,246.10
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,484.94

DONALD G. BOMER (C#179710645) A 105,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7813-7816 in Building Number(s) 1 and 8.
Unpaid Assessments: \$3,053.20
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$4,292.04
DIANA CHAVEZ KETTERMAN and LUCILLE MARIE AIKEN and MARK KETTERMAN BROCKETT and TARA CHRISTINA simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7817-7820 in Building Number(s) 9 and 10.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,284.53
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,528.37
REX L. HICKMAN and HONEY HICKMAN (C#170313175) A 154,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7817- 7820 in Building Number(s) 9 and 10.
Unpaid Assessments: \$4,310.13
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$5,548.97
PATRICK A. C. EWEN and WILLIAM E. EWEN (C#179707674) A 126,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7817- 7820 in Building Number(s) 9 and 10.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,117.88
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,356.72
ADITHA CHER TAYLOR and JACK J. TAYLOR III and EDWIN L. PUTNAM and HELEN D. PUTNAM (C#179709035) A 94,500 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7817-7820 in Building Number(s) 9 and 10.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,059.86
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$2,298.70
RICHARD N. MILLS and JUDI G. MILLS (C#179709571) A 105,000 / 35,486,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7817-7820 in Building Number(s) 9 and 10.
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,599.37
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$3,838.21
THE TERRY J. LUTZ LIVING TRUST DATED JANUARY 10, 2012, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO (C#170017156) A 77,000 / 17,743,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 7821-7822 in Building Number(s) 11.
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,149.84
Costs: \$238.84
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Judgment Amount: \$3,388.68
 In Peregrine Townhouses. All as tenants in common with the other undivided interest owners of said buildings as depicted on the Plats recorded in Reception Numbers 173553-173555, 98002629, 99006555, 99011974, 20005495, 20010666, and subject to Declaration of Protective Covenants and Interval Ownership for Peregrine Townhouses recorded as Reception Number 173556, as has been amended, supplemented, and/or restated, all in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Published November 20 and 27, and December 4, 11, and 18, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (279385)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCULETA COUNTY, COLO-
 RAD
 Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 Tel.: 970.264.8160
Case No.: 2025CV30011
 Plaintiff:
 Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
 Defendants:
 James E. Sawyer, et al.
COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM
 This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium, recorded on August 1 0, 2000, Reception Number 20007580, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered July 8, 2025, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows:
 See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof
 Owner(s):

James E Sawyer; Kari Mcintosh, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Steven E McIntosh, deceased; Debbie Cox; Daniel E Metcalf, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Linda L Metcalf, deceased; Marolyn R Wood, Trustee of the Marolyn R Wood and Donald Wood Revocable Living Trust, dated December 16, 1996; Resorts International Access Network, LLC; P. Carol Kyle-Cooper, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Jon H Cooper, deceased; Bettina E Basanow; James E Bradley; Judith A Bradley John Andrew Dewett; Oliver Harlow; Zona Harlow; Jessica Cantu Garza; Grady R Rhodes, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Sylvia P Rhodes, deceased; James L Woodfield Jr, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Deanna R Woodfield, deceased; Marvie A Garcia-Cravens; James Johnson; Paula Johnson; Paul Belvly; Roberta Belvly
 Evidence of Debt:
 Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium, recorded on August 10, 2000, Reception Number 20007580, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Obligations Secured:
 The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs.
 Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901
 Association Assessments Due to:
 Peregrine Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
 Debtor(s) & Amount Due:
 See attached Exhibit "A"
 Amount of Judgment:
 See attached Exhibit "A"
 Type of Sale:
 Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act.
 THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION.
 The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST
 THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I will, at 10 o'clock A.M., on Wednesday January 7th, 2026 Sale Number 2025-05 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81 147 sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association thereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
 First Publication: 11/20/2025
 Last Publication: 12/18/2025
 Name of Publication: The Pagosa Springs Sun

NOTICE OF RIGHTS
 YOU MAY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE REAL PROPERTY BEING FORECLOSED, OR HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS OR SUFFER CERTAIN LIABILITIES PURSUANT TO COLORADO STATUTES AS A RESULT OF SAID FORECLOSURE. YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED SALE DATE OR YOU MAY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CURE A DEFAULT UNDER THE DEED OF TRUST BEING FORECLOSED, A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS IS ATTACHED HERETO.
 A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE PURSUANT TO §38-38-104 C.R.S., SHALL BE FILED WITH THE OFFICER AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) CALENDAR DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED SALE DATE OR ANY DATE TO WHICH THE SALE IS CONTINUED.
 IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED.
 A NOTICE OF INTENT TO REDEEM FILED PURSUANT TO §38-38-302 C.R.S. SHALL BE FILED WITH THE SHERIFF NO LATER THAN EIGHT (8) BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE SALE.
 THE LIEN BEING FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

IF YOU BELIEVE THAT A LENDER OR SERVICER HAS VIOLATED THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT IN §38-38-103.1 OR THE

PROHIBITION ON DUAL TRACKING IN §38-38-103.2, YOU MAY FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL (1-800-222-4444), THE CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU (1-855-411-2372), OR BOTH, BUT THE FILING OF A COMPLAINT WILL NOT STOP THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.
 The name, address, and business telephone number of each of the attorneys representing the holder of the evidence of debt are as follows:
 Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901
 INTENT TO CURE OR REDEEM, as provided by the aforementioned laws, must be directed to or conducted at the Sheriff's Department for Archuleta County, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 8114 7, 970-264-8434.
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 This Sheriff's Notice of Sale is signed November 14, 2025.

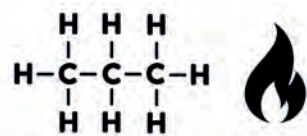
By: /s/ Mike Le Roux
 Mike Le Roux, Sheriff
 Archuleta County, Colorado
EXHIBIT "A"
 Teal Landing Condominiums Matter Amount
JAMES E. SAWYER (C#17200621) A 63,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1411, 1412, 1413, 1415, 1416, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, and 1426 in Building Number(s) H, 14.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,314.86
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,571.12
KALANIE MCINTOSH, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF STEVEN E MCINTOSH, DECEASED (C#170502397) A 300,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1411, 1412, 1413, 1415, 1416, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, and 1426 in Building Number(s) H, 14.
Unpaid Assessments: \$3,852.50
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$5,108.76
DEBBIE COX (C#4252300358) A 105,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1411, 1412, 1413, 1415, 1416, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, and 1426 in Building Number(s) H, 14.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,467.67
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,723.93
DANIEL E. METCALF, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF LINDA L. METCALF, DECEASED (C#170213904) A 63,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1525 and 1526 in Building Number(s) H, 15.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,190.93
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,447.19
MAROLYN R WOOD, TRUSTEE OF THE MAROLYN R WOOD and DONALD WOOD REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1996 (C#170213920) A 77,000 / 63,185,500 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1525 and 1526 in Building Number(s) 15.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,455.51
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,711.77
RESORTS INTERNATIONAL ACCESS NETWORK, LLC (C#170303754) A 128,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16.
Unpaid Assessments: \$2,709.39
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$3,965.65
P. CAROL KYLE-COOPER, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF JON H. COOPER, DECEASED (C#170304174) A 154,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,792.10
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$3,048.36
JOHN ANDREW DEWETT (C#170304582) A 154,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16.
Unpaid Assessments: \$3,999.53
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$5,255.79
OLIVER HARLOW and ZONA HARLOW (C#17909944) A 34,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,145.69
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$4,643.81
GRADY R. RHODES, SURVIVING JOINT TENANT WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP OF SYLVIA P. RHODES, DECEASED (C#171407539) A 364,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625 and 1626 in Building Number(s) 16.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,459.86
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$3,199.86
JAMES JOHNSON and PAULA JOHNSON (C#170312250) A 77,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, and 1726 in Building Number(s) 11.
Unpaid Assessments: \$1,556.49
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$2,812.75
PAUL BELVLY and ROBERTA BELVLY (C#178003217) A 413,000 / 62,896,000 undivided fee simple absolute interest in Unit Numbers 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, and 1726 in Building Number(s) 17.
Unpaid Assessments: \$6,165.68
Costs: \$256.26
Attorney's Fees: \$1,000.00
Total: \$7,421.94

In Teal Landing Condominium. All as tenants in common with the other undivided interest owners of said building as depicted on the Plat recorded in Reception Numbers 20102922, 20105660, 20106879, 20203146, 20204764, 20304272, 20209496, and subject to Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium recorded at Reception Number 20007580, and all subsequent supplemental Plats or Declaration thereto, all in the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder in and for Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Published November 20 and 27, and December 4, 11 and 18, 2025, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (279400)
 DISTRICT COURT, ARCULETA COUNTY, COLO-
 RAD
 Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 Tel.: 970.264.8160
Case No.: 2025CV30011
 Plaintiff:
 Teal Landing Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
 Defendants:
 James E Sawyer, et al.
COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM
 This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium, recorded on August 1 0, 2000, Reception Number 20007580, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered July 8, 2025, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows:
 See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof
 Owner(s):
 James E Sawyer; Kari Mcintosh, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Steven E McIntosh, deceased; Debbie Cox; Daniel E Metcalf, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Linda L Metcalf, deceased; Marolyn R Wood, Trustee of the Marolyn R Wood and Donald Wood Revocable Living Trust, dated December 16, 1996; Resorts International Access Network, LLC; P. Carol Kyle-Cooper, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Jon H Cooper, deceased; Bettina E Basanow; James E Bradley; Judith A Bradley John Andrew Dewett; Oliver Harlow; Zona Harlow; Jessica Cantu Garza; Grady R Rhodes, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Sylvia P Rhodes, deceased; James L Woodfield Jr, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Deanna R Woodfield, deceased; Marvie A Garcia-Cravens; James Johnson; Paula Johnson; Paul Belvly; Roberta Belvly
 Evidence of Debt:
 Declaration of Condominium for Teal Landing Condominium, recorded on August 10, 2000, Reception Number 20007580, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Obligations Secured:
 The Declaration provides that it secures the payment of the Debt and obligations therein described including, but not limited to, the payment of attorneys' fees and costs.
 Agent: Christopher B. Conley, Reg. No. 51651, 700 South 21st Street, Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901
 Association Assessments Due to:
 Peregrine Vacation Owners Association, Inc.
 Debtor(s) & Amount Due:
 See attached Exhibit "A"
 Amount of Judgment:
 See attached Exhibit "A"
 Type of Sale:
 Judicial Foreclosure Sale of Timeshare Interest being conducted pursuant to the power of sale granted by the Declaration, the Colorado Property Code, and the Colorado Common Ownership Act.
 THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AND DESCRIBED HEREIN IS ALL OF THE PROPERTY CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY THE LIEN PURSUANT TO THE DECLARATION.
 The covenants of said Declaration have been violated as follows: failure to make payments for assessments when the indebtedness was due and owing and the legal holder of the indebtedness has accelerated the same and declared the same immediately fully due and payable.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST
 THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I will, at 10 o'clock A.M., on Wednesday January 7th, 2026 Sale Number 2025-05 in the Office of the Archuleta County Sheriff, Civil Division, 85 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colorado, 81 147 sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property described above, and all interest of said Grantor and the heirs and assigns of said Grantor therein, subject to the provisions of the Declaration permitting the Association thereunder to have the bid credited to the Debt up to the amount of the unpaid Debt secured by the Declaration at the time of sale, for the purpose of paying the judgment amount entered herein, and will deliver to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
 First Publication: 11/20/2025
 Last Publication: 12/18/2025
 Name of Publication: The Pagosa Springs Sun

RADO
 Court Address: 109 Harman Park Drive
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
 Tel.: 970.264.8160
 Plaintiff:
 Case No.: 2025CV30008
Peregrine Property Owners Association, Inc.
 V.
 Defendants:
Deborah L Downing, et al.
COMBINED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF TIMESHARE INTEREST AND RIGHTS TO CURE AND REDEEM
 This Notice of Public Judicial Foreclosure Sale is given pursuant to the specific assessment lien in the Declaration of Protective Covenants and Internal Ownership for Peregrine Townhouses, recorded on August 2, 1990, at Book 303, Page 1 04, as amended and supplemented from time-to-time, in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder for Archuleta County, Colorado.
 Under a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure entered July 8, 2025, in the above entitled action, I am ordered to sell certain real property, improvements and personal property secured by the Declaration, including without limitation the real property described as follows:
 See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made apart hereof
 Owner(s):
Deborah L Downing; Mona Archer; Ronald Winsor Jr; Jeremy Vincent Hardin; Howard O Hartzog; Martha A Hartzog; Clarence E Christian, Trustee of the Clarence E Christian Trust of November 27, 2000; Penny A Trehan, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of John Trehan, deceased; Wallace R Smith; Lois Mae

Smith; D. Dickerson McCoy, Co-Trustee of the D. and F. McCoy Trust dated 9/30/99; Faye S. McCoy, Co-Trustee of the D. and F. McCoy Trust dated 9/30/99; Norma Rose, surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Lowell Rose, deceased; Scott R Crawford; Angela L Crawford; Louis A Valencia; Julie K Valencia; Karen L McCoy; Jere D Fisher; Mona Jo Fisher; A. Darryl Rice; Charles Smith; surviving joint tenant with right of survivorship of Sharon Chubb, deceased; William Haanen; Jeff Howard; Geneva Howard; Debra A Griffin; Kimberly D Griffin; Kerl E Seene; Peter N Delacot; Cecilia M Delacot; Juanita D Schmidt; Bryan D Schmidt; Marilyn L Morales;

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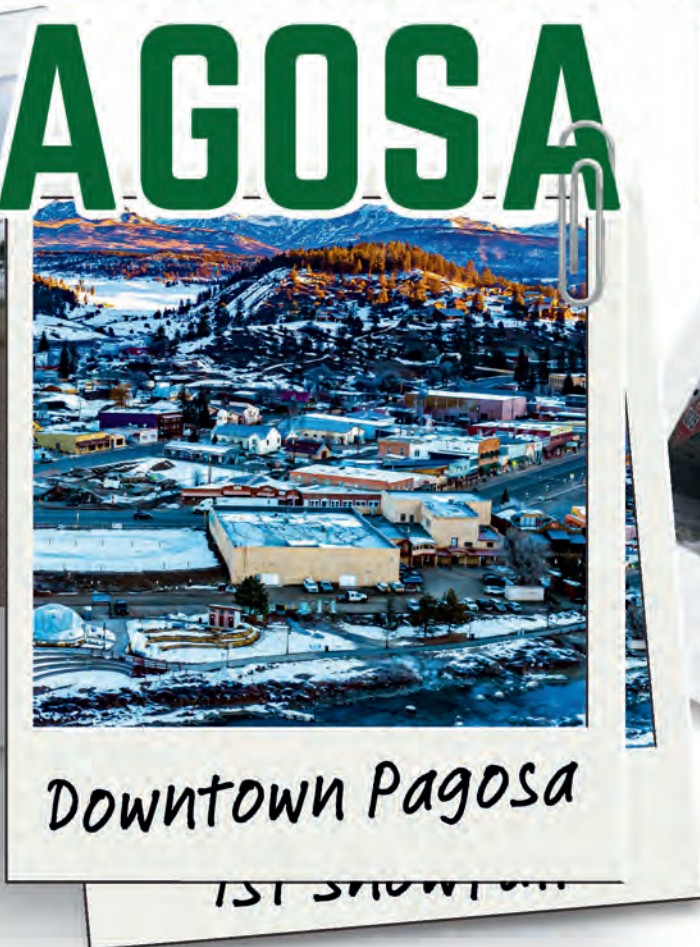
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ARTS & LIFE

Christmas in Pagosa



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PREVIEW photos/Shari Pierce

December 11, 2025

Thingamajig Theatre Company’s ‘A Christmas Carol’ to open Dec. 12 with holiday warmth, wit and wonder

By Tim Moore
Thingamajig Theatre Company

After two years of the packed houses with the holiday triumph “All is Calm,” Thingamajig Theatre Company returns with a new seasonal jewel: “A Christmas Carol,” opening Friday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

A special Opening Night Talkback with the cast and creative team will follow.

Director Andrew Barratt Lewis brings Patrick Barlow’s adaptation to life with imaginative staging, quicksilver pacing and an uncompromising trust in the power of ensemble storytelling. The production glows with the kind of intimate theatrical magic Ben Brantley once described as “art that breathes.”

At its center, Dan Morrison delivers a crisp, layered and ultimately heartfelt performance as Ebenezer Scrooge, charting the character’s emotional thaw with clarity and grace. Logan Polson, Bob Cratchit, offers a quiet, steady warmth, but his contribution extends far beyond Cratchit alone. In the great tradition of repertory storytelling, Polson



Photos courtesy Thingamajig Theatre Company

Logan Polson and Samantha Luck take on multiple roles in Thingamajig Theatre Company’s production of “A Christmas Carol,” opening Friday, Dec. 12, at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

slips nimbly into roles as varied as lively children, spectral visitors and Scrooge’s younger self, revealing his remarkable range and giving the production much of its momentum.

The remaining ensemble (Ellie O’Hara, Samantha Luck and Trevor Brown) creates an astonishing gallery of characters that fill Victorian London with wit, tenderness and

ghostly wonder.

O’Hara moves fluidly between stern housekeepers, young heroines and the regal-yet boisterous Spirit of Christmas Present, showing sharp comedic instincts and a gift for tonal shifts.

Luck navigates past, present and memory with equal ease, portray-
■ See Thingamajig on next page

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open mic with Eric Wade, 6:30 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: 13th Hour Band, 7 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 7 p.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: High Altitude Blues, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday**
Cork & Board: Maxwell Miller, 5 p.m.

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Thingamajig —

■ continued from previous page
ing everything from warm maternal figures to spirited guides whose presence deepens the story's emotional undercurrents.

Brown delivers one of the evening's most touching turns as Tiny Tim, but also brings delightful humor and presence to roles such as Fezziwig, Frederick and a variety of spirits and passersby — performances that showcase his agility and emotional range.

Their collective work forms the heart of the production, a finely tuned dance of character and storytelling that makes Barlow's adaptation shine.

The design work supports the story with elegance: Lighting Designer MacKenzie Lowe crafts a world of shadow, lantern glow and ghostly suggestion; Sound Designer Tim Moore blends atmosphere, underscoring and memory into a cohesive emotional landscape; and Properties Curator Tanya Quinn supplies a charming array of Victorian touches that keep the world textured and alive.

With its wit, imagination and openhearted storytelling, Thingamajig's "A Christmas Carol" stands as a worthy successor to "All is Calm" — a holiday tradition renewed.

Additional weekend performances continue Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

For show information and tickets, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).



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Good Citizens Award**
By CiCi Stuart
Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, Daughters of
the American Revolution

Thank you all for your support in voting and buying the decorated Christmas tree by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The proceeds from voting, as well as buying the tree at the auction in person Friday evening, will go to support our Good Citizens Award. This is given to a senior at each of the seven high schools in Archuleta and La Plata counties. The senior is selected by the school staff because he or she has demonstrated the core values of being a good citizen such as dependability with attendance, helping others, being visible with leadership, service to others in school and the community, or patriotism by helping vets or enlisted military people. This is not an exhaustive list. Students are eligible regardless of their grades or financial situation. They just need to excel in being a good person. Then they are eligible for state and national scholarships. The next DAR Sarah Platt Decker chapter meeting will be Jan. 17, 2026, at the Community United Methodist Church on Lewis Street at 10:30 a.m. The topic will be the Constitution.

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'We Need a Little Christmas': Pagosa Springs Community Choir Christmas concert series to begin Friday

By Heidi Tanner

Pagosa Springs Community Choir

Tomorrow night, Friday, Dec. 12, the Pagosa Springs Community Choir's Christmas concert series begins in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

You have three opportunities to see the choir perform: Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m.

Admission to our concerts is free, though donations are accepted with gratitude and help the choir continue to operate year after year and help us fund our vocal scholarships.

This year the choir is pleased to announce that we have three vocal scholarship recipients. Our scholarship recipients are Reagan Vanatta, Harison Jacobs and Karlie Rose. Each recipient will receive \$500 toward private vocal lessons.

The community choir has been providing these scholarships for many years to help foster the talents of local student vocalists by providing private voice lessons.

Congratulations to our three 2025 scholarship recipients.



Photo courtesy Heidi Tanner

The Pagosa Springs Community Choir Christmas concerts are this weekend — Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday Dec. 13, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m. — in the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Admission is free.

A wonderful feature of our community choir concerts is our Jazz Choir. The jazz choir is a small vocal ensemble within the choir which specializes in singing jazz arrangements. As its name suggests, its music is punctuated with snappy rhythms and jazz harmony that will make you sit up and take notice as you listen to their renditions of "Here Comes

Santa Claus" and "Jingle Bells." We are certain you will enjoy these two fun Christmas songs presented in jazz style.

More surprises await you at our cherished Christmas choral concerts. Please don't miss us.

We look forward to singing for you and bringing joy to your Christmas season.

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Greetings**



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Embracing hope: Small acts of kindness during the Jubilee Year of Hope

By J. Leonard Martinez
Friends and Neighbors in Need

I had a colleague who had a rather unique perspective on hope. He would tell his kids or anyone he mentored that hope is not a strategy. And, perhaps, from the perspective of business plans, goal setting and successful careers, he had a good point regarding doing the hard work to accomplish career goals. But creating hope is a very different process.

The Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 is a special holy year declared by the Catholic church, centered on the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope."

It began on Dec. 24, 2024, and runs until Jan. 6, 2026. During this time, all are encouraged to engage in acts of faith, such as pilgrimage, prayer and works of mercy, to experience spiritual renewal and forgiveness.

The year of hope was declared by Pope Francis, who passed away before the year concluded, and was continued by Pope Leo. This makes me realize how significant hope is and how hope transcends all ages, churches, communities, cultures and even countries.

Creating hope can begin on a very personal level and on a small scale. The end of the Jubilee Year of Hope happens to end during our holiday

season, but is also during the winter season.

Opportunities to help appear in many forms. In our county, the network of food providers to provide food security is indeed a great way to step in and help create hope. Now is also the opportunity to give time. Doing something small for an elderly neighbor, like taking something little, will provide an opportunity to sit and listen. It's a selfless act to show dignity and respect, and to let them know their experiences and wisdom are important, and that they create hope.

It is important to acknowledge those who work tirelessly to provide works of mercy.

However, small efforts also amount to creating hope. Something as simple as giving a kind word to a mother who is struggling to create security for her children or an offer to provide some help, even giving something small but fun for the children. This is the nature of being a pilgrim of hope.

Many entities do exist in our county who provide help and support; Friends and Neighbors in Need is but one. Friends and Neighbors in Need have what are called survival kits, which are kits that have toiletries, towels, dog food, socks and food/gas cards, small things that simply say:

Have hope.

Creating hope is something all of us can do and in doing so we become pilgrims of hope. Being a pilgrim of hope puts us in a unique role of creating a tide, where hope turns into faith and courage and gets passed on. Pilgrims of hope live to pay it forward, by creating hope.



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Holiday Church Events



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

Friday, Dec. 19

Advent Penance Service. 5 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Sunday, Dec. 21

Winter Solstice Gathering. 10 a.m., Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd.

Blue Christmas Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Offered by the Community United Methodist Church and St. Patrick's Episcopal Church.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Mass. 5 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Christmas Eve Service. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. For more information, visit graceinpagosa.org or call (970) 731-6200.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Open Door Church, 110 Trinity Lane.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. The brass quintet prelude begins at 4:30 p.m. The service will be in person and online at www.pagosabiblechurch.org.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols. 5 p.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 6 p.m., Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. 6:30 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive. A

candlelight service of carols and readings.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 7 p.m., Zoom. Hosted by the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center. Contact (970) 510-0308 for Zoom link.

Christmas Eve Mass. 8 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Christmas Midnight Service. 11 p.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

Thursday, Dec. 25

Christmas Day Mass. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Christmas Morning Service. 9 a.m., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 56 Meadows Drive.

Christmas Day Holy Communion. 10 a.m., Trinity Anglican Church, 246 Harman Park Drive.

Thursday, Jan. 1

Holy Day. 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit ihmjp2.org.

Heralds of Christmas set for Dec. 21 at new location

By Rick Artis

Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society

This year's Heralds of Christmas concert will be hosted by Pagosa Bible Church on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 3 p.m.

The church is located at 209 Harman Park Drive in Harman Park behind Wells Fargo, past the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office.

This year's event promises to be better than ever. More than 15 musicians, featuring many of Pagosa's favorite performers, will fill the hall with a variety of holiday music. Festive seasonal favorites combined with a few less traditional arrangements promise to delight the audience.

Heralds of Christmas is presented by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society (PSIMS). PSIMS is dedicated to music education in Pagosa Springs, providing equipment, instrument repair, private lessons and more to several of the schools in town. This year, the schools have a variety of needs, from providing pairs of drumsticks or a series of lessons to needed instruments, as well as others needs as they appear. Donations to help fill these needs will be graciously accepted.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us in just a couple of weeks at the Heralds of Christmas. This is a free event. As a holiday favorite, the church will fill quickly.

Join Pagosa Community Initiative and Higher Grounds for a unique holiday shopping experience!

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Available Sides

Available for purchase in 8 oz or 1-Quart Size
Mexican Street Corn, Burnt End Charro Beans, Red Cranberry Slaw or Green Chile Cheddar Grits, Truly Texas Sauce, Sweet Heat Sauce

Place your orders by 6pm on December 22nd and schedule pick up

"Elves for the Elderly" Holiday Initiative



Colorado Roadhouse and Uncle's Bar & Social Club announce a new holiday partnership with Pine Ridge Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center.

Visit **Uncle's Bar & Social Club** or **Colorado Roadhouse**

Select an ornament from the "Elves for the Elderly" holiday trees.

Each ornament includes a few gift suggestions for a Pine Ridge resident.

Return your wrapped or unwrapped gifts to either business

You will help ensure the residents receive a little joy and warmth this holiday season.



These older generations paved the path for so many of us. This is a chance for our community to show appreciation, share connection, and spread holiday spirit.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all of us!

www.PagosaSUN.com

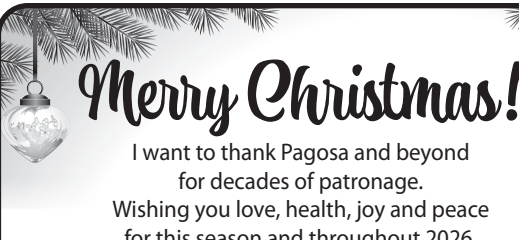
Stargazers continuing annual Deep Space Mysteries Calendar fundraiser

By Joan Mieritz
San Juan Stargazers

Our club has offered these amazing calendars for the past 12 years because they are an easy and fun way to learn more about astronomy. The world's bestselling astronomy magazine (Astronomy Magazine) annually publishes this calendar with dramatic images of nebulae, spiral galaxies, star-forming regions and other mysteries of deep space. Now that the James Webb Space Telescope, launched in 2021, is exceeding expectations, it is easy to fill a calendar with just James Webb discoveries and there actually are four different calendars like that, but you will have to find and order those yourself. The James Webb Space Telescope has become a specialist for photos of protostars (baby stars that are just coming into being) such as the amazing March 2026 photo of Herbig-Haro 797 and the June 2026 photo of protostar HP Tauri. The very first protostar photo was taken by the Webb in 2022 because of its sensitivity to infrared light, which allows it to penetrate the dusty shrouds that inhabit star-forming regions. Before the James Webb we did not know fabulous photos of stars being born could be taken and would be so amazing. My plan in writing this article was to pick my favorite photo and tell you about it. But, notice that I've already told you about five photos. There is much information given right on the calendar for you to study, with the whole month to figure out what it means and to learn details about it. The calendar can become a fam-

ily activity when you explore and discuss the wonder of each photo. It is comparable to having a course in astronomy. I cannot say enough wonderful things about this calendar. It can keep you amazed for an entire year. Also, each month the calendar details planet visibility, meteor showers, conjunctions and other observing opportunities, as well as moon phases and major astronomical events. To get a calendar, call (303) 995-2888 and leave a message with your name and phone number. You will be called back to set a convenient time and location to meet. Calendars are \$20, but if it is being purchased for a child it will only cost \$15. Selling these calendars is a fundraising project for our club, but we consider it most important to get a child started on studying astronomy. We only have seven extra calendars, the reason being that Chimney Rock National Monument was closed during the fall government shutdown when we were going to have special major lunar standstill programs bringing in many extra visitors. Since the standstill happens every 18.6 years, I did not think the program would be canceled, but this made a lucky opportunity for you. **February 2026 meeting** I need to mention in this article that the Stargazers will have our first meeting of 2026 on Feb. 5 starting at 6 p.m. There are so many members who will be gone for part of this holiday season and people get disappointed when they miss one of our interesting lessons. It is better to just take some

time off, especially during such a snowy time of year. There will be article during the middle of January to tell about the program on Feb. 5. Always remember that if roads are slick it is not worth the risk to drive to the meeting. We will hold the program at a future time. **Joining the Stargazers** If you would like to join the San Juan Stargazers, you will also receive Reflector Magazine (again with hard copies), which is the publication of the National Astronomical League of which you automatically become a member. To join both groups and get an excellent astronomy magazine, annual membership is only \$25 per individual or family. You can join the club at any of our meetings or on our website. Check out our continuously changing website, sanjuanstargazers.org, with new information and spectacular photos. We can be your connection to our extraordinary universe.



Merry Christmas!
I want to thank Pagosa and beyond for decades of patronage. Wishing you love, health, joy and peace for this season and throughout 2026.



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A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS
Hope - Peace - Joy - Love

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00pm

Celebrate Christmas with us!

The service will be in person and online at www.pagosabiblechurch.org

Brass Quintet Prelude begins at 4:30pm



PAGOSA BIBLE CHURCH
209 Harman Park Dr. (behind Wells Fargo)



Photo courtesy John DeMarco

The Knights of Columbus install their new Christmas nativity manger in Town Park on Dec. 6.

Catholic community to hold penance service Dec. 19

By Shanna Robb
Pagosa Catholic Community

Sunday, Dec. 21, is slated to be the darkest day in 2025 for the Northern Hemisphere. As darkness and brisk temperatures physically overtake daylight hours, we are ushered into the “dark season.”

Meanwhile, Christians from a variety of denominations are turning up the heat and light by physically and spiritually anticipating the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas. For, as described in 2 Corinthians 4:6, Jesus is the light that will shine out of darkness.

Advent, which started Nov. 30 and ends on Christmas Eve, signals a season of preparation, penance and prayer. Despite not being mentioned in the Bible, the four-weeks of Advent are rooted in biblical words of hope. While marketing campaigns promote a “must buy” mentality, Advent promotes intentionally slowing down in anticipation of the greatest gift of all — Jesus Christ.

Advent calendars and Advent wreaths encourage families to lean into the richness of the season. Lighting Advent wreaths are a tradition that encapsulates the burning desire of what Christ’s coming brings to the world.

The wreath’s circular shape signifies the endless love and mercy of God, who is the Alpha and the Omega. The evergreen branches represent the new beginning offered by and through Jesus. The number and color of the candles, in addition to the order in which they are lit, are also significant.

The first two purple candles repre-

sent hope and faith. The pink candle, which is the third to be lit, marks the halfway point of Advent and signals joy. The flame of the final purple candle represents peace followed by a white candle, lit on Christmas Eve, signifying the light of Christ.

Each week an additional candle is lit, which coincides with weekly readings and brings more light into the darkness. As described by Pope Benedict XVI, Advent is a powerful liturgical season that encourages the whole church to be “hope for itself and for the whole world.”

As we prepare for Christmas, we are invited to pause and silently reflect on God — a loving God who came down to us so that we may be lifted up. Let us be reassured that the dark season will be overcome by His light.

To help us overcome the darkness, a penance service providing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, instituted by Jesus Christ as written in John 20:22-23 and Matthew 18:18, will be held at Pope John Paul II Catholic Church.

The penance service will be on Friday, Dec. 19, starting at 5 p.m.,

and the church address is 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

For more information about the Pagosa Catholic Community, call (970) 731-5744 or visit ihmjp2.org.

Enjoy Jazz Standards of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin & more!

Cork & Board Wine Bar
Wednesday, Dec. 17 • 5 to 8 p.m.

Come, be entertained by the sounds of Maxwell Miller!

Trinity Anglican Church

“Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!”

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols at 5pm.

Christmas Day Holy Communion at 10am.

246 Harman Park Dr. • trinityanglicanchurch.org

Join Centerpoint Church for a Special

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

When Isaiah prophesied that Messiah would be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6), he was not listing actual names, but rather giving us a glimpse of who Jesus is.

This Christmas, experience a more intimate understanding of who Jesus really is and what He came to do for us.

DECEMBER 24, 6:00 PM

2750 CORNERSTONE DR,
PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO 81147
centerpointpagosa.com

CENTERPOINT CHURCH

Our Savior Lutheran Church, School, and Mercy Care Ministry invite you to join us for our Christmas Worship Services.

56 Meadows Drive

Christmas Eve at 6:30, a Candlelight service of Carols and Readings.

Christmas Midnight at 11:00, a Divine Worship Service.

Christmas Morning at 9:00, a Divine Worship Service.

OSLC is thoroughly committed to everything the Bible teaches. We are a congregation uniquely devoted to liturgical worship, to catechesis (Christian education), and to the centrality of the Holy Communion and other Sacraments in the life of the Christian.

Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Barry Knott

This week’s Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the great horned owl.

Renowned ornithologist and author Scott Weidensaul referenced the widespread occurrence of this owl when he remarked that it is easier to list where they are not found than where they are. They are resident birds living in a wide range of habitat types in most of North America and much of South America.

Despite living among us, great horned owls are notoriously difficult to spot. Both sexes of these large owls are camouflaged in colors of brown, cinnamon and gray, and have barring on the breast. Their cryptic coloration does not hide them from their crow enemies, however, and pinpointing the riotous calls of mobbing crows may reveal a roosting owl.

Great horned owls are one of the earliest breeding raptors in North America and courtship may begin in autumn. They are one of the few owls that hoot, and an individual can be identified by the number of hoots and intervals between them in its call. In fall and in winter before egg laying, a mated pair defends their territory in duets of alternating hoots.

Females lay eggs between December and January, often reusing nests of red-tailed hawks, but also nesting in caves, on cliffs or on the rafters in old buildings. Fledgling great horneds learn to hunt for themselves while remaining in their parents’ territory until the following autumn.

This adaptable predator eats what is available, from tiny rodents up to mammals larger than itself. Its large yellow eyes with pupils that open wide are adapted for excellent night vision. It is able to swivel its head more than 180 degrees to take in the circle of its surroundings, scanning for prey from a perch before swooping down in silent flight in pursuit. Remarkable hearing allows the owl to locate a mouse by the rustle of grass.

Great horned owls are nocturnal, doing most hunting in the hours around dusk and before dawn, but they will also hunt in daylight. The owl in this photo was observed guarding a prairie dog in its talons from a hawk’s attempts to steal it away. Unintended poisoning from the ingestion of rodenticides eaten by their prey is a preventable problem for these and for other birds that hunt rodents.

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

988 Lifeline

Whether you’re facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our counselors are here for you.

You are not alone.
988 for help.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Fabric shop roll
- 5 Baby bird sound
- 9 "This is the worst!"
- 14 Early Ron Howard role
- 15 Eclectic online digest
- 16 Platter player, briefly
- 17 Austerity
- 19 Like some colonies
- 20 "Cannon" star William
- 21 2018 Keira Knightley film
- 23 Format, as a disk
- 26 Had an impact on
- 29 Makes happen
- 32 Fencing move
- 33 Equestrian
- 35 South, in France
- 36 Files litigation
- 37 Not a kid anymore
- 38 Bygone time
- 39 Suffix with Peking
- 40 Dinnerware piece
- 41 Kevin who played Hercules
- 42 Under control
- 44 David Blaine specialty
- 46 Cruella de Vil portrayer
- 48 Rid of impurity
- 50 Hasselblad, for one
- 54 Hamilton or Hunt
- 55 Philanderer
- 58 Do some tailoring
- 59 Live anagram
- 60 Airport conveyance
- 61 Like some tree trunks
- 62 Set price

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20								21	22					
				23			24	25						
26	27	28							29				30	31
32						33		34			35			
36					37					38				
39				40						41				
42			43				44		45					
			46				47							
48	49								50			51	52	53
54						55	56	57						
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

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63 "I'm all ____"

DOWN

- 1 Pear type
- 2 Vision: Prefix
- 3 Mortgage
- 4 Boston and Bull
- 5 News channel guest
- 6 Summer, in Paris
- 7 Annapolis grad.
- 8 Peach, in Rome
- 9 Makeup kit item
- 10 Breathe with effort
- 11 Big name in child education
- 12 Med. school class
- 13 Florida State player, familiarly
- 18 Wilson of Heart
- 22 Daily Planet reporter
- 24 ____ firma
- 25 Inane
- 26 Vaulted alcoves
- 27 Infamous soul seller

- 28 Athletes not under contract
- 30 Engine booster
- 31 Nickel finish?
- 34 Fixate (on)
- 37 Secluded valleys
- 38 Half Dome's home
- 40 Fully attended
- 41 Black-eyed ____
- 43 Windmill parts

- 45 Novel setting
- 47 More modern
- 48 Chowder morsel
- 49 Stitch's movie pal
- 51 Pound, of poems
- 52 Stern, at sea
- 53 Kind of dealer
- 56 Eggs in a lab
- 57 "Good Will Hunting" school

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship features opportunities to slow down

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship continues to hold space for a variety of programs that are relative today in a diverse and multi-faceted society. As faith communities are challenged to stay current with fast-moving media and never-ending news cycles, the fellowship offers a place to slow down.

This Sunday, Dec. 14, we will host the Going Deeper Sharing Circle from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

This week, fourth in the series from the "On Being" podcast, we will hear an excerpt with Ocean Vuong.

A poet, novelist, essayist and professor of creative writing in the MFA program at New York University, Vuong is a teacher with words about words and also about bearing witness

to the other side of violence, and the possibility of joy, said Krista Tippet, host of "On Being." This session is about speaking hope into being.

With space for reflection and sharing, we practice the art of listening. This small-group setting is a place to practice not only deep listening, but sharing from our hearts with others, and can lead toward building a beloved community. Light refreshments are offered, and all are invited to join in this open group.

And don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual Winter Solstice Gathering to be held Sunday morning, Dec. 21. The morning will begin with a drum circle and will culminate in festivities and fellowship.

Our Community Hub hosts the weekly Tara Meditation Group Sunday evenings, now meeting at an

earlier time — 4:30 to 6 p.m. Learn more at our website, PagosaUU.org.

This meditation practice is also available online, and with winter weather upon us, we encourage those interested to email us to receive email reminders. Visit the website listed for more information.

The Wise and Wakeful Circle, meeting the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, is open to all individuals who align with the values of respect, peace and authentic connection. These one-hour gatherings offer meditation, inspiration and connection. Check it out this week, and stay tuned for a special program offer that will take place in January. Our monthly newsletter is a great source for on-going group gatherings, which can also be found on our website.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located at Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., near Park Avenue, on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. With all the activities we have in our small space, we invite you to share is this vibrant community holding love at the center.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The Sunday service on Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. will be a fundraiser. Contact (970) 510-0309 for more information.

Upcoming events

- Dec. 24, 7 p.m.: Christmas candlelight Zoom service. Call/text (970) 510-0309 for the Zoom link.
- Dec. 31: Burning Bowl Ceremony and potluck. "Manifesting Your New Chapter in New Life Possibilities" with Shayla Azriel. A love donation will be collected.
- Jan. 11, 2026, 11 a.m.: "Who is Writing Your Life Script?" Welcome a new year, a new chapter and a new part of you. A love donation will be collected.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Liv-

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

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

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

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



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Christmas begins with Christ

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2025
Mass at 5:00 PM at JP II
Mass at 8:00 PM at IHM

Christmas Day - December 25, 2025
Mass at 9:00 AM at JP II

Holy Day - January 1, 2026
9:00 AM at JP II

Pope John Paul II | Immaculate Heart of Mary
353 S. Pagosa Blvd. | 455 Lewis Street

Quitting isn't an option

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

"Grandma, what's you doing?"
"Oh, I'm hitting the books." I recognized the caller ID and my grandson's voice. "I'm studying the Colorado Driver's Handbook. I have an appointment to take the written and driving test. I can't drive without a driver's license."

He laughed, "At 84 years old, my Grandma is going back to school."

Even at my age, I still have something to prove. It sounds ridiculous, but I have to try. I don't want to, but I have to. It would be easy to give up and let someone else drive me around. I am still breathing. There are certain things expected of me. I can't tell people I have given up on life and quit.

"What about you?" I could tell he wanted to talk. He had a lot on his mind. He said he wanted to quit. He had a great year, but he was ready to quit.

I listened. He talked. I reminded him why he was there in the first place. "Stay focused. You're getting a degree. You'll need that piece of paper in your future."

As I talked to him, I was talking to myself. Life isn't always cracked up how we thought it should be. I wanted to hold his hand and console him. But that wasn't going to do anything but frustrate him. I wanted someone to hold my hand and take my driver's test. That wasn't going to happen, either.

I made an appointment for the driver's test in an adjacent town. Since the accident happened over a year ago, I had finally been released by my primary doctor, my physical therapist and my eye doctor. I complied with all the

Artist's Lane

documents and paid the fee required to reinstate my driving privilege in the state of Colorado.

I studied the driver's handbook from cover to cover. I was ready for the test. I'd been driving for 70 years, that should count for something. I had it in the bag, I thought.

I jumped through the hoops, commended myself on knowing almost all of the answers. Eight sides on a stop sign, lights on low beam following a car and entering traffic from the proper lane. I missed one more than allowed. I didn't pass. I paid the amount for another test and new questions, and missed two of the required answers. I didn't pass again.

Yes, I wanted to quit. But quitting isn't an option. The positive side of all this is that I'm not in handcuffs headed for jail.

When I read this newsfeed in my email, it cracked me up. The photo showed a bent-over old woman in handcuffs guarded by five officers. Under the picture, the article read: "An 82-year-old woman was taken into custody yesterday after leading police on a high-speed chase down I-24, reaching speeds of up to 87 mph in her mint-green 2002 Buick LeSabre."

"Officers say the woman, identified as Ethel Mae Connelly, refused to pull over for nearly 15 minutes, instead waving out the window and blasting

Kenny Loggins' Danger Zone.

"She had a fresh perm and zero remorse," said Officer Brent Fields. "I've never seen a turn signal used so aggressively."

Ethel claims she got confused after taking a new medication and mistook the flashing lights for a parade in her honor. No one was injured, but several drivers reported being passed by "a blur of blue hair and orthopedic

■ See Lane on next page

HUD Publisher's Notice



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

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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CHRISTMAS
+ HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Blue Christmas service slated for Dec. 21

Community United Methodist Church

As the winter solstice arrives and the world leans into its longest night, the community is invited to a meaningful Blue Christmas service on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. at Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Offered in collaboration with St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, this gentle, reflective gathering honors the beginning of yule, the turning point of the year when the light slowly begins to return.

For centuries, people across cultures have recognized the solstice as a moment of quiet hope and the assurance that even in the deepest darkness, light is on its way. In the Christian tradition, this natural rhythm mirrors the spiritual promise celebrated at Christmas: the coming of Christ, the Light of the World, entering human darkness with love and hope. The return of the sun and the arrival of the Son both speak to God's presence with us in every season of life, especially the difficult ones.

The Blue Christmas service offers space for those who find this time of year heavy, whether because of grief, illness, stress or simply the weight of a challenging year. While the wider world may be bright with celebration, many people need a quieter place to sit with their emotions, seek comfort and remember that hope still exists.

The service will include soft music, readings, prayers and moments of silence for personal reflection.

All are welcome to this service of compassion and healing, where the community can gather honestly, without expectation, and look toward the returning light, both in nature and in faith.

Lane

■ continued from previous page shoes."

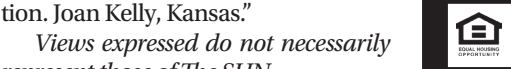
Ethel was released shortly after, reportedly warning officers: "Next time, I'm bringing the Oldsmobile."

Final brushstroke: We can't give up. I just need to buckle down and study the handbook again. If I fail the quiz, I'm warning the officers I'm bringing a faster car.

Send your comment to bettyslade.author@gmail.com

"Good morning. SO blessed by your recent articles in the Sun. It never ceases to amaze me how the clarity, love and boldness of God come forth in your writings! With deepest appreciation. Joan Kelly, Kansas."

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.



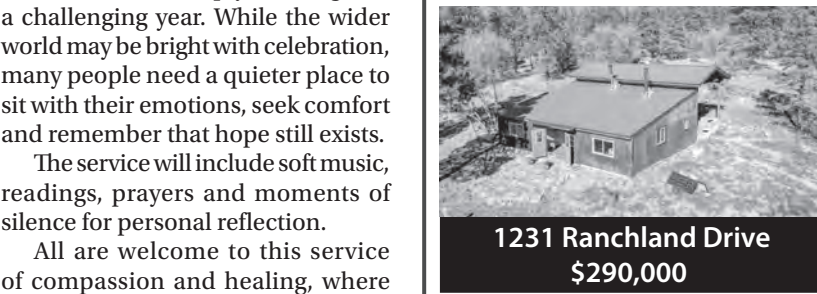
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Price Reduced

Motivated seller - \$20k price drop, home fully furnished (with a few exceptions), newer 600 CF FORCE ATV with plow attachment for winter snow removal, newer John Deere riding mower for maintaining 1.35-acre property. With the right offer, there may be a closing cost allowance to the new buyer. Don't wait! Bring in the New Year sitting on the wrap around deck enjoying your morning beverage and taking in the stunning wintry views. Discover an exceptional single-level home in the prestigious Ranch Community, nestled on a sprawling acre-plus lot. Meticulously crafted with every detail in mind, this residence exudes quality and sophistication. The thoughtful design features three spacious bedrooms and two bathrooms, seamlessly integrated with an open-concept kitchen, dining, and living area—perfect for modern living and entertaining. A dual-sided gas fireplace, connecting the living room and primary suite, creates a warm, inviting ambiance for cool evenings. Step outside to the expansive covered deck, complete with a private hot tub, ideal for relaxing while soaking in breathtaking sunsets. Positioned at the end of a tranquil road, this home offers serenity and convenience, with Lake Pagosa just a short stroll away and a premier golf course nearby. Properties of this caliber are rare—don't miss the opportunity to own this extraordinary retreat. MLS# 826768 <https://pspixeltree.com/240-Glade-Dr>

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property. MLS # 822945

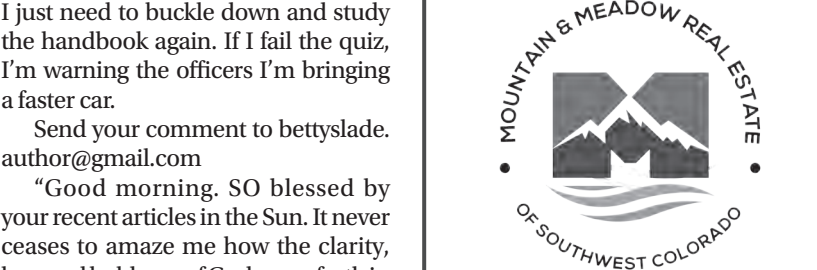
To tour this home go to: <https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagle-Court>



1231 Ranchland Drive \$290,000

MLS #829827

40 Acres qualifying for Forest Service Ag, has had significant fire mitigation done and property taxes are under \$200 per year. Borders Ute Indian Reservation and has multiple flat build areas close to power. Single car garage, 3-room insulated bunkhouse on a foundation with a 1200-gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. Solar panels power the 12-volt bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. Garage accommodates a 22' RV, you can live for 2 years on the property when you are building. Pricing does not include the well on the property because the well does not have potable water. The kitchen has refrigerator, stove and sink. This is a gated community close to the Tara Mandela Buddhist Retreat.



1231 Ranchland Drive \$290,000

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MLS #829827



240 Glade Drive • \$1,055,000

MLS# 826768 <https://pspixeltree.com/240-Glade-Dr>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court \$899,000

MLS #826768 <https://pspixeltree.com/240-Glade-Dr>



470 Terry Robinson Road \$649,000

MLS # 828394

1.7 Acres without a property owners association and great views of Echo Lake and the East Range. 1 bedroom, 1 3/4 baths, an office, a large open loft and unfinished basement with a 2 car garage, 4 carports and RV parking, 3 covered decks, lots of storage and did I say it is only 4 miles from town. The circular driveway is large and the front porch is screened in. Close to shopping and dining and close to paved roads. Please note, the basement square footage has not been included with this listing as the basement is unfinished.



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Shellie Hogue
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ShellieCHogue@gmail.com
www.shelliehogue.com

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, uptown near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Relax on the covered deck or backyard patio while taking in stunning mountain views. Inside, the open floor plan connects the great room with a cozy fireplace to a modern kitchen boasting granite countertops, high end appliances, and an island for extra prep space. The primary bedroom and bathroom are conveniently located on the main floor. A 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms and a full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space for entertainment or an office, plus a fourth bedroom set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby. MLS # 824532

To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>

Escape to your private sanctuary on this lovely 3-acre treed lot, complete with a convenient circular driveway. Nestled in a desirable neighborhood where all properties are at least 3 acres, this home offers unparalleled privacy and a serene setting. Abundant local wild-life provides a daily connection to nature. Step inside from the covered front porch to a spacious kitchen featuring granite counters. Relax in the living room or formal dining room, where large windows frame breathtaking views of the East Range and Square Top. A partially covered deck off the dining room is perfect for enjoying the peaceful outdoors. Despite the quiet surroundings, you are only a quick five-minute drive from town via Highway 84. MLS #828583. <https://pspixeltree.com/120-Big-Horn-Ct>



471 Deer Trail \$339,108

MLS # 826138

Discover your mountain retreat in this 2 bedroom, 1 bath log cabin, in Aspen Springs 1 on well-maintained Deer Trail, just a half-mile from Hwy 160. This 1,205 sq. ft. cabin features a living room, dining area, modern kitchen, and a full bath on the main level, with two bedrooms upstairs. The kitchen boasts new cabinets, countertops, and flooring. A wood stove enhances the cabin's ambiance. The property is equipped with a state-of-the-art water filtration system, including reverse osmosis, water softener, and on-demand hot water, professionally installed.



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Barbara@MountainMeadowRealEstate.com



33 Fawn Court • \$949,000

MLS # 824532



120 Big Horn Court • \$535,000

MLS #828583. <https://pspixeltree.com/120-Big-Horn-Ct>



109 Carol's Curves \$230,000

MLS # 824583

The mobile home portion of this residence is 500 square feet. 1304 square feet is stick built. There is also a small cabin built in 1993, 576 square feet with bath and studio kitchen. The 1.2 acres is partially fenced for dogs and the acreage is all usable. The house has large picture windows with very nice views. There are 3 outbuildings, the septic has been inspected.

Own Your Own Colorado Land!

30 High Drive, MLS # 794628, \$55,900



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Gail Brault
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GailBrault1957@gmail.com

PAGOSA SCENE . . .

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Photos courtesy Pagosa Springs High School National Honor Society
Scene ... having festive fun at Breakfast with Santa. The event's return, hosted by Pagosa Springs High School's National Honor Society, was a huge success. After an absence of six years, these service-oriented students brought the beloved event back to the community.



Healthy Archuleta shares meal, fosters collaboration for a healthier community

Healthy Archuleta

Last weekend, Healthy Archuleta brought together local partners united by a common purpose: strengthening health equity across our community.

Gathered around a dinner table in a local home, guests from diverse cultural backgrounds and professional roles shared food, laughter and openhearted conversation. What began as a meal quickly evolved into a thoughtful exchange about how families can thrive when foundational health needs such as sleep, nutrition and connection are supported.

Special guest Darius Loghmanee, M.D., pediatric sleep medicine physician from Chicago, shared insights from his work helping children and families overcome sleep challenges.

He spoke about the transformative power of rest and how listening to patients' stories, treating the root causes and restoring healthy sleep patterns can give people their lives back.

Even though most of his patients only see him once, the impact is lasting, and the demand for specialists like him continues to grow.

As Loghmanee seeks new ways to reach community members with clear and trustworthy educational materials, attendees offered creative ideas, from tapping into trusted community networks to innovative tools like podcasts that can break isolation and spread knowledge.

Conversations also acknowledged real barriers: fear of judgment, cultural differences in how families handle health concerns and the weight of responsibility community facilitators/navigators may feel.

The discussion was rich, honest and motivated by a shared belief that residents deserve accurate information and compassionate support.

Whether expanding peer-to-peer



Photo courtesy Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta brings together partners to share food, laughter and conversation around strengthening health equity across the community. The group was joined by special guest Dr. Darius Loghmanee, a pediatric sleep medicine physician.

education or creating welcoming spaces for families to seek guidance, participants imagined new pathways that honor both expertise and lived experience.

The evening closed with a light-hearted sharing of delicious treats, filling the room with joy, gratitude, and a renewed sense of connection. It was a reminder of what is possible when people sit down together, listen deeply and explore how to build a healthier future side by side.

Healthy Archuleta is proud to help foster these moments of collaboration, where community champions reflect on their efforts, learn from one another and imagine solutions that strengthen the well-being of every family in Archuleta County.

To learn more about Healthy

Archuleta, please visit our website at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

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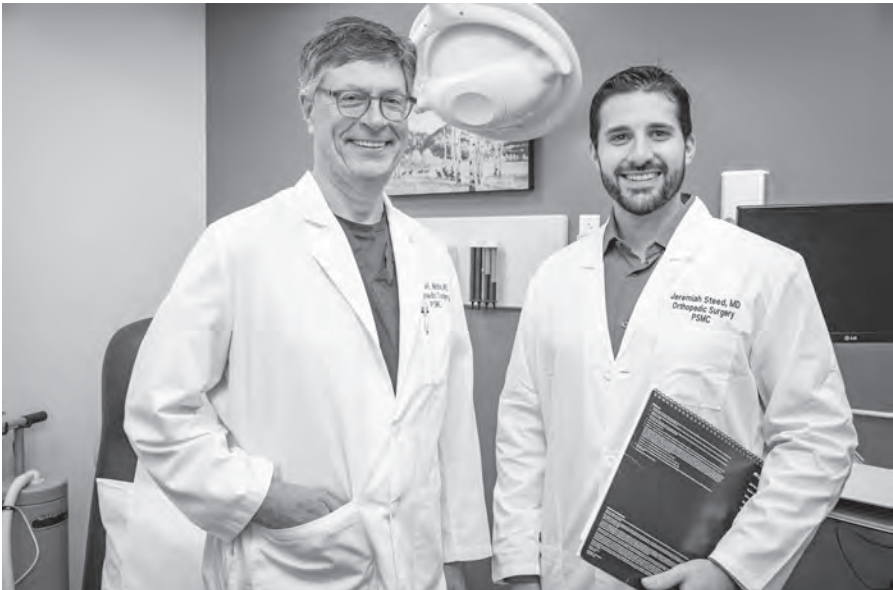
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NOTICE OF Planning Commission Vacancy

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking applications from Town residents interested in serving as a regular or alternate member of the Planning Commission. This position is appointed by the Town Council and plays an important role in reviewing development proposals and guiding the future growth of our community.

Planning Commission members serve a four-year term and generally meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Additional meetings or work sessions may be scheduled for specific planning and development topics. Interested individuals must be a Town resident.

If you are committed to community service and interested in helping shape the future of Pagosa Springs, we encourage you to apply.

For more information, member qualifications, and applications to serve, visit www.mypagosa.org or contact oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov or 970-585-8610.

Holiday lights

Entrants for the 2025 Pagosa Springs Area Holiday Lighting contest have been announced, with participants turning on their lights for viewing every evening from 6 to 8 p.m. between Nov. 28 and the end of the year.

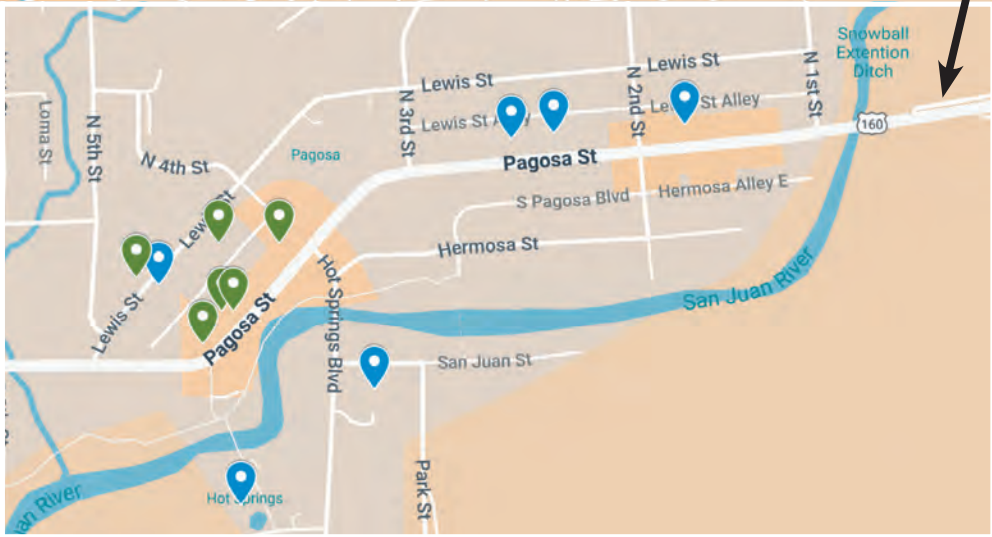
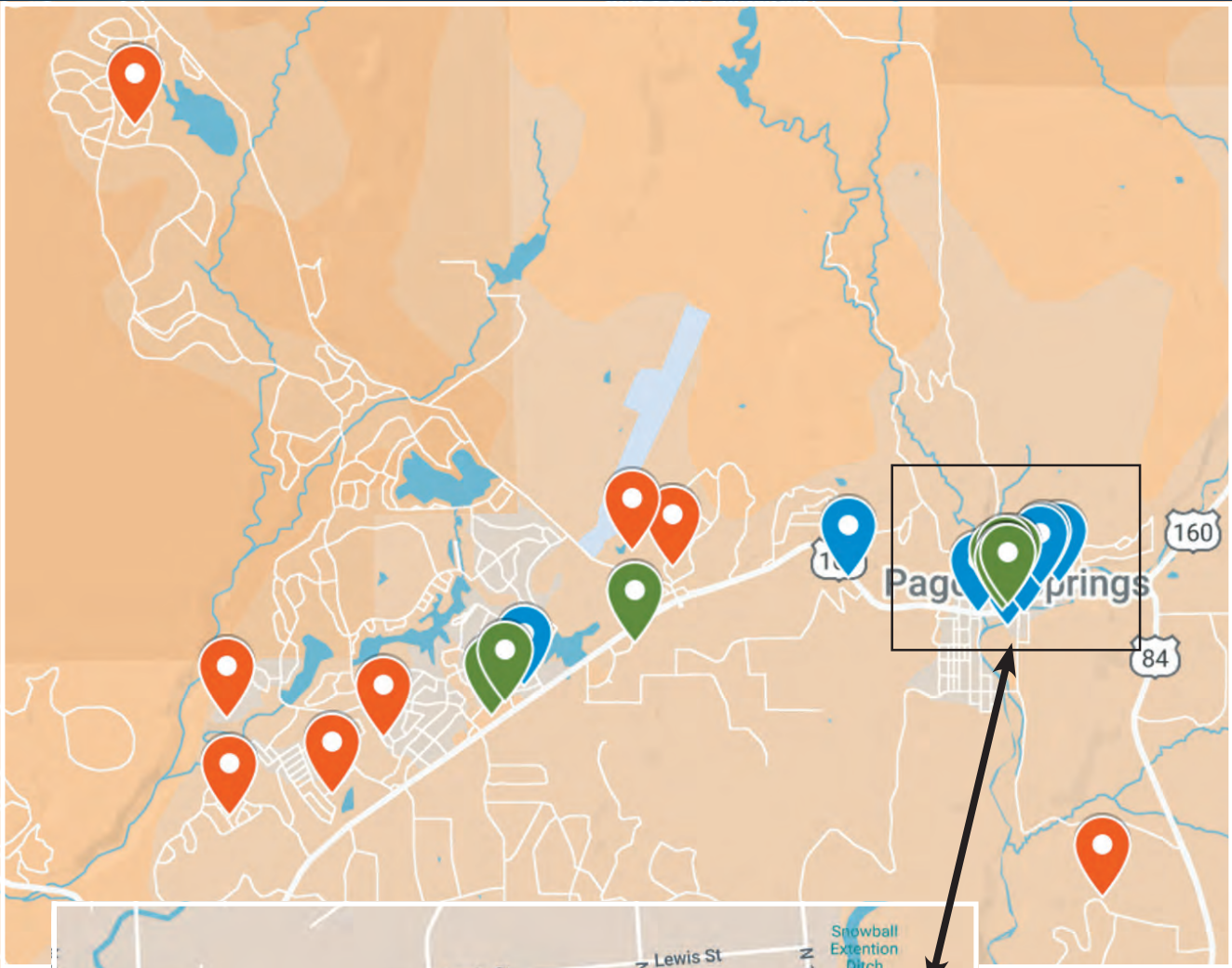
Vote for your favorite between Nov. 28 and Dec. 17.

Contest winners will be announced in The Pagosa Springs SUN on Dec. 25.

Residential
633 Harvard Ave.
506 Morro Circle
150 Lassen Drive
230 Port Ave.
117 Oren Road
601 Stevens Circle
585 Shenandoah Drive
99 Woodridge Circle
144 Wildwood Drive

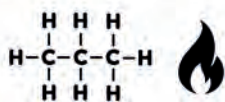
Business
The Springs Resort - 165 Hot Springs Blvd.
Pagosa Mountain Sports - 162 Pagosa St.
Rainbow Gift Shop - 611 San Juan St.
Healing Waters Resort & Spa - 140 Hot Springs Blvd.
Club Wyndham Pagosa Springs - 538 Village Drive
Pagosa Craft - 127 Goldmine Drive
PS Froyo - 459 Lewis St.
Pagosa Baking Company - 238 Pagosa St.
PJ's Fine Bamboo Rods - 262 Pagosa St., Unit 103

Storefront window
Goodman's Dept. Store - 402 Pagosa St.
Two Old Crows - 468 Lewis St.
Community United Methodist Thrift Store - 427 Lewis St.
San Juan Lifestyle - 452 Pagosa St.
Chow Down Pet Supplies - 100 Country Center Drive, A/B
Bliss Scoops & Sweets - 470 Pagosa St.
Happy Trails Ladies Boutique - 454 Pagosa St.
Uncle's Bar & Social Club - 56 Talisman Drive, Unit 8C
Alpine Appliance - 2800 Cornerstone Drive, Suite A1



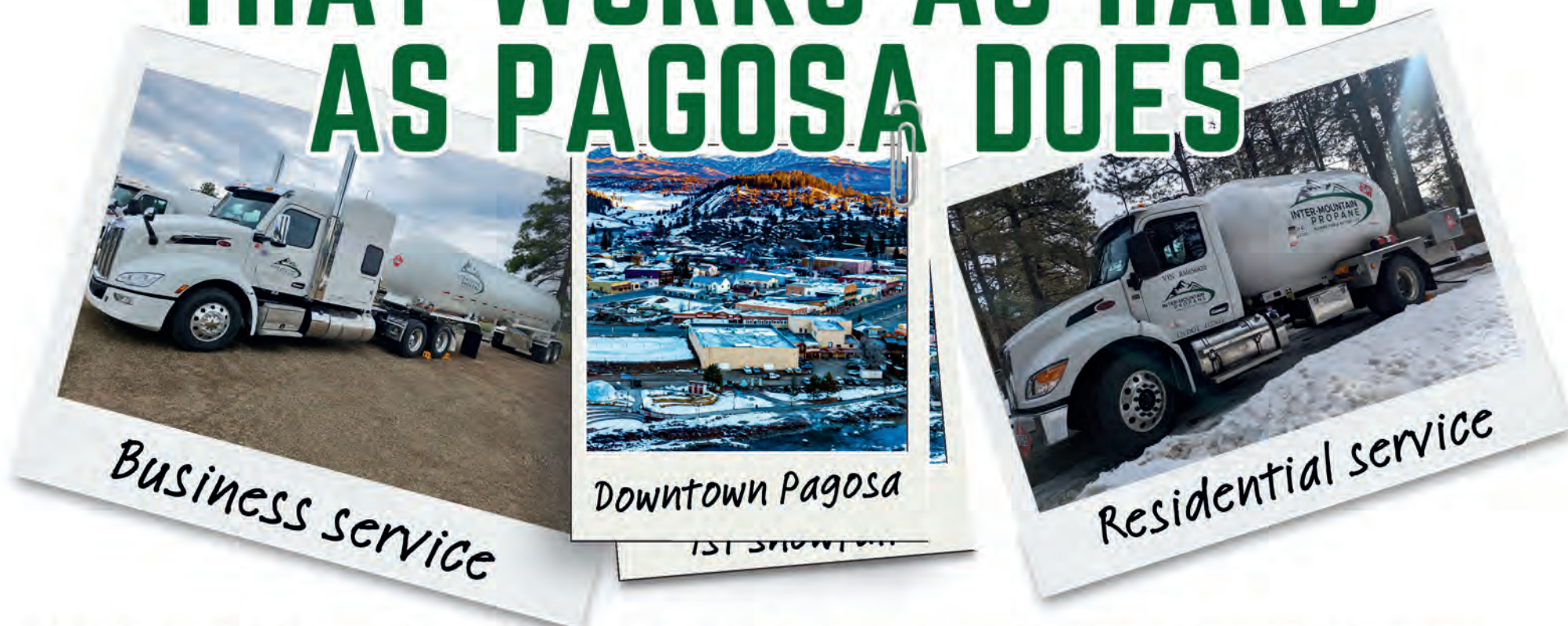
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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**



Enjoy over 20 Christmas-themed displays and activities, a hot air balloon glow, live music, free hot chocolate and cider, games, other goodies. And, of course, Santa Claus! Plan to arrive before 5pm to see the fun way that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving to the event this year!

Kick off the event by stopping by the visitor center entrance table to get your 2025 Pagosa Springs Ornament. We strongly recommend parking at the Springs Expansion lot on Hot Springs Blvd for this year's event, given road closures and downtown parking restrictions.

Please join us for a fun and festive evening to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season.

Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Dec. 11

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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

Friday, Dec. 12

Notary Drop-in. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be notarized with proper identification.

Winter Reading Challenge Launch

Party. 2-6 p.m., Sisson Library. Drop in any time for cookies, hot drinks and seasonal activities. Get started with the Winter Reading Challenge.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Christmas Carol.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Presents 'We Need a Little Christmas.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Hear Christmas favorites.

Saturday, Dec. 13

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.

Pi Beta Phi Christmas Angel Lunch. 11:30 a.m., home of Carole Howard. A lunch for San Juan Alumnae Club members. Bring an anonymous wrapped angel gift to exchange and a monetary contribution to Healthy Archuleta for its holiday food drive.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 12:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs. Salida.

Knitters Circle. 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs vs.

Salida.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Christmas Carol.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Presents 'We Need a Little Christmas.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Hear Christmas favorites.

Sunday, Dec. 14

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Christmas Carol.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Presents 'We Need a Little Christmas.' 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Hear Christmas favorites.

Monday, Dec. 15

Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. Tami Graham from KSUT will speak. Please come by 11:30 a.m. to order lunch. The speaker will present at noon. For more information, email lynnfrederick1@gmail.com.

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

American Sign Language Class. 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church,

■ See Calendar on next page



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EARLY DEADLINES

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, December 25

This edition will be distributed Wednesday, December 24

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 19

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Monday, December 22

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Friday, December 19

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Thursday, December 25, in observance of Christmas.

for The Pagosa Springs SUN issue of
Thursday, January 1, 2026

This edition will be distributed Wednesday, December 31

Display Advertising
Noon, Friday, December 26

Classified Advertising
10 a.m., Monday, December 29

Legal Advertising, Articles & Letters
Noon, Friday, December 26

The Pagosa Springs SUN office will be closed
Thursday, January 1, 2026, in observance of New Year's.

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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.

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

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.

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

Tween Baddie Buddies Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. For ages 11-14. Snacks will be provided.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. 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, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For all ages. Take a moment to visit with certified therapy dog Mia.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

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

Notary Drop-in. 3-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be

notarized with proper identification.
Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Christmas Concert. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Performances by Thingamajig Theater Company's winter company and a festive appearance by the Thingamajig Teen Program. Tickets and concert information are available at pagosacenter.org or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Thursday, Dec. 18

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

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Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Christmas Carol.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Friday, Dec. 19

Notary Drop-in. 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be notarized with proper identification.

Bingo. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Christmas Carol.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Saturday, Dec. 20

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.

Fifth Annual Old-Fashioned Christmas. 5-7 p.m., downtown. Take a walking tour along the Riverwalk for a fun and festive evening. Celebrate the holiday season with live music, hot chocolate, treats, holiday displays, Santa Claus and more.

Thingamajig Theatre Company

■ See Calendar on next page

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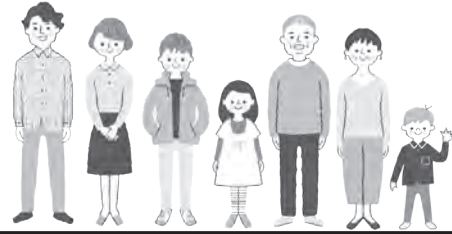
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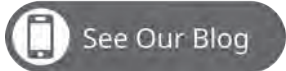
ARCHULETA COUNTY
Public Health
DEPARTMENT



December's Educational information is

How to prepare your home for winter.

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helpful information on winterizing and protecting your home for winter.



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Archuleta County continues vital support for local seniors

By **Ricardo Martinez**
PREVIEW Columnist

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) extends its heartfelt gratitude to Archuleta County and the Board of County Commissioners for their steadfast commitment to supporting the well-being of older adults in our community.

Your decision to maintain ASI's funding for the upcoming year demonstrates a clear recognition of the vital role our programs play in the daily lives of local seniors. At a time when many organizations are facing reductions, your continued support ensures that we can remain a reliable resource for nutrition services, social programming and essential outreach.

By choosing not to reduce our funding, the county has helped safeguard the core operations that hundreds of seniors depend on each year.

These funds allow us to keep our doors open, maintain high-quality services and continue expanding programs that promote independence, connection and dignity for older adults across Archuleta County.

We are deeply appreciative of the county's partnership and dedication to strengthening the safety net for our senior community.

Match campaign

We depend on donations as part of our funding to provide our programs and 20,000 lunches a year, including the home-bound using Meals on Wheels. Our other sources of funding are not enough.

You can make a difference. An ASI supporter will donate up to \$5,000 if matched between now and Dec. 31. Your donation of \$10 becomes \$20, \$20 becomes \$40, \$50 becomes \$100, or whatever amount you give will be doubled in value.

You can donate to the matching campaign in multiple ways:

- Call ASI at (970) 264-2167 or stop in and use your credit card, saying it's for the matching campaign. We are located at 451 Hot Springs Blvd.,

Senior News

in the Ross Aragon Community Center (the riverside entrance at the portico).

- You can send a check to ASI, P.O. Box 3444, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, with "Match" on the memo line.

- Or, use this link: <https://www.coloradogives.org/organization/ArchuletaSeniors>.

Holiday seniors' lunch party

Monday, Dec. 22, will be a special seniors' lunch with turkey and all the trimmings, music and games from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Make your lunch reservation ahead of time or before 9 a.m. that morning.

Holiday closures

ASI will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 26, and Jan. 1 and 2. No programs or lunch service will be provided on those days.

Pagosa Puzzle Palooza

You're invited to enter the Pagosa Puzzle Palooza, a team jigsaw puzzle contest benefiting ASI and our local senior meal programs.

It will be held on Jan. 24, 2026, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center (Ross Aragon Community Center), 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Check-in will be at noon, competition will be from 1 to 4 p.m., and awards will be from 4 to 5 p.m.

The team (two to four people) entry fee is \$40 per team.

Forms are available at givebutter.com/PagosaPuzzlePalooza26, or stop in the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. You can return the forms by email or drop off at the office.

Get your friends, families, businesses, organizations, churches and community groups to form a team and compete in Pagosa's first local

puzzle competition. Teams will race to complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle — but speed isn't the only way to win.

Each team will also rally support by gathering sponsorships and donations, with every dollar raised going directly to support our Senior Center and the Meals on Wheels Program that nourishes local elders year-round.

Create an original team name, and complete and submit your team registration form. Fundraise — reach out to friends, family or community members to sponsor your team with a donation of support.

Want to join but don't have a team? Call the ASI office to leave your name and phone number and ASI will see if there are other participants who may want to create a team.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn takes place on Mondays at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Salmonsohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we

■ See Senior on next page

Merry Christmas



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
Presents 'A Christmas Carol.' 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Sunday, Dec. 21

Heralds of Christmas. 3 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Presented by the Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society.

Thingamajig Theatre Company Presents 'A Christmas Carol.' 3 p.m., Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2313 Eagle Drive. For tickets and more information, visit pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

explore our well-being and shared experiences.

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

Snacks will be provided.

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

Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

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

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

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

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

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

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

Bridge

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

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

Hand and foot card game

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

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

No experience is necessary, so

come willing to learn.

Emotional freedom

On the second Wednesday of the month, join the "Tappers," who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Come learn the technique on the second Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Senior Center. Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

Mindful drawing

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

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. There is no class on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

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

Ruby's Writers Guild

The Ruby's Writers Guild now meets on Thursdays from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The Guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. It supports writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join the group.

Tai chi chih

There will be no tai chi classes in December. It will resume Jan. 8, 2026.

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

Bingo

The Senior Center will host bingo once in December on Dec. 19 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking

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

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and

old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

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

request an adult chaperone accompany them.

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

■ See Senior on next page



WHY IS SLEEP SO IMPORTANT? (Part 1)

Nike's "Just Do It" campaign has proven to be one of the most effective campaigns in advertising history.

The side effect of this campaign, however, may be that we have become high-octane, stressed out, over-achievers who know how to get it done ... except when it comes to getting sufficient rest.

Today's excerpt will, hopefully, help you find balance. According to a survey by the National Sleep Foundation (NSF), over two-thirds of women associate their sleep problems with stress. Yet, when pressed for time, over half of the women polled said that sleep is the first thing they give up.

Unfortunately, this is an all too common example of the short term gain, long term pain philosophy that is becoming more and more common in our over-scheduled lives.

Stress leads to a loss of sleep and a loss of sleep leads to an increase in stress, which can become a vicious cycle.

Sleep is a basic human need, and when we don't get enough of it, just about every aspect of our functioning is affected. We move slower. We're less productive. We're more irritable. We make poor decisions. We forget things. And all of these problems are exacerbated as we lose more and more sleep.

Excessive sleep loss has been linked to mood disorders, heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, substance abuse, obesity, impaired judgment, reckless behavior, and increased accidents at home, work, and on the road.

In fact, in the most severe cases of sleep deprivation, hallucinations and paranoid delusions can develop. The worst case scenario is death. (continued next week)

The point is ... if something has to get bumped from your to-do list, the last thing it should be is sleep.

Source: "Nature Has Charms That Can Reduce Stress". By Kathleen Doheny <http://articles.latimes.com>

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

"It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep." Psalm 127:2

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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Senior

■ continued from previous page

Share lunch Monday through Friday

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

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 9 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab ‘N’ Go.

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

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

Community Cafe menu

Call before 9 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, Dec. 11 — Roast beef with mushroom gravy, broccoli hollandaise, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, Dec. 12 — Pork tenderloin with harvest chutney, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, blueberry crisp and milk.

Monday, Dec. 15 — Greek spinach and feta pie, orzo salad, garden salad, fruit, strawberry angel cake, and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 16 — Philly cheesesteak with peppers, onions and cheese on hoagie roll; yuca fries; garden salad; fruit; chocolate cake; and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 17 — Chicken enchilada casserole, yellow squash casserole, garden salad, fruit, Key lime pie and milk.

Thursday, Dec. 18 — Tuna salad on greens, potato salad, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Friday, Dec. 19 — Pork tortilla soup with cotija cheese, tortilla strips, garden salad, fruit, brownie and milk.

Meals on Wheels

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

Text reservations

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

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

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

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

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

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By

appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

For more information about ASI, please visit www.psseniors.org.

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Winter Reading Challenge will begin Dec. 15

By Taylor Worsham
PREVIEW Columnist

What's better than holiday time to read? How about winning prizes for reading?

The Ruby Sisson Library is launching a fun new reading contest that earns you badges and tickets to enter for a grand prize at every age level. Use our new Beanstack app or Beanstack on the web to track your reading, write book reviews, participate in library reading challenges and get rewards.

How does tracking work?

Beanstack acts like a FitBit in that you can log your reading by books, minutes, pages and days. You can also track activities within challenges.

Beanstack motivates consistent reading habits with streaks and achievements. Each consecutive day logged adds a day to your reading streak. When you hit major reading milestones, like logging your first book or maintaining a lengthy reading streak, Beanstack will reward you with an achievement.

How do challenges work?

The Ruby Sisson Memorial Library will host challenges to engage readers of all ages.

See our current challenges on our Beanstack website: pagosalibrary.beanstack.com.

Digital badges are rewarded for completing challenges and help to further motivate your reading. Physical prizes can also be earned for some challenges.

The Ruby Sisson Library will be hosting the Winter Reading Challenge from Dec. 15 until Jan. 15, 2026, and hopes to meet our community goal to collectively read 25,000 minutes.

We are encouraging readers of all ages to cozy up with a good book, log what you read and earn rewards along the way.

How do I sign up?

Now that you know how Beanstack works, it's time to sign up. Follow the steps below to get started today:

- On the web: Go to our Beanstack website: pagosalibrary.beanstack.com. Click on "Register an Individual or Family." Fill in your info. Beanstack allows families to be linked together, so all family members can be accessed with one login.

- On the app: Go to your device's app store and search "Beanstack Tracker." Search for "Upper San Juan Library District." Click on your library. Follow the steps to register an individual or family.

- At your library: Visit us any time during open hours to receive registration help from library staff. Log your progress with a librarian any time you visit the library.

So let's read, Pagosa. We know you can beat the 25,000 minute goal we've set.

Ready, set, go.

Library News

Construction update

Roof framing is complete, right on schedule with a temporary membrane to keep the snow and rain at bay. We have plumbing, and electrical and HVAC installations are underway. We're ahead of schedule. Follow us on Facebook for periodic pictures of progress.

Your donations go a long way toward making this new library exceptional. Please donate to the library this holiday season and make a long lasting positive impact on generations to come.

Meet us out in the community

Now that we have much less space for our operations and no meeting rooms during construction, several of our regular activities and special events are happening in other locations.

Please check the listings in this column and on your library's website, <https://pagosalibrary.org>, for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

Activities calendars

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

Online author talks

Our free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in January for you to watch live on Zoom or via a recording later in the month.

For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

January's lineup is superb, with David Brooks discussing his recent book, "How to Know a Person," on Jan. 13, 2026, and Liz Moore presenting on her bestseller, "The God of the Woods," on Jan. 28, 2026.

Conversational Spanish

The Conversational Spanish group will meet one more time this month on Dec. 29 from 4 to 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish in a free, friendly group setting. No minimum skill level is needed.

Family storytime

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

Elementary school tutoring

Free after-school tutoring is taking a winter break the month of December.

Tutoring is for first through third grades takes place on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration

■ See Library on next page

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Kids in the kitchen: a recipe for lifelong health

By Nicole Clark and Cindi Galabota
PREVIEW Columnists

Planning and preparing food are usually a parent’s job. Imagine how nice it would be to have help in the kitchen while helping your child become more self-sufficient in the process.

For a parent of young kids, this seems like a dream. Cooking uses knives and stoves, so it will be a while before your kids can help in the kitchen, right? Not necessarily. With a little patience and guidance, there are many age-appropriate food preparation activities for kids.

When kids help to prepare food

- They increase the variety of foods in their diet, including fruits and vegetables.
- Children learn and improve quickly and this builds confidence in the kitchen.
- Their skills and healthy habits follow them into adulthood.
- Family connections are created.

Teens who feel a sense of connection do better in school, have better emotional regulation and are less likely to engage in risky behavior. Before long, your little one will be a teenager, too.

How to successfully engage kids in the kitchen

1. Expect it to take longer and be messier than usual. Have patience and set the expectation that clean-up is part of the process.
2. Involve kids in recipe selection using images of the food; adjust ingredients for food preferences.
3. Choose an appropriate task

Library

■ continued from previous page
is required because of limited space, so call your library now at (970) 264-2209 to enroll your child. Sign up now to join us in January.

This invaluable tutoring involves one-on-one and small-group help for math, literacy, writing and spelling.

Note that because of construction at the library these sessions will take place at the elementary school.

Writers Guild

Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., Ruby’s Writers Guild welcomes writers looking for support, guidance, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

During construction the group will meet at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Enter through the left side of the building.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets and also provides assistance in accessing the library’s online resources. No appointment is needed, but

Extension Viewpoints

based on age or current skill:

- Ages 2-3: Mix, mash, tear, scoop and stir.
- Ages 3-5: Crack eggs, fill dishwasher and pour premeasured ingredients.
- Ages 5-7: Keep practicing. Your child is developing fine motor skills essential to food preparation.
- Ages 7-9: Open cans, peel, supervised knife handling and use food thermometers.
- Age 9-12: Cook with stove, oven, or microwave and follow recipes (Bonus: your kids are using math skills.).

As a role model for a young chef in the making, practice using “tell, show, do.” To prepare yourself, read the recipe in advance and have your ingredients and kitchen tools ready to use.

Guacamole with a twist

- Ingredients:
- 1/2 cup canned white beans, drained and rinsed — ages 9 and older with supervision
 - 2 ripe avocados
 - 1-2 tablespoons of lime juice (about 1/2 of a lime) — ages 5 and up
 - 1 teaspoon ground cumin — ages 5 and up
 - 1/2-1 teaspoon of salt — ages 5 and up
 - 1/4 cup diced tomatoes — fresh or canned, drain if using canned (optional) — ages 9 and older with supervision

please bring your device’s charger and passwords with you.

English as a second language classes

Free in-person evening classes happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. for students of all levels at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Please help us pass the word about these classes.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

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

New and notable

Elmore Leonard “Picket Line”; Louise Penny “The Black Wolf”; Nelson DeMille “The Tin Men”; Patricia Cornwell “Sharp Force”; Phillipa Gregory “Boleyn Traitor”; Mitch Albom “Twice”; and Richard Osman “The Impossible Fortune.”

Chips or veggies for serving (optional)

- Equipment:
- Cutting board
 - Medium-sized knife
 - Medium-sized bowl
 - Masher or fork
 - Spoon
 - Measuring spoons
- Instructions:

1. Wash lids of cans with soap and water (beans and tomatoes) — all ages.
2. Wash food contact surfaces with soap and water — all ages.
3. Wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds — all ages.
4. Wash avocado with clean water — all ages.
5. Using the bear claw technique, cut avocado in half and remove seed — ages 9 and older with parental supervision.
6. Put beans in a bowl and mash with a fork or masher — all ages.
7. Use a spoon to scoop avocado from skin and put into bowl with beans — all ages.
8. Mash beans and avocado until well mixed — all ages, taste using a clean spoon.
9. Mix in lime juice, salt and cumin until incorporated — all ages, taste using a clean spoon. Ask: “What do you think of the added seasoning?”

■ See Viewpoints on next page



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Pagosa therapeutics

Coloring fun

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



Viewpoints

■ continued from previous page

10. Add optional tomatoes and gently stir in — all ages.

11. Serve and enjoy — all ages.

For more information, ideas and recipes, visit the Colorado State University Food Smart website at foodsmartcolorado.colostate.edu.

Leave a can, take a can

The CSU Extension office has set up a food pantry shelf at the entrance to our building. If you feel so inclined, you may leave nonperishable items on the shelf. If you are in need, feel free to stop by and take what your family can use.

4-H open enrollment

4-H open enrollment closes on Monday, Dec. 15. All 4-H youth members must enroll by this date. A \$20 late fee is applied for every child after this date.

The purpose of 4-H is to build life skills, such as communication, leadership, and community awareness through real-life situations.

For more information, contact

Becky Jacobson at becky.jacobson@colostate.edu.

Join the Archuleta County Fair Board

Join the Archuleta County Fair Board and make history. Be a part of preserving the rich heritage and timeless tradition of the Archuleta County Fair and help plan the 75th anniversary fair in 2026.

You'll contribute to an annual tradition that brings our community together, supports local agriculture and creates last memories for generations to come.

To learn more, contact Tonya Steadmon at tsteadmon@archuleta-county.gov.

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 recer-

tification. Call the Extension office at (970) 264-5931 to register.

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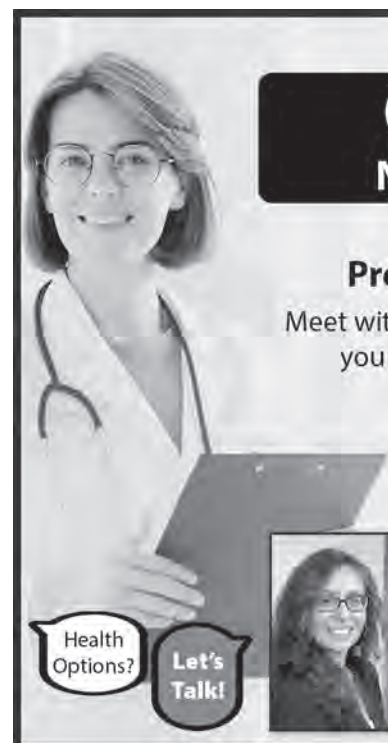
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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mond: (970)264-1073. Ann: (303)918-8137.
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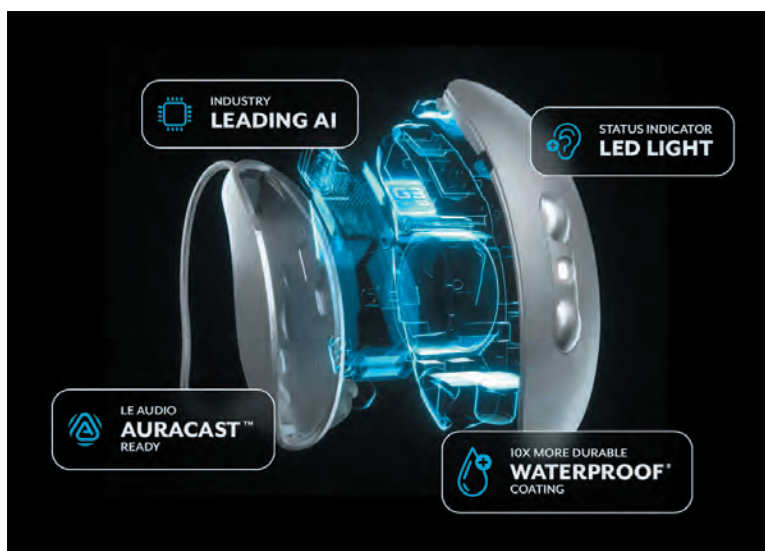
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