



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147      www.PagosaSUN.com      VOLUME 118 — NO. 13, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

# Old Fashioned Christmas



The spirit of the season is on display at the fifth annual Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration in downtown Pagosa Springs on Saturday, Dec. 20.

SUN photos/Randi Pierce

## FEMA denies assistance for flooding aftermath

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Dec. 20, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied Colorado's two disaster requests, including the one for the flooding that occurred in southwest Colorado in October. The other request was for support following the Elk and Lee fires in Rio Blanco County. The following day, Dec. 21, Gov. Jared Polis and Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper announced

appeals would be filed soon after the "late Saturday night" denial and called on President Donald Trump to reverse the decision. Regarding the flooding in Archuleta, La Plata and Hinsdale counties, the denial letter states: "This is in response to your November 12, 2025, request for a major disaster declaration for the State of Colorado as a result of severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides during the period of October 10-14, 2025. You specifically requested Pub- ■ See FEMA A6

## Medical center board hears about tax revenue, sustainability

By Randi Pierce  
Staff Writer

At its Dec. 16 meeting, the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors, which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), heard a report about PSMC's tax revenue and sustainability. The presentation, which focused primarily on the Colorado Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or TABOR, was given by

PSMC Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese. TABOR limits the amount of revenue governments can retain and spend, with that amount based on the prior's year revenue or limit, plus inflation and population growth. It also limits spending and borrowing. Those limits can be amended if voters approve revenue changes, ■ See Revenue A7

## County discusses floodplain regulations and enforcement

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Archuleta County Planning Manager Melissa Ryan recently provided the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) with some updates following the October flooding and discussing a situation with a constituent altering the river along the Lower Blanco. During a work session held on Dec. 4, Ryan explained that her role

as planning manager also entails being the county's floodplain manager, and she is responsible for performing damage assessments. Ryan noted that her department has regulatory oversight in making sure that all the work done in floodplain zones meets the county's standards in its land use regulations (LURs), which match state and federal regulations. ■ See Floodplain A8

## Christmas rain, snow forecast for Pagosa Country

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

Precipitation is still expected to move through Pagosa Country from Wednesday, Dec. 24, through Sunday, Dec. 28, with forecasts predicting a rain/snow mix at lower elevations and heavier snow accumulations in the mountains. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), the high in Pagosa

Springs for Dec. 23 is forecast at 52 degrees with a chance of rain and snow showers before 7 a.m., a slight chance of snow showers between 7 and 8 a.m., then to a chance of rain showers after 8 a.m. A calm southwest wind of 5 mph is also expected with a total chance of precipitation listed at 30 percent. Rain and snow showers are expected into the night with a chance ■ See Forecast A8

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# Opinion

## The Pagosa Springs SUN

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### SUN STAFF

#### Owner, CEO

Jim O'Rourke

#### Publisher, Advertising, Circulation

Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com

#### Editor

Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com

#### Reporters

Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com  
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com  
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com

#### Classified Advertising/Front Office

classads@pagosasun.com

#### Head Pressroom Robert Penton

Assistant Press Operator Matt McKinnon  
Mailroom William Thomas

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## Weather data

| Date  | High | Low | Precipitation | Moisture | Type | Depth |
|-------|------|-----|---------------|----------|------|-------|
| 12/16 | 52   | 18  | 0.00          | NA       | NA   | NA    |
| 12/17 | 50   | 20  | 0.00          | NA       | NA   | NA    |
| 12/18 | 51   | 22  | 0.00          | NA       | NA   | NA    |
| 12/19 | 53   | 20  | 0.00          | NA       | NA   | NA    |
| 12/20 | 53   | 21  | 0.00          | NA       | NA   | NA    |
| 12/21 | 52   | 25  | 0.00          | NA       | NA   | NA    |
| 12/22 | 58   | 24  | 0.00          | NA       | NA   | NA    |

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## OUR VIEW

# Merry Christmas

Despite the fact we've spent the last several weeks dreaming of a white Christmas like the ones we used to know without much luck, the Christmas spirit is in the air, and we're hopeful we'll kick off the new year with a little more festive outdoor conditions.

The stockings are hung, the smell of baking cookies will fill the air in our house as soon as this issue is off the press, and we're looking forward to spending time with family and friends, playing games and making memories.

The Christmas feeling was in the air last week as folks watched the Pagosa Springs Dance Academy's "The Storybook Nutcracker," Thingamajig Theatre Company's "A Christmas Carol" and other holiday productions, shopped, took to the snow at Wolf Creek Ski Area and strolled along the Riverwalk during the Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration.

It's been a lovely holiday season where we've seen a lot of generosity, giving,

decorations and folks who want the best for others.

We love the spirit of the season, and it's something we strive to keep up throughout the year (we fully admit some days we're better at that than others).

While the plates of cookies and other facets aren't recommended for our health year-round, generosity and kindness are.

We know part of the reason we've seen the generosity this holiday season is because so many found themselves in a tough position this season — financially, dealing with the loss of a loved one, worrying about health insurance in the new year or for any number of other reasons.

It's important to realize that, many times, those difficulties won't magically be gone by the time we hold the community WinterFest bonfire with the dried-out Christmas trees in January, and we need to ensure our generosity and kindness don't dry up.

It also means not compounding the

problems.

We fully recommend setting out one evening to check out the holiday lighting contest entries and choose your favorites (voting is open through Christmas Day on the Visit Pagosa app).

But, when you set out, please don't make it a difficult holiday season for more by choosing to drink or partake of other substances that impair you before getting behind the wheel.

Our community lost too many to preventable causes and saw too many convictions for impaired driving this year. We don't need to end the year with more heartbreaking news and more suffering.

Please also make sure you drive safely if we do see winter-like weather down in the valley (we can hope), and, either way, enjoy the beauty.

From our family to yours, Merry Christmas. We hope you continue to have a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Randi Pierce

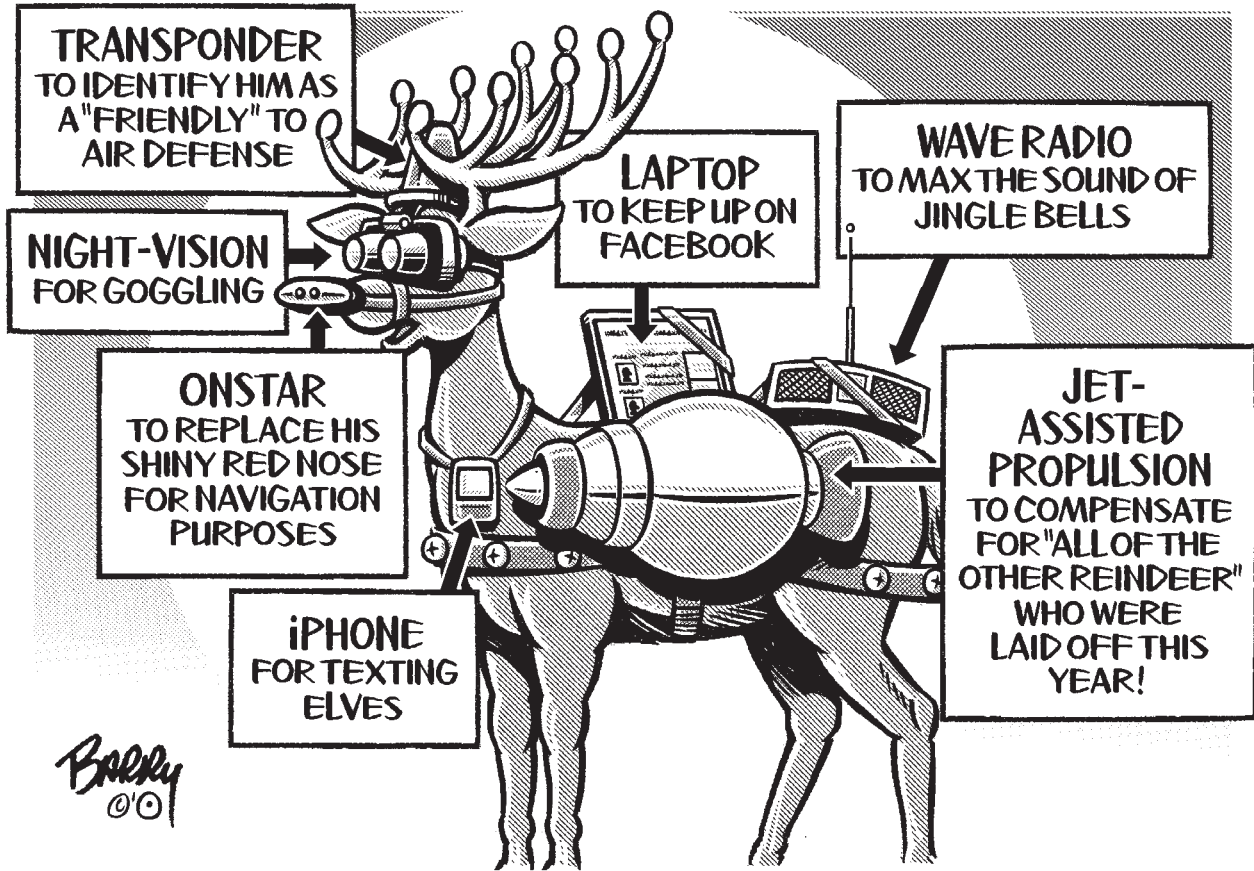
## LOOKING BACK



From the Dec. 24, 1992, Pagosa SUN — Holiday Rush — The Christmas rush is on at the Pagosa Springs Post Office. USPS employees had a mountain of letters and parcels to send out, and to deliver to local customers Tuesday as the holiday mail flow hit its peak.

| Archuleta County Commissioners                                                 |                                                             |                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Veronica Medina, Chair<br>veronica.medina@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8305 | John Ranson<br>jranson@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8307 | Warren Brown<br>warren.brown@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8304 |
| Pagosa Springs Town Council                                                    |                                                             |                                                                   |
| Pagosa Springs Mayor Shari Pierce spierce@pagosasprings.co.gov                 |                                                             |                                                                   |
| Matt DeGuisse<br>mdeguire@pagosasprings.co.gov                                 | Mat deGraaf<br>mdegraaf@pagosasprings.co.gov                | Leonard Martinez<br>lmartinez@pagosasprings.co.gov                |
| Madeline Bergon<br>mbergon@pagosasprings.co.gov                                | Brooks Lindner<br>blindner@pagosasprings.co.gov             | Gary Williams<br>gwilliams@pagosasprings.co.gov                   |

## UPGRADES FOR RUDOLPH THIS CHRISTMAS:



## LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

## 100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 25, 1925

**Pagosa Springs and Archuleta county** are this year experiencing the novelty of a Christmas with no snow but rather considerable dust. Santa Claus and his reindeer are finding "poor sledding" this year.

**Doll Pargin** drove over from his Piedra ranch this morning in his new Buick Master-Six sedan. Mr. Pargin has just returned from Denver where he marketed 4 carloads of fat cows and yearling heifers on last Wednesday.

The Pargin heifers topped the Denver market for this season, selling for \$7.75 each and averaging 781 pounds. Their cows were very large and in excellent shape. They averaged 1126 pounds, some weight for cows. The cows brought \$6.75.

Pargin Brothers have a reputation for raising fine cattle and the shipment last week was said to be the finest bunch of grass fed stock that has been on the Denver market for years. The entire shipment was bought by Swift and Company for their Christmas trade.

This afternoon Mr. Pargin went to the Fort Lewis school to take his two sons, who are attending that institution, home for the holidays.

## 75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 29, 1950

**Private Joe Gallegos**, son of Mrs. Sarah Gallegos of Pagosa Springs was home on a five day furlough during Christmas.

**Paul Day**, now in San Francisco, called his parents Christmas Eve. He said he had eaten Xmas dinner with friends and spent a pleasant afternoon in their home. He said he would not get to come home now. Mrs. Day said this call from their son was the best present they received.

**County Clerk and Recorder Phillip R. Johnson** announced this week that the 1951 auto licenses will go on sale January 15 at his office. The license plates for next year will be green background with white numerals.

Mr. Johnson stated that those who have had the same number for the past years may again obtain it by applying before February 1st. No number will be saved after that date.

He also pointed out that the work of selling the licenses could be handled with considerable more efficiency if each auto owner will have his auto registration card and driver's license with him at the time he makes application for new plates. These two forms are necessary if a license is to be issued.

## 50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 25, 1975

**It is a white Christmas** in the area this year. Snow fell last Sunday and again on Tuesday of this week. The SUN is being printed a day early and indications are that there may be a storm in the area over the holidays. The weather is comparatively mild and the countryside is beautiful.

**Wolf Creek Ski Area** will be operating every day during the holidays. Skiing is excellent with over four feet of snow depth. All lifts are running and Wolf Creek is a popular place this year for skiers. Other ski areas in Colorado, except for Purgatory are hurting for snow.

**More than 200 children** showed up last Saturday afternoon at the Mesa Theatre for the annual Christmas party. They were guests of the Chamber of Commerce and local businessmen at the movie and were also given a bag of candy.

## 25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of  
December 28, 2000

**Providing space** for court-related activities is one of the budget problems facing Archuleta County.

The eventual construction of a new courthouse will ultimately solve the problem. With the idea of building a new courthouse in mind, the commissioners have purchased land for that purpose on Hot Springs Boulevard south of the post office and across the street from the new town hall now under construction.

In the meantime, the county commissioners are wrestling with temporary solutions to help get through this year.

Prodded by a letter from and a work session with County Judge Jim Denvir, the commissioners have agreed to provide additional office and storage space some time this year.

"I know that a long-term solution has been discussed and will take a number of years to implement," Denvir said. "But our immediate needs are such that it would be appropriate for the commissioners to consider renting office space nearby or renting a portable structure."



# Letters

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

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

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

## Veterans Memorial Park

Dear Editor:

So much has happened this past year at the Veterans Memorial Park and we are so grateful.

The Gazebo/Picnic Shelter was finished about a week ago and is absolutely beautiful! This project was truly a labor of love. We are so grateful to all who made this project happen. With a grant from the Archuleta County Conservation Trust Fund, Jim Van Liere designed and engineered the structure, Dusty Pierce and his tireless crew built it, BWD Construction donated time and equipment and many community supporters and generous donors contributed.

The VMP is also sporting a newly paved parking lot - thanks again to Archuleta County Road and Bridge. A new plaque has been installed on the Mortar Display and additional spaces in the Brick Display have been created with room for more.

The ceremonies and gatherings at the VMP have been meaningful and well organized. Many thanks to the Vets4Vets, American Legion and Archuleta County Veterans Services.

This community takes care of us... we are so grateful to the many volunteers, supporters, veterans and family members, PLPOA staff, County staff and the unwavering, hardworking VMP Board of Directors.

The Veterans Memorial Park is a true community effort. Please come out and enjoy this beautiful park. Thank you all for all you do!

Joy!  
Karin Daniels and the Veterans Memorial Park Board of Directors

## Holiday greetings and health care

Dear Editor:

Best wishes for good health and happiness in the New Year! I extend that wish sincerely whether or not you agree with my letters.

This holiday, I wonder if I should revise my holiday greeting to acknowledge how precarious good health can be for Americans: "Best wishes for good health ... and good luck affording health insurance and medical care if you need it."

Why? Millions will lose coverage because Congress refused to extend tax credits for those who buy health insurance through Affordable Care Act marketplaces. Congress also mandated substantial cuts to Medicaid. (Those will take effect after the 2026 elections.) The Veterans Administration, already understaffed, just announced it will cut 30,000 posi-

tions, many for doctors and nurses. Medicare is making cuts, too, such limiting telehealth services.

Our County Commissioners, to their credit, made it a priority to budget for substantial health insurance premium increases in 2026 so that County employees have continued access to reasonable coverage. The "cheaper" alternative was a high-deductible plan they knew would put healthcare out of reach for many County staff. Significant year-over-year premium increases are not sustainable for the County or for many other employers, especially small businesses.

In 2026, we should all make health insurance a public policy priority. Republicans have railed against Obamacare for years, but they have yet to offer an alternative. Here's an alternative.

Every American should have access to the health insurance plans the federal government negotiates for federal employees. This would not be a free option. Federal employees pay a portion of their benefits, and those who continue coverage temporarily after leaving federal service pay both the employee and employer portions of the premium. Leveraging the plans negotiated for federal employees would be less cumbersome than the burden of marketplaces administered by every state. Employers could contribute some portion of the premiums their employees would have to pay for the coverage.

Is this a good option? I don't know. But it's a logical approach worth considering, especially if Congress can't come up with a better idea. It's time for all of us to demand Congress move America to affordable healthcare for everyone instead of cataloging reasons it can't be done.

Candace Jones

## Thank you

Dear Editor:

Thank you to the good folks of Archuleta and La Plata counties

We would like to thank all the people who came to our rescue after we were involved in a horrific car crash just west of Pagosa Springs on Monday afternoon, December 15th. Due to our conditions, we weren't able to get your names, but you selflessly gave your time and care to make sure all of us, from both vehicles, were given the best treatment you could provide. The accident was in an area that didn't have cell service, so first responders, law enforcement, and ambulances were delayed. Yet you stayed with us until advanced help arrived. We are so grateful and are recovering quickly. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Kohler, Kathleen and Kohler III  
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# U.S. 160 reconstruction information

The U.S. 160 project team will break for the holidays through Monday, Jan. 5, 2026. With favorable weather, a smaller team of workers will continue performing utility upgrades during the winter "slowdown." The full WW Clyde/Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) team will resume season two of full construction in early March 2026, weather permitting.

For more on the project progress and what's ahead for 2026, see the Jan. 1, 2026, issue of The SUN.

## 2025 project progress

Season 1 of construction included the following utility enhancements through a collaborative partnership with CDOT, the Town of Pagosa Springs and several utility partners:

- Upgraded and rebuilt water and sewer service lines from 1st Street to the Lewis alley.
- New waterlines to eliminate decades old, asbestos-lined pipes.
- Replaced fire hydrants with newer models.
- More than 16,000 feet of electrical conduit for upgraded streetlights and future technology services conduit needs.
- Geothermal lines replaced.
- Mapped all utilities from the 1st Street to the Lewis alley.
- Blackhills Energy (BHE): Advanced location of lines and relocation of facilities has been completed. Continued coordination between contractor and BHE for removal of retired lines. No further relocation work by BHE is anticipated.
- Lumen Communications: Installation of conduit crossing U.S. 160 at 5th Street.
- Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD): Replacement and installation of new water lines throughout the corridor.
- La Plata Electric Association: Retirement of overhead service line, installation of conduit for underground service lines.

## Town 2025 end-of-year construction highlights

As work continues along US 160 and downtown, the town completed several important improvements this year that support safety, accessibility, infrastructure resilience, and downtown beautification.

## Improved lighting and streetscape enhancements:

- New streetlights were installed along the north side of U.S. 160 from 1st Street into the 400 block.
- The 400-block sidewalk received upgrades including new red-dyed concrete to help clearly distinguish the accessible walking zone (gray) from the streetscape "furniture zone" (red), where benches, street trees, trash/recycling cans, and lighting will be placed.
- Irrigation conduit was installed to support future street trees and hanging flower baskets along both the middle school frontage and the 400 block.

## Downtown greening and beautification

- New street trees were planted along the middle school sidewalk this fall.
- Additional tree boxes are now installed in the 400 block, with planting planned for spring 2026.

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

## Middle school frontage upgrades

- The entire middle school sidewalk was replaced to improve accessibility, appearance and drainage.
- A new Mountain Express Transit shelter is now in place.
- In 2026, the town will also add benches, a bike repair station and new trash/recycling containers along this corridor.

## Major underground utility improvements

- Thirty private sewer laterals were repaired or replaced between 1st and 7th streets, significantly improving reliability for adjacent homes and businesses.
- Three sections of sanitary sewer mainline were repaired, including a full 120-foot replacement between 6th and 7th Streets.
- The town completed replacement of the geothermal district heating supply and return lines, running from the heat-exchange building under U.S. 160 to the Lewis alley.
- PAWSD upgraded key water line infrastructure at both 2nd Street and 4th Street to modernize the system.

## Improved fire protection

- New fire water lines and fire hydrants were installed in the 400 block to improve fire response and protection.

## Stormwater and drainage improvements

- A new storm drain culvert was installed along the west side of North 2nd Street, connecting to CDOT's upgraded drainage under U.S. 160.
- Related curb, gutter and sidewalk replacement were completed as part of this update.

## Additional public parking options

Four improved temporary parking areas are now available at: The Springs Resort, the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, the southeast corner of 5th Street and U.S. 160, and the River Center. These lots help support businesses and visitors during construction.

## Help protect new concrete sidewalks this winter

- Do not use salt or standard ice melt on new concrete during the first winter.
- New concrete is still curing and salt causes permanent surface damage.
- Salt leads to scaling, flaking and spalling from freeze-thaw cycles.
- Chlorides in salt can chemically weaken concrete and cause steel reinforcement to rust.
- Once damaged, concrete deterioration worsens each winter and is costly to repair.
- Use these safer alternatives instead: sand (best for traction), non-clumping kitty litter or concrete-safe de-icers such as calcium magnesium acetate.

## 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/us160pagosaprsprings](http://www.codot.gov/projects/us160pagosaprsprings).
- Subscribe to project updates: [subscription.cotrip.org](http://subscription.cotrip.org).



## GET INVOLVED.

Now is your chance to be part of the decisions made by the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

## HERE'S HOW.

The mayor and three at-large seats on Town Council will be up for election on April 7, 2026.

Candidate packets, information, and requirements will be available beginning January 5, at Town Hall. Nomination petitions must be returned by January 26. Information can be found on the town's website: [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov).

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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](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com) or via the form at [www.PagosaSUN.com](http://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.



# Merry Christmas

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# CHRISTMAS

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Local reporting that matters.



Photo courtesy Leslie Cole

Volunteers with the Archuleta County Democrats baked dozens of holiday cookies and delivered them last week to public offices, first responders and others in the community who serve Pagosa Springs. Pictured are Isabelle Emerson and Candace Jones delivering cookies to the Pagosa Fire Protection District office. Other members of the Dems cookie brigade include Jules Graeve, Florence Hall, Kathy Keyes, Paula Miller, Charleen Stipe, Lee Stopher and Sue Watson.



Photo courtesy Michele Turney

Ten families in Pagosa Springs received a Christmas meal box donated by the Republicans of Archuleta County. The box contained a complete meal with a turkey and all of the trimmings, including a pumpkin pie. Helping to box and distribute are, left to right, Brad Hunt, coroner; Michele Turney, Archuleta County Republican Women (ACRW) secretary; Melinda Ratliff, treasurer of ACRW and Archuleta County Republican Central Committee; and Veronica Medina, county commissioner.

## County partners with tourism board for new micro transit app

By Clayton Chaney  
Staff Writer

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Dec. 16, the BoCC unanimously approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board for the purpose of collaborating on developing and using a new Micro Transit mobile application.

Transportation Coordinator Andrew Mylroie explained that the purpose of the MOU “is to establish the terms and conditions under which the county will collaborate with the tourism board for the purchase, use, promotion and maintenance of the Micro Transit App to enhance tourism engagement, visitor experience and overall quality of life for

Archuleta County residents.”

According to the MOU, the app will be used primarily by Mountain Express Transit, the county’s transportation service, to help extend hours of operation in providing a public transportation option after normal operating hours.

“I believe this is a great way to expand our services,” Mylroie said.

The app will provide on-demand or scheduled micro transit services to “key tourism zones” such as parks, downtown areas, cultural sites and event venues, the MOU notes.

Mylroie also commented that this application will help the county meet the needs of the community in the “most cost-effective way possible.”

According to the MOU, the tourism board, using lodging tax collections, has agreed to pay the initial cost to develop the app at a price of

\$43,800, and the first-year subscription fee of \$28,800, “after which time it would be the responsibility of the County to continue using this app should they decide to.”

The MOU also notes that the app, its underlying technology and data will remain property of Archuleta County.

Mylroie explained the app will add flexibility to the already-existing fixed bus routes, noting it usually takes a long period of time for a new fixed route to gain ridership as residents may not be aware of what’s available.

In response to a question from Commissioner Warren Brown, Mylroie explained that with the tourism board building the application, it provides the county with the opportunity to decide on how the county wants to use it.

Mylroie also explained that the county spends \$4 to \$6 per mile running a fixed route, noting that running it for an extra hour each day would cost an additional \$550. The new app will allow drivers to stay parked while waiting for someone to schedule a ride.

Commissioner John Ranson explained that he heard the matter at a tourism board meeting, commenting that the app “could really improve” transportation services.

In response to a question from Commissioner Veronica Medina, Mylroie explained that the goal is to have the application ready to use for next summer.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovanini also commented that she re-

viewed the MOU, noting she was “pretty comfortable with it” and that it “seems like an excellent opportunity.”

Giovanini also mentioned that it is critical for the tourism board to use funds from the current year’s budget to purchase the app and pay the first-year subscription, noting that is why the matter was brought to the BoCC rather quickly.

During the same meeting, the BoCC also unanimously approved an agreement with Via Mobility LLC “to set up and assist with the launch of a microtransit service in Archuleta County.”

Mylroie noted the application will take approximately 12 weeks to build, noting again that the application should be ready to use next summer.

According to the agreement, the total fee for Via Mobility’s services is listed at \$39,000, which assumes two vehicles will be used for the service. [clayton@pagosasun.com](mailto:clayton@pagosasun.com)

### Do you love cats?

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## Obituary

### Dion Stuart Packer

Dion Stuart Packer passed away on Dec. 12, 2025, surrounded by his loving family at home in Pagosa Springs, Colo.

Dion was born March 30, 1966, in Saford, Ariz., to Eva and Monty Packer. He was the oldest of three children. He had five children and five grandchildren as well as his collected kids — two — and grandchildren — one.

Over the years he held many different jobs, including building custom homes, antique clock repair and restoration, correctional officer, and the oil and gas industry.

Dion was devoted to his family. Home and family was his favorite place his sanctuary. He was the best husband, father, GPa, son, brother and friend you could ask for. He lived for his family and friends; he loved them with his whole heart. He was always there for them however they



needed him. He never met a stranger.

Dion is survived by his wife, Amy Packer; his children, Amanda (Nicholas) Streeter, Rebekah Packer, Tyler (Shevonna) Packer, Newly Packer, Telyn Packer, Ezra Gray and Angel (Tanner) Gray; his grandchildren, Keegan, Arianne, Eden, Lillian, Oaklee and Ryica; his siblings, Stephanie Packer and Daniel (Sheryl) Packer; and countless other close family members and friends.

Dion was preceded in passing by both of his parents, Eva and Monty Packer.

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The Board of Directors for the food pantry **Our Community Eats (OCE)** is overflowing with gratitude for the incredible love and support from our amazing community. From donated time, food, and funds to heartfelt encouragement, you show up again and again to help meet local nutritional needs—and it makes all the difference.

You’ve brought in walk-in food donations, decorated our windows, donated Thanksgiving turkeys, voted and purchased at the Festival of Trees, and helped equip us with freezers, refrigerators, a generator, and even a refrigerated van! Your generous financial contributions keep our doors open and our shelves stocked for neighbors in need.

And to our **phenomenal volunteers** — you are the heart of OCE. Your time, energy, and talents are truly treasured.

We are deeply and humbly grateful.

Thank you. Thank you. **THANK YOU!**  
— The OCE Board of Directors



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Thursday 11-1, Friday 10-12  
**Holiday hours:**  
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# Merry Christmas

from our family to yours

As the holidays near, we remember the year behind us and look forward to the new year ahead. We are excited to share new memories and endless possibilities with our friends, families and neighbors of this great community.

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# Business

## Nominations open for 2026 Community Awards

By **Sandy Douthey**  
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

I want to take a moment to say merry Christmas from the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your 2025 histories, and we look forward to celebrating a great 2026 with each of you.

### Nominations open for 2026 Community Awards

The Chamber is now accepting nominations for its annual awards, recognizing outstanding individuals,

businesses and organizations that have made a significant impact in the community.

The Volunteer of the Year award celebrates those who have unselfishly given their time, money or both to community events and nonprofits, expecting nothing in return. Nominees must demonstrate humility and have achieved measurable results for the community. Nominations will be judged on the weight of their contributions, not the number of forms submitted, and are open to individuals or couples.

The Citizen of the Year award honors residents who have contrib-

uted in special ways to the community, showing leadership, integrity and unselfish support. Nominees must have lived in the area for at least three years and have made an impact in areas such as economic, cultural, philanthropic or lifestyle improvements. Civic involvement outside of work or business is a key criterion.

For the Non-Profit of the Year award, organizations must be a viable 501(c)(3) operating in Pagosa Springs or Archuleta County for at least three years. They must provide a necessary service, serve the community with distinction and maintain a positive image. Collaborative efforts with other

nonprofits and unique contributions to the community are highly valued.

The Small Business of the Year award is open to businesses with 20 or fewer full-time employees that have operated in the area for at least three years. Qualities considered include a reputable business image, friendly service, support for the local community, and evidence of growth and creativity. Chamber membership is required.

All nominations are due by Jan. 12, 2026. Please help us recognize those who have made a difference in our community. Winners will be announced at the annual awards ceremony on Feb. 6, 2026.

## LPEA board director candidate packets now available

La Plata Electric Association

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) members interested in running for a seat on the LPEA Board of Directors now have access to the 2026 Board Director Candidate Packets at [lpea.coop/elections](http://lpea.coop/elections).

Prospective candidates must return all completed materials by 1 p.m. on March 21, 2026, for consideration. Materials may be mailed or hand-delivered to LPEA's Durango office or Pagosa Springs.

To be eligible to run for the LPEA Board of Directors, candidates must:

- be a member of LPEA for at least one year immediately prior to becoming a director;

- be a bona fide resident of the district you plan to represent for at least 120 days prior to becoming a director; and,

- not be employed by, or have a spouse or child employed by, LPEA in any position.

Directors are elected for three-year terms.

Incumbent directors whose terms are expiring in 2026 are:

- District 1 — Archuleta County: Nicole Pitcher.

- District 2 — south and west La Plata County: John Lee Jr.

- District 3 — city of Durango: Rachel Landis.

- District 4 — north and east La Plata County: David Luschen.

If there is only one nominee for a position on the board for a district, the board may cancel the election for that district and, by resolution, declare the

sole nominee elected to the board.

Qualified candidates will be added to the official ballot mailed to LPEA members in April.

Ballots will be due at 4 p.m. on May 19, 2026, and the election results will be announced at LPEA's annual meeting on May 20, 2026.

For additional information, visit [lpea.coop](http://lpea.coop).

## Town council sets time and place for 2026 meetings, approves 2025 budget amendment

By **Derek Kutzer**  
Staff Writer

On Dec. 16, the Pagosa Springs Town Council passed an ordinance setting the time and place for the council's regular meetings for 2026.

The time and place for the regular meetings will go unchanged from 2025, with the meetings being held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5 p.m.

At the meetings, held at Town Hall, located at 551 Hot Springs Blvd., "the Council will conduct regular meeting business for the Town and any other matters of business that may come before the Council," the ordinance states.

The meetings are open to the public, and whenever possible will be broadcast online via the Zoom platform.

However, the ordinance states, "Remote attendance is at the risk of the attendee as the public meeting will continue in person regardless of the Town's broadcast capability."

It adds, "The Town does not and cannot guarantee internet service or online broadcasting."

Notices of regular and special meetings, as well as agenda briefs for the meetings, will be posted at [pagosaportalsco.portal.civicclerk.com](http://pagosaportalsco.portal.civicclerk.com).

Meetings of the town's advisory boards and commissions will also be posted at the above website in accordance with the Colorado Open Meetings Law, and "meeting notices will be posted at the location identified above not less than 24 hours before the commencement of the posted meeting," the ordinance states.

The online public noticing of the meetings is in accordance with Colorado House Bill 19-1087, which the Colorado Legislature passed with the intent for local governments to transition from posting physical notices to posting notices on a website "to the greatest extent practical," states an agenda document on the matter.

"Agendas can also be posted at the Town Hall, where those without internet access can find the meeting information," the document states.

The council passed the ordinance setting the time and place unanimously.

### 2025 budget amendment

At the same meeting, the council also approved a 2025 budget amendment, reflecting what Town Clerk April Hessman called "the great success of the Festival of Trees event," in which the generous donations made by the com-

munity put the total tree sales \$50,000 above what was budgeted.

She explained that this means "we have to amend the trust fund budget."

"This along with a few other revenues from the plastic bag program and interest brings the revenues from \$113,500 to \$184,000," an agenda document states.

The effect changed the end-of-year carryover in the Capital Reserves Fund to \$21,535 more than what was budgeted, from \$1,041,036 to \$1,062,571.

The budget amendment resolution was approved unanimously by the council.

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



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# EARLY DEADLINES

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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# WISHING ALL THE SHELTER ANIMALS A HOME FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of Susan Young, Director of the Sanctuary Stone Rabbit, all dog and cat adoption fees are waived for adopters\* now through December 31!

This holiday season, a generous donor has stepped forward to give the gift of love—to both our community families hoping to adopt, and to the dogs and cats at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs waiting to go home.

\*Normal application process applies.  
Applications must be received and approved by 12/31.25.



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# FEMA

■ Continued from front  
lic Assistance for Archuleta, La Plata, and Mineral Counties and Hazard Mitigation statewide.

“Based on our review of all of the information available, it has been determined that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted. Therefore, I must inform you that your request for a major disaster declaration is denied.”

The letter, signed by Karen S. Evans, the senior official performing the duties of the administrator, also notes the denial may be appealed within 30 days of the date of the letter.

The Stafford Act — the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act — was signed into law in 1988 and covers, among other things, aid to states for disaster relief and assistance.

In its Dec. 21 press release, the state of Colorado notes, “These federal declarations would have unlocked FEMA funding to support the recovery efforts for each of these disasters, providing critical aid to impacted Western Colorado residents and businesses.”

Polis suggested the denial is related to political games.

“Coloradans impacted by the Elk and Lee fires and the flooding in Southwestern Colorado deserve better than the political games President Trump is playing,” he said. “One of the most amazing things to witness as governor has been the resilience of Coloradans following a natural disaster. Their courage, strength, and willingness to help one another is unmatched — values that President Trump seems to have forgotten. I call on the President’s better angels, and urge him to reconsider these requests. This is about the Coloradans who need this support, and we won’t stop fighting for them to get what they deserve. Colorado will be appealing this decision.”

Bennet — who is running for governor — called the denial “unacceptable” and blamed political games.

“President Trump’s decision to deny Colorado’s request for critical federal assistance is unacceptable,” he said. “Communities in Western Colorado are in serious need of help after the life-threatening flooding and historic wildfires earlier this year. Trump continues to use Coloradans for political games; it is malicious and obscene. A disaster is a disaster, regardless of what state in the country it took place. Together with Governor Polis and the Colorado delegation, I will take every available step to appeal this decision.”

Hickenlooper also called it a game.

“Coloradans are trying to rebuild their lives after fires and floods destroyed homes and communities across our state. Trump’s decision to reject our disaster requests, and therefore withhold resources as our communities continue to recover, is unacceptable. This isn’t a game. These are people’s lives,” said Hickenlooper via the press release.

Attempts to reach Congressman Jeff Hurd’s offices were unsuccessful by press time Tuesday, but, according to a Colorado Public Radio article on the denials, Hurd “noted that Western Colorado has long supported Trump, and now the same areas are ‘facing the real human and economic conse-

quences of recent disasters.”

“Local leaders and residents are seeking a consistent application of FEMA criteria so recovery efforts can move forward,” Hurd said in a statement. He’s asking the Administration to work with the state on an appeal.”

Locally, Town of Pagosa Springs Manager David Harris called the denial disappointing.

Harris explained that throughout his career he’s seen a lot of disasters funded, both larger and smaller, calling the denial “atypical.”

He acknowledged there were about a dozen disasters that were still pending at the federal level for relief at the time of the local floods.

He added the area is going to have to do “a lot of this ourselves.”

He explained the town has started reaching out, finding grants from other state and federal agencies for repairs that need to be done, adding a handful of grants have been identified and are in process.

Harris further explained the donations made to the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado were able to fund a team from the Southwest Conservation Corps to address debris, mostly in the parks, and start the cleanup process.

He added some of the big projects the town is still facing include the river cleanup, including riverbank stabilization and repairing recreational features in the river.

He added the town is also using the disaster declaration to help it fast-track some projects, such as what will be a lift station near the museum and the 1st Street bridge where the sewer pipe was taken out by debris during the flood.

That lift station, he explained, will be done in conjunction with a planned pedestrian bridge in the same area.

“We’ll find a way forward,” he said, adding that Pagosa Springs was fortunate and things could have been a lot worse.

Warren Brown, vice chair of the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, also expressed disappointment with the decision.

“Without the funding, we have limitations of what we can do,” he said, and the county won’t be able to move forward with needed repairs. “Right now we are getting by, but that doesn’t mean it’s getting fixed right.”

Brown also noted in calling the denial disappointing that “our community is comprised of very hardworking people who keep their head down and take care of their families” and who ask very little of the federal government.

According to the state’s press release, “A recent study shows that for every \$1 Coloradans pay in federal taxes, we only receive \$0.90 in federal investments. The state of Colorado invested over \$57.5 million in these and other disasters since July 2024. The State does not have the capacity to continue to provide assistance to local communities to support the recovery efforts without federal assistance. The losses from both of these disasters exceeded FEMA’s threshold to approve a federal disaster declaration.”

## Historic floods

Pagosa Country experienced two historic floods in four days thanks to moisture from the remnants of a pair

of tropical storms, Priscilla and Raymond, with peak flows occurring on Oct. 11 and 14.

The flooding for the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs peaked at 8,270 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 12.66 feet at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 and again at 8,560 cfs and 12.82 feet at 5:15 a.m. on Oct. 14, putting the two events as the fourth and third highest on record, respectively, behind floods in October 1911 and June 1927.

Other area river levels were also significantly impacted, including the Piedra and Blanco rivers.

The increased moisture also led to a significant increase in the level of Navajo Lake Reservoir. On Oct. 9, Navajo was at 6,020.44 feet elevation. By Oct. 21, that had increased by 12.10 feet to 6,032.54, according to the Lake Navajo Water Database.

Flooding also took place in La Plata and Hinsdale counties over the same span.

Polis verbally declared a disaster emergency on Oct. 12, activating the State Emergency Operations Plan and authorizing initial state support. That was later memorialized in Executive Order D 2025 021, which unlocked \$6 million in state funding for flood response and recovery.

The press release notes the state sent field and emergency operations personnel to all three counties, and led extensive damage assessments alongside local partners.

The press release adds local jurisdictions declared their own emergencies beginning Oct. 11 and requested state assistance “as hundreds of homes were threatened or inundated, levees broke, and roadways washed out across the region. Despite this damage, thankfully no fatalities or injuries were reported.”

The release notes more than 60 miles of road and associated culverts, drainage structures and embankments were destroyed or severely compromised in the three counties. Additional verified damages include widespread debris removal needs, significant impacts to water control facilities such as the Big Meadows Reservoir, major sewer system failures in Pagosa Springs and the San Juan River Village Metro District, and severe damage to parks, riverwalks, and recreation infrastructure that support local economies.

“Damage totals exceed \$13 million and are expected to rise as further assessments continue. Again, these losses exceeded FEMA’s threshold to approve a federal disaster declaration,” the press release notes.

The flooding, it adds, “destroyed or damaged essential drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, including near-total sewer system failures in the Pagosa Springs area. Floodwaters breached levees, triggered evacuations for nearly 400 homes, prompted multiple boil-water advisories, and caused at least 11 high-water rescues by local first responders. Rivers reached historic levels — including the San Juan River’s third-highest crest since 1911 — and debris flows, sediment deposits, and rechanneling of waterways have created long-term risks for residents living along Vallecito Creek, the Piedra River, and the San Juan River basin.”

## Elk and Lee fires

Polis verbally declared a disaster emergency on Aug. 3 for the Elk Fire, which was updated on Aug. 6 to include the Lee Fire.

The governor also authorized the deployment of the Colorado National Guard and unlocked over \$18.5 million dollars in state funding for suppression, response and recovery efforts, the press release states. This verbal declaration was later memorialized through an Executive Order on Aug. 28.

“The state has demonstrated, and FEMA validated, an initial \$27,491,064 in damages from these fires and mudslides, which is expected to grow over time,” it states.

The press release notes Rio Blanco County’s economy is driven largely by energy production, particularly from the Piceance Basin, which produces approximately 2 to 5 percent of the United States’ daily consumption of natural gas.

“This local industry is powered by two local utility providers who have sustained over \$24 million in damages to their infrastructure. Without support to recover local utility infrastructure, stalled production risks the local economy, major rate increases on Coloradans and beyond, and local economic collapse.”

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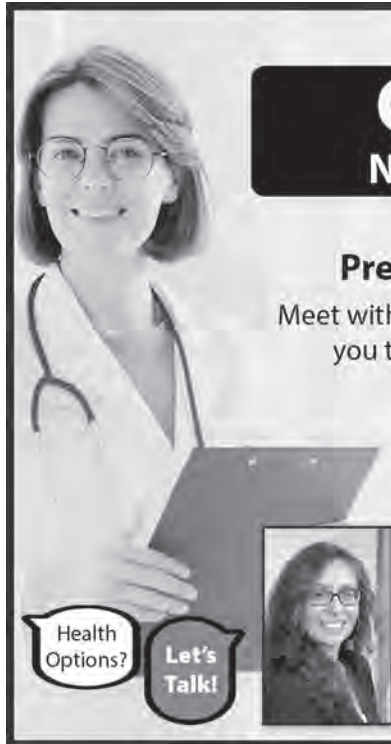
## NOTICE OF Planning Commission Vacancy

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](http://www.mypagosa.org) or contact [oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov](mailto:oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov) or 970-585-8610.



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# Revenue

■ Continued from front

such as exempting a governmental entity from the limits — a process also commonly referred to as “de-Brucing,” named after Douglas Bruce, author of TABOR.

Bruzzese explained that the district’s strategic planning committee hopes that, by the summer of 2026, the board will decide answers to three questions:

- “Do we ask the voters for a continuation of our exemption from TABOR?”

- “Do we ask the voters for an exemption from the new 2024 Tax Limit law?”

- Do we ask the voters to help PSMC be sustainable through an increase to our mill levy or a sales tax?”

Bruzzese explained to the board she didn’t think the board would have enough information to make a decision that evening.

She then explained the board’s tax revenue history for context, including that the district receives revenue from a levy of 3.884 mills that was approved by voters in 2001.

The presentation notes PSMC has not asked for an increase since the mill levy was approved in 2001.

That mill levy is to provide emergency medical and hospital services, the presentation notes, with Bruzzese explaining PSMC has expanded its hospital and emergency medical

services (EMS).

Bruzzese explained the second issue is the district’s de-Brucing.

The district, she noted, has received continuous voter approval to be exempt from TABOR, with the first exemption stretching from 2001 to 2006, the second from 2007 to 2016 and the third from 2017 through Dec. 31, 2026.

She then indicated the situation is further complicated by PSMC’s status as an enterprise.

“The Colorado Taxpayer Bill of Rights applies to Colorado governmental entities, excluding enterprises, and serves as a limit on revenue growth, spending growth and debt,” the presentation notes.

Bruzzese explained that enterprises can function outside of TABOR and explained the enterprise exception applies if three criteria are met:

- The enterprise is a government-owned business.

- The enterprise is authorized to issue revenue bonds.

- The enterprise received less than 10 percent of its annual revenue in grants, which she notes includes taxes, from all of Colorado state and local governments combined.

Bruzzese explained that, if this district weren’t approved to be exempt from TABOR, it would have to watch that 10 percent very closely.

She noted the district has bor-

rowed a lot to expand the hospital, but that the district hasn’t had to panic about meeting the criteria since the district is exempt from TABOR.

“But, if you think about it ... if we don’t have the voter approval to be outside of TABOR, to be exempt from TABOR, then we really have to worry about that 10 percent,” she said. “We really have to worry if we’ve been offered an exceptional [Colorado Department of Local Affairs] grant whether or not we can actually take that grant money together with our tax money because if it exceeds the 10 percent and ... that’ll be a real problem for us because then we will be subject to TABOR.”

She then presented a problem for the board to “ponder.”

She suggested that if the board decides to take the TABOR issue back to the voters in 2026 and is not successful and the district is for some reason not exempt from TABOR, such as not meeting the 10 percent threshold, “our long-term sustainability then suddenly becomes at risk.”

TABOR’s restrictions, she noted, are intended for average governments and not the way hospitals must be managed to be sustainable.

Bruzzese noted that, with changes at the state and federal level, including that PSMC will have at least \$1.4 million less coming in in 2026, the district needs strategic growth to be sustainable.

She further noted operational sustainability could be harmed if the district is subject to TABOR because medical staff labor costs and supplies often exceed inflation.

She also noted the financing restrictions under TABOR, suggesting the hospital and EMS are very capital-intensive and the district would have to repeatedly approach the voters to approve things like purchasing a new MRI machine or ambulance.

She noted it is the board’s call on how to move forward, but that it would present a strategically significant issue for the district.

Board member Wayne Hooper asked how close the votes have been for de-Brucing, with Bruzzese noting the last election was “very close.”

Hooper asked why it would be close, stating it seems like a “no-brainer.”

Bruzzese suggested that could be discussed as the district decides how to move forward, but that the statutory language process is “unfortunate,” explaining it’s a whole paragraph

written as one sentence and not in simple language.

She noted that, from talking to people, if the ballot language makes them feel dumb, they get frustrated and may vote no.

In response to additional questions, Bruzzese clarified the district can provide information until it decides on a ballot question, at which point a political action committee would form and people could volunteer their time or donate.

Bruzzese then moved on to discuss the 2024 property tax limit law, which is effective Jan. 1, 2026.

That law, according to the presentation, “Limits tax revenue growth to 10.5% over a two-year period” and excludes some tax revenue growth, such as, for example, growth that is the result of new construction.

The presentation notes the law will apply to PSMC unless it seeks and is granted voter approval for an exemption.

Bruzzese then returned to the topic of sustainability, suggesting that decreasing state and federal support indicates there may be a need for more local support, such as in the form of a mill levy increase or sales tax.

She noted the district has grown its services “greatly” since 2008 and has never asked for an increase, with the presentation noting the mill levy was passed before the hospital was built.

Bruzzese noted that board members Kate Alfred and Mark Floyd, who sit on the strategic planning committee, asked for more data to see what increases would look like, and that data will be compiled over the next month or two.

She indicated she wants the board to feel like it has time to explore and ask questions.

Board member Eric Foss asked if there are any examples of hospitals that operate under TABOR, with Bruzzese explaining she’s not sure due to the enterprise exemption, which could mean some don’t accept grants.

She additionally later noted that many hospitals don’t have EMS, which operates at a significant loss.

Bruzzese later noted the board could choose to put any of the possibilities on the ballot or multiple, explaining the TABOR issue needs to be dealt with in 2026 and the 2024 law could impact PSMC in 2026.

*randi@pagosasun.com*

## The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners seeks a volunteer to serve on the County’s Planning Commission.



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Please send letters of interest and background information to the County Commissioners Office, Attn: Planning Commission, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Your application may also be faxed to 264-8306 or emailed to [adminp@archuletacounty.gov](mailto:adminp@archuletacounty.gov). For more information, please see our website at [www.archuletacounty.gov](http://www.archuletacounty.gov).

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Photo courtesy Karin Daniels

The new gazebo at Veterans Memorial Park received a finishing touch after installation — a vane.

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# Floodplain

■ Continued from front

“So, we also help residents,” she said, explaining that if work being done requires a permit, the planning department helps constituents understand the requirements.

For a period of time following the October floods, the county issued emergency floodplain permits.

Ryan explained that the county was requiring an emergency floodplain permit for “any kind of work” in a floodplain, “and that includes county property.”

She noted that included roads and culverts located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated floodplain.

Ryan reiterated that if any work being done is located in a FEMA-designated floodplain, then “it has to come through our office.”

She also noted that, from working with the county’s Road and Bridge manager, so far no culverts have needed to be replaced and there are “not really” any roads in designated floodplain areas the county needs to repair, other than maybe one bridge.

Ryan went on to explain that part of the damage assessment is determining if damage to a home is 50 percent or more of the value of the home and, if it is, “then it would have to bring the entire home up to the floodplain standards.”

She noted that damage includes things such as the anchoring of the home, structural hardening and meeting electrical distance requirements.

Ryan then indicated that, so far, no home has met that level of damage.

“So, we’re pretty lucky,” she added.

Ryan also explained that issuing temporary floodplain permits “was like a totally new thing” for the county, and that there was really no policy or procedure set in place for that.

Ryan explained that a temporary permit was issued to greenlight emergency sewer repairs in the San Juan River Village, with the subdivision’s systems damaged by the October floods.

She also noted that once the emergency stage has passed, any other work being done in a floodplain “is going to need to get just the standard permit.”

Ryan also explained that, “anything that’s done in the river will require Army Corps permitting.”

Reiterating the importance of the floodplain program, Ryan stated, “we have these regulations in order to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program,” explaining it is important for the county to “keep track and record everything that’s being done” and that it is done according to standards.

Ryan mentioned that anything being done in the river that is not in compliance with the regulations and standards would put the county at risk with the National Flood Insurance Program.

“If we don’t do that, we’re at risk of being suspended from the program, or dropped from the program,” she said, noting it also could put the county at risk for other federal grants as well.

Ryan indicated that “there is some work being done” and that the county has contacted property owners noti-

fying them that a permit is needed.

“The sheriff is sort of aware,” she added, noting that she is coordinating with other county departments to “keep an eye out” and helping make sure that work is being permitted correctly.

Commissioner Warren Brown asked for clarification on that “if we’re not in compliance as a county, then that could preclude homeowners in our county from being able to obtain insurance who are in floodplains,” which Ryan confirmed could happen.

Commissioner John Ranson then brought up a situation with a property located along the Lower Blanco with a property owner putting “rocks and stuff up” that has “basically shifted the river.”

He added that, as far as he knows, they are not permitted.

Ranson asked if the county needs to be aware of the situation, or if it is something the Army Corps of Engineers needs to deal with, noting he has also asked the county attorney about the matter.

“I keep getting passed back and forth between the county’s responsibility and the Army Corps of Engineers, but it seems to me that somebody living along the river can not go in there and put boulders that’s gonna make the other side of the river flood, which is what happened this time,” Ranson said.

Ryan indicated that her thought on the matter is that it is both the county’s and Army Corps of Engineers’ responsibility.

Ryan indicated that the county sent a letter to the property owner and that

the Army Corps of Engineers has also reached out to the property owner.

Ranson commented that the Army Corps of Engineers had visited the property, but the gate was locked “and they left.”

Ranson also expressed that something needs to be done, and whether it is the county’s responsibility or not, the county could at least help with the matter.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez also expressed the importance of having proper guidance when doing any work in a floodplain.

“Before you start doing mitigation in a floodplain ... you need to ask what proper guidance from either the county or the city needs to be,” he said, explaining they do not want people to start doing work that may not be reimbursable, “or may be a violation of law.”

Ryan noted the situation with the Lower Blanco property has been going on for about a year now.

Later in the work session, Ranson commented on the matter again, stating, “I really believe we gotta get to the bottom of that.”

He added, “I think the county has liability.”

Ranson went on to state that the river moved in that area with the flooding events that occurred in October “because of this.”

Ranson also described the situation as “kind of crazy,” expressing concern that liability might fall back onto the county.

“Bare minimum, I think we at least gotta enforce the rules,” he said.

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# Forecast

■ Continued from front

of precipitation rising to 80 percent and a low around 35 degrees. Little to no snow accumulation is expected.

On Christmas Day, Dec. 25, the high in Pagosa Springs is forecast at 51 degrees with a 90 percent chance of precipitation. Rain and snow showers are expected early in the morning, becoming mostly rain by 8 a.m.

Rain is expected into the evening, turning to snow with a low of 32 degrees and a 60 percent chance of precipitation into the night.

Snow showers are expected Friday

morning, Dec. 26, turning to a rain/snow mix by 10 a.m. with a high of 48 degrees and a 60 percent chance of precipitation. A rain/snow mix is expected to continue throughout the day, turning to mostly snow after 8 p.m. The low is forecast at 24 degrees for that night.

For Saturday, Dec. 27, a chance of snow showers is expected before noon, turning to rain/snow mix with a high near 45 degrees. A slight chance of snow showers is expected that evening with a low near 19 degrees.

On Sunday, Dec. 27, there is a chance of rain and snow showers with partly sunny skies and a high of 47 degrees during the day. Mostly cloudy skies and a low near 19 degrees are expected for Sunday night.

### Wolf Creek Pass

The NWS is forecasting slightly colder temperatures and snow accumulation along Wolf Creek Pass, with a total of 2 to 6 inches of snow expected to fall starting on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

The high for both of those days is forecast at 34 degrees with lows near 31 degrees and 27 degrees, respectively.

For Friday, Dec. 26, the high along Wolf Creek Pass is forecast at 28 degrees, with a 60 percent chance of snow showers and breezy with a southwest wind of 20 to 25 mph and gusts as high as 45 mph. The low for that night is forecast at 21 degrees with a 50 percent chance of precipitation and wind gusts as high

as 35 mph.

For Saturday, Dec. 27, there is a 60 percent chance of snow showers with a high of 24 degrees forecasted. A 30 percent chance of snow showers is expected into the evening with a low around 15 degrees.

For Sunday, Dec. 28, there is a chance of snow showers with partly sunny skies and a high near 28 degrees. The low is forecast at 19 degrees with mostly cloudy skies.

### Other forecasts

According to a forecast by Shawn Prochazka with Pagosa Weather, slick roads are expected on Wednesday, Dec. 24, on Wolf Creek Pass.

Prochazka notes that from Wednesday afternoon through Friday evening, Dec. 26, mountains above 9,500 feet are expected to receive 10 to 16 inches of snowfall, with the Pagosa area expected to receive a half inch to an inch of rain.

Prochazka also notes that most of that precipitation will fall from midnight Wednesday to midnight Thursday.

According to Prochazka’s forecast, scattered showers will persist from Friday into Monday, Dec. 29.

Snow amounts expected for that time period for elevations above 8,500 feet are 4 to 8 inches, with 1 to 3 inches expected for elevations between 7,500 and 8,500 feet. For elevations less than 7,500 feet, less than an inch of snow accumulation is expected.

Prochazka notes that forecast confidence for this period is still low, with more details to come as the

storm gets closer. Visit pagosaweather.org for additional information.

Forecasts from AccuWeather show an 88 percent chance of precipitation on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, consisting of a rain/snow mix in Pagosa Springs with a high of 49 degrees.

There is a 55 percent chance of precipitation the following day, Friday, Dec. 26, and a 60 percent chance of a rain/snow mix on Saturday, Dec. 27.

clayton@pagosasun.com

## Celebration



The Adams State University, located in Alamosa, Colo., School of Education faculty recognizes Erica Bean as an outstanding postgraduate from the fall 2025 class. Bean, from Pagosa Springs, Colo., received a Master of Arts in education/curriculum and instruction with elementary licensure emphasis. She teaches kindergarten at Pagosa Springs Elementary School.

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Photo courtesy Justin Treptow

The favorite segment at Old Fashioned Christmas, as voted on by attendees, was the San Juan Outdoor Club.

## Colorado expected to surpass 16,000 DUI arrests by the end of the year

Colorado Department of Transportation

As Coloradans prepare to ring in the new year, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Colorado law enforcement are urging motorists to plan a safe and sober ride home before heading out to a bar or party.

With an average of more than 1,300 DUI arrests each month this year, Colorado is on track to surpass 16,000 total DUI arrests by the end of the year.

In an effort to prevent impaired driving, CDOT will support the Colorado State Patrol and 61 local law enforcement agencies for The Heat Is On New Year's Eve DUI enforcement period.

This enforcement period will take place from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Drivers should expect to see additional law enforcement officers on duty dedicated to arresting impaired drivers and encouraging motorists to start 2026 safely.

"Driving under the influence — whether you've consumed alcohol or cannabis — puts you at risk of a DUI arrest or crash," said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol (CSP). "This New Year's Eve, law enforcement across the state is prepared to conduct saturation patrols and arrest impaired drivers. Don't drop the ball this New Year's holiday — choose to drive sober and encourage others to do the same."

CSP data shows that impaired driving citations spike between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. — the timeframe of most New Year's celebrations.

The agency says that even one or two drinks can be enough to impair your ability to drive. Even if your blood alcohol content (BAC) is less than 0.05 percent, you can still be arrested for a DUI if an officer observes signs of impairment.

The only absolute way to ensure

you are safe to drive is to have a BAC of zero.

"So far in 2025, 223 people have died on Colorado roads in crashes involving impaired drivers. That's 223 lives cut short, families affected and friends lost," said CDOT's Office of Transportation Safety Director Darrell Lingk. "If you plan to drink, use a ride-share service, public transportation or designated driver to get home safely."

During last year's New Year's Eve enforcement period, Colorado law enforcement made 207 DUI arrests.

Throughout all enforcement periods this year alone, there have been 4,916 DUI arrests.

Following New Year's Eve, the next DUI enforcement period will be Winter Blitz from Jan. 8 to 21.

Under Colorado's Expressed Consent Law, by driving a vehicle in the state, you automatically consent to a toxicology test following a DUI arrest.

Colorado has seen an increase in drivers who refuse a toxicology test in recent years. Refusing a test is illegal, and it hinders efforts to keep Colorado roads safe from impaired drivers.

Learn more about the law and the consequences of refusing to test at [codot.gov/choosetotest](https://codot.gov/choosetotest).

Drivers should know that refusal

to provide a breath or blood test once arrested for a DUI may come with increased consequences.

Learn more at [codot.gov/choosetotest](https://codot.gov/choosetotest).



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This meticulously cared for log cabin, near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Covered deck, backyard patio, stunning mountain views. Open floor plan connects the great room to a modern kitchen. Primary bedroom and bathroom are 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 plus a fourth bedroom set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>



**33 Fawn Court**  
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**470 Terry Robinson Road**  
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**1231 Ranchland Drive**  
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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. Pricing does not include the well on the property because the well does not have potable water.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/1231-Ranchland-Dr>

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**109 Carol's Curves**  
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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.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspixeltree.com/109-Carols-Curves>





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# Sports



## WRESTLING

### Lady Pirates land sixth-place finish, Baxstrom takes first

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team finished sixth out of 32 teams at the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction last week, with every Lady Pirate winning at least one match and scoring points for the team.

“It was a very exciting tournament for the girls,” wrote coach Dan Janowsky in an email to The SUN.

Laykyn Baxstrom led the way for the Lady Pirates, going 4-0 in the 190-pound weight class and taking first place.

Baxstrom received a bye in the first round and then pinned her first two opponents, the first after 38 seconds and the second after 1:54. In the semifinals, Baxstrom won by a 13-7 decision to move onto the championship, which she won by pinning her opponent after 2:32 to score 30 team points for the Lady Pirates.

“Laykyn’s record is now 9-0 and is a clear contender for a state championship,” wrote Janowsky.

Bella Jackson placed second, wrestling at 105 pounds, and scored

25 points for the Lady Pirates.

Jackson received a bye in the first round, pinned her first opponent in 54 seconds, won her quarterfinal match via a technical fall score of 20-2 after 3:50 and reached the first-place match via another technical fall score

*“Laykyn’s record is now 9-0 and is a clear contender for a state championship.”*  
**Coach Dan Janowsky**

of 15-0 after 3:16. Jackson was pinned in the championship after 3:25 and finished second.

Heading into the break, Jackson has a 9-3 record.

Madi Stretton placed second as well, wrestling at 110 pounds and scoring 22 points for the Lady Pirates.

Stretton also received a bye in her first-round match. She defeated her first opponent with a 9-4 decision, pinned her second opponent after

3:53 in the quarterfinal and won her semifinal match by a 12-5 decision. Stretton was pinned in her final match after 29 seconds.

She holds a 9-2 record heading into the break.

Both Jackson and Stretton faced state medalists in the finals of their brackets, and Janowsky emphasizes both girls gained valuable experience for the state tournament at the Warrior Classic.

Kyley Matyniak was the last Lady Pirate to place in the tournament. Wrestling at 130 pounds, Matyniak scored 13 points for the Lady Pirates with her sixth-place finish.

Matyniak received a first-round bye like the others and won her first matchup via a 4-2 decision. She lost in the quarterfinals after being pinned in 1:53, but pinned her next two opponents in the consolation bracket — the first after 2:17 and the second after 4:27. She was defeated via a 4-3 decision in the first-place match, moving her record to 9-4 heading into break.

Neveah Castaneda did not place, but scored eight points for the Lady Pirates while wrestling at 115 pounds.

Castaneda won her first two matches, pinning her first opponent after 1:55 and her second after 1:27. She was then pinned in her next two matches and eliminated from the tournament.

Kelsey Matyniak did not place, but scored four points for the Lady Pirates while wrestling at 120 pounds.

Kelsey won her first match by pinning her opponent after 3:58, but was pinned in her next two matches and eliminated.

Audrina Smith did not place, but scored five points for the Lady Pirates while wrestling at 135 pounds.

Smith won her first match by decision with a score of 7-4, but dropped her second match after being pinned in 3:35. Smith bounced back and won her third match, pinning her opponent after 1:57, but was eliminated after getting pinned in her fourth match.

The Lady Pirates now have a chance to rest while they are on winter break. The Lady Pirates will compete next at home when they host the Rocky Mountain Invite on Jan. 9, 2026.

[jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com)

### Pirates take 20th at Warrior Classic in Grand Junction

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

Last weekend, the Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys’ wrestling team traveled to Central High School in Grand Junction for the Warrior Classic, a Western Slope tradition that saw more than 50 teams come together and compete.

The tournament was composed mostly of 4A and 5A programs, but the Pirates finished 20th, which was high amongst the 3A programs competing.

The Pirates’ top finisher was Colton Lucero, who finished second. Jimmy Elledge was the only other Pirate to place in the tournament.

Lucero wrestled in the 157-pound bracket for the Pirates, scoring 29.5 points for the team with his second-place finish.

He started quickly, pinning his first opponent after one minute and two seconds. He pinned his second opponent after 2:59 and his third in 51 seconds. In the quarterfinals, he won by a technical fall score of 18-1 in four minutes to reach the semifinals, where he once again pinned his opponent, this time in 39 seconds.

Lucero was pitted against a state champion from Green River with an undefeated record in the championship match. He lost the match by an 8-1 decision. With 10 seconds left on the clock the score was tied 1-1, Lucero took one last deep shot on a takedown and was countered by his opponent.

Lucero now heads into the break with a 9-1 record.

“Lucero had been the aggressor the entire match,” wrote coach Dan Janowsky in an email to The SUN. “The fans were treated to some very high level wrestling skill and athleticism in the final bout.”

Elledge was the only other Pirate to place in the tournament, taking sixth while wrestling at 215 pounds.

Elledge won his first three match-

es of the tournament, pinning his first opponent after 1:49, pinning his second opponent after 3:55 and winning his third match by a 4-0 decision. Elledge then dropped his next three matches, getting pinned in the semifinal, losing by a 4-3 decision in the consolation semifinal and getting pinned in the fifth-place match.

*“Lucero had been the aggressor the entire match. The fans were treated to some very high level wrestling skill and athleticism in the final bout.”*  
**Coach Dan Janowsky**

Elledge scored 13 points for the Pirates and clearly belongs in the conversation for a state medal in February, wrote Janowsky.

Johnny Baker, wrestling at 126 pounds, did not place and scored two points for the Pirates. Baker won his first match via a 8-4 decision, but was pinned in his second match and lost his final match in the first tie breaker round by a score of 13-10.

Eric Smith finished the tournament with a 2-2 record while wrestling at 132 pounds. Though he did not place, he scored five points for the Pirates.

Smith won his first match by pinning his opponent in 52 seconds. He then lost by technical fall score of 24-6 in 3:58. Smith bounced back, pinning his next opponent in three minutes, but lost his final match by a major decision score of 15-3.

Stetson Osborn wrestled at 138 pounds and did not place. Osborn

lost his two matches, the first by a technical fall score of 18-2 after 4:06 and the second by a fall at 2:22.

Asher McKennie wrestled at 144 pounds and did not place, but scored five points for the Pirates.

McKennie won his first match by pinning his opponent after 1:34, but lost his second match by a major decision score of 12-1. He came back and won his third match by a 10-3 decision, but his tournament came to a close when he lost his fourth match by being pinned after 3:52.

Hudson Mazur wrestled at 150 pounds and did not place, but scored three points for the Pirates.

Mazur was pinned in his first match after 47 seconds. He came back and won his second match by pinning his opponent in 2:07, but was pinned in two minutes in his third match and was eliminated from the tournament.

Devin Gonzalez wrestled at 165 pounds for the Pirates. He did not place, but scored seven team points.

Gonzalez won his first match by pinning his opponent after 1:29, but lost his next match after being pinned in 46 seconds. Gonzalez came back and won his next two matches, defeating his third opponent via a technical fall score of 15-0 after 2:51 and defeating his fourth opponent by another technical fall score of 18-3 after 3:49. Gonzalez was eliminated after he was pinned in 3:43 in the next

match, but Janowsky emphasized that Gonzalez made big strides from the previous week.

Truman Vasek wrestled at 175 pounds and did not place, earning three points for the Pirates.

Vasek lost his opening match after being pinned in 2:26. He won his first match in the consolation bracket via a forfeit, but lost his next match after being pinned in 1:54 and was eliminated.

Hunter Martinez wrestled at 285 pounds for the Pirates. Even though he did not place, he went 2-2 and scored seven points for the Pirates.

Martinez pinned his first opponent after 5:15, but was pinned by his next opponent after 53 seconds. Martinez pinned his first opponent in the consolation bracket after 1:55, but was eliminated after being pinned in his fourth match after 1:26.

“One of the best surprises of the early season is sophomore 285 lb Hunter Martinez, who moved up from junior varsity last year and has finished the early season with a 7-5 record,” wrote Janowsky.

The Pirates now have the winter break to rest up before the second half of the season starts in January.

The Pirates will host the Rocky Mountain Duals and then the Rocky Mountain Invite on Jan. 9 and 10, 2026.

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## SWIMMING



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Lady Pirate Brooklyn Trujillo swims the backstroke at the team's meet against Sargent on Dec. 18 at Adams State University. Sargent triumphed 82-81, with Lady Pirate coach Heather Miller highlighting the Pirates came closer to defeating their opponent than they have in years.

# Lady Pirates fall in close battle

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team competed in the Sargent swim meet against Sargent at Adams State University on Thursday, Dec. 18.

The Lady Pirates lost in a close one to Sargent 82-81.

"The meet went well, we had some best times and a few mistakes on starts and turns," wrote coach Heather Miller in an email to The SUN. "We came closer to beating Sargent than we have in many years."

The first event of the meet was the 200-yard medley relay. The Pagosa team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Asia Gorman placed second with a time of two minutes, 20.12 seconds. The team of Ruby Snell, Gianna Shaeffer, Grace Cram and Leilani Snell took third with a time of 2:36.95. The team of Brooklyn Trujillo, Cheyenne Trujillo, Natalia Monterroso and Kailey Vincent finished fourth with a time of 2:59.95.

Event two was the 200-yard freestyle. The Lady Pirates took third, fifth and sixth. Angela Gomez finished third with a time of 2:53.86, Lucia River finished fifth with a time of 3:39.11, and Isa Forster finished sixth with a time of 4:01.12.

The 200-yard individual medley was the third event, with the Lady Pirates finishing first and second. Gantt finished first with a time of 2:54.86 and Ruby Snell finished second with a time of 3:37.89. Kaillen Taylor also swam the race, but was disqualified.

The fourth event, the 50-yard freestyle, was the largest event of the night. Seventeen girls total raced, with the Lady Pirates taking three of the top six spots. Gorman finished second with a time 29.75, knocking 1.03 seconds off her seed time. Hedgecock finished right behind

her with a time of 30.90, and Cram rounded out the top six, finishing sixth with a time of 32.78.

Leilani Snell swam a time of 33.08, Cheyenne Trujillo finished with a time of 36.42, Vincent finished with a time of 36.57, Brooklyn Trujillo finished with a time of 38.01, Avery Book finished with a time of 40.04, Angelique Buffum swam a time of 42.41 and Arya Patel logged a time of 48.36.

*"The meet went well, we had some best times and a few mistakes on starts and turns. We came closer to beating Sargent than we have in many years."*

**Coach Heather Miller**

Gantt took first in the next event, the 100-yard butterfly, with a time of 1:16.98. Blackman finished third with a time of 1:46.30 and Schaeffer finished fourth with a time of 1:46.34.

The 100-yard freestyle was the next event, and the Lady Pirates had six swimmers in the race. The top finisher was Cheyenne Trujillo, who finished fourth with a time of 1:30.00. Sister Brooklyn Trujillo was right behind her, finishing fifth with a time of 1:30.03.

While not competing for team points, Book finished with a time of 1:27.18, knocking more than seven seconds off her seed time. Vincent swam a time of 1:33.42, Buffum finished with a time of 1:38.73, and Monterroso was disqualified.

The Lady Pirates swept the podium in the next event, the 500-yard

freestyle. Gorman swam a 6:53.66, cutting two seconds off her seed time to take first in the event. Cram finished second with a time of 7:24.68, and Hedgecock finished third with a time of 7:41.76.

The ninth event of the meet was the 200-yard freestyle relay. The Lady Pirate team of Shaeffer, Blackman, Gomez and Brooklyn Trujillo swam a 2:21.23 and took second. The team of Vincent, Buffum, Rivera and Book swam a 2:40.23 and took third.

The Lady Pirates had six swimmers in the 10th event of the meet, the 100-yard backstroke. Ruby Snell was the Lady Pirates' top finisher, taking third with a time of 1:36.10. Monterroso finished fifth with a time of 1:38.34, cutting just under seven seconds from her seed time. Gomez finished sixth with a time of 1:39.66. Leilani Snell finished with a time of 1:38.89, Forster finished with a time of 2:19.30 and Taylor finished with a time of 2:57.90.

The last individual event was the 100-yard breaststroke. Shaeffer swam a 1:27.19 and held on at the end of the race to take first place in an amazing race for the Lady Pirates, wrote Miller.

Rivera swam a 1:58.62 and finished fifth and Blackman was disqualified. While not competing for team points, Patel swam a 2:26.17.

In the final event of the night, the 400-yard freestyle relay, the Lady Pirates finished first, third and fifth. The team of Gorman, Hedgecock, Cram and Gantt finished first with a time of 4:48.67. The team of Leilani Snell, Monterroso, Cheyenne Trujillo and Gomez finished third with a time of 5:28.81. The team of Taylor, Book, Forster and Buffum finished fifth with a time of 7:08.43.

The Lady Pirates are now on winter break and will return to action on Jan. 9, 2026, when they will face Delta at Colorado Mesa University.

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## BASKETBALL

# Lady Pirates go 1-2 at Black Canyon Classic

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball finished out 2025 with a win after dropping its first two games in Montrose at the Black Canyon Classic last week, moving to 3-3 overall on the season.

“We had a challenging weekend in the Black Canyon Classic, we played well against a tough Montrose team who is very disciplined, well coached, and has some talented players,” coach Sarah Osborn wrote in an email to The SUN. “We haven’t played four quarters consistently well though, that is something we are looking to start doing in the new year.”

The 4A Lady Pirates took on a trio of 5A teams at the tournament.

The Lady Pirates opened the tournament against Montrose on Thursday, Dec. 18, losing 58-28.

The Lady Pirates played from behind the entire game and at halftime trailed 27-16. The Lady Pirates were outscored 14-2 in the third quarter and, despite scoring in double digits for the first time in the game in the fourth quarter, were unable to overcome the deficit.

Eight Lady Pirates got on the score sheet against Montrose, with Liana Vega and Kaila Limebrook each leading the team with six points. Amber Snarr followed with five. Adelyn

Hittle and Charity Domingo put up three each, Ximena Garcia and Bella Adkisson each added two, and Lexi Campbell put up one.

The team made seven of 15 attempts from the free-throw line.

The Lady Pirates bested the Red Hawks 25-23 in rebounds, led by five each from Snarr and Campbell.

The Lady Pirates ended the game with 27 turnovers and seven steals.

*“Overall, the strongest performances came from players who defended, communicated, and did the little things that don’t always show up in the stat sheet.”*  
**Coach Sarah Osborn**

On Friday, Dec. 19, the Lady Pirates faced off against the Glenwood Springs Demons and lost 38-24.

A zero point second quarter put the Lady Pirates in another double-digit hole going into halftime that they couldn’t recover from.

Ahrianna Martinez and Adkisson both lead the Lady Pirates with six points. Limebrook and Dawson Iverson tallied three points each, and Snarr put up one.

The team made six of 10 shots from the charity stripe.

The Lady Pirates snagged 34 rebounds as a team, led by Adkisson’s seven and six each from Hittle and Campbell.

The Lady Pirates notched 11 steals, but turned the ball over 22 times.

In their final game of the tournament on Saturday, Dec. 20, the Lady Pirates got a win to close out the year, beating Pueblo Central 46-18.

The Lady Pirates built a seven-point lead heading into halftime and extended it to 28 after outscoring the Wildcats by 21 in the second half.

Ten Lady Pirates scored in the matchup. Hittle led the team in scoring with 12 points, Limebrook added 10 of her own, and Campbell and Domingo each added five points. Garcia, Victoria Currier and Adkisson each added three. Liana Vega and Snarr notched two each, and Martinez contributed one.

The Lady Pirates made 16 of 35 free-throw attempts.

The Lady Pirates bested the Wildcats in rebounds 36-24, led by Limebrook’s seven and Hittle’s six. Twelve Lady Pirates pulled down rebounds in the win.

The Lady Pirates finished the game with 27 turnovers and 18 steals.

“I saw some younger players give us valuable minutes and energy, which was huge,” wrote Osborn after the tournament. “Overall, the strongest performances came from players who defended, communicated, and did the little things that don’t always

show up in the stat sheet.”

The Lady Pirates will now take a break before they are back in action in early January.

Heading into the new year, Osborn notes she wants to focus on consistency, discipline on both ends of the floor and continuing to build chemistry.

The Lady Pirates’ season will start back up with back-to-back games at the Holy Family Invite.

The first is at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, in Broomfield against the Holy Family Tigers, who are 3-2 on the season.

The second is at noon on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, against the Kent Denver Sun Devils, who are 3-4.

“We want to become a team that plays hard for 32 minutes, trusts each other, and executes our game plan no matter who we’re playing,” wrote Osborn.

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### COMBINED NOTICE - PUBLICATION CRS §38-38-103 FORECLOSURE SALE NO. 2025-010

To Whom It May Concern: This Notice is given with regard to the following described Deed of Trust:

On October 22, 2025, the undersigned Public Trustee caused the Notice of Election and Demand relating to the Deed of Trust described below to be recorded in the County of Archuleta records.

Original Grantor(s) Angel Marie Stalker AND Erik James Forbis

Original Beneficiary(ies) JAY C. WILLES

Current Holder of Evidence of Debt JAY C. WILLES

Date of Deed of Trust October 11, 2022

County of Recording Archuleta

Recording Date of Deed of Trust October 18, 2022

202206091 Original Principal Amount \$31,900.00

Outstanding Principal Balance \$16,886.19

Pursuant to CRS §38-38-101(4)(i), you are hereby notified that the covenants of the deed of trust have been violated as follows: Failure to pay principal and interest when due together with all other payments provided for in the evidence of debt secured by the deed of trust and other violations thereof.

THE LIEN FORECLOSED MAY NOT BE A FIRST LIEN.

LOT 12, BLOCK 14, ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3 AMENDED, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED JULY 6, 1971, AS RECEPTION

NO. 74567, IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND RECORDER, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO

Purported common address: 487 Evergreen Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

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

NOTICE OF SALE

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

THEREFORE, Notice Is Hereby Given that I will at public auction, at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, 02/19/2026, at the Archuleta County Treasurer's Office at 305 Village Drive, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, sell to the highest and best bidder for cash, the said real property and all interest of the said Grantor(s), Grantor(s)' heirs and assigns therein, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness provided in said Evidence of Debt secured by the Deed of Trust, plus attorneys' fees, the expenses of sale and other items allowed by law, and will issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.

First Publication 12/25/2025

Last Publication 1/22/2026

Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun

IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;

DATE: 10/22/2025

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado

By: /s/ Elsa P. White, Public Trustee

The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Alison L. Berry

#34531

Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (855) 263-9295 Attorney File # 25-035715

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.

Published December 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (280589)

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 situate 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

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,

E-mail: aab@ablawcolorado.com; csb@ablawcolorado.com

Case Number: 2025CV30058

Division: 3

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: 720-460-4200

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 D05989 (GSVS 050) a 3-1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete, where the National Geodetic Survey's PID D05954 (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°59'19" East, a distance of 84127.23 feet to an angle point in the South boundary of said Asebedo, the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'A'); THENCE, along the South boundary of said Asebedo, South 87°42'54" West, a distance of 599.03 feet;

THENCE, North 65°43'36" East, a distance of 69.03 feet;

THENCE, North 89°30'41" East, a distance of 821.80 feet to the South boundary of said Asebedo;

THENCE, along the South boundary of said Asebedo, South 87°41'54" West, a distance of 286.37 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'A');

Containing 11,464 square feet of 0.263 acres, more or less.

Guy Pocket 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 D05989 (GSVS 050) a 3-1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete, where the National Geodetic Survey's PID D05954 (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 to the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'B');

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)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of ANNA ELIZABETH LEACH, also known as Elizabeth Anna Leach and Elizabeth A. Leach, Deceased Case Number 2025PR30044

All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to

District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 18, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.

LaDonna Garrett, Personal Representative

13808 Road BB Pleasant View, CO 81331

(970)749-2055

Published December 18 and 25, 2025, and January 1, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (282026)

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of LEWIS VOSSA LEACH, also known as Vossa Lewis Leach and Vossa L. Leach, Deceased Case Number 2025PR30044

All persons having claims against the above named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to

District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before April 18, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.

LaDonna Garrett, Personal Representative

13808 Road BB Pleasant View, CO 81331

(970)749-2055

Published December 18 and 25, 2025, and January 1, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (282027)

## 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@pagosahun.com](mailto:legal@pagosahun.com)

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

BASKETBALL

Pirates face ‘tough weekend’ in Montrose

By Jack Sellner  
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys’ basketball team had a tough weekend at the Black Canyon Classic in Montrose, going 0-3 and dropping their overall record to 2-4 heading into the winter break.

“It was a tough weekend overall; we didn’t shoot well from the floor or the free-throw line,” said coach Brandon Forster. “I felt like we were realistically in every game and we had a good chance to win, but you’ve got to be able to hit shots and shoot well from the free-throw line to do anything against those teams.”

The 4A Pirates played a series of 5A teams at the tournament.

The Pirates opened the tournament up on Thursday, Dec. 18, with a 50-38 loss to the Montrose Red Hawks.

After taking a one-point lead after the first quarter, the Pirates were shut out in the second quarter. The Pirates outscored the Red Hawks in the second half and cut the deficit to five, but it wasn’t enough to overcome the 14-0 second quarter.

Ty Richey led the Pirates with 14 points, and Bode Hubbard and Creede Dozier each added eight points. Duke Ketchum put up four,

and Jerry Dean and Jeremiah Jones tallied two each.

The Pirates landed four of 11 free-throw attempts.

The Pirates rebounded 16 times, compared to Montrose’s 29. The Pirates were led in rebounding by

*“You don’t get to the top of the ladder without taking it a rung at a time. Those are just lessons we have to learn. We got to learn how to be in a close game, how to take a lead, and then that next one is how to sustain it.”*

**Coach Brandon Forster**

four from Jones and three each from Dozier and Ketchum. Seven Pirates pulled down rebounds in the game.

The Pirates logged six steals and turned the ball over 17 times.

The Pirates then played the Glenwood Springs Demons on Friday, Dec. 19, falling 41-35.

Down just one point at halftime, the Pirates were outscored 14-5 in the third quarter. The Pirates outscored the Demons 10-6 in the fourth, but it wasn’t enough.

Dozier led the Pirates in scoring with 12 points, Hubbard added eight more, and Jones and Koen Pitcher each scored four points. Richey put up three, and Ketchum and Jayton Ross tallied two each.

The team made seven of 20 from the free-throw line.

The Pirates were outrebounded by the Demons 35-19. Seven Pirates rebounded in the game, led by Jones’ five.

The Pirates logged seven steals and turned the ball over nine times.

The Pirates played the Pueblo Central Wildcats in their final game of the tournament on Saturday, Dec. 20, losing 81-52.

Going into this game, coach Forster explained he knew that the Wildcats would be a tough matchup.

After taking a nine-point halftime lead, the Wildcats put up a 30-point third quarter, ballooning their lead to 26.

“In that third quarter, we made adjustments to be out on their shoot-

ers, and they still came out and shot the lights out,” said Forster. “It’s one of those things where it kind of just snowballs on you. It’s a fast-paced game and they got up quick, and we just couldn’t find our footing.”

Dozier once again led the Pirates in scoring with 20 points. Richey added 10, Ketchum added eight and Hubbard added seven.

The Pirates were once again outrebounded, finishing with 33 to the Wildcats’ 36. Eight Pirates pulled down rebounds in the matchup, led by six each from Hubbard, Ross and Richey.

The Pirates stole the ball five times and tallied 14 turnovers.

“You don’t get to the top of the ladder without taking it a rung at a time,” Forster said. “Those are just lessons we have to learn. We got to learn how to be in a close game, how to take a lead, and then that next one is how to sustain it.”

The Pirates will look to bounce back on the opening weekend of the new year at the Holy Family Invite.

The Pirates will play their first game back on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, in Broomfield against the Holy Family Tigers, who are 4-0, at 7:30 p.m.

The following day at 1:30 p.m., the Pirates will take on the Peak to Peak Pumas, who own a 3-3 record.

[jsellner@ourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jsellner@ourkemediagroup.com)

Funding available to strengthen local food systems

Colorado Department of Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture’s (CDA’s) Urban Agriculture Program is opening its first funding opportunity for urban producers in Colorado.

The Urban Agriculture Microgrant Program is accepting applications from urban agriculture operations seeking to complete small-scale projects crucial to expanding urban production, implementing conservation practices, educating community members and addressing other common challenges.

“Urban producers play a critical role in resilient local food systems across Colorado,” said Evanne Caviness, Director of CDA’s Conservation Services Division. “Farming in an urban interface poses unique challenges to urban producers, and here at CDA, we recognize the importance of investing in their innovation and resilience.”

For the purpose of this grant program, urban agriculture means the cultivation and distribution of farm products in and around urban, peri-urban and rural areas specifically to serve the local community.

These operations can also be a tool

for education, community engagement, and raising awareness about agriculture and food production.

Urban growers throughout the state of Colorado are encouraged to apply, including any producer whose primary market includes community members and/or businesses local to their operation. Operations do not need to be based in a major metropolitan area to be considered.

A total of \$20,000 is available for projects that support Colorado’s urban farms through actionable improvements, capacity building and community engagement. Grant awards may not exceed \$5,000 for a single entity application. Applica-

tions are due by Jan. 26, 2026.

The Urban Agriculture program staff will host an informational webinar about the microgrant on Jan. 7, 2026, at 9 a.m. You can find the registration link and other information about how to apply on the Urban Agriculture Program webpage, [ag.colorado.gov/conservation/urban-agriculture](http://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/urban-agriculture).

Urban agriculture is an area of focus for CDA as part of the agency’s strategic plan. It falls into multiple strategic directions, such as Environmental Stewardship and Climate Resilience, People and Community, as well as Market and Economic Productivity.

More than 12,000 applications submitted as universal preschool enrollment opens for 2026-2027

State of Colorado

Colorado’s Universal Preschool program saw unprecedented family engagement during the opening of enrollment for the 2026-2027 program year, setting new records for application submissions, system traffic and user participation since the program launched in 2023.

As of Dec. 22, families had submitted 12,886 applications for the 2026-2027 program year.

On the first day of enrollment alone, families submitted 5,913 applications, compared to 3,977 applications on opening day last year — an increase of 1,936 applications, representing a 48.7 percent uptick.

In the first hour of enrollment on Dec. 9, more than 4,200 visitors accessed the Universal Preschool system, with a sustained peak of approximately 1,700 concurrent users throughout the day.

The strong participation reflects growing awareness and trust in Universal Preschool, as well as continued improvements to the enrollment experience.

User satisfaction for the enrollment system currently stands at 84 percent, underscoring the program’s commitment to accessible, family-centered design.

“Free preschool has helped more than 100,000 families in Colorado save money and give children the best possible start. We are thrilled to see so many families signing up for the next school year while sav-

ing more than \$6,300 per year. I look forward to visiting this new class of preschoolers,” said Gov. Jared Polis.

“Families across Colorado are clearly planning ahead and engaging early to secure preschool options that work for them,” said Dr. Lisa Roy, executive director of the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC). “This record-breaking enrollment activity shows both the demand for high-quality preschool and the confidence families have in Universal Preschool. Our team continues to strengthen the system so it can meet families where they are and support children during this critical stage of development.”

For more information about Universal Preschool and how to apply, visit [UPK.Colorado.gov](http://UPK.Colorado.gov).

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**VERY MERRY**

**CHRISTMAS**

*& Happy New Year*



*Peace, joy, and love to you this holiday season.*

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**Vicki Liszewski**  
Associate Broker  
Realtor  
480-287-3155  
[Vicki.Liszewski@remax.net](mailto:Vicki.Liszewski@remax.net)



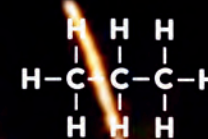
**Andrea Peltier**  
Associate Broker  
Realtor  
303-918-8137  
[Andrea.Peltier@remax.net](mailto:Andrea.Peltier@remax.net)



**Diane Pistillo**  
Associate Broker  
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# preview

## ARTS & LIFE

# Merry Christmas





Once again, The SUN teamed up with Santa and his elves to help deliver letters to the guy in the big red suit, with the promise we could share those Christmas wishes with our readers, as they were written.

Dear Santa Claus  
I've been a very good boy this year. I've been eating my eggs, cleaning my bathroom and watering my mom's plants.

This is what I would like for Christmas:

1. Spider Man's secret hideout
2. Spider Man watch
3. Web shooter
4. Wishing Star
5. Christmas tree decorations
6. New Jammies
7. Toy lightning "the queen" car
8. Chips
9. Candy Canes
10. Hot coco pot
11. Real Robot
12. Horse and Farmer set
13. Toy Boat

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! Can you please get me at least one of these: Little Live Pets My Baby Panda ChuChu, Little

Love Jasper, age 4

Live Pets Ouchies Hazel, BLDR Squishmallows Tour Van, Melissa and Doug wooden scooping ice cream counter or a TonieBox 2 with Gabby's Dollhouse game and controller. This is what I want for Christmas.

Questions ... What's your favorite season? What's your favorite holiday other than Christmas? Other than Christmas, my favorite holiday is my birthday.

Love,  
Amelia, age 10

Dear Santa,  
How are you, the raindeer and the elves? can I maybe have a Lego mini doll please? I have been sledding a lot this year. Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Scarlett

Dear Santa,  
I have had a great year so far. I had fun playing and biking with my friends along with learning. May I please have a bigger hat light that fits me? Finally is it always snowing in the North Pole? Have a great year.

Love,  
Max

Dear Santa,  
I think I've been good this year. The only fun thing I can think of is snowboarding. For Christmas can I please

■ See Letters on next page

## Live Performers

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

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**Owner, CEO**  
Jim O'Rourke  
**Publisher, Advertising, Circulation**  
Shari Pierce, shari@pagosasun.com  
**Editor**  
Randi Pierce, editor@pagosasun.com  
**Reporters**  
Josh Pike, josh@pagosasun.com  
Derek Kutzer, derek@pagosasun.com  
Clayton Chaney, clayton@pagosasun.com  
**Classified Advertising/Front Office**  
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# MELTDOWN ON MAIN

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# Letters

■ continued from previous page  
have a few robux cards? Also am I on the nice list? Thanks Santa. Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Sawyer

Dear Santa,  
I Have been very kind and helpful. I have cleaned my room and I put away my laundry. Can I please Have a X-box gift card? How do you carr presents? Merry Christmas!

Love,  
Jesiah

Dear Santa,  
This year I have been very helpful. may I pelase have some Pokemon cards? Also what have your else been doing? merry christmas.

Love,  
Teague

Dear Santa,  
This year I been vere kind. Also can I pleae have a Bike and some headphones please. Finally how do reindeer fly?

Merry Christmas.

Love,  
Isaiah

Dear Santa,  
This year was good even though sometimes I get angry. Santa can I hplease get some real, orange nun-chucks they have a dragon sticker Also Santa do you see penguins at your home? I hope you have a good rest of your year!

Love,  
Mikey

Dear Santa, this year I helped with the laundry. can I have a PS4? I wonder if you eat berries. Thank you!

Love,  
Lincoln

Dear Santa, This year I have been very good beca I helped A is a I want a trampoline.

memy Christmas!

Love  
Aislinn

Dear Saofd,  
Cna I have two headphones and a littrest petstop, Barbie dream house Ive been wan ting one for eer I've been kind fo bad this year but I have taken good care of my sisters. Merry christmas.

Love,  
Rebel

Dear Santa,  
This yeas I have been kind. I want lots of paper. Why do you not bring cats and dogs? Have a great Christmas!

Love,  
Eliana

Dear Santa,  
Can I have a red gocart please? Also how do the Reindeer get magic to fly? I was good this year I am so happy that I can ski!  
Merry christmas!

Love,  
Mason

Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa, my name is Beau, and I am 10 months old. I can't talk yet, but I'm very good at babbling, drooling, and rolling exactly where I'm not

supposed to go.

I've been mostly good this year ... except for that one time I tried to eat the remote ... and maybe brother's toys. But in my defense, everything looks like a snack to me.

For Christmas, I would love some fun toys to shake, chew on, or smack together loudly. Soft, snuggly things are also great — bonus points if they survive being thrown on the floor 47 times.

■ See Letters on next page

## The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners seeks a volunteer to serve on the County's Planning Commission.



The vacancy is for a three (3) year term. Citizens interested in planning issues and how planning affects the community are encouraged to apply.

### How to Apply

Please send letters of interest and background information to the County Commissioners Office, Attn: Planning Commission, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Your application may also be faxed to 264-8306 or emailed to adminp@archuletacounty.gov. For more information, please see our website at www.archuletacounty.gov.



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Letters

■ continued from previous page

Thank you, Santa! I will be asleep on Christmas Eve, probably with one sock missing, but I'm excited for whatever you bring!

Love Beau

P.S. I am a size 9-12 months in clothes

Dear Santa

My name is Ryder, and I am five years old. I have been trying very hard to be good this year! I help at home, I listen to my grown-ups, and I am kind to my friends.

For christmas, I would love to ask for some walkie talkies, some magnetic blocks and a kids-safe kitchen cooking set so I can pretend to cook like a grown up.

Thank you very much, Santa! I will leave out some cookies and milk for you, and carrots for the reindeers.

Love, Ryder

P.S. I am a size 10 in shoes and kids 5-6 in clothes.

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name is Nathan. Can I please have a Switch 2 and a new gaming chair. Also I would like an orange cat. Lastly, I would like a mega knight blanket for my bed.

Nate, age 7

Dear Santa,

Hi My name is Emma and I would like a iRhone 17 for Christmas Also I would a kpop Demons hunters blanket. Also Hello kitty headphones.

Emma, age 8

Dear Santa,

Hi Santa! It would be great if you could get me a Louisville Slugger Select Power.I would also love Robux and a Sheels gift card.

Love,Layne, age 8

Dear Santa,

hi my name is Elias. For Christmas please can I have a Demaryuis Thom-as jersey and a Broncos necklace

Love, Elias, age 8

Dear Santa

Hi,my name is Rory. Can I please have a play Station with Madden 25 for Christmas please. Also can I be on the Broncos please.

Love Rory, age 7

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Carter. I would like a dirt bike please. I would also like a vr head set. I would also like some clothes and a water bottle. If I haven't been nice enough you can just give me the dirt bike and vr headset.Love always.

Carter. age 7

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name is Wren. I'm writing you to tell you what I would like for christmas. I would like a blue roly suitcase with Bluey keychains.

Your friend, Wren, age 8

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Cole and what I would like for Christmas is a remote control helicopter. I would also like a Snap Circuit with 300 pieces and wooden train tracks with a lot of switches.

Your Friend,Cole, age 8

Dear Santa,

Hello Santa! My name is Noel. Please can I have a mini phone and

a VR head set and a mini car that I can drive

Love always, Noel, age 8

Dear Santa,

I want an iPhone for Christmas. I also want a mini fridge. I also want a gaming chair. I also want a Switch. I also want a dirt bike.

Love, Jupiter, age 7

Dear Santa,

Hii my name is Van and I would like a nintendo switch and skis. I would like it blue please.

Love Van, age 7

DEAR SANTA,

Hi MY NAME IS ZIGGY I WANT a SWITCH .and a pet chicken. I would also like a remote control toy.

love, your friend, ZIGGY, age 7

Hi my name is TJ and would like a Dirt bike. I would like an electric bike please. Last a electric scooter. What cookee do you like? One more cweshchin why do you wer a red suit, Santa?

TJ, age 7

Dear Santa,

Hi, my name is Laken. I would like a trip pillow that goes behind your neck. Also I would like a pair of headphones with no cord that plays music.

Love Laken, age 7

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Tony. I want a ps5 and a x-box and a hat. I would also like a phone 17 promax.

Your Friend, Tony, age 8

Dear Santa

Hi my name is Koda.I do not now what I want for Christmas except a keyboard and a real chinchilla like the animal. Can you get me a drum? One more thing: a baby sugar glider.

Love your Friend, Koda, age 7

Dear Santa

Hi my name is Marissa. May I have some nice books and toys please? It would be nice if the toys were Barbie toys. I would also like if the books were Christmassy.

Love Marissa, age 7

Dear Santa,

Hi I want a hoverboard. A electric car that is blue. A pokemon book Pokemon chip for the Nintendo Switch,

From Claire, age 8

Dear Santa,

Hi my name is Henry. Can I please have a keyboard so I can make up songs and also bring me Legos.

From Henry, age 7

Dear Santa,

I have been good this year. i Phone anb i want mom anb dad to have good luk.

Thank you!

From Arlo

Dear santa,

I have been good this year. I would like a a mini car. Do you have a fa-vorite reindeer? I do, it is Rudolph. Thank you!

From Zoya

Dear Santa,

I have been very good this year. Pie a minecraft toys Rudolph. Tha

Levi

Dear Santa,

I have been very good thi year. I would like sum snacks. what kind of milk do you like?

thank you santa,

From Arya

■ See Letters on next page

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## SEASONS GREETINGS

*PSMC wishes you and your family a safe, healthy and joyful holiday.*

The Primary Care Clinic and Outpatient Services will be closed on Wednesday, December 24th at 12 noon and Thursday, December 25th.

We will reopen on Friday, December 26th to serve you.

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Letters

■ continued from previous page

Dear Santa,  
I've been good this year. I'd like a nintendo swich, a coruline doll and earpods. Oh! and do you like candy canes? Oh! and thank you!

From: Kodi

Dear Santa,  
I have been very. I would good this year. like a turtle that hatches baby turtles. Do you have a favorite reindeer? I do, it is Rudolph! Thank you!

From Harper

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I would like a basketball hoop, and a basketball, and a Christmas tree star. thank you so much for all of my presents!!!!.

From Enzo

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I would like a lego kraken, a seal plushie, a purple bunny plushie, please and thank you.

From Barrett

Dear Santa,  
I hove been good like a purple snow boots and A rainbow + rain

From Zia

Dear Santa,  
I have been good this year. I would like a toy pony, and a doll house

Thank you do you have a favit reindeer I do My favit is dasher

From Macyto

Sear Santa,  
I have been very good xbox a I a

From Harvey

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. I would like a dirt bike

From Owsley

Dear Santa,  
I have been good thi year. I would like the titan rocket and a mini car. Do

you have a favorite reindeer? I do it is Dasher. what is your elfs favorite thing to build! Thank you!

From Savoy

Dear Santa  
I have been very good this year I wot A LeGo TiTanic Aoiwot A blIASd TitAnic

Pls a lacc

From MAteo

Dear anta,  
I have been good this year. I would

■ See Letters on next page

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Thanks to the incredible generosity  
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This holiday season, a generous donor  
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\*Normal application process applies.  
Applications must be received and approved by 12/31.25.



GET INVOLVED.

Now is your chance to be part of the decisions made by the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

HERE'S HOW.

The mayor and three at-large seats on Town Council will be up for election on April 7, 2026.

Candidate packets, information, and requirements will be available beginning January 5, at Town Hall. Nomination petitions must be returned by January 26. Information can be found on the town's website: [www.pagosasprings.co.gov](http://www.pagosasprings.co.gov).

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

APRIL 7, 2026

TOWN HALL

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Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

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465 Cloman Blvd., Pagosa Springs

# ‘A Christmas Carol’ offering a perfect holiday tradition through Dec. 27

By Tim Moore  
Thingamajig Theatre Company

As Pagosa Springs celebrates Christmas week, the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts invites the community to experience one of the season’s most enduring stories before it closes on Dec. 27.

Patrick Barlow’s “A Christmas Carol” offers a vibrant and accessible reimagining of Charles Dickens’ holiday classic, making it a perfect fit for the week of Dec. 25 — a time centered on reflection, generosity and togetherness. The production captures the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge’s journey while delivering a theatrical experience that feels both timeless and fresh.

This adaptation balances humor, warmth and emotional depth, bringing Dickens’ message of compassion and renewal into sharp focus. With atmospheric staging and engaging performances, the production has become a seasonal touchstone for audiences looking to pair holiday traditions with a shared cultural experience.

As families gather and visitors arrive in Pagosa Springs for the holidays, “A Christmas Carol” offers an opportunity to slow down, reconnect and enjoy live theater at its most



Photo courtesy Justin Treptow, Thingamajig Theatre Company

**Samantha Luck as the Ghost of Christmas Past and Dan Morrison as Ebenezer Scrooge are pictured in Patrick Barlow’s “A Christmas Carol,” now in its final performances through Dec. 27 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.**

meaningful. With only a few performances remaining, the show serves as a fitting conclusion to the center’s mainstage holiday programming.

Final performances run through Dec. 27 at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. Tickets and performance

information are available at [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org) or by calling (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Letters

■ continued from previous page  
like a iPad and i Hav a joke for you  
From Samuel

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good  
I lik lego  
ples a taco

From Ashley

Dear Santa,  
my nam is Jaxton. Iim 6 years old.  
I wont snobord and a bike with gers  
and a kikstand and a big wotrbot  
I I like math  
im like to snobord

Love, Jax

Dear Santa,  
My name is Abigail! I’m 7 years  
old. I’m in first grant soodint! I would  
like to get a barbe for Xmas!

Love, Abigail

Dear Santa,  
My name is Krue. I’m 7 I am in  
1 grade  
I lik ot eat candy  
I wut fo XMAS is a febpetr.  
I lik ot shred the season.  
I luve you Sab

Love, Krue

Dear Santa,  
My name is Ryn. I’m 6 years old.  
I am in 1st grade. I like to eat candy!  
This year I have eben making good  
choices! This year I would LOVE to get  
a unspeakable! Also I would LOVE a  
pink game squishy and a magic eight  
ball. Thank you

Love, Ryn

My name is Michael. I wat for  
crisms I wot 4 Werl.

led I brcqu.  
I bin good.  
Dear Santa,  
My name is Griffin I am 6 So Santa  
I wonte a tigreclo Pawranire thing w  
th The masc and The soot!

Dear Santa,  
My name is Paulina. I am 6 years  
old. I am a first grade. I like to snobord  
the gnar! For smas I would LOVE to  
hug santa. I wont a cat, dragin, and a  
tiger. can the elfs trnis to santa?  
sant is the BEST!

Love, Paulina.

Dear Santa,  
My Name is Gave i Am 7 Years old  
i wont a bot and a hovrbood ond a  
SKat bood i ive bengood.

Love, Gavin

Dear Santa,  
My name is Anna. I am in 1st  
grade. I am 6 years old I wodld like  
For smas I wold like a stat anmls that  
you get stuf anims.

Love Anna.

Dear Santa,  
I Love you I wish to hav a ridh  
manchin and a gamensetup and a I  
fon17pro my mam is LincoLn I won  
to have a motrsickol and the pooLrick  
spres and my a roor at my moms haws  
I wont to to evrey dutey that is beb to  
cumdaskyixv anb a chrip to graytloj

Love,  
LincoLn

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or Green Chile Cheddar Grits, Truly  
Texas Sauce, Sweet Heat Sauce

Place your orders by 6pm on  
December 28th  
and schedule pick up



# Holiday Church Events



All events listed in the holiday church events calendar are free of charge. Submit events to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com).

## 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](http://ihmjp2.org).  
**Christmas Eve Service.** 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. For more information, visit [graceinpagosa.org](http://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](http://www.pagosabiblechurch.org).

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

**Nativity Pageant and Christmas Eve Eucharist.** 5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

**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.

**Instrumental/Choral Music and Holy Eucharist.** 7:30 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Music commences at 7:30 p.m., followed by the service at 8 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Mass.** 8 p.m., Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 455 Lewis St. For more information, visit [ihmjp2.org](http://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](http://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.

**Christmas Day Eucharist.** 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

## Sunday, Dec. 28

**Christmas Carol Sing and Liturgy.** 10 a.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal

Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd.

## Thursday, Jan. 1

**Holy Day.** 9 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd. For more information, visit [ihmjp2.org](http://ihmjp2.org).

**Burning Bowl Ceremony.** Noon. Contact (970) 510-0309 for more information. Hosted by the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center.

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The Pagosa Springs SUN  
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# Preview Calendar

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

## Wednesday, Dec. 24

**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](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Friday, Dec. 26

**Notary Drop-in.** 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be notarized with proper identification.

**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](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Saturday, Dec. 27

**Knitters Circle.** 1-3 p.m., Natural Grocers back room, 775 San Juan St. Any type and experience level of needleworker is welcome.

**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](http://pagosacenter.org) or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

## Monday, Dec. 29

**Women's Fellowship.** 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

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

**Conversational Spanish.** 4-5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Practice your Spanish conversation skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level required. A Sisson Library program.

## Tuesday, Dec. 30

**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.

**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. 31

**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.

## Friday, Jan. 2

**Notary Drop-in.** 1-2 p.m., Sisson Library. Colorado documents can be notarized with proper identification.

## Saturday, Jan. 3

**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.

## Monday, Jan. 5

**Women's Fellowship.** 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

**Line Dancing.** 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.

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

**American Sign Language Class.** 4-5 p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Learn and practice ASL skills in a group setting. No minimum skill level is required. Drop-ins are welcome.

## Tuesday, Jan. 6

**Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.** 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.

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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.

Submit your calendar items to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto: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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*As more people discover the beauty of Pagosa, our community will continue to grow. We look forward to the opportunities the future holds for our area. We appreciate your patronage, giving us the opportunity to take care of your flooring needs.*

*Sincerely,  
Dan Wirth*

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# Winter watering of trees and shrubs

By Cindi Galabota  
PREVIEW Columnist

As I write this article, the temperature in Pagosa Springs is a balmy 47 degrees F. Pagosa Weather reports on [pagosaweather.org](http://pagosaweather.org) that there has not been any measurable precipitation since Dec. 4.

According to Arleen Prochazka, the first few days of the month we had an average of .62 inches of moisture and 8.4 inches of snow in Pagosa Country.

Their forecast highlights state that a “giant, blocking, evil ridge is forcing the storm to track well to our north. Through December 24th we will have lots of sun and above average temps.”

That leaves us with three weeks of dry weather. They also share that the best chance for precipitation is Dec. 25-27. I know we are all hoping for snow.

The truth is dry air, low precipitation, little soil moisture and warmer temperatures are often characteristics of our winter weather in southwest Colorado.

The result of warm, dry periods during the winter can cause injury or death on your trees and shrubs. Affected plants may appear perfectly normal and resume growth in the spring using stored food energy, but they may be weakened and all or parts of the plant may die by late spring or

## Extension Viewpoints

summer when temperatures rise.

Woody plants with shallow root systems require supplemental watering during extended dry periods. Newly planted trees are most susceptible to winter drought injury. Trees generally take one year to establish for each inch of trunk diameter. For example, a 2-inch diameter tree takes a minimum of two years to establish under normal conditions.

Water only when the air temperatures are above 40 degrees F. Apply water late morning or by mid-day so it will have enough time to soak in before possible freezing at night. You do not want ice to form around your plants or on your grass. A solid layer of ice on lawns persisting for more than a month can cause suffocation or result in matting of the grass.

Monitor weather conditions and water one or two times per month during extended dry periods without snow cover. Plants located on the south and west sides and in windy sites may require additional water.

Trees obtain water best when the

water can soak into the soil slowly to a depth of 12 inches. As a general rule, apply 10 gallons of water to each diameter inch of tree. For example, a 2-inch diameter tree needs 20 gallons per watering. Use a ruler to measure your tree's diameter at 6 inches above the ground level.

During dry winters, all shrubs benefit from watering. Apply 5 gallons of water two times per month for a newly planted shrub. Small established shrubs should receive 5 gallons monthly. Large established shrubs (more than 6 feet tall) require up to 18 gallons of water on a monthly basis. Decrease amounts of water to account for precipitation.

Woody plants and shrubs benefit greatly from mulch in the winter to conserve soil moisture and protect exposed roots from cold and drying. Mulch can also minimize soil compaction and manage weeds.

Apply mulch to a depth of 3 to 4 inches; too much mulch can weaken trees and shrubs, and prevent water and air from reaching the soil.

When you have questions, Colorado State University (CSU) Extension has research-based answers.

Contact your Archuleta CSU Extension Office to learn more about winter watering and gardening in the southwest at (970) 264-5931 or <https://>

■ See Viewpoints on page 11



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Realtor  
303-918-8137  
[Andrea.Peltier@remax.net](mailto:Andrea.Peltier@remax.net)



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# Maintaining whole health during the holidays

Healthy Archuleta

As the holiday season continues in Archuleta County, it is a good time for residents to pause and reflect on how we are caring for ourselves and one another.

Living in a mountain resort community in the San Juan Mountains brings both beauty and unique challenges during the winter months, from shorter days and colder temperatures to busier schedules and seasonal demands.

While the holidays can be joyful, they can also increase stress and disrupt routines. For some neighbors, this season may bring feelings of isolation or reminders of loss, making connection and compassion especially important in our close-knit community.

Supporting whole health begins with balance and self-awareness.

Simple daily habits — getting enough sleep, eating nourishing meals, staying hydrated, washing hands regularly and spending time outdoors when the weather allows — can help sustain energy and emotional well-being during the darker winter days. Taking

advantage of gentle walks along the river that runs through town is one easy way to enjoy fresh air, movement and a moment of calm during a busy season.

We are grateful to the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County leaders for creating and maintaining community spaces, such as trails, the Riverwalk and parks that support health, wellness and connection for residents throughout the year.

Social gatherings are an important part of life in Archuleta County and can be enjoyed mindfully. Celebrating in moderation, listening to our bodies and allowing time for rest help support both short-term well-being and long-term health.

The holiday season offers a shared opportunity to slow down, look out for one another and strengthen community ties. By approaching this time with intention and kindness, we can support whole health for ourselves and our neighbors, now and into the new year.

To learn more about the efforts of Healthy Archuleta, please visit our website at [www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org](http://www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org).

## The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

### ACROSS

- 1 Religious groups
- 6 Exhausts
- 10 Gardner et al.
- 14 Squirrel's snack
- 15 Pelvic: Prefix
- 16 Netanyahu, informally
- 17 Golfer Palmer, to pals
- 18 Play down
- 20 Type of squash
- 22 Egg-shaped
- 23 Where the stars shop
- 25 Impose \_\_\_\_ on (outlaw)
- 27 Mine find
- 28 Bad atmosphere
- 32 Bell and Barker
- 33 Louder, in music: Abbr.
- 34 Chocolatier's machine
- 35 First hymn of a Mass
- 37 Manor workers
- 38 Brosnan TV role
- 39 Scads
- 40 Prefix with system
- 41 Big Apple river
- 42 Kimono sash
- 43 Put \_\_\_\_ in it: 2 wds.
- 44 Trucker's turf
- 47 Swiss miss of kid lit
- 50 Many-sided
- 53 On a downward slope
- 55 Old-womanish
- 56 French city once known for silk
- 57 "Welcome to" sign abbr.
- 58 Bamboo lover
- 59 Go on and on
- 60 Sgts., e.g.
- 61 Classic watch maker

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
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| 20 |    |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |    |
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| 56 |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |    |
| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    |    |

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- 2 Beige shade
- 3 Showed a difference
- 4 Moon of Neptune
- 5 Golfing legend Ed
- 6 "Les Diaboliques" actress Simone
- 7 Hints at, with "to"
- 8 Peter, in Poland
- 9 Shipwreck signal
- 10 Most importantly
- 11 "\_\_\_\_ Las Vegas"
- 12 Beat anagram
- 13 Filly's father
- 19 Cold war foe
- 21 Adjust, in a way
- 24 "Survivor" idol
- 25 Simple-living sect
- 26 African language
- 29 Rising sharply
- 30 French thanks
- 31 Fiery felony
- 33 Cleansing procedure
- 36 Junk mail addressee
- 37 Olympic racers
- 39 Home of the Maple Leafs
- 43 Not written in key
- 45 Protestant denom.
- 46 Slack-jawed
- 47 San Francisco's Nob \_\_\_\_
- 48 One-named Irish singer
- 49 Wedding words
- 51 Grocery chain
- 52 Hamburger grade
- 54 Former DWTS judge Goodman

### Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

### DOWN

- 1 Swedish auto



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[anthonydoctor@scottstrategicinv.com](mailto:anthonydoctor@scottstrategicinv.com)

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# A memory wrapped in magic and love

By Jackie Henderson  
Special to The PREVIEW

In 1970, Larry and I spent our first Christmas in the San Bernadino Mountains in a small cabin up in Crestline. The day we arrived we discovered the area had 3 feet of fresh snow, and only the main road had been cleared. Unable to drive to the cabin, we parked by the road where a group of people stood outside their house.

We got out of the car and Larry approached them and asked, "How far to the cabin?" The man replied that it was about a mile away. Fortunately, that kind man, who lived on the main road, lent us a sled. The deep snow reached over my knees, so without the sled to pull our luggage I could not have hiked all the way up to the cabin. His simple act of lending us the sled was truly one of kindness and love.

We loaded the luggage onto the sled and proceeded to hike up the snow-covered road to the cabin. Three feet of snow turned every step into a quiet trial of will. Just moving forward became slow and deliberate. The snow pressed against my boots like weight determined to hold me in place. As we trudged up the road, I soaked in the beauty around us. The fresh, glistening white snow blanketed everything. Sunlight shone across the mountainside, making the snow glitter like diamonds. The pine trees had thick white layers of snow on every branch. The world seemed so silent except for the soft crunch of

## A Matter of Faith

our footsteps.

Upon reaching the cabin, Larry turned up the heat. Cold and tired, we were relieved to get settled inside. Later in the warmth we sat together sipping hot tea as we gazed outside through the large window to the beautiful, cold, white scene. A blanket of snow covered everything, creating a deep silence. The wilderness of the San Bernardino mountains lit by bright moonlight produced a wonderful, quiet and peaceful evening.

"Larry, a few Christmas decorations will make this time perfect." I suggested.

Together, we ventured out into the cold morning to explore the area and came back with a perfect tree — a true Charlie Brown Christmas tree. This small, lopsided tree with a slightly bent trunk and sparse, uneven branches was simple, but full of character.

We collected some pine cones for our tree and then made our own decorations. Together we popped corn and strung it with needle and thread to make garland. From aluminum foil found in the cabin, we crafted shining balls and crooked little stars. While listening to Christmas music, we enjoyed decorating that tiny tree. The cabin slowly transformed into

something warm and festive.

We created a memory wrapped in magic and love — a Christmas neither of us will ever forget.

*This column may include both fiction and nonfiction, and views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN. Submissions can be sent to [editor@pagosasun.com](mailto:editor@pagosasun.com).*



**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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## Merry Christmas from our family to yours

As the holidays near, we remember the year behind us and look forward to the new year ahead. We are excited to share new memories and endless possibilities with our friends, families and neighbors of this great community.

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## Viewpoints

■ continued from page 9  
[archuleta.extension.colostate.edu](http://archuleta.extension.colostate.edu).

Resources:

• Klett, J.E. Cox, R. Fall and Winter Watering Fact Sheet No. 7.211. Colorado State University Extension, January 2004, reviewed March 2013.

• Hammond, Eric. Whiting, David. Wilson, Carl. Moravec, Catherine. Reeder, Jean. Mulching. Colorado State University Extension, December 2015, reviewed April 2023. <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/mulching/> to register.

## 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](http://www.mypagosa.org) or contact [oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov](mailto:oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov) or 970-585-8610.

# Developing a culture of reading

By Barbara Brattin  
PREVIEW Columnist

According to the state of Colorado’s Department of Education, 42 percent of third-graders in our state read proficiently in 2024. The state’s goal is to raise that rate to 60 percent by 2028.

Clearly we have a long way to go, and we have a wide array of distractions to throw us off course in our video- and social media-centric culture.

But, after 35 years in public libraries, I have yet to meet one child who doesn’t like to read in their early school years. Making reading fun is the key to growing a lifelong reader, and hinges on two things — helping children master the ability to read and connecting them to books with compelling characters and high-interest subjects.

Mastering the ability to read is in the hands of our teachers, and I cannot offer enough praise for the dedicated educators who work so hard toward that “ah-ha” moment when a child understands the relationship between phonics and reading and starts to build a very long list of sight words that makes reading flow. We adults take it for granted, but it’s just impossible to concentrate on the joy a story can bring you if you are sounding out every word.

Making reading fun for life is the job of the librarian. Ask any adult who loves to read about their early experiences in a library and they will invariably talk about the librarian who greeted them warmly, praised them for the books they had read and recommended the next book based on their understanding of that child’s interest.

In my mind, this is the most important role for our library.

That’s why we are expanding our children’s staff in 2026 and developing a robust menu of programs that

## Library News

are sure to strengthen your child’s relationship with reading.

With so much more space for collections and programs, we’re excited about the possibilities. We hope to see you often in 2026 and beyond as we develop a culture of reading in Pagosa Springs.

### Winter Reading Challenge underway

Our community quest to read 25,000 minutes in one month has begun. Earn badges and vie for prizes in our Winter Reading Challenge.

The Ruby Sisson Library has a fun new reading contest for all ages 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.

Get started on our website at <https://pagosalibrary.beanstack.com>.

### Construction update

Framing is completed and our electrical work has begun. Weather moisture barrier will go up on the exterior of the building and ductwork will be in place before the end of the month. 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

■ See Library on next page

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## SUDOKU

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 8 | 9 | 6 |   | 5 |   |   | 2 |   |
|   | 1 |   |   | 8 | 2 | 9 |   | 5 |
| 1 |   |   |   | 7 | 3 |   | 4 |   |
|   | 2 |   | 4 | 6 | 8 |   |   | 9 |
|   | 5 | 4 |   |   |   | 8 |   |   |
|   |   |   | 9 |   |   | 2 |   |   |
| 5 |   | 1 |   | 2 | 6 |   |   |   |
| 9 |   | 2 |   |   |   | 5 |   | 4 |

Level: Beginner

### 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!

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 |

ANSWER:



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# Library

■ continued from previous page 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. 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 tak-

ing a winter break the month of December.

Tutoring is for first through third grades and takes place on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration 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 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

"Best American Short Stories 2025," "The Anthony Bourdain Reader," "You, Your Husband, and His Mother" by Tracy Dalglish, "1929" by Andrew Ross Sorkin, Dolly Parton's "Star of the Show," "The American Revolution" by Geoffrey Ward and Ken Burns, and "Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts" by Margaret Atwood.

## Holiday wishes

Your Ruby Sisson Library staff is wishing you all a very lovely holiday season and a prosperous new year.

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Thank You, Pagosa Springs!  
Wow. Just wow.

The Board of Directors for the food pantry **Our Community Eats (OCE)** is overflowing with gratitude for the incredible love and support from our amazing community. From donated time, food, and funds to heartfelt encouragement, you show up again and again to help meet local nutritional needs—and it makes all the difference.

You've brought in walk-in food donations, decorated our windows, donated Thanksgiving turkeys, voted and purchased at the Festival of Trees, and helped equip us with freezers, refrigerators, a generator, and even a refrigerated van! Your generous financial contributions keep our doors open and our shelves stocked for neighbors in need.

And to our **phenomenal volunteers** — you are the heart of OCE. Your time, energy, and talents are truly treasured.

We are deeply and humbly grateful.

Thank you. Thank you. **THANK YOU!**  
— The OCE Board of Directors

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# Passing on our Christmas memories

By **Betty Slade**  
PREVIEW Columnist

Members of our writers' group were asked to write our favorite Christmas memory. I had to think long and hard. It wasn't singing songs around the piano on Christmas Eve. It wasn't receiving a favorite gift. The memory that still warms my heart was doing something special for someone else.

A Christmas I vividly remember happened in December 1979, our over-the-top, Currier and Ives Christmas card ice skating party. Months before, my Sweet Al and I gathered ice skates. People dug them out of attics and basements and were glad to give them to us, not to be returned. We ended up with 40 pairs of ice skates in all sizes.

I announced to my teenage Sunday school class that the young ladies were to dress in 1900s attire — long dresses, with long underwear to stay warm. The young men were to wear knickers. Cut-off britches were appropriate with long, wool stockings to cover their bare legs. "Wear your muffs and mittens with knitted caps to stay warm." I experienced a little pushback, but the kids came through.

Our guest list included the teens and parents of the families of Pagosa — the Aldridge girls, Davidsons, Johnsons and Marcus boys, the Hyde children, Paul Hudson, Laura Engells, Frosty Lattin, Tracy Day, Danielle Kimsey and our four Slade children — more than 50 guests, many I can't remember to name.

Al cleared the pond, which was frozen solid under 4 feet of snow. He cleaned off a path from the house to the big waterhole. We placed old-fashion glass lanterns along the 5-foot clearing so we could pull a sled carrying a Victrola phonograph with 78 rpm records.

The guests drove on the snowy road to the Lower Blanco, where they were greeted with hot chocolate and cider. They picked their size of ice skates or brought their own. They walked the lighted path to the pond, where music from the cranked-up phonograph was heard: "Bird in A Gilded Cage," "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" and many others.

The teenagers skated under the midnight blue sky full of twinkling stars, falling, teasing and darting around their friends. Even a couple lovers held hands and felt the romance in the air. The parents with lap blankets sat on logs along the side of the skating rink or by the bonfire that crackled and popped. Not a photo was taken that night to tuck away in a photo album, but my mind has kept this vivid picture fresh for 46 years.

Tired and cold guests returned to the house where we served them chili beans, cornbread and old-fashioned desserts. As they left that evening, they carried a silver-bladed-black-felt ice skate, 5 inches in size. More than just a token of the evening, they

## Artist's Lane

*Many years later, I received an old clipping of a newspaper article from Jace Johnson about that special evening. He had saved it all those years.*

carried a memory of a Currier and Ives ice-skating party.

Many years later, I received an old clipping of a newspaper article from Jace Johnson about that special evening. He had saved it all those years. When I've talked with Jace over the years, he has told me he has never forgotten the fun they had. It was one of his favorite memories of growing up in Pagosa. Mine, too.

I didn't think about the memories these families would carry with them. I just wanted the teenage kids to know they hadn't missed out being raised in our small town where not much was happening. They were being raised in these backwoods, high in the mountains, and lived far from the city lights and stores.

For Christmas, we made homemade gifts and exchanged beautiful hand-sewn articles of clothing. I even made a doll for Angel. Her name was Sarah Jane, with the stitched eyes and red cheeks. I made a wardrobe of doll clothes which Angel still has today. She has said many times that

Sarah Jane was the most favorite gift she had ever received. It still brings back memories to her.

We were living life in small ways, not thinking we were making big memories for our children and their friends. Those memories have given them their roots, that place where they felt safe and loved.

Final brushstrokes: Someone will say, "Remember when ...". That when my heart boils over with joy that they remembered. Memories are funny things. They have the ability to bind people together and bring the past into the present. Don't let the light go out on your fond memories; they keep us young at heart. They give us an assurance that our lives mean more to others than we realize. Keep making memories.

Send your comment to [bettyslade.author@gmail.com](mailto:bettyslade.author@gmail.com).

*Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.*



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I John 4:9



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# Bird of the Week



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

This week's Bird of the Week, compliments of the Weminuche Audubon Society and Audubon Rockies, is the black-capped chickadee.

The familiar chickadee is one of the first birds that most people learn and contrasts with white cheeks, gray back and buffy underparts. The black-capped is one of North America's seven chickadee species. Of these, it and the closely related mountain chickadee are at home in Colorado.

A small bill and long tail give these cute, round-headed birds a ro-tund look. The black-capped's solid head cap extends through its eyes and contrasts with white cheeks, gray back and buffy underparts. The mountain chickadee's cap is cut by a white stripe over the eyes and buffy colors are not pronounced.

Actively investigating changes in their territory, they are quick to discover feeders and not afraid of humans. They fly in to snatch a sunflower seed and then dart into the cover of a tree or shrub to eat. Perched on a branch, they hold the shell between their feet while chipping at it to eat tiny bits of the exposed seed. In a tree, they hop acrobatically, often hanging upside down from a branch in search of insect eggs and pupae in winter.

Like many of our resident birds, chickadees hide food to survive the winter when less is available. Every autumn, neurons in the brain that store outdated information are replaced with new ones. This allows them to remember thousands of current hiding places of stored food.

Studies of the vocalizations of black-capped chickadees have increased our understanding of the complex language of birds. Chickadees are often the first to sound the alarm when a predator is detected, and their calls convey information about the threat. Some calls encourage other birds to join in mobbing a perched larger bird, letting the predator know it has lost the advantage of surprise attack and might as well move on. A flying raptor might elicit an alarm call to duck into cover and freeze. In winter, mated black-capped chickadee pairs live within mixed flocks of other small birds including nuthatches, kinglets, creepers and downy woodpeckers. More than 50 different species have been shown to respond to the chickadee's alarm calls.

Especially in winter, you may benefit resident birds by providing water, food and shelter in your living space.

For information on events, visit [www.weminucheadubon.org](http://www.weminucheadubon.org) and [www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/](https://www.facebook.com/weminucheadubon/).

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Photos courtesy Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Timber Ridge community residents once again shared the spirit of the season by coming together to prepare their annual holiday stockings for Archuleta Seniors Inc.



# Trinity Anglican Church

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# Merry Christmas





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# Archuleta Seniors Inc. offers holiday greetings and gratitude

By Ricardo Martinez  
PREVIEW Columnist

As the holiday season arrives, Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) extends warm wishes to the older adults of our community, along with heartfelt appreciation to its board of directors, dedicated staff and valued community partners.

Throughout the year, their combined efforts have strengthened programs, expanded services and ensured that seniors remain connected, supported and respected. The holidays offer a meaningful time to reflect on these shared accomplishments and the spirit of cooperation that makes them possible.

ASI also sends best wishes to families, volunteers, donors and all those who support the well-being of older adults across the county.

May this season be filled with peace, good health and time spent with loved ones.

As the community looks ahead to the new year, ASI remains grateful for the continued partnership and commitment that help build a caring, inclusive community for all.

## Holiday closures

ASI will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 26, Jan. 1 and 2, 2026; and Jan. 19, 2026 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. 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 Commu-

## Senior News

nity 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](http://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.

Compete to see which team can

■ See Senior on page 19

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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://pspaxeltree.com/240-Glade-Dr>



240 Glade Drive • \$1,055,000

This meticulously cared for log cabin, near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Covered deck, backyard patio, stunning mountain views. Open floor plan connects the great room to a modern kitchen. Primary bedroom and bathroom are 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 plus a fourth bedroom set up as a bunk room with a full bath nearby.



33 Fawn Court  
\$949,000

MLS #824532

To tour this home go to: <https://pspaxeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>

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.



1001 Soaring Eagle Court  
\$899,000

MLS #822945

To tour this home go to: <https://tinyurl.com/1001SoaringEagleCourt>



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.



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-Pricing does not include the well on the property because the well does not have potable water.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspaxeltree.com/1231-Ranchland-Dr>



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.

To tour this home go to: <https://pspaxeltree.com/109-Carols-Curves>

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Renewal notices are sent via email.

# Senior

## ■ continued from page 17

raise the most for our seniors. Puzzle it out on Jan. 24, 2026. Race against the clock to finish your 500-piece puzzle challenge first in three hours. Win prizes and bragging rights. Celebrate your victory knowing you've made a difference.

Think fast, have fun and piece together something amazing for our community.

Ready to take on the challenge? Register your team or become a sponsor and make a donation toward your favorite team's fundraising goal. Let's put the pieces together for a great cause.

## 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 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-

■ See Senior on page 21

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# PAGOSA SCENE . . .

## ‘THE STORYBOOK NUTCRACKER’

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce

Scene ... celebrating the season with the Pagosa Springs Dance Academy’s “The Storybook Nutcracker.” The production tells the classic tale while featuring numerous dance styles.



# Senior

## ■ continued from page 19

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 Thursday of the month from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. — a new day and time — join the “Tappers,” who practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more.

Everything you need to get started is included in this fun, engaging, supportive class taught by Judith Newman, LPC.

### Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Join our friendly 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.

### 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](mailto:copenhavercreative@gmail.com) and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

### 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 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

Our dining hall is open to all ages and welcomes you all with kindness

and warmth. We provide hot/cold meals for anyone in the community interested in a nutritious and delicious meal. For those 60 or older we request a suggested donation of \$6, but no one will be turned away. There is a \$10.50 charge for guests under the age of 60.

Meals include a main course, side dish, fruit/dessert, garden salad plus beverage.

### Community Cafe menu

Call before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Wednesday, Dec. 24 — Closed.

Thursday, Dec. 25 — Closed.

Friday, Dec. 26 — Closed.

Monday, Dec. 29 — Baked salmon with herb cream sauce, lima beans, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 30 — Thai chicken with peanut sauce, sugar snap peas, quinoa rice, garden salad, fruit, chai pudding and milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 31 — Beef spaghetti with garlic bread, broccoli, garden salad, fruit, banana brunch cake and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026 — Closed. We wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Friday, Jan. 2, 2026 — Closed.

### 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.

■ See Senior on next page



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# New Year’s Eve celebration ideas for families

Special to The PREVIEW

The New Year’s Eve countdown is on, with people eagerly awaiting the opportunity to say goodbye to this year and welcome the possibilities of the year ahead.

The month of January’s name was derived from the Roman god Janus, who was the god of beginnings, endings, doorways and transitions. Symbolized by his two faces looking in opposite directions, Janus presided over many transitions.

Billions enjoy celebrating the arrival of a new year. While New Year’s Eve may be known for its raucous nature, complete with overflowing cocktails and packed dance floors, parents looking to celebrate with their young children have plenty of options to turn NYE into a more family-friendly affair.

Explore these ideas for family-friendly NYE fun:

- Noon Year’s Eve: Staying up until

midnight might be a stretch for young children, who tend to get wired and cranky the later into the evening they go beyond typical bedtime. Instead of waiting until midnight for the countdown, move it back (or ahead) 12 hours to noon. Young children won’t mind if it’s the sun out instead of the moon, as long as they get to make noise and throw confetti.

- Homemade noisemakers: Making noise is part of the fun of welcoming the new year. Kids can get in on the act of crafting their own noisemakers from items that already may be around the house. Collect empty toilet paper or paper towel cardboard tubes for this purpose. Cover one end of the tube with masking tape or a round piece of plastic. Fill the tube with beads, small seashells, rice or dried beans, leaving enough room for the materials to move around inside the tube. Seal the other end and allow the kids to decorate their noisemakers. Then it’s only a matter of shaking

them when it’s time to welcome 2026.

- Dress-up photo booth: Many people love to dress up for a special occasion. At a family-friendly NYE celebration, set aside a corner of a room with dress up props like funny glasses, feather boas, top hats and NYE-specific items. Explore digital disposable camera apps. Guests simply scan a QR code for the event that the party host has established for a low price, and can snap moments at this “photo booth” that are shared effortlessly to one digital place.

- Kids’ beverage bar: Ensure that younger guests can be age-appropriate mixologists with sodas, fruit juices, citrus slices and maraschino cherries. Or, set up a hot cocoa bar with miniature marshmallows, whipped cream, chocolate shavings and peanut butter chips.

- Family-friendly dance club: Put together a playlist of popular songs and choose the “clean” versions so children will not hear questionable lyrics. Clear an area of the party to serve as the dance floor, and utilize strobe lights or a disco ball to enhance the atmosphere.

Families can celebrate NYE with kids in entertaining ways that are appropriate for everyone in the home.

## Senior

■ continued from previous page  
**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 Agen-

cy 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](http://www.psseniors.org).

**Support the Senior  
Center**

Support our ongoing operations and programming that provide critical services to the most vulnerable in Archuleta County.

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

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors, Inc.

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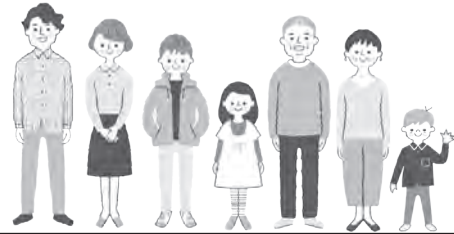
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**SELLERS BEWARE:** Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S DRINKING?** Pagosa Springs Al-anon Family Group meets Tuesdays 6-7p.m., Pagosa Bible Church. Questions? Call/text (303)815-8569. [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org).

**DAVENPORT DENTAL HYGIENE** will be under new ownership as of January 1, 2026. All patient records will transfer to the new owner. If you would like your records call/text (970)585-4424 or email: [davenportdentalhygiene@yahoo.com](mailto:davenportdentalhygiene@yahoo.com). All existing appointments will remain the same, unless you call to cancel. The business phone will stay the same (970)585-4424. Thank you Pagosa for five great years. It has been a pleasure to serve you.

**PAGOSA AA:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5:30 Men's Tuesday 5:30 Ladies Friday 11:30a.m. Saturday and Sunday 10a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 12 noon. Zoom Sunday 10a.m. Zoom Thursday noon women only: Zoom ID 858319763 password 754234. 315 N. 2nd Street, County Road 200 (.2 miles off Hwy. 160). Call Kathi (970)946-1482, or central office (888)333-9649.

**THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP** of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30- 6:30p.m, Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Richard: (970)903-1456. Diamond: (970)264-1073. Ann: (303)918-8137. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), [www.aa-westerncolorado.com](http://www.aa-westerncolorado.com), (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hours).

**THERE IS A SOLUTION GROUP** of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 5:30-6:30p.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Questions? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org), [www.aa-westerncolorado.com](http://www.aa-westerncolorado.com), (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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**HAVE THE RECENT FLOODS DAMAGED** your home or property? Flooding can devastate structures, foundations, and personal property — but the damage doesn't stop when the water recedes. Let **Western Colorado construction and services** restore your property or structures right. We don't just clean up — we rebuild. Call (970)698-1362.

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- Proficiency in Microsoft Office/Google Workspace
- Experience in administration or sales support is a plus (but not required if you learn quickly)

**Why you’ll love working with us**

- Collaborative supportive team
- Opportunities for growth and skill development
- A role where your work truly makes a difference
- Competitive salary + benefits

Send your email or letter of interest directly to  
CEO Jim O’Rourke at [jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com](mailto:jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com)

The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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HELP WANTED

**PART-TIME FRONT DESK OPPORTUNITY.** Are you friendly, organized, and customer-focused? We are looking to add a reliable and enthusiastic member to our team! Our front desk is open 8a.m. to 10p.m. daily, including holidays. Shifts may include a combination of opening, closing, midshifts, and weekends. Download application at [www.pshotsprings.com](http://www.pshotsprings.com) or stop by to pick one up. Resumes / applications can be emailed to: [sales@pshotsprings.com](mailto:sales@pshotsprings.com), Attention Front Desk Position or dropped off at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

**PAGOSA AREA WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT.** JOB TITLE: Utilities Meter Technician. FLSA: Non-Exempt. DEPARTMENT: Meters / AMR GRADE. REPORTS TO: IT/ GIS Manager. DATE: 12/19/2025. TO APPLY: <https://www.pawsd.org/district-business/employment/>. SUMMARY OF JOB PURPOSE: Responsible for performing specialized duties in relation to water meter maintenance and reading, customer service work orders, utility billing processes, and water conservation. ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This class specification lists the major duties and requirements of the job and is not all-inclusive. Incumbent may be expected to perform job-related duties other than those contained in this document and may be required to have specific job-related knowledge and skills. • Reads and records consumption of residential and commercial water meters with mobile and hand-held reading devices and manual reads; verifies that readings are within parameters and troubleshoots problems related to meters and reading equipment. • Installs, repairs, and inspects water meters, meter pits and meter reading equipment, valves, pressure regulators, and flow testing meters; and trains other staff members in all aspects of the job. • Responds to customer service requests, including, but not limited to: connections, disconnects, rereading meters, checking for leaks, etc. and may be required to respond to emergency callouts or assist the operation crews with system repairs. • Posts notices at physical locations regarding billing, customer information, encroachment issues, and perform work required to keep meter pits accessible. • Ensures proper inventory of meter-related equipment and parts; notifies inventory manager of needed supplies as required. • Maintains records of work performed and materials used. • Contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of the unit’s service to its customers by offering suggestions and directing or participating as an active member of a team. • Represents PAWSD with dignity, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation in all relationships with staff and the public. QUALIFICATIONS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required. Education and Experience: High School Diploma/GED; AND two (2) years of customer service experience; OR an equivalent combination of education, training, and experience.

HELP WANTED

**SE BUSCA CAMARISTA (HOUSEKEEPER).** Puesto de medio tiempo, sábados y domingos, comenzando a las 6am. Las tareas incluyen limpiar las áreas de baños calientes (no requiere drenar ni limpiar las piscinas) y las habitaciones de huéspedes. Debe ser detallista y responsable. Solicite en 140 Hot Springs Blvd o en línea en <https://pshotsprings.com/employment>. Visite a Alicia en Housekeeping, de martes a sábado, 10am–2pm. Incluye entrada GRATIS a las aguas termales para usted y su familia inmediata.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

**OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025!** Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

**SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE.** National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

**BRAND NEW 27” HUSQUVARNA** snow thrower. Only used 3 hours. Asking \$1,350. Call Rick, (970)946-1737.

**DRY FIREWOOD- PINE.** Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE.** Pine. Cut about 16” long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload. Call (970)946-4450.

**FIREWOOD.** Tired of not getting a full cord? 4’x4’x8’, \$265 full cord, pine or aspen or mix. Delivery extra. Just off Piedra and 160. (970)398-1928.

**GUITAR: SANTA CRUZ D** Pre-War Model. Excellent condition. Passive bridge -plate feather transducer installed by Bruce Allsop. \$4,800. Merry Christmas. (970)731-3117.

**NEED FIREWOOD?** Pine /Fir mix \$350 per cord, full dump truck load, \$600. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

**SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS.** We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

**SELLERS BEWARE:** Scams involving buyers trying to deceive sellers have have taken place in our community. Do not accept checks, money orders or other payment methods for more than the payment price where you are asked to pay the overpayment to the buyer or another person. Consult with your financial institution to be sure the payment method is not fake before you allow the item to be picked up.

**SPLIT AND SEASONED FIREWOOD** \$220 /full cord. Free delivery to Pagosa Springs. (970)403-9563.  
Stateline Firewood & Logging. 112 Turkey Lane, Pagosa Springs, 81147.

AUTOS

**GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL!** 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

LIVESTOCK

**HORSE BOARDING.** \$350 per month, includes feed, pasture and hay. Close to town. Equestrian saddle, \$1,000 new, now \$350, good condition with pad. (970)309-6067.

PETS

**ADOPT FROM THE** Humane Society. Stop by or call (970)731-4771. You’ll be amazed at what we have to offer, [www.PagosaHumane.org](http://www.PagosaHumane.org).

**AKC YORKIE.** 15 weeks old, housebroke, great personality, \$500. (970)501-0744.

**DOGGY DAY CARE 81147.COM.** Open 365 days of the year! Full day and half day doggy day care and overnight boarding. Conveniently located just 1 mile from downtown Pagosa. Call (970)264-9111.

WANTED

**BLUEGRASS MUSICIANS** — looking for intermediate /advanced level bluegrass pickers to join a regular jam session. Contact Melinda at [malutz@centurytel.net](mailto:malutz@centurytel.net).

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE.** 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

**DOWNTOWN OFFICE — \$350 /MONTH.** Utilities included, Internet plus \$50, at the Pagosa Hotel — available November, 1-year lease, call Jacque, (970)946-7636.

**DOWNTOWN OFFICE** Upstairs, \$325/ month including utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

**LARGE COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL LOTS** in Cloman Park- 1.12 and 1.27 acre lots zoned industrial. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities located in the street. Tenant to verify end use with Archuleta County. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

**PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES:** Offering “Aspen Plaza ProSuites” These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

**PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SUITES,** prime location ranging from 63, 158, 282 square feet with shared reception, washer /dryer, and breakroom. Justin, (701)263-2410.

**TWO ROOM OFFICE SUITE** with bathroom. Street level, light and bright with off street parking. \$1,000 per month includes utilities. 138 Pagosa Street. (970)946-2728.

**TWO UNITS IN UPTOWN.** 419 and 1,333 sq. ft. —available now. \$1,075 and \$2,300- Utilities included. Best use for office space or retail. Call Gina, (970)880-0910, for more info.



We are hiring:

Small Engine Service Tech

Full time, weekends and holidays required

We are looking for reliable, organized, motivated, team-oriented applicants that enjoy a fast-paced environment.

Must have experience with outdoor power equipment, problem solving, self-starting and customer service oriented.

Start at \$22/hr. depending on experience

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## Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

*"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them. ~ Michael Gamba*



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## COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

**WAREHOUSE, 1300 SQ. FT., 54' l x 24' w,** 17' high ceiling, 12x14 automatic garage door, radiant floor heat, high bay lighting, bathroom, paved parking lot. Great location. 140seminole@gmail.com.

## VACATION RENTALS

**OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES!** Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

**2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH,** 1 car garage unfurnished remodeled duplex \$1,650 /month through May then increase to \$1,800 /month with 1 year lease. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com to view the unit.

**BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM,** 3 bath 1 car garage townhome in downtown Pagosa Springs. Available now through September of 2026. ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED. \$3000 /month. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit the website teampagosa.com.

**COMFY FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM** 1 bath condo on the golf course. Located in Pagosa Lakes. Call (970)903-7088. \$1700 /month. No pets please. Available now.

**DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT.** New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

**EXCELLENT DOWNTOWN LOCATION,** 1 bedroom /1 bath, 1,138 sq. ft., loft and separate building. See photos and complete description on Zillow.com 220 Hermosa St. (970)507-0791.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

## DOWNTOWN HOME FOR SALE OR RENT



614 S 7th Street  
 3 bd, 2 ba, 2 car garage  
 \$564,000 or \$2,400/month

 **Elaine Feeney**  
 303-253-4848  
Seller is a licensed real estate agent.

**GREAT VIEWS OF CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT.** Any large mobile home with all hookups for long -term lease. \$780 per month plus utilities, (970)883-2600.

**LONG TERM RENTALS AVAILABLE.** Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599, 117 Navajo Trail Dr., pagosaspringsrealty.com.

**LOVELY NEWLY REMODELED** 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 car garage home on wooded lot. \$3500 /month Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit the website teampagosa.com.

**MODERN, BRIGHT DOWNTOWN** home near the high school. 3 bedroom /2 bath, 2 car garage, great views, available now. \$2,600 per month. (303)253-4848.

**NICE UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM,** 2 bath condo in uptown Pagosa Springs. \$1800 per month. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or view the unit at teampagosa.com.

## RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

**REDUCED RENT** for helping with my chores, otherwise \$850 /month plus utilities, plus first, last, security deposits, for one bedroom -plus, simply furnished quiet cabin. 4WD needed to haul water. No smoking /pets. (970)731-5098.

**RV SPACE FOR RENT.** \$600 plus utilities on 1.5 acres, electric and sewer hook ups. Available December 1. Text (970)403-4323.

**SANCTUARY HAS A MODULAR** for rent. 2 bedroom, 1 bath on the Navajo River. Part of the rent can be work, rent is negotiable, needs a little work. (970)264-2592.

**SWEET FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM** 2 bath 2 car garage home in Pagosa Lakes. Available around JANUARY 10th. \$2,600 /month Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit team-pagosa.com to view the unit.

**THREE BEDROOM, TWO BATH CONDO** on Lake Hatcher, furnished. \$2,350 per month plus utilities, available January. (720)333-1622.

**UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM** 2 bath and loft area condo across the street from Lake Pagosa. Available around January 10th. \$2000 /month. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 . Photos coming soon.

**UNFURNISHED SWEET 3 BEDROOM,** 2 bath, 2 car garage home located in Pagosa Lakes. Just up the street from the Rec. Center and all up -town amenities. Sorry no pets. \$2,150 /month. Available now. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com to take a look.

## APARTMENT/CONDO FOR SALE

**EXCELLENT CONDO.** Prime location, 1,120 sq. ft., 1 bedroom, 2 bath, new paint /flooring. Call now, Kim Moore, Exit Realty. (970)946-5619.

## COMMERCIAL

**DO NOT SETTLE** For A Dream. Live reality today! South Fork -cabins, lodge, & RV resort. 4 parcels -4.29 acres. City sewer, 2 wells. Highway 160 & 149 exposure. Wolf Creek Ski convenience.

17 cabins, 33 RV spaces, 10 single level rooms motel, 4 apartments, leased 1,200 square feet retail building, recreation building (kitchen and 2 restrooms), Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

**TOP INVESTMENT PROPERTY.** Premier location commercial building. 2,700+ sq. ft., 20 parking spaces, one level, high visibility, fully rented, owner finance available. Call Kim Moore, Exit Realty, (970)946-5619.

## HOMES FOR SALE

**BEAUTIFUL 3,400 SQ. FT.,** 4 bedroom, 4 bath home close to lake with mountain views. Call Kim Moore, Exit Realty, (970)946-5619.

**NEED HELP FINDING AND BUYING A HOME?** Explore your options. Call Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Local financing manufactured homes: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths \$200s. 2 baths, 2 bedrooms \$100s. On and off grid cabins on 1+ acres with water and septic \$100s. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

## LAND/ BUILDING SITES

## BARGAIN GET-AWAY PARCELS.

NO HOA. OFF GRID RVing parcels: 2.5+ acres (Waynes) \$30s. 1+ acres (Rock Point) 30s. 3.94 acres (Crooked) \$29,000. Seller finance 6+ acres, 4 parcels, build tiny homes (Crooked) -\$70s. Electric available: 1 -acre, storage tack-barn (Hurt) \$60,000. 1.43 -acres, backs ranch, mountain views (Alcazar) \$50s. 2 -acres, 2 lots, backs creek (Highway 160) \$50s. Wen Saunders, Land Specialist (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

## LAND/ BUILDING SITES

## BUY NOW —BEFORE PRICES INCREASE.

1/4 acre city water /sewer, electric, and rec center available: (Paradise), (Fireside) (\$40s), lake (\$30s), (Caddy) on golf course (\$50s). National Forest access, city water: 3.63 wooded acres (Monterosa) (\$200s), +-1/2 acre with guest house use (Clint) (\$80,000) Interested in selling your land? Call Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

**LOT FOR SALE** at 777 Monument Drive, Pagosa Springs, Colo. Just under 1/2 acre. Asking \$72,000. Call (719)235-6359.

**MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS.** Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

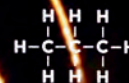
**SOUTH FORK, COLORADO LAND:** Invest now. Wolf Creek Ski Area convenience. Lots with water, sewer, electric, views, paved roads: 1/3 acre golf course lots (Greenside) \$50s, 2.28 acres, mountain views (Vista de Verde) (\$100s). Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.



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As the holidays unfold in Pagosa Springs, Inter-Mountain Propane is honored to keep your celebrations bright and your spaces warm. From family gatherings around the hearth to businesses welcoming the New Year, our **dependable delivery and service** ensure comfort you can count on. With gratitude for the trust you place in us, we look forward to serving you in the year ahead—keeping homes cozy, shops, and restaurants running strong, and our **mountain community connected**.

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CALL TO GET YOUR  
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