



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 15, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2026

November 2025 sales tax collections down 10.28 percent

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

Sales tax collections in Archuleta County for November 2025 were reported to be down 10.28 percent compared to figures from November 2024, according to data released by Archuleta County Finance Director Chad Eaton on Jan 7.

Eaton's report notes that the 10.28 percent decrease translates to a total of \$147,513.41 less received in November 2025 compared to November 2024.

Sales tax collections in the county were up in the first nine months of 2025 in the month-to-month comparisons with 2024, with the biggest increase coming in February, which showed a 11.6 percent increase, or \$143,191 more.

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

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

■ See Tax A7

County commissioners discuss 2026 priorities

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its first work session of the year on Jan. 6, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) discussed priorities for 2026, with the three commissioners aligning on some goals, while expressing varying perspectives on other matters.

Commissioner Warren Brown was the first to speak, stating his No. 1 pri-

ority is to "settle the admin building question," noting this is now the beginning of the fourth year the county has dealt with the topic.

Brown mentioned that he wants the board to make a decision so that "we stop wasting our time, however that works out."

In March 2025, the BoCC unanimously approved a purchase and sale agreement for a 5.5 acre property located at 2901 Cornerstone Drive for

■ See Priorities A8



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Tracks are seen coming down the Knife Ridge as skiers and boarders enjoyed fresh snow at Wolf Creek Ski Area over the weekend. Alberta Peak can be seen in the background.



Photo courtesy Richard Kirk

This herd of elk was spotted near U.S. 84 south of Pagosa Springs the morning of Friday, Jan. 2.

San Juan River sees record flows amidst drought conditions, snow showers expected

By Clayton Chaney and Randi Pierce
Staff Writers

Snow totals at Wolf Creek Ski Area continued to gradually rise over the last week, with the ski area reporting a total of 73 inches on the season as of press time Wednesday, Jan. 7. This is up from 66 inches, which was the year-to-date total on New Year's Eve.

Mostly rain fell at lower elevations over the new year holiday, with local reports from the Community Collab-

orative Rain, Hail and Snow Network showing anywhere from .06 inches of rain to .45 inches of rain received in various parts of Archuleta County from Dec. 31, 2025, to Jan. 3.

Pagosa Country is expected to receive some more precipitation throughout today, Thursday, Jan. 8, and into Friday, Jan. 9, with the National Weather Service (NWS) forecasting snow along Wolf Creek Pass and in the Pagosa Springs area.

According to the NWS, for today,

■ See Record A8

Town council presented with flood recovery funding scenarios after FEMA denies funds

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Jan. 6, Town of Pagosa Springs staff informed the Pagosa Springs Town Council about the town's ongoing flood recovery funding efforts in the wake of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) denial of the town's request for \$5.7 million to aid cleanup efforts.

Development Director James

Dickhoff and Projects Manager Kyle Rickert were both on hand to walk the council through various other funding opportunities, with Dickhoff stating, "We are not counting on FEMA money to come through to us" after the denial on Dec. 21, 2025.

Dickhoff stated that staff just wanted to inform the council "on where we are at" regarding the town's relief funding efforts from the Octo-

■ See Flood A6

County commissioners designate new chair and vice chair, set meeting schedule

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

In its first action of 2026, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously designated Commissioner Warren Brown to serve as the BoCC chair for 2026 during its meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 6.

The BoCC also unanimously designated Commissioner Veronica Medina to serve as the vice chair for 2026.

Before making a motion to designate Brown as the BoCC chair for

2026, Commissioner John Ranson commended his fellow commissioners for the work done over the past year.

Ranson noted that over the past year, the county has brought in a new county attorney and county manager, dealt with fire and flood events, and reshaped the county's Building and Planning Department.

"We've been through a lot this year," he said.

Meeting schedule

During the same meeting, the BoCC unanimously approved Reso-

lution 2026-05, establishing a location for the posting of official county notices, setting meeting dates and establishing office hours for county offices.

County Manager Longinos Gonzales explained that the "standard will be to post online" for meeting notices, with the alternate posting location being at the county administration building located at 398 Lewis St.

According to the resolution, "Public notices will continue to be posted at the County Administration Building at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa

Springs, Colorado as a supplementary location; however, such postings are for convenience only and the official public notice posting shall be the link on the home page of the county website."

The resolution notes that the BoCC may hold special or emergency meetings as adopted in resolution 2012-54.

The BoCC will hold regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m., with the exceptions of May 5, June 2, July 21, Nov. 3 and Dec. 1. Those meetings will

■ See Chair A7

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Opinion



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OUR VIEW

Now might be your chance

If you've resolved to make a difference in 2026 or you're looking for opportunities to step up and serve our community in a bigger way, now might be your chance.

Perhaps you think you have the skills to take some facet of our community to the next level, or perhaps you want to help carry on what you view as the good work already underway. Maybe you just want to encourage someone else you think can make a different or support those you feel are doing a great job.

Any which way, it's important to note that candidate processes are underway for multiple public offices in our community.

Are you interested in our local electric cooperative and its future?

La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) members interested in running for a seat on its board of directors can now access the board director candidate packets at lpea.coop/elections.

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

To be eligible to run for a three-year term on the LPEA board, keep in mind you 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.

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

If you live in town, the position of mayor and three at-large town council seats will be up for election on April 7.

Candidate packets, information and requirements are available at Town Hall. Nomination petitions must be turned in by Jan. 26. Information can also be found at pagosasprings.co.gov.

If you're looking to throw your hat in the ring for something else, several of Archuleta County's elected positions will appear on upcoming ballots, including county commissioner for District 3, clerk and recorder, coroner, sheriff, assessor and treasurer.

Candidates who are affiliated with a major political party can now begin the petitioning process. The last day last day a petition can be submitted to the Archuleta County Clerk and Recorder's Office to verify sufficiency is March 18.

More information on being a candidate at the county level is available at archuletacounty.gov/county-government/elected-offices/clerk-recorder/elections/candidate-information/.

As we move into the next election season, we would like to offer a reminder that The SUN will not accept letters to the editor from candidates, current public officials when the topic is the organization they serve with or within three weeks prior to an election.

For more information on letters to the editor, see page A3 or pagosasun.com/forms/letters/.

It's also important to remember: If public office isn't your thing, there continue to be numerous ways to make this community a better place through avenues such as donations, volunteering and kindness.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Jan. 22, 1987, Pagosa SUN — **LEADING LADY** — Lady Pirates skier Blueberry Pitcher helped lead her Pagosa teammates to a fourth place finish at the recent Colorado High School Ski League meet at Breckenridge. The Lady Pirate team is enjoying its most productive year ever as Pagosa girls are consistently placing among the top finishers in both the alpine and Nordic events.

Archuleta County Commissioners		
Warren Brown, Chair warren.brown@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8304	John Ranson jranson@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8307	Veronica Medina veronica.medina@archuletacounty.gov • (970) 264-8305
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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 8, 1926

In making a comparison of the schools in Colorado today with those of several years ago, the Denver Post's New Year edition says, "Obsolete methods of teaching have been dropped as worn-out machinery is scrapped in the factory; inadequate buildings have been discarded as outgrown plants are razed. Colorado schools in 1926 — some of the finest in the United States."

The post goes further and lists some of the past horrible examples in the way of buildings, among them as follows: "Near Pagosa Springs a thoughtful builder had placed a school house exactly on the top of a hill. During all play periods, the teachers had to join hands and stand around the edge of the playground, so that the children wouldn't fall down to the valley."

Naturally this draws huge guffaws from the residents of Pagosa Springs. While the destroyed school building and grounds were not entirely desirable for the needs of this community, the situation was not quite as badly as stated in the Post. However, Pagosa's new brick edifice, with its natural hot water heating system, cannot be equaled in the state today. Needless to say, it is not located on the pinnacle of any peak, either.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 12, 1951

In the January issue of the Red Ryder magazine there appears a photo on the back of the inside cover of Mr. Woodrow Dunlap and his son, Sandy. The caption under the photo reads: "Young rodeo hands get an early training — especially when dad is a cowboy. Here, Woodrow Dunlap, president of the Red Ryder Round-Up, sets his son up on his sorrel roping stallion." On the inside back cover of the February issue of this popular magazine are also several photos of local people as well as one of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harman "cutting a rug" at a barn dance at the Bill Jackson ranch. The other photos show the orchestra at the dance and those in the photo are Bill Johnson, W.H. Diestelkamp, Monte Reynolds, and other members of the orchestra. The prize winning float in the 1950 Red Ryder Round-Up parade is also featured with a photo and the following caption: "This is a mighty cute float built and entered in our Red Ryder rodeo parade. It is no wonder that rancher Ray Macht and his family (in photo) won first prize. This is another fine example of the wonderful publicity given residents of the county by Mr. Harman. Thru his ability Mr. Harman constantly keeps the local area before the eyes of an untold number of readers of his strip and the magazine."

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 8, 1976

Dry kilns are back in operation at San Juan Lumber Co. after a fire early this spring. The fire destroyed the control room and badly damaged the kilns.

To replace the wooden structure and building that burned a new concrete block and steel control room has been built. In addition another double unit kiln bay has been constructed. This is not as yet in operation but will be soon. All of the fire damage to the older kilns — mainly to roofs — has been completely rebuilt.

During the summer months lumber was air dried before being planed. This, however is a lengthy process, and kiln dried lumber is also of somewhat better quality. The kilns will enable the mill to keep operating during the winter months and will also speed up production.

Royce Dotson, mill superintendent, said this week that the San Juan had been working about 200 men until the first of the year. At that time crews in the woods were laid off until early spring.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 11, 2001

Teamwork and communications were the theme Tuesday as the Archuleta County commissioners conducted their first meeting of the new year.

From the "I solemnly swear" of the swearing-in ceremony through the "here's what I'd like to see" of an afternoon work session, the new board spent the day organizing and planning for the coming year.

A significant change was made in regard to rules governing agenda posting required by Colorado law as part of open meetings requirements. The law requires that the agenda be posted in a public place at least 24 hours prior to a meeting. Failure to do so renders the meeting illegal.

Under this year's board, the time for placing entries on the agenda ends at noon the Friday before the regular 9 a.m. Tuesday meeting. An agenda will be available sometime Friday.

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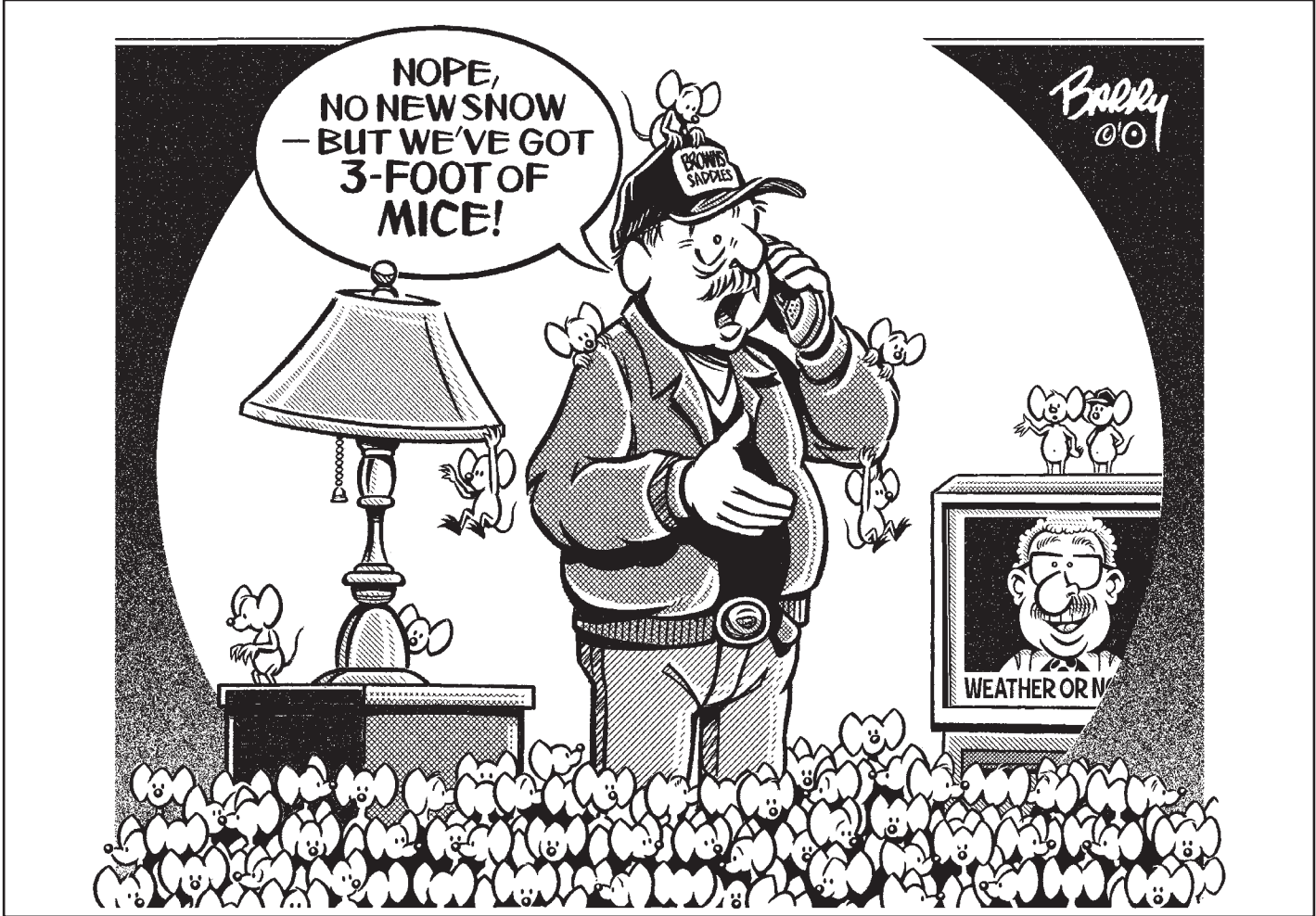


Weather data

Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Moisture	Type	Depth
12/30	49	15	0.00	NA	NA
12/31	54	18	0.00	NA	NA
1/1	40	29	0.00	NA	NA
1/2	45	33	0.12	NA	NA
1/3	51	23	0.00	NA	NA
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Susan Diane Kanyur

1947-2025
Susan passed away Dec. 25, 2025, in Tucson, Ariz., after a long, courageous battle with COPD.

Susan was born in Chicago, Ill., on May 2, 1947, to Melvin and Margaret Butler. She moved with her parents in the mid 1950s to Delray Beach, Fla., for a brief time, before moving to Tucson, Ariz., in 1958. Susan graduated from Palo Verde High School and then attended and graduated from the University of Arizona in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in literature. She married Michael A. Grace after graduation and started work with Southern Arizona Bank as a teller. She moved up the ranks within the bank and became an operations officer. Southern Arizona bank became First National Bank, which was bought out by First Interstate Bank. It is at that bank where she met Robert J. Kanyur, who literally swept her off her feet. She worked for the bank until she retired in 1990 and moved to Pagosa Springs, Colo., where she married the love of her life, Bob. They designed and built their rustic dream mountain home, enjoying the flora and the fauna. Most of all, they loved the magnificent view of Pagosa Peak, afforded them by their large parcel of land, which also included an aspen grove. She was an avid reader and had an extensive book collection. Susan was well versed in trivia and would win the daily morning phone-in trivia question to the local rock 'n' roll radio station, two or three times per week. She and Bob traveled much, and she especially loved their trips to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. They owned and operated Barnwood Crafts, selling his handmade wood



crafts all throughout Colorado from wood harvested from old, abandoned barns. In addition, Susan volunteered at the local public library and the Pagosa Springs visitor center, where she made many new friends.

Susan moved back to Tucson in November 2024 for health reasons and to be close to her family. She is survived by her son, Sean Grace; daughter-in-law Mariel Grace; stepson Jim Kanyur; and granddaughter, Brianna Grace. She was preceded in death by her parents, Melvin and Margaret Butler, and husband Bob Kanyur. Susan's memory lives on through all of us.

A private memorial service will be held in Pagosa Springs, on their beloved property, in the summer of 2026.

William and Yvonne Ralston

William Vivian Ralston, 93, of Tucson, Ariz., passed away Sept. 25, 2025, a few short months after his wife of 72 years, Yvonne Camille Ralston, 92 years, passed (May 30, 2025).

William, also known as Ben or Bill, was born in New Castle, Neb., to William and Goldye Ralston, one of three boys (Paul and Mark) and a sister (Jackye). After Bill's father passed away, his family moved to San Mateo, Calif. In San Mateo, Bill attended Junipero Serra High School and obtained his Associate of Science Degree from San Mateo Jr. College, while there meeting the



woman of his dreams, whom he later married on Valentine's Day 1953.

Yvonne Camille Clotere was raised in San Rafael, Calif., daughter of Gustave James and Leila Frances Clotere, and stepfather Charles Czapkay. Yvonne has one surviving brother, Mori Huppert. Yvonne graduated from Xavier College Preparatory School, Phoenix, Ariz., and then attended San Mateo Jr. College, where she and Bill met.

Bill enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1950 at the beginning of the Korean War, and served four years, attaining the rank of tech sergeant as an aircraft mechanic. He and Yvonne married on Valentine's Day in 1953, and a year later welcomed their first son, Dennis, in February 1954. Other children of Bill and Yvonne include Darrell, Greg, Larry, Karen and Tim.

After his USAF honorable discharge, Bill was hired by General Electric Corporation in jet engine development. He worked for GE for 36 years before his retirement in 1999. In 1958, he and Yvonne moved their growing family from Cincinnati, Ohio, to Lancaster, Calif., to work for General Electric at Edwards Air Force Base. Years later, Bill and Yvonne moved part of the family to Athens, Greece, where Bill managed a GE program overseas; then later finishing his career back in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1977, while moving part of his family to Athens, Greece, the family trekked by car across Europe, from London to Athens, stopping to see numerous cathedrals and visiting sites throughout the journey. Bill and Yvonne loved to travel together and visited several exotic places, including sailing with friends around the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of America.

Bill and Yvonne liked to be around their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. After his retirement, Bill and Yvonne settled in Pagosa Springs, Colo., where they lived and loved their community for 15 years. Bill was an exceptional me-

chanic and woodworker, and could do just about anything he put his mind to. In Pagosa Springs he assisted building several backcountry shelters for hikers and cross-country skiers that are still used today. Yvonne had many passions, including a love of art, history and geography. She traveled to Israel, Spain, China and Japan, collecting art and other memories along the way. She cherished her picture collection of her family and travels, and would often peruse her collection and share with friends and neighbors.

The two have always been active in their local Catholic church, Knights of Columbus and other civic organizations, always to make things better for the next person(s). Because of health reasons, they eventually moved to Tucson, Ariz., where they lived out the remainder of their days.

Bill and Yvonne are survived by all six of their children: Dennis (Nancy) Ralston and daughters Megan (Nick) Poan and Haley (John) Coleman; Darrell (Kara) Ralston and daughter Courtney (Chad) Wolsky; Greg (Debi) Ralston and daughters Dietra Detrich and Dana Detrich; Larry (Ellen) Ralston and children Melissa (Trevor) Walter and Adam Ralston; Karen (Tom) Connors and daughters Kristen (Scott) Lucas and Jennifer (Keith) Brennen; and Tim (Riechia) Ralston and sons Brandon (Victoria) Ralston and Travis Ralston; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Bill's three siblings (Paul Ralston, Mark Ralston and Jackye Polati) have passed before Bill; as well as Yvonne's brother Rudy Huppert, Charles Clotere and Richard Clotere.

Our family would like to thank all the caregivers, including Visiting Angels and Hospice in Tucson, Ariz., for their compassion and care, as well as staff at the Club on La Cholla, Tucson, Ariz.

A celebration of life for both Bill and Yvonne will take place on Feb. 13, 2026, at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Tucson, Ariz., at 11 a.m.

Fundraiser screening of 'Selma' to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

By Leslie Cole
Archuleta County Democrats

On Monday, Jan. 19, the Archuleta County Democrats will observe Martin Luther King Day with a special matinee presentation of the film "Selma," a 2015 Best Picture nominee, at the Liberty Theatre.

The event, complete with door prizes from local businesses, concessions and a cash bar, is a fundraiser for the Archuleta County Democrats.

"Selma" recounts events of 1965, when a city in Alabama became a key battleground in the civil rights movement. The struggle to secure equal voting rights in the face of violent opposition, led

by the revered leader and visionary Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., culminated with the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. Days later, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant victories for the civil rights movement.

"Martin Luther King's work is as relevant today as it was in 1965," said Shawna Seed, chair of the Archuleta County Democrats. "Dr. King and others gave their lives for civil rights. We can't allow that hard-won progress to be undone."

Each \$25 ticket for the special screening includes one entry for door prizes, including gift certificates to local businesses and a copy of "King: A Life," the 2024 Pulitzer-Prize winning biography

of King, signed by author Jonathan Eig. Additional door prize tickets will be available for purchase.

The doors will open at 1 p.m. The program will begin at 2 p.m. For tickets, go the Liberty Theatre's events tab (www.pagosamovies.com/events) or ArchuletaDems.org.

Share your memories

The events depicted in Selma happened 60 years ago, and fewer people each year have first-hand memories of King and the civil rights movement.

Do you have a recollection to share? Email us at dems.archuleta@gmail.com, and we may include your comments in the program. (Please put MLK event in the subject line.)



Continued from A3

sion had already been reached.

Equally concerning was the decision to publish an alarmist quote from an audience member warning that traffic "could triple." However, during that same meeting, a traffic study was presented showing that projected traffic increases associated with a highschool campus were modest — on the order of approximately 10% on 8th Street. That is a critical fact. Choosing to amplify fear-based commentary while minimizing or omitting the study's findings distorts public understanding and undermines informed discussion.

Headlines matter. Quote selection matters. When a local paper frames ongoing deliberations as settled outcomes and elevates emotional reactions over data presented at the meeting, it crosses the line from reporting into shaping public perception.

This issue carries generational consequences for our community. Residents rely on The Pagosa Sun to report accurately, not to advance a narrative unsupported by what actually transpired. The November 19 coverage failed that standard.

Our community deserves better.

Sincerely,
Shaina Nicoll

Editor's note: The SUN appreciates feedback and input from its readers.

Governor announces local appointment to Sixth Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission

State of Colorado

On Dec. 31, Gov. Jared Polis announced that Deborah Tully, of Pagosa Springs, will serve as a non-attorney on the Sixth Judicial District Judicial Performance Commission.

The appointment was effective Dec. 1, 2025, for a term expiring Nov. 30, 2029.

"Straw poll" questions were asked of the Master Plan Advisory Committee members toward the end of the Nov. 17 meeting, with those questions revealing a majority of the advisory committee members felt comfortable they had enough information to make a decision and that more of the advisory committee members favored the Vista site than the high school site.

The article also states the decision is up to the Board of Education and included a schedule of board meetings following the advisory committee meeting.

The Board of Education went on to hold additional meetings for public comment, and the board is anticipated to make a site decision at a special meeting on Jan. 21.

The article did include an expressed concern over traffic, as well as the engineer's response to that concern — that 8th Street handles approximately 8,000 to 10,000 vehicles per hour, and that a new school would increase current traffic levels on 8th Street by roughly 1,000 vehicles.

Title

Dear Editor:

As has been noted in The Pagosa Springs Sun, LPEA has initiated condemnation proceedings to obtain a right-of-way across the property of Jack, an elderly retired veteran and

Rose Barrett.

This right-of-way does not merely cross their land; it cuts directly through a portion of their home. Such an intrusion has a profound impact on both the enjoyment of their home and the property's resale value.

Chris Hansen CEO of LPEA and Nicole Pitcher Board President of LPEA, met with Archuleta County Commissioners, only after considerable prodding. During that meeting they stated that routing the transmission line around the Barrett's home would cost \$300,000. While that is a significant sum, it must be considered in context. This is a power line with an expected service life of 30 years, and the right-of-way would be indefinite. Considering the project's total budget, what does this additional expense truly represent? Is it even 1%?

Let us consider this issue in the broader context of how our electric co-op, LPEA, spends our money. LPEA's 2024 tax return shows a \$284,000 payment to our former CEO. Yes, that is correct, a \$284,000 unspecified payment made as she departed to take a job elsewhere. This is in addition to her salary and pension benefits, for a total compensation of \$448,213 for 3 months work. This payment was approved by Archuleta LPEA board members Nicole Pitcher and Kirsten Skeehan.

What are the values of our board representatives? They approved a large, unspecified and unexplained payout to a departing CEO, yet now claim they cannot spend a com-

parable amount to save a family's home? This contradiction demands an explanation!

Ellen Schmidt



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Business

Final call: Nominate community leaders and vote for 2026 Chamber board

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

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is issuing a final reminder: nominations for the 2025 Community Leader Awards and voting for the 2026 Board of Directors both close on Monday, Jan. 12.

This is the last chance for community members and businesses to recognize outstanding neighbors, nonprofits and small businesses at the Chamber's annual gala and awards ceremony, set for Feb. 6 at the Pagosa Lake Property Owners Association Clubhouse.

Nominations for Community Awards

The Chamber is seeking nominations in four categories for its annual

Community Awards:

- Citizen of the Year: A resident who has made a lasting impact in economic, cultural, philanthropic or lifestyle areas, with at least three years in the community.
- Volunteer of the Year: An individual or couple who has given time, money or both to community events and nonprofits, with measurable results and a spirit of humility.
- Non-Profit of the Year: A 501(c)(3) organization serving Pagosa Springs or Archuleta County for at least three years, providing a necessary service and maintaining a positive community image.
- Small Business of the Year: A business with 20 or fewer full-time employees that has operated locally for at least three years, known for good service, community support and growth; Chamber membership

is required.

Nomination forms are available on the Chamber's website (pagosa-chamber.com) and can also be submitted by paper with the nominee's name, contact info and a description of their contributions. All nominations must be returned to the Chamber by 4 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 12.

Last chance to vote for 2026 board

Chamber member businesses also have until Monday, Jan. 12, to cast their vote for the 2026 board of directors. This year, six candidates are running for three open three-year seats on the board.

The candidates are Joe Ford, Christina Gonzales, Darren Gantt, Matt Kossler, Kelly Maestes and Loreta Paniagua.

Each Chamber member business

is allowed one ballot and may vote for up to three candidates; ballots with more than three selections will be nullified.

Voting is done online through the Chamber's website, and members are encouraged to vote before the deadline to help shape the Chamber's leadership for the coming year.

How to participate

To submit a nomination or to vote, visit the Chamber's website at pagosachamber.com or contact the Chamber office at (970) 264-2360. Nominations and ballots must be completed by close of business on Monday, Jan. 12.

The winners of the Community Awards will be announced at the annual gala on Feb. 6, where the new 2026 board members will also be recognized.

Colorado State Housing Board approves more than \$23 million to build 380 homes for Coloradans, expand ownership opportunities

Colorado Department of Local Affairs

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), through its Division of Housing (DOH), announced the approval of more than \$23 million in funding from the State Housing Board for more than 400 housing opportunities across Colorado.

These 20 investments expand housing access through new rental developments, homeownership opportunities and down payment assistance programs.

"This \$23 million investment will build almost 400 new homes for hardworking Coloradans and help ensure workers can live in the communities we love. In Colorado, we remain laser-focused on building more housing, breaking down government barriers to new homes, lowering costs and saving families money, and this investment does exactly that," said Gov. Jared Polis.

"These awards affirm our mission to strengthen Colorado communities by supporting crucial work that prioritizes access to safe and affordable housing for every Coloradan," said Maulid (Mo) Miskell, DOLA deputy executive director. "By investing in a variety of housing options, we are not only addressing immediate housing and supportive needs, but we are also laying the groundwork to create an accessible and dynamic housing supply as Colorado continues to grow and thrive. I am proud of the collaborative efforts between DOLA, our partners and local communities that make initiatives like these possible."

Expanding rental housing opportunities

From the Front Range to the Southwest, the State Housing Board approved funding nine affordable

rental communities for Coloradans across Garfield, Alamosa, Routt, Adams and other counties:

- Poplar Commons (Hayden, Routt County): \$1.6 million in Housing Development Grant funds to Hayden Municipal Housing Authority for eight units for the local workforce including police, firefighters, teachers and their families.
- The Flour Mill Apartments (Salida, Chaffee County): \$1.1 million in Housing Development Grant funds to Chaffee Housing Authority for 20 apartments near downtown Salida businesses, library, schools and grocery stores.
- Canyon Vista (Glenwood Springs, Garfield County): \$3.5 million in funding from Transformational Housing Loan Fund dollars to Cohen-Esrey Development Group LLC for 80 apartments to address a critical housing shortage while promoting environmental responsibility and resident welfare in Glenwood Springs.
- Windtrail Park (Fort Collins, Larimer County): \$950,000 in Housing Development Grant funds to CARE Communities for 50 apartments close to community amenities and Colorado State University.
- Tierra Azul Apartments (Alamosa, Alamosa County): \$1.2 million in Housing Development Grant funds to Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation for 46 apartments near schools and services in Alamosa.
- The Ives II (Wheat Ridge, Jefferson County): \$1.85 million in Housing Development Grant funds to Foothills Regional Housing to support the construction of 43 apartments next to the recently completed Ives I building in Wheat Ridge.
- Blossom Commons (Westmin-

ster, Jefferson County): \$900,000 in Housing Development Grant funds to Volker Housing Partners LLC, for 50 senior apartments with easy access to services, recreation and entertainment.

- Sanctuary on Potomac (Aurora, Arapahoe County): \$550,000 in Housing Development Grant to the Housing Authority of the City of Aurora for 43 units of permanent supportive housing near behavioral health services and transit.

- Blue Room House One (Denver, Denver County): \$700,000 in Housing Investment Trust Funds to Blue Room House One LLC, to build 54 apartments using modular construction near employment centers and transit in the Santa Fe Arts District.

Together, these developments will deliver 344 new rental homes and 50 preserved units.

Building pathways to homeownership

To help more Coloradans put down roots, the State Housing Board also approved funding from the Proposition 123 Affordable Home Ownership Program (AHOP) for new for-sale homes and homeownership initiatives.

- The Foundry Phase 1 (Commerce City, Adams County): A \$2 million grant to Commerce City Housing Authority for 36 condominiums for local workers and families.
- Impact Development Fund (statewide): \$1.6 million to provide down payment assistance loans for households in areas that have filed commitments for Proposition 123 Local Government Affordable Housing.
- Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development Inc. (Baca, Bent, Crowley, Otero, Kiowa and Prowers counties): \$385,000 for down payment

assistance for seven households throughout the six counties.

- Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust (El Paso County): \$650,000 for down payment assistance to 11 households in Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs.

- Elevation Community Land Trust (statewide): \$825,000 for down payment assistance for 30 households.

- Chaffee Housing Trust (Chaffee and Lake counties): \$1 million for down payment assistance for 18 households.

- City and County of Denver: \$1 million for down payment assistance to 33 first-generation households purchasing a home in Denver.

- Community Economic Defense Project (Morgan, Logan, Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, and San Juan counties): \$690,000 for down payment assistance for first-time and first-generation homebuyers in underserved rural communities.

These investments will deliver 36 new homes and provide down payment assistance to more than 90 households, empowering working families to build housing stability while strengthening communities statewide.

Improving owner-occupied housing

To improve living conditions for more Coloradans, the State Housing Board also approved funding from the Proposition 123 AHOP for the Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program:

- Com Act Housing Corporation (Mesa, Garfield and Rio Blanco counties): \$1.4 million for low-interest loans to up to 56 households.

■ See Housing A6

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19 Navajo Trail Drive
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MLS 801267 ■ \$1,250,000



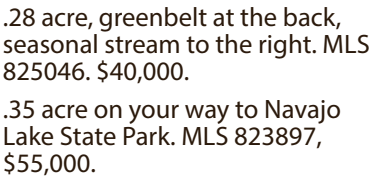
320 County Road 329
80 acres, 40 acres irrigated, barndominium, 3 ponds, horse corrals
MLS 826742, 827543 ■ \$965,000



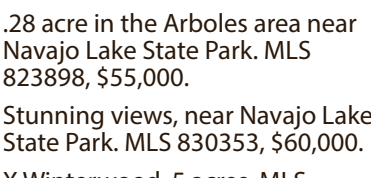
327 Deer Park
3 bedroom, 3 bath lake home, 4 garages, on 1.66 acres
MLS 828167 ■ \$929,000



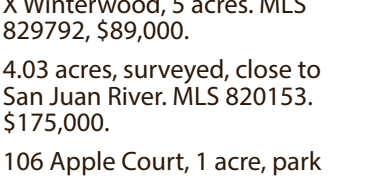
1019 County Road 330, Ignacio
3 bedroom, 2 bath home
46 shares irrigation, on 64 acres
MLS 821801, 821802 ■ \$920,000



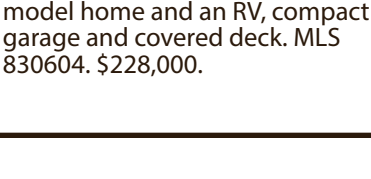
.28 acre, greenbelt at the back, seasonal stream to the right. MLS 825046. \$40,000.



.35 acre on your way to Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 823897, \$55,000.



.28 acre in the Arboles area near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 823898, \$55,000.



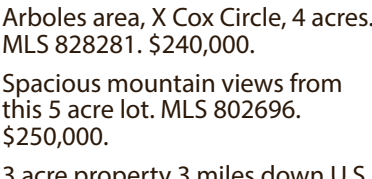
Stunning views, near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 830353, \$60,000.



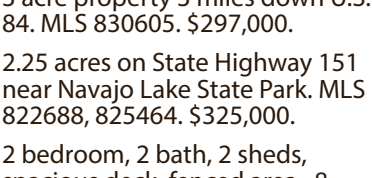
X Winterwood, 5 acres. MLS 829792, \$89,000.

4.03 acres, surveyed, close to San Juan River. MLS 820153. \$175,000.

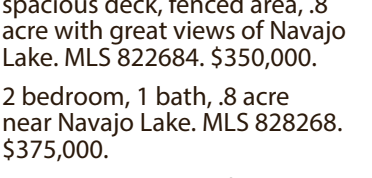
106 Apple Court, 1 acre, park model home and an RV, compact garage and covered deck. MLS 830604. \$228,000.



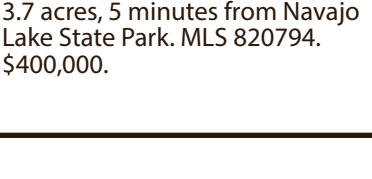
Arboles area, X Cox Circle, 4 acres. MLS 828281. \$240,000.



Spacious mountain views from this 5 acre lot. MLS 802696. \$250,000.



3 acre property 3 miles down U.S. 84. MLS 830605. \$297,000.



2.25 acres on State Highway 151 near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 822688, 825464. \$325,000.



2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 sheds, spacious deck, fenced area, .8 acre with great views of Navajo Lake. MLS 822684. \$350,000.

2 bedroom, 1 bath, .8 acre near Navajo Lake. MLS 828268. \$375,000.

3.7 acres, 5 minutes from Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 820794. \$400,000.



243 Wandering Hills
Custom-built modern, 3 bedroom, 3 bath on 1.6 acres near Navajo Lake.
MLS 826297 ■ \$640,000



20420 State Highway 151
Commercial property with metal building, concrete floor, on 10 acres.
MLS 828587 ■ \$640,000



229 Hills Circle
3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, near National Forest access
MLS 819751 ■ \$495,000



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Flood

■ Continued from front
ber 2025 flooding.

The total project cost of river cleanup and restoration following the October flood event is estimated to be just shy of \$6 million, stated Town Manager David Harris in correspondence.

Rickert explained that, with the FEMA funding off the table, the town is pursuing several state grants, and possibly a state loan, as well as two other federal funding programs.

Dickhoff added that if the town wanted to pursue “the loan opportunity through the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB),” the council would need to put it before the voters in an upcoming spring election to be legally eligible to take out the loan.

Ultimately, the council directed Harris to bring back an ordinance to the next meeting to place the loan opportunity on the ballot in the upcoming election.

Rickert explained that the federal Emergency Watershed Protection had awarded the town about \$3.3 million and the Colorado Office of Emergency Management awarded \$463,504 in funds.

These funds will go toward embankment stabilizations near the Pagosa Springs History Museum and near 6th Street, pedestrian bridge abutment stabilization at Centennial Park, restoring the River Center ponds, as well as Apache Street bridge repairs and log jam removals, all coming with a total project price tag of \$4,178,038, the slideshow states.

Rickert explained that stabilizing the river embankment near the museum would be the first priority, and the other repairs and cleanups would come after.

Dickhoff added that plans for a 1st Street pedestrian bridge, near the museum, would still move forward, with “some modification of the bridge design after the flood event.”

He added, “The river is an important part of our tourism portfolio and we need to get it cleaned up” and make it safe for those recreating in the river before summer hits.

Rickert then informed the council about a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Fishing is Fun grant that the town has requested in the amount of \$328,603.

This grant would go toward dredging the River Center ponds, a headgate replacement at Pond #1 (the east pond), ditch restoration, debris and sediment removal upstream of town limits to the future 1st Street pedestrian bridge, as well as rebuilding rock structures in the same area.

Rickert noted that the town was also awarded \$15,000 from History Colorado Emergency Grant for its ongoing efforts to stabilize the river bank near the museum.

She sought direction from the council on if it wanted to pursue a grant opportunity through CWCB called the Diversion Management Installation Program to install river gauges upstream of the town’s limits.

One or possibly two water gauge stations would give the town an estimated two hours of warning time as water levels rise during another flood event, providing historic data



SUN photos/Clayton Chaney

Debris remains near the Apache Street bridge following the historic flooding in October 2025. On Jan. 6, Town of Pagosa Springs staff informed the Pagosa Springs Town Council about the town’s ongoing flood recovery funding efforts in the wake of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s denial of the town’s request for \$5.7 million to aid cleanup efforts.

as part of the U.S. Geological Survey monitoring system, she noted.

This grant application would be due by Jan. 31, so she asked the council to pass a resolution supporting the CWCB river gauge grant, which the council passed unanimously.

The discussion then moved toward if the council wanted to pursue the loan opportunity through CWCB, knowing that it would have to come before the voters in an upcoming election.

Staff recommended pursuing the loan as a way to fill the gap in flood recovery work for the San Juan River in lieu of FEMA funding being denied.

The presentation states that the loan would include a three-year zero interest period and that it could be

approved for under \$10 million in three to four months after the voters sign off and the town applies.

Mayor Shari Pierce asked if the council could wait until next year to ask for the loan since it had just asked voters to approve a sales tax increase to fund critical sewer system repairs or if the zero interest offer would be off the table at that point, with Dickhoff responding that the council could wait if that’s what it desired.

Council member Brooks Lindner asked if it would get “more challenging” to ask the public if it wanted to pursue the loan “the further we get away from the [flood] event.”

The town’s financial advisor, Joey McCliney, who described the loan as a good deal, responded that “right now that flood is still fresh on everybody’s mind. I think it would be easier to pass in the spring than it would a year from now.”

Council member Mat deGraaf added, “It would be foolish to wait a year,” adding, “to have a line of credit we can draw from, as we need to, allows us to still prioritize our other big ticket items and not sacrifice anything in those arenas.”

“I understand that, but we just

asked the community to pass a sales tax and now we are gonna turn around and say, ‘And now will you let us get a loan?’” Pierce responded.

She added, “I know we had a flood and didn’t anticipate that, but I don’t know that we are going to be able to get the community to pass it to give us a \$3 million loan in the short amount of time we have before the ballot.”

Rickert said that she thought “this was a priority we should move forward on,” adding that right now the town has enough funds, through the awarded grants, to fund about “87 percent of the project,” but warned that all of this requires matching funds that the “town might not have in its budget” in the future.

She added, “It seems that it would be smart for us to have the loan available to complete this project.”

The council ultimately decided to direct staff to bring the loan idea back in an ordinance form to the next meeting, when the council will vote on if it wants to ask the voters in April’s election if they want the town to pursue the CWCB loan to help pay for river restoration.

derek@pagosasun.com

Housing

■ Continued from A5

• 2025 Upper Area Council of Governments Single-Family Owner-Occupied (Custer, Chaffee, Fremont, Lake and Teller counties): \$450,000 to preserve housing in Salida, Silver Cliff, Westcliffe, Canon City, Florence, Leadville and Woodland Park.

• San Luis Valley Housing Coalition Home Rehabilitation Program (Morgan, Logan, Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San

Juan counties): \$1 million for loans for 14 households with aging infrastructure.

With these loans, Coloradans can remove deficiencies or health and safety hazards, improve accessibility and improve energy efficiency in the houses they own.

To learn more about these recent as well as previous awards, please visit DOLA’s State Housing Board webpage.



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Health district board again approves terminating dispatch agreement

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At a special meeting on Monday, Jan. 5, the Upper San Juan Health Service District Board of Directors, which oversees Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC), considered another resolution related to the termination of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for 911 dispatch services.

The board previously approved resolution 2025-18 on Nov. 18, 2025, authorizing PSMC CEO Dr. Rhonda Webb to terminate PSMC's participation in the IGA for consolidated emergency communication services upon four conditions.

However, Chief Administrative Officer Ann Bruzzese explained to the board that one of the conditions cannot yet be met.

As the resolution approved on Jan.

5 explains, "three of the four conditions have been met including having an agreement with [Archuleta] County for dispatch services starting January 1, 2026, waiver of the allocation of equipment at termination of the IGA, and waiver of the 90 days notice to terminate the IGA."

The resolution notes "one condition cannot be achieved -- the condition for the County (as fiscal agent for 911 Dispatch Services) to provide, by February 28, 2026, each User Agency with a statement of the 2025 year-end dispatch fund balance together with payment to the User Agency of its allocated share (which report/payment shall be subject to subsequent adjustment as a result of the County's finalized audit)."

The resolution further explains that, according to the county's legal counsel, "the County will not close its 2025 books until March 22, 2026;

thereafter, the County can provide a 'statement of the year-end dispatch balance and payment shortly after that date, with the check approved on the Accounts Payable and Board approval immediately following that date."

Bruzzese explained the resolution would authorize Webb to terminate the IGA with a softer timeline for the accounting and allocated payment of the fund balance.

Board member Gwen Taylor asked if the county could commit to another date, with Bruzzese explaining the county did not, but that the county attorney has worked diligently and that she didn't know if she could get the county's agreement on a date.

Board member Erik Foss asked how much money they were talking about, with Bruzzese explaining the most recent estimate was about \$60,000.

In response to another question

about leaving that funding in an account for dispatch, Bruzzese pointed out PSMC is looking at a bottom line of \$60,000 in 2026.

The board ultimately approved the resolution unanimously, with the resolution authorizing "PSMC's Chief Executive Officer to terminate the IGA as to the Upper San Juan Health Service District effective retroactively to the end of the day on December 31, 2025 on the conditions set forth in written Resolution 2025-18 except the deadline of February 28, 2026 for the County accounting and payment of the fund balance shall be omitted based upon the written confirmation from County legal counsel that the County shall provide PSMC with an accounting and payment of the allocated share of the fund balance promptly after the County closes its books for 2025."

randi@pagosasun.com

County's November 2025 unemployment rate lands at 3.1 percent

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta County's unemployment rate fell to 3.1 percent in November 2025, according to Jan. 7 report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE).

The county's unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in May 2025, 3.6 percent in June 2025, 3.2 percent in July 2025, 3.1 percent in August 2025 and 3.4 percent in September 2025.

No October 2025 data was released due to the federal government shutdown and lapse in appropriations that lasted from Oct. 1-Nov. 12, 2025.

Archuleta County's rate of 3.1 percent in November compares to 4.8 percent in November 2024.

Archuleta County's labor force totaled 6,742 in November 2025, according to the report, with 211 unemployed. That compares to a September labor force of 6,677 and 288 unemployed.

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 4.1 percent in September 2025 to 3.9 percent in November 2025.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed

individuals decreased by 8,400 to 125,900 from September to November 2025.

"Colorado's labor force decreased by 9,400 in November to 3,262,900," states a press release from the CDLE. "The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 67.0 percent in November, three-tenths of a percentage point lower than in September, this marks the lowest labor force participation rate since October 2020. The U.S. labor force participation rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 62.5 percent in November."

The national unemployment rate increased by two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.6 percent from September to November 2025, it notes.

Costilla County again had the highest unemployment rate in the state in November 2025 at 6.7 percent, followed by San Miguel County at 5.9 percent and Huerfano County at 5.8 percent.

Regionally, the data shows La Plata County with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate in November 2025, San Juan County at 3.1 percent, Mineral County at 4.9 percent, Rio Grande County at 4.1 percent and Conejos County at 3.7 percent.

Job loss, growth

Employers in Colorado gained 2,700 nonfarm payroll jobs from October to November 2025 for a total of 3,000,300 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private-sector payroll jobs increased by 1,500, while government gained 1,200 jobs.

The press release accompanying the report notes, "The comparison made above uses delayed establishment data for October. Due to the federal government shutdown, this is the first publication of state-level data for October and thus there will be no revisions for October this month (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates)."

Nonfarm payroll jobs estimates are based on a survey of business establishments and government agencies, and are intended to measure the number of jobs, not the number of people employed.

The private-industry sector with significant over-the-month job gains in November 2025 was:

- Other services at about 1,500 jobs.

The private-industry sector with

significant over-the-month job losses were:

- Professional and business services at about 1,200 jobs.
- Since November 2024, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 24,600, with the private sector increasing by 18,300 and government adding 6,300 jobs.
- The largest private-sector job gains were:
- Educational and health services by about 12,500 jobs.
 - Leisure and hospitality by about 5,200.
 - Information by about 3,200.
 - Other services by about 3,200.
- During the same period, payroll jobs declined in:
- Financial activities by about 3,300.
 - Construction by about 2,400.
- "Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is 0.8 percent, above the U.S. rate of 0.6 percent," the report notes.

It further notes that, over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 32.8 to 33.7 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$39.16 to \$40.47, \$3.61 more than the national average hourly earnings of \$36.86.

randi@pagosasun.com

Chair

■ Continued from front

be rescheduled at a later date.

"Unless otherwise noticed, all meetings will be held at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado," resolution 2026-05 notes.

Except for legal holidays, the county administration building will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the assessor/clerk/treasurer building will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the Public Works, CSU Extension and Department of Human Services buildings will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Public Health Department building will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; the landfill at 9179 County Road 500 will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; the Pagosa transfer station will be open Tuesday through Saturday for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Arboles transfer station will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m.

to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Board and committee appointments

During the Jan. 6 meeting, the BoCC also unanimously approved board and committee appointments for 2026.

According to the agenda item, the BoCC "have appointments on various Boards and Committees for local and regional organizations. They may appoint other members of the community or staff in their place."

Medina read off the various board and committee appointments, which included:

- Archuleta County Housing: Ranson, with Medina as an alternate.
- Archuleta Seniors Inc.: Ranson.
- Archuleta County Weed Advisory Board: Brown.
- Club 20: Medina.
- Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation: Brown, with Ranson as an alternate.
- County Fair Board: Medina.
- Housing Solutions for the South-

west: Ranson, with Medina as an alternate.

- Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board: Ranson, with Brown as an alternate.
 - Board of Health: Medina and Brown.
 - Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado: Medina.
 - San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership: Medina.
 - San Juan, Dolores, San Miguel River Basin Roundtable: Medina.
 - Southwest Council of Government: Medina.
 - Southwest Opioid Response District: Ranson.
 - Southwest Transportation Planning Region: Brown and Public Works Director Mike Torres, with Transportation Coordinator Andrew Mylroie as an alternate.
 - Southwest Water Conservation Board: J.R. Ford.
 - Pagosa Springs Urban Renewal Authority: Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott.
- clayton@pagosasun.com

Tax

■ Continued from front

collections were up 9.12 percent, or \$129,489.44 more than March 2024; April collections were up 9.32 percent, or \$117,621.93 more than April 2024; May collections were up 3.07 percent, or \$43,987.42 more than May 2024; June collections were up 4.5 percent, or \$75,391 more than June 2024; July collections were up 2.3 percent, or \$42,590.88 more than July 2024; and September collections were up 7.78 percent, or \$128,366.45 more than September 2024.

Sales tax collections in October 2025 decreased in a month-to-month comparison with October 2024, being down 16.3 percent, or \$284,462.27 less than 2024.

According to Eaton's data, the year-to-date collections when

comparing January through November 2025 to January through November 2024 are up 1.82 percent, or \$16,990,215.16 for 2025 and \$16,685,798.32 for 2024.

That translates to \$304,416.84 more in 2025 than 2024 for those months.

For November 2025, Eaton notes that the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County received a total of \$1,286,858.21 from the sales tax and retail marijuana sales tax revenues, with \$642,136.15 going to the county and \$642,087.78 going to the town.

Categories that were up in comparison to November 2024, according to Eaton's data, include:

- Manufacturing at 8.73 percent, or \$5,076.92.
- Information at 3.47 percent, or \$1,019.04.

- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services at 29.86 percent, or \$4,093.99.

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

- Construction at 2.21 percent, or \$807.12.
 - Retail Trade at 14.03 percent, or \$110,118.56.
 - Finance and Insurance at 2.38 percent, or \$56.90.
 - Real Estate, Rental and Leasing at 20.74 percent, or \$5,055.84.
 - Accommodation and Food Services at 9.02 percent, or \$22,267.89.
 - Other Services (except Public Administration) at 1.45 percent, or \$292.08.
 - Miscellaneous at 8.76 percent, or \$19,104.97.
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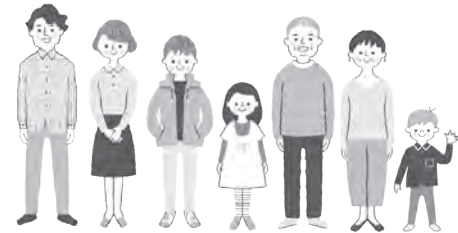
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Record

■ Continued from front

Thursday, Jan. 8, in Pagosa Springs, snow showers are likely with a high near 38 degrees. Chance of precipitation is listed at 80 percent, with new snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches expected.

Snow showers are expected to continue into the evening, with a low of 15 degrees and chance of precipitation falling to 70 percent. Less than an inch of additional snow accumulation is expected overnight.

For Friday, Jan. 9, there is a 50 percent chance of snow showers before 8 a.m. with otherwise partly sunny skies and a high near 38 degrees. The low is forecast at 5 degrees with mostly clear skies in the evening.

Sunny skies and warmer temperatures are expected moving into the weekend with a high of 39 degrees on Saturday, Jan. 10, and a high of 47 degrees on Sunday, Jan. 11.

Lows are forecast at 11 degrees and 13 degrees, respectively.

Wolf Creek

Slightly higher snow totals are

expected along Wolf Creek Pass, with the NWS predicting anywhere from 6 to 12 inches from late Wednesday, Jan. 9, through Friday, Jan. 9.

For today, Thursday, Jan. 8, the high along Wolf Creek Pass is forecast at 19 degrees with a 90 percent chance of snow showers with new snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches expected. The low is forecast at 10 degrees in the evening with an additional 1 to 3 inches of new snow accumulation expected.

On Friday, Jan. 9, the high is forecast at 16 degrees with a 60 percent chance of snow showers and an expected new snow accumulation of around an inch. The low is forecast at 2 degrees with a slight chance of snow showers, then becoming mostly clear skies.

Sunny skies are expected to return along Wolf Creek Pass on Saturday, Jan. 10, as well, with the high forecast at 24 degrees and the low forecast at 14 degrees.

Similar weather is expected for Sunday, Jan. 11, with sunny skies and a high of 28 degrees and a low of

14 degrees.

Snowpack and stream flow

According to data from the Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), as of 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7, the Wolf Creek Pass site at 10,930 feet had a snow water equivalent of 7.6 inches, compared to that date's median of 15.5 inches. This is up from the Dec. 31, 2025, report of 7 inches.

The current amount is 49 percent of that date's median snow water equivalent.

Snowpack levels are monitored by measuring snow water equivalents that gauge how much water is held within a snowfield, and are significant predictors of springtime runoff.

The San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins were measured to be at 49 percent of its 30-year median snowpack as of Dec. 31, 2025, and at 56 percent on Jan. 7.

The Wolf Creek summit had the highest current snow water equivalent in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan River basins, and

the Upper Rio Grande basin, as of press time Wednesday, Jan. 7.

In Pagosa Springs, U.S. Geological Survey for the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs has showed record flows multiple times since the start of the year.

For example, at 9 a.m. on Jan. 2, the river was running at 128 cubic feet per second (cfs), which compares to a median of 53 cfs and a previous high of 118 in 1986.

At 11 a.m. on Jan. 5, the river was running at 119 cfs, which compares to a median for that date of 54.5 cfs and a previous max value of 116 in 1987.

By 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 7, the river was flowing at 111 cfs. The Jan. 7 median is 55, and the record high is 116 cfs, which was recorded in 1987.

Drought

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor's most recent map released on Dec. 31, 2025, 100 percent of Archuleta County is in an "abnormally dry" drought stage.

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Priorities

■ Continued from front

the purpose of constructing a new administration building.

The county relocated offices in June 2025 due to an arson incident and is now leasing a building from Wyndham located at 305 Village Drive. Prior to the incident, the county still had multiple offices operating out of the old county courthouse building located at 449 San Juan St.

The county sold the building at 449 San Juan St in April 2022 to Ronnie Urbanczyk for \$550,000 and five years of free rent, valued at \$80,000.

During the work session, Brown noted that he wants to be able to hear from the public and to be able to consider all of the needs of the county with its administration building.

"So, I think that this is a discussion that I would like to see," he said, noting also that he'd like to have the other elected officials who were "directly affected" be involved.

Brown went on to explain that he spoke to a company recently that "does essentially what we have been looking at," noting the county was previously expecting roughly a \$300,000 bill for design services.

"Their company does it for nothing, and their hope is they would be the one selected if the project goes forward," he said.

Brown added that there are options when trying to "balance" it all out and "be good stewards of taxpayer money."

Brown then mentioned that his second priority for this year is roads.

"We've done a very good job over the past few years of bringing our roads up ... but this will never stop being a need," he said.

Brown commented that every year the county grows in population, roads that are in poor shape will degrade even faster.

Brown mentioned that the county needs to figure out where it might be able to get a revenue source to assist with its road projects.

"Because, as it is right now, I can see us cutting back substantially in the coming year," he added, noting that a "potential fix" to that is looking at the county's lodgers' tax rate, which is currently at 1.9 percent, but is now able to go up to 6 percent with the passing of Colorado House Bill 25-1247.

That bill allows for the expanded use of lodgers' tax revenues to include public safety, infrastructure, child care and affordable housing.

"We have the ability to put that to the voters," Brown said.

He then explained his last priority "would be economic development," explaining that it is a "two-part," with continuing support for our downtown businesses and housing.

"As we know, a big part of our economic development is housing," he added.

Brown also commented on the BoCC budgeting \$100,000 for the main street assistance grant program, saying, "I think it speaks very well of the county recognizing the value ... and doing something to sustain the value of the businesses and, more importantly, the people."

Commissioner John Ranson then shared his priorities, with his No. 1 being a "commitment to increase funding for roads."

Ranson commented that "pretty much everybody that runs for county commissioner" tries and does their best to improve roads around the county.

Ranson also mentioned that he'd like to work on the budget quarterly, or at least periodically, to avoid getting behind.

"I felt like we got behind this year

on that budget process," he said. "I'd like to see us be better prepared going into that budget season."

Ranson commented that he'd like to go in with the goal of "finding" \$1 million in the budget that could be allocated to roads, "and show the public we're gonna do our job to try and bring in some more revenue."

Ranson mentioned that he'd also like to see the lodgers' tax rate increase from the current 1.9 percent up to 5.9 percent, noting that his preference would be to have 90 percent of those funds go to roads and 10 percent go to child care programs.

Ranson mentioned that he'd also like to see the lodgers' tax rate increase from the current 1.9 percent up to 5.9 percent, noting that his preference would be to have 90 percent of those funds go to roads and 10 percent go to child care programs.

Ranson then spoke about wanting to move forward with a gravel pit in the community, noting "that will help out a lot with our expenses on the roads."

He also spoke about looking at a long-term arterial road "to get that traffic off of [U.S. 160]."

Ranson noted that if the county has a long-term plan, it can inform the community about it.

He noted that it might be a 10- to 20-year-long plan, "but we need a loop around this community at some point."

Ranson then acknowledged the county administration building matter.

"Me and Commissioner Brown are maybe on different sides of the fence," he said, explaining that his preference would be to postpone any expense on a new building for this year.

Ranson indicated that a monthly payment on a new 30,000-square-foot building would come out to roughly \$150,000 to \$200,000.

"Financially, we gotta be realistic on this," he said, explaining he's unsure how the county could come up with those funds in the short-term.

He added, "My position's not 'no' on building, it's just not now."

Ranson then went on to express that he'd like to continue helping downtown business during the construction.

"We all know they struggled," he said, noting he is proud of what the county has been able to do to provide support.

Ranson then spoke some more on the matter of building a new county administration building, stating he'd like to review more options of current locations.

"I have not talked to — other than some of us who live in these county buildings seem to favor a new building — outside of that I haven't had one person say you need to build a new building," Ranson said.

He cautioned about other local entities going after funds.

"You can not take that much money out of a community, " he said, noting more than \$350 million is needed between multiple local entities for various projects.

Ranson also mentioned long-term energy needs in the county, noting he's excited for the completion of the new La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) substation on Trujillo Road.

Ranson also mentioned there are multiple ways to generate power, indicating there might be other options for the county to explore.

"Why don't we start looking today at the different options Archuleta County may have for energy?" he said.

Commissioner Veronica Medina then spoke, noting that her goals "are a lot in line" with the other commissioners.

Medina first indicated that she "would really like to move forward the ballot initiative for the lodging tax," noting she'd prefer to have those revenues split with 80 percent going to roads, 10 percent to emergency services and 10 percent going to child care.

Medina explained that when residents call 911 for emergency services, they expect someone to answer, adding that rural communities like Archuleta County may face unique obstacles with trying to ensure emergency services.

Medina also explained the percentage of revenues that would be dedicated to each use really doesn't matter until the BoCC decides how much it wants to propose raising the lodgers' tax rate by.

"I don't know if it's the right thing to increase it all the way up to 6 [percent]," she said, indicating her thought was to raise it 4 percent, which would provide roughly an additional \$500,000 in collections to

the county.

Medina commented that most of this tax would come from tourists visiting the county, "but it is definitely going to assist our local economy."

Medina also noted that bringing sufficient power into the county is one of her goals, as well.

She indicated that a "power options" person would be speaking to the BoCC next week.

Medina went on to indicate that updating the county's land use code and community plan, along with housing ad her other priorities.

"As Commissioner Brown said, housing is critical to our community," she said.

Medina commented that affordable or workforce housing "is not all that it's cracked up to be," explaining the county needs to look at how it wants to do more housing projects.

Medina then responded to Ranson's point on sourcing gravel locally. She explained that the county spent roughly \$2 million "a few years ago" simply to haul gravel in.

"Just to haul it," she reiterated.

Medina also indicated that she wants to get back on track with the county's strategic plan.

She then spoke about a three-phase power project at Cloman Park, indicating that a constituent has been able to secure a grant to get three-phase power "exactly where we want it to be."

Medina then commented on the admin building, indicating that, like Ranson, "I too am not a 'no' on the building, just not right now."

Later in the day during the BoCC's regular meeting, resident Marybeth Snyder offered public comment in opposition to building a new county administration building right now.

"We've had a couple public meetings; I didn't hear anyone say they wanted an admin building, so I just want to remind you to work for the people who would pay for it, not necessarily the employees that want it," she said.

Snyder suggested the county could spend money on a consultant to help organize its current spaces for maximum productivity.

"I think people might do better off in the Wyndham building if they organize things well," she added, suggesting the county table the idea of building a new administration building for at least a year.

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2025 year in review: April, May, June

2025 was an interesting year in Pagosa Country. There was no want for good news, bad news, controversial issues, and no lack of interesting news to keep SUN readers focused on local events, situations and personalities. The SUN is taking a look back at some of those events, selected by SUN staff writers. This week, we look back at April, May and June.

April

As the calendar turned to April, multiple districts began canceling elections due to not having more candidates than positions available. The Upper San Juan Health Service District (USJHSD), which operates Pagosa Springs Medical Center, declared Kate Alfred elected for a four-year term ending in May 2029, Mark Floyd for a two-year term ending in May 2027 and Kathy Campbell for a two-year term ending in May 2027. Joining the board for four year-terms lasting until May 2029 were Wayne Hooper, Erik Foss and Ashley Wilson.

The Pagosa Fire Protection District canceled its spring election due to a lack of candidates, with no one deemed elected.

Davian Coss, 18, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on April 1.

Davian earned 26 merit badges and completed his Eagle Project in November 2024, when multiple donation days were held to support the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs. In addition to the donations received, Davian built and placed a donation box within Chow Down so donations can continue to be collected as community members purchase items for their own pets.

On April 1, the Pagosa Springs Town Council authorized town staff to enter into a contract with WW Clyde to perform the work for its downtown rehabilitation project, coinciding with Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) U.S. 160 reconstruction project.

The town's scope of work in downtown Pagosa Springs includes the installation of new street lamps, new sidewalk sections, culvert repairs, side road repairs and replacements, electrical conduit, new street trees, and an irrigation system for the new trees and flower baskets.

On April 1, the town council commemorated the fact that staff was recognized for earning a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its annual comprehensive financial report for the 2023 fiscal year from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). The report was judged by an impartial panel, and the award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, according to the GFOA.

On April 2, the Daniels Fund announced its 2025 class of Daniels Scholarship Program recipients, which included Pagosa Springs High School's (PSHS's) Jesse Beck.

At an April 4 special meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors voted to approve a proposal from Distribution System Resources Ltd. to inspect and service fire hydrants in the community.

PAWSD District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey explained that the fire hydrant issue is a "big deal" and that the hydrants have not been tested in at least a decade.

The testing and functionality of hydrants in the area had drawn concern within the community.

Two PSHS track and field records were broken at the 30-team John Tate Steel City Fast Track Invitational on April 4 in Pueblo.

Abi Nehring set a new record in discus with a throw of 138 feet, 6 inches, beating a 2017 record belonging to Keena Murphy. At the time, Nehring was the top-ranked discus thrower in the state, with the second-ranked throw being 12 feet shorter.

Colton Lucero broke the school record in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.96 seconds, beating the record set by Jason Schutz in 2002. Lucero was ranked second in the state for the event.

In addition to setting records, the Pirate track and field team also notched 17 top-five finishes at the meet.

Local officials tended to three fires in two days on April 7 and 8, including two structure fires and a wildland/grass fire.

The wildland/grass fire was approximately two acres in size and was a controlled burn that was not properly extinguished and left unattended by the landowner.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Archuleta County Public Health Department and the Silver Thread Public Health District announced on April 8 that they had confirmed

a case of measles in an Archuleta County adult resident. The person's age and vaccination history was not disclosed.

The PSHS Pirate baseball team moved the team to a 7-0 record in early April after picking up four more wins. The Pirates scored 67 runs over the course of the games while holding their opponents to four.

Residents in the Twincreek Village area were treated to a rare sight on April 12: a moose. Multiple residents reported the unexpected and exciting sighting.

More PSHS records were broken at the April 12 36-team Thunder-Storm Invitational in Pueblo.

Breaking school records for the second week in a row were Lucero and Nehring, with Creede Dozier also setting a new school record.

Lucero took more time off his 100-meter record, moving it to 10.85 seconds, and also broke a 2003 record in the 200-meter dash held by Schutz by running a time of 22.39 seconds. Lucero was ranked first in the 100 and fifth in the 200 in the state.

Dozier also set a new school record at the meet, besting the long jump record set in 2005 by Daniel Aupperle. Dozier jumped a distance of 22 feet, 2.75 inches to take first at the meet and was ranked second in the state in the event.

During a regular meeting held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on April 15, the BoCC unanimously approved the selection of Martha Whitmore as the preferred candidate for the county attorney position.

Prior to selecting a new county attorney, the BoCC unanimously approved entering into an agreement with Lance Ingalls of the law firm Icenogle Seaver Pogue to serve as an interim county attorney.

Whitmore later withdrew from consideration and the position was reposted.

In April, it was announced that Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) Project-based Learning Advisor Rue Graham was recently awarded the John Larmer Lifelong Learning Award from PBL Works, the organization that sets the standard for project-based learning across the nation. The award recognizes up to three educators nationwide who have shown to majorly impact students with their high-quality project work.

Pagosa Springs was not immune to national politics in 2025, with several events held throughout the spring and summer in protest of actions taken at the federal level and in support of political parties, with some events drawing hundreds.

National politics also came into play leading up to a visit to Pagosa Springs by Rep. Jeff Hurd on April 22.

The BoCC held a special meeting with Rep. Jeff Hurd at the county's administration building, with only one matter on the posted agenda as a new business item: "Discussions With Congressman Hurd."

That meeting was met with discord in the days leading up to it, and Hurd met with protesters outside the county administration building prior to the meeting.

Archuleta County was named one of the cleanest counties in the nation in terms of ozone air pollution in the American Lung Association's "State of the Air" 2025 report released on April 23.

Bella Gutierrez and Edgar Ortiz were named the queen and king during PSHS's annual prom on April 26.

Ten members of the Pirate track and field team earned Intermountain League (IML) honors with their performances at the Pine River Invitational in Bayfield in April, which served as the season's IML meet: Nehring in the shot put and discus; Lexi Campbell in the triple jump; the 4x100-meter relay team of Sienna Rose, Molly Washburn, Campbell and Rylie Carr; Lucero in the 100- and 200-meter dashes; Dozier in the long jump and high jump; Emile Schneider in the discus; and the 4x100 team of Lucero, Tommy Nigro, Alex Pacheco and Dozier.

In April, local snowboarder Logan Lamoreaux earned first place in the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association's North and South American U15 snowboard men's division. Lamoreaux competed in national competitions over the winter season, with the division featuring more than 100 riders across six countries. Notching first-place finishes in competitions at Crested Butte and Breckenridge, he also placed second at a Telluride competition and third at the Junior Americas championships held in Kirkwood, Calif.

May

The PSHS Lady Pirates soccer advanced to the playoffs as the No. 32 team after defeating 2A Del Norte

5-0 on May 1 and falling to 5A Fruita Monument 10-0 on May 2.

The Pagosa Springs Middle School (PSMS) track and field team returned home from the May 3 San Juan Basin League tournament with the league title. The program saw a record-breaking 70 student athletes participate, and the Pirates earned multiple meet victories, set "countless" personal records and had multiple student athletes — Raleigh Iverson, Jammer Grigsby, Rylan Ash, Bentley Briscoe, Ahrianna Martinez, Abigail Foss, Clara Kurz, Eathon Kinkead, Chatwin Pickering and Elijah Julian — contribute to the school's record book. The boys' team won the league title, with the girls' team finishing second in the league.

PAWSD customers moved under voluntary drought restrictions on May 5, with the move signaling developing drought conditions in the area.

During a report to the Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) board on May 6, the board heard that an April 17 lightning strike caused a power surge, resulting in approximately \$35,000 of damage to electrical equipment at Lift Station 2.

The electrical damage caused the loss of two out of the three electrical legs on one of the submersible pumps at the lift station.

The Lady Pirate soccer team wrapped up its season in Denver on May 8, when it fell 10-0 to the No. 1-ranked team and defending state champion in the state's 3A division, Colorado Academy, in the opening round of the playoffs.

The unofficial results of the May 6 PAWSD election were released on May 9, with Eugene L. Taugtes, Bruce Jones Jr. and Alex Boehmer being elected to the board.

During a special meeting held by the BoCC on May 12, the BoCC unanimously approved the selection of Cathleen Giovannini for the county attorney position.

In May, the town and county became the first in the state of Colorado to have their regional housing needs assessment officially accepted by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for full compliance with Senate Bill 24-174, also known as the Sustainable Affordable Housing Assistance bill.

Eleven Pirates earned a trip to the state track and field meet May 15-17 to compete in 13 events: Lucero, Dozier, Jeremiah Jones, Pacheco, Nigro, Carr, Rose, Campbell, Nehring, Malorie Morton and Molly Washburn.

Multiple Pirates went into the meet with high seeds.

Nehring and Dozier returned home with state titles in girls' discus and boys' long jump, respectively. The pair claimed the titles within minutes of each other at the state meet.

The majority of the team's 14 qualifiers brought home medals, with the boys' squad taking 13th in 3A and the girls' squad placing 10th.

In addition to her title in discus, Nehring took fourth in the shot put. Morton took seventh. Dozier also made the podium with a fifth-place finish in the high jump. Jones joined him on the podium with an eighth-place finish. Carr finished sixth in the girls' 100-meter dash. Rose took seventh in the girls' 400-meter run. Lucero notched eighth in the boys' 100 after fighting an injury. Campbell took ninth in the girls' triple jump. The girls' 4x100-meter relay — including Rose, Washburn, Campbell and Carr — finished seventh.

Results of the 2025 La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) board election were announced at the cooperative's annual meeting on May 21.

For District 1 (Archuleta County), Dusty Mars won with 1,075 votes. Candidate Holly Metzler received 739 votes. One seat in each of LPEA's four districts comes up for election annually.

U.S. Forest Service firefighters began tending to a new fire on May 24, the Freeman Fire, in the First Notch area of the Columbine Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest.

The fire was discovered north of U.S. 160 in the First Notch area of the San Juan National Forest in Archuleta County — in the Piedra River corridor — the night of May 24, with the fire at 38 acres as of the afternoon of May 25.

By midday May 26, firefighters had completed fire line around the fire and had begun mopping up.

The fire was in close proximity to lines providing power to Archuleta County.

Tucker Jacobson, a junior at San Juan Mountain School, competed at the 2025 Colorado State High School Rodeo Finals over the Memorial Day weekend, in Craig, Colo. After scoring a total of 138 points on three horses, Tucker received the State Champion

Bareback Riding buckle and trophy saddle. Tucker also placed fourth in the bull riding division and has qualified for the High School Rodeo National Finals in both events.

Community members came together to honor those who lost their lives in service to the United States during a Memorial Day ceremony May 26 at Hilltop Cemetery. In addition to honoring those who died while serving, a list of Archuleta County veterans who passed over the prior year was read.

In late May, construction began on PPOS's Playground for the People.

Helped by a nearly \$700,000 grant from the Colorado Health Foundation, the playground will double as a park for the community, open to the public when the school is not in session. Project completion was expected in August, before students returned to school.

The PSHS baseball team finished the regular season in mid-May with a 9-9 record, ranked as the No. 32 team in Colorado 3A baseball.

But, when the 32-team regional playoff brackets were released, the Pirates were not listed, with the final playoff spot going to the team ranked 33rd in the Seeding Index.

A map released May 28 showing radio-collared wolf activity from April 22 to May 27 highlighted watersheds within Archuleta County and La Plata County, indicating the presence of collared wolf activity in a small portion of the counties — the first confirmed collared wolf activity in the area.

It was announced in May that Sage Merrill-Exton, a sixth-grader at Pagosa Springs Middle School during the 2024-2025 school year, designed and painted a mural at Pagosa Springs Elementary School (PSES) as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award project, as well as a class project focused on her recognition as a leader in and out of the classroom.

The project also provided an opportunity for other students to be part of a collaborative approach to community-based art and develop a sense of ownership in their school.

With the end of the 2024-2025 school year, PSMS Principal Chris ■ See Review A10

HELP PRESERVE PAGOSA'S HISTORIC SITES

Join the Historic Preservation Board (HPB)

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking motivated volunteers to help reestablish the HPB to maintain our Certified Local Government status. The purpose of this board is to recognize, protect, and promote the retention and use of historic sites and districts within the community and to promote educational opportunities and awareness of the unique heritage of Pagosa Springs.

Qualifications

- Members must live, work, own property or conduct business within the Town boundaries for at least (1) year
- At least (2) members must be professionals in architecture, archeology, history, or planning
- No more than (3) members shall be lay members

Members and terms of Office

- Members of the HPB are appointed by Town Council
- The HPB shall consist of (5) members
- Members are appointed to (4) year terms

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AARP Colorado now accepting 2026 Community Challenge grant applications

AARP Colorado

AARP Colorado invites local eligible nonprofit organizations and governments to apply for the 2026 AARP Community Challenge grant program, now through March 4.

AARP Community Challenge grants fund quick-action projects that help communities become more livable by improving public places, transportation, housing, digital connections and more.

Now in its 10th year, AARP will double its investment, awarding over \$8 million in grants as part of its nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for all residents, especially those age 50 and older.

“Through the Community Challenge grant program, AARP Colorado works closely with local residents, advocates and policymakers to improve the quality of life for people of all ages, especially Coloradans 50 and older,” said State Director Sara Schueneman. “We look forward to the opportunity this year to provide increased support to communities across the state.”

This year, the AARP Community Challenge is accepting applications across three different grant opportunities. All projects must be consistent with AARP’s mission to serve the needs of people 50 and older, along with other eligibility criteria.

- Flagship grants support projects

that improve public places, transportation, housing, digital connections and disaster resilience. Awards range from a few hundred dollars to \$15,000.

- Capacity-building microgrants are paired with expert support, webinars and cohort learning for projects to improve walkability and bikeability; implement safe, accessible home modifications; and disaster preparedness training. Awards are \$2,500.
- Demonstration grants fund projects that encourage replication of exemplary local efforts. This year’s focus is on improving pedestrian safety, with funding support from Toyota Motor North America; expanding high-speed internet access and adoption, with funding support from Microsoft; and housing choice design competitions. Awards typically range from \$10,000 to \$20,000, not to exceed \$25,000.

“Over the last decade, AARP has invested in communities to help people of all ages and abilities to thrive,” said Nancy LeaMond, AARP executive vice president and chief advocacy and engagement officer. “The impact that our Community Challenge grants have had in cities, towns and counties nationwide is significant, supporting everything from crosswalks and home improvements to increased community engagement while also serving as a catalyst for further action. We look forward to expanding the program and its cumulative results over the next 10 years.”

Since 2017, AARP has invested \$24.3 million toward 2,100 livability projects — including 40 in Colorado — across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through the Community Challenge.

The program aims to provide support to all community types, including rural, suburban and urban communities, with a special focus on the needs of those 50 and older.

AARP Colorado works in collaboration with communities across the state, bringing people together and providing resources and expertise to help make Colorado’s counties, towns and cities great places to live for people of all ages. Past grantees have utilized funds for walk audits to identify sidewalk and crosswalk improvements, develop an emergency action plan, and fund workshops on DIY repairs to help older Coloradans age in place, among other initiatives.

The Community Challenge is open to eligible 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Other types of organizations are considered on a case-by-case basis. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for small, short-term activities to tens of thousands for larger projects.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. Eastern on March 4. All projects must be completed by Dec. 15. To submit an application and view past grantees, visit www.AARP.org/CommunityChallenge.

Early CDOT data says 234 traffic deaths involved an impaired driver last year

Colorado Department of Transportation

Preliminary data shows that 234 people died in crashes involving an impaired driver in Colorado last year.

While impaired driving-related fatalities are down 18 percent since 2022, impaired driving remains a leading contributing factor in Colorado traffic deaths.

To prevent impaired driving-related crashes, CDOT will support the Colorado State Patrol and 59 local law enforcement agencies for The Heat Is On Winter Blitz DUI enforcement period Jan. 8-21. Drivers may see saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints and additional law enforcement officers on duty dedicated to arresting impaired drivers and keeping Colorado roads safe.

“Removing impaired drivers from our roads remains a top priority for Colorado law enforcement, no matter the time of year. Being responsible should be a routine step every driver takes before using impairing substances,” said Col. Matthew C. Packard, chief of the Colorado State Patrol (CSP). “Even if you think you’re OK to drive, the consequences of impaired driving are never worth the risk. Use a ride-share service, public transportation or call a sober friend. Your commitment to sober driving could save a life.”

While most Coloradans make the responsible choice and always drive sober, last year 34 percent of traffic deaths involved an impaired driver. This remains higher than the national average of 30 percent, as calculated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“Although traffic deaths involving drugs or alcohol have declined since 2022, impaired drivers continue

to endanger all road users,” said Shoshana Lew, executive director of CDOT. “Don’t put yourself and others at risk — especially on winter roads. Choose a sober ride home if you’ve been consuming alcohol or cannabis.”

With polyconsumption — or consuming two or more intoxicating substances at the same time — on the rise, CDOT is warning motorists about the dangers of poly-impaired driving.

According to a report published by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) in 2023, 18 percent of impaired drivers arrested for a DUI tested positive for multiple substances. The most common combination was alcohol and Delta 9-THC, which is the primary psychoactive component of cannabis.

Using cannabis and alcohol together enhances the effects of each, further compromising a driver’s ability to manage critical tasks and resulting in:

- Slowed reaction time.
- Difficulty in road tracking and lane-position variability.
- Decreased attention.
- Impaired cognitive performance.
- Distorted perception of time, distance and speed.

Colorado law enforcement is trained to identify drivers impaired by alcohol, cannabis and other drugs.

There are currently more than 120 law enforcement officers certified as drug recognition experts in the state. In addition, the majority of CSP troopers have specialized training in drug detection, known as Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement.

Don’t risk a DUI; it could cost you jail time, legal fees, community service hours, your license and even your job.

During last year’s Winter Blitz enforcement period, Colorado law enforcement made 292 DUI arrests.

Throughout all enforcement periods in 2025, there were 5,275 DUI arrests.

Following Winter Blitz, the next DUI enforcement period will be Super Bowl Weekend from Feb. 5 to 11.

Colorado’s Expressed Consent Law

Expressed consent is one of the most misunderstood laws in the state.

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/choos-etotest.

Colorado Fatal Crash Data Dashboard

Colorado’s Fatal Crash Data dashboard represents the official and most current number of vehicle occupants or nonmotorists killed in crashes involving a motor vehicle along Colorado public roadways.

The graph shows Colorado traffic fatalities year over year and can be filtered by categories such as month, county, age and traffic unit type.

Access the Fatal Crash Data dashboard at www.codot.gov/safety/traffic-safety/data-analysis/fatal-crash-data.

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Review

■ Continued from A9

Hinger closed the book on 30 years of service to Archuleta School District (ASD), including 22 years as principal at the middle school.

- The end of the school year also brought with it Wes Lewis’ retirement from coaching basketball after 29 years, including 18 at PSHS.

Lewis leaves behind a 336-94 record in 18 years of coaching at PSHS.

Over those 18 years, Lewis’ teams made the playoffs 16 years, advanced to the Great 8 10 times, earned their way to the Final Four six times, made two championship games and brought home one state title.

- PSHS students, staff, family and friends gathered at Golden Peaks Stadium on May 31 to celebrate 71 graduating seniors as part of the 115th annual commencement.

Hailey Sams earned the honor of being the class valedictorian and Sophia Sottek earned the distinction of salutatorian.

- San Juan Mountain School honored 20 graduates the same day, with Mackenzie Moraine earning the distinction of class valedictorian and Kate Cernosek earning the salutatorian title. The school’s annual Character Award went to Zayda Skai Cardoso.

June

- At the June 3 town council meeting, Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis informed the council that his staff had “determined that a walking parade would be the best course of action” for the Fourth of July celebration at Yamaguchi Park.

Due to the highway reconstruction project, the council decided in March that it would forgo a traditional motorized parade for the year’s celebration, opting instead for a celebration at Yamaguchi Park that would lead into the annual fireworks display.

- During its regular meeting on June 5, the Archuleta County Combined Dispatch Board voted unanimously to approve a resolution moving toward dissolving the intergovernmental agreement between the four entities operating dispatch.

In its last meeting of 2024, the board had approved a resolution giving operational oversight of the dispatch center to the Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office (ACSO).

- In June, it was announced that Daniel Cammack, who grew up in Pagosa Springs, was presented with Colorado Parks and Wildlife’s Outstanding Biologist of the Year. Cammack is CPW’s Southwest Region native aquatic species biologist.

- During its regular meeting on June 10, the ASD Board of Education unanimously approved multiple items, including its 2025-2026 budget

and a district cellphone policy.

- One individual died following an ATV crash on a ranch on Stevens Lake Road early the morning of June 11.

The deceased was identified as a 19-year-old from Texas.

Austin James Brown, 20, of Beaumont, Texas, was arrested on charges that include driving under the influence, vehicular homicide-DUI, criminally negligent homicide, manslaughter-reckless, alcohol-under 21 possession/consumption and weapon-prohibited use.

- A June 12 act of arson at the county’s offices at 449 San Juan St. left the county working to relocate those offices and meet deadlines related to property valuations and property tax payments.

At approximately 1:19 a.m. on June 12, the Pagosa Springs Police Department and Pagosa Fire Protection District responded to a burglar and fire alarm at 449 San Juan St. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered an active fire inside the east end of the building.

Crews entered the structure and successfully contained and extinguished the fire, which was limited to two office areas on the first and second floors — the offices of the assessor and county clerk.

Both sustained moderate to severe fire and smoke damage. The building was unoccupied at the time, and no injuries or fatalities were reported.

- At the June 12 meeting of the PAWSD board, Ramsey provided a final update on PAWSD’s efforts to test fire hydrants in the community.

Ramsey explained that testing of the approximately 1,100 hydrants connected to the PAWSD system had been completed by the hydrant testing contractor slightly less than two weeks before the meeting.

Of these hydrants, seven would need to be replaced and 32 had “significant problems” that PAWSD staff would work on, Ramsey stated, and some others would require maintenance such as painting.

Ramsey indicated that PAWSD staff would work on developing a plan for future testing and maintenance of hydrants building off the results.

- The PAWSD board also discussed the upcoming departure of Ramsey and approaches to hiring a replacement at its June 12 meeting.

Ramsey explained that, once the Snowball Water Treatment Plant expansion project is done, he would resign from his position at the district.

He added that that would likely happen six to eight months in the future.

Ramsey stated that he wanted to give the district “plenty of time” to find a replacement and that his de-

parture time can be flexible depending on the district’s needs.

- On June 16, shortly after announcing that its wastewater system is experiencing critical situation, the town held the first of a series of listening sessions about the challenges of funding necessary repairs to its aging wastewater system.

The town’s notice to PSSGID users and the community urged users to minimize stress on the system due to pump failure.

The outgoing and incoming Spanish Fiesta royalty were honored at the June 14 Spanish Fiesta event. The 2025-2026 royalty were crowned at the event: Tesla Morris, royal court; Lillyan Vega, princess; David Trujillo, prince; Ana Lucia Romero Gallegos, queen attendant; Hadassah Trujillo, princess attendant; Amaryah Trujillo, junior princess; Bella Postolese, queen; and Anthony Rodriguez, king.

- At its meeting on Tuesday, June 24, the board of the USJHSD appointed Matt Mees to fill the board vacancy created by the resignation of Kathy Campbell.

William Wayne Bryant, 71, of Archuleta County, was taken into custody on June 26 in connection with the June 12 arson incident at county offices located at 449 Lewis St.

The case is ongoing.

- Following an executive session held June 26, the BoCC approved negotiating and entering into a lease with Wyndham for temporary county office spaces that were displaced by the fire at 449 San Juan St.

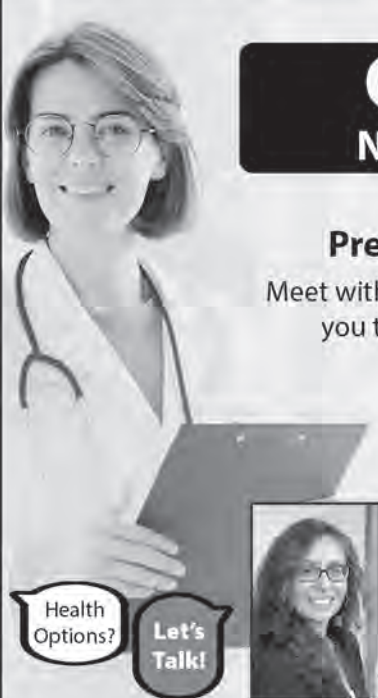
The motion was approved by a split vote of 2-1, with Commissioner John Ranson and Commissioner Veronica Medina in favor and Commissioner Warren Brown opposing.

- On June 27, brothers Draven and Emiliano Martinez qualified to the second round of the Drive, Chip and Putt. Draven Martinez took first place in the chipping discipline and second in the putting discipline, as well as third overall. Emiliano Martinez took second in both the chipping and putting disciplines, as well as third overall.

- The county celebrated the opening of its new transportation center in Harman Park on June 28 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Arboles Independence Day parade kicked off the area’s Fourth of July celebrations on June 28. Following the parade, the community celebrated with a cookout and live entertainment.

- PAWSD and the San Juan Water Conservancy District solidified their unwillingness to reach a compromise over the potential sale of the Running Iron Ranch at a June 30 joint work session.



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Sports

WRESTLING

Lady Pirates set to host first-ever home tournament Friday

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team will return to action later this week when they host their first-ever home wrestling tournament, the Rocky Mountain Invitational, on Friday, Jan. 9.

“To have a home tournament where, you know, family members and friends can come watch, is very exciting for us,” said coach Dan Janowsky.

Last year the Lady Pirates had hosted a dual meet at home, making

this the second girls’ wrestling event to ever be hosted at Pagosa Springs High School.

The wrestling will begin at noon on Friday with nine teams from southwest Colorado and New Mexico competing. The teams participating will be Centauri, Center, Del Norte, Durango, Ignacio, Montezuma-Cortez, Nucla and Taos, N.M.

Janowsky emphasized that the voluntary practices and workouts over break went very well. School has started back up again and with that comes a week of regular practices in

preparation.

The girls will be getting live reps throughout the week in order to get acclimated, as well as working on fundamentals and stamina, explained Janowsky.

The girls’ performance at the Warrior Classic in Grand Junction just before the break has helped the team gain some recognition heading into the first tournament of the new year.

“[The girls] kind of edged up into the rankings at 15, so they’re on the radar,” said Janowsky. “Now people are starting to realize that we have

some real good competitive girl wrestlers on that side.”

Four Lady Pirates are coming into the home tournament with nine wins on the season. Laykyn Baxstrom, who wrestles at 190 pounds, is 9-0. Madisen Stretton, who wrestles at 110 pounds, is 9-2. Bella Jackson, who wrestles at 105 pounds, is 9-3. Kyle Matyniak, who wrestles at 130 pounds, is 9-4.

“This is our first girls’ tournament that we’re hosting,” Janowsky said. “And you know, we’re excited about it. The girls are excited.”

jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com

Pirates to host Rocky Mountain Duals, Invite Friday and Saturday

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate wrestling team will return to action this week when they host the Rocky Mountain Duals and Rocky Mountain Invitational.

“I’ve lost track of how many years we’ve done it, but it’s in the neighborhood of 50 years we’ve run this tournament,” said coach Dan Janowsky. “It’s a very exciting event for us.”

The boys will first compete in the duals on Friday, Jan. 9, with the wrestling starting at 5 p.m. Rocky Ford, a top-ranked 2A high school, and 4A Durango will be competing against the Pirates with the possibil-

ity of a third team joining, Janowsky explained.

The Rocky Mountain Invitational will then kick off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 10.

There will be 17 teams traveling to compete. The teams making the trip to Pagosa Springs are Antonito; Bayfield; Center; Durango; Farmington, N.M.; Harrison; Ignacio; Kirtland, N.M.; Mancos; Montezuma-Cortez; Nucla; Monticello, Utah; Olathe; Rocky Ford; Sargent; and Taos, N.M.

Janowsky emphasized that both the duals and the tournament will be great ways to get going after the winter break.

Over the break, the Pirates got some rest in, but also made good use

of the voluntary workout sessions, Janowsky noted.

He emphasized that the boys were able to work on their skills and got a lot of wrestling in over the break.

With students heading back to class this week, regular practices have started back up. This week the boys will be working on getting acclimated after the break with a lot of live wrestling reps, as well as touching up on fundamentals and working on stamina, Janowsky explained.

Heading into the second half of the season, Janowsky has two wrestlers, Colton Lucero and Jimmy Elledge, who he noted he feels have started to solidify their reputation.

The guys right below them are one

to two matches away in a tournament setting and if they can improve the team can take the next step, the coach added.

“We’ve lost a lot of close ones,” said Janowsky. “We give away points at the wrong time, we make some mistakes that allow our opponents to get some easy points and if we can eliminate those easy points and make our guys work for everything, I think we can take another step up with the guys.”

Lucero has a 9-1 record wrestling at 157 pounds and Elledge has a 11-6 record wrestling at 215 pounds heading into the Rocky Mountain Invitational.

Jonathan Baker sits at 1-4 wrestling at 126 pounds, Eric Smith at 6-7 wrestling at 132 pounds, Stetson Osborn at 4-7 wrestling at 138 pounds, Asher McKennie at 2-6 wrestling at 144 pounds, Hudson Mazur at 6-6 wrestling at 150 pounds, Devin Gonzalez at 6-5 wrestling at 165 pounds, Truman Vasek at 4-6 wrestling at 175 pounds and Hunter Martinez at 7-5 wrestling at 285 pounds.

“We have a full weekend of wrestling here in our gym and, you know, we’re excited about it,” said Janowsky.

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BASKETBALL

Pirates look to rebound from losses against Durango

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team moved to 2-6 after opening the new year with two losses at the Holy Family Invite in Broomfield last week.

“I thought it was really a positive trip for us,” said coach Brandon Forster after the tournament. “We really fought Holy Family tough and put ourselves in some good situations, and just didn’t come out with a win, but I felt like our kids understand now that we are a tough team and we are somebody that has to be recognized.”

The Pirates first game of the new year was against the tournament host, the Holy Family Tigers. They squared off on Friday, Jan. 2, with the Tigers winning the matchup 66-55. The Pirates kept it close, finishing the first half down three, but the Tigers outscored the Pirates by eight points in the second half and held on for the 11-point win.

Creede Dozier led the Pirates with 16 points, Ty Richey had 10 points and Duke Ketchum added eight points. Others scoring for the Pirates on Friday were Jeremiah Jones with seven, Bode Hubbard with six, Jerry Dean with four, and Koen Pitcher and Jayton Ross each with two points.

The Pirates made seven of 13 free-throw attempts.

As a team, the Pirates pulled down

18 rebounds. Hubbard led the squad with five, Richey had four, Ross and Dozier each had three, Ketchum had two and Jones had one.

The team also had 15 turnovers, seven assists, five steals and four blocks.

The Pirates then faced off against Peak to Peak on Saturday, Jan. 3, losing 60-52.

An 18-point first quarter gave the Pirates a four-point lead going into the second quarter, but the Pumas outscored the Pirates 17-6 in the second frame to take a seven-point halftime lead. The second half was back and forth, but the Pumas were able to hold onto their lead and win the game.

“Peak to Peak was tough,” said Forster. “[They had] one really tough guard that was really good, and we hung right in there. [We] got into some foul trouble, which the young guys stepped up and played really well for us.”

Ketchum led the team in scoring with 14 points. Hubbard scored 10. Jones, Richey and Kasen Limebrook each added six for the Pirates. Dozier had four, and Ross and Dean each added three points.

The team made eight of 13 shots from the charity stripe.

As a team, the Pirates totaled 26 rebounds. Ketchum led the team with seven, Jones had six, Pitcher had three, Richey had four, Hubbard and Dozier each had two, and Ross and

Dean each had one.

The Pirates also totaled 11 assists, five steals and one block as a team.

Forster credited a large part of the loss to Peak to Peak to the Pirates’ 24 turnovers in that game.

Forster noted he believes that despite the two losses, the team took a big step in Broomfield, explaining he felt the Pirates decided that they belong at the same level as the top teams and that confidence is what they need to take the next step.

“We talked about how now that we know we can compete, now the next step is how are we going to take a lead and sustain it and come out with a victory?” he said.

The Pirates’ next opponent will be the 5A Durango Demons as they look for their first win of the new year.

With a nine-day break in between games, the Pirates will be working hard on taking care of the ball, moving without the basketball and making good decisions, explained Forster.

The coach emphasized that the Demons are a quick and long team with good athletes, but that he feels the Pirates have good athletes who can match up well with the Demons.

The game will probably be won by the team who comes out and plays better defense, he noted.

The Pirates will face off against the 5A Durango Demons, who are 3-4 on the season, on Tuesday, Jan. 13, with tip-off set for 7 p.m. in Durango.

jsellner@ourourkemediagroup.com

Lady Pirates fall to Tigers, Sun Devils

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team opened the new year in Broomfield at the Holy Family Invite, losing both games and dropping its season record to 3-5.

“After the weekend, I think we’re right where we need to be for the upcoming part of the season,” wrote coach Sarah Osborn in an email to The SUN. “We know we can compete, but we also know we have work to do.”

The Lady Pirates faced off against the Holy Family Tigers to kick off the tournament, losing 46-33 on Friday, Jan. 2.

The Lady Pirates kept it close in the first half, entering the locker room only down three points. The Tigers widened that gap in the third quarter, shutting out the Lady Pirates and outsourcing them 18-0. The Lady Pirates put up 17 in the fourth quarter, but it wasn’t enough as they lost the game by 13 points.

Osborn notes she feels the game against Holy Family was a great measuring stick for the team and taught the Lady Pirates that they need to stay disciplined and constant with their

decision-making under pressure.

Adelyn Hittle led the Lady Pirates in scoring on Friday with 10 points. Amber Snarr had eight points, Ximena Garcia had seven points, Lexi Campbell had five points and Liana Vega added three points.

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

As a team, the Pirates pulled down 32 total rebounds. Hittle led the team with 13 total rebounds. Garcia had nine and Campbell had three. Snarr, Charity Domingo and Kaila Limebrook each recorded two rebounds. Vega rounded out the rebounding with one.

The Lady Pirates had 10 assists, nine steals and 25 turnovers as a team. They also made two 3-pointers.

“The biggest takeaway is that our margin for error needs to be smaller against high-level teams, and that attention to detail really matters,” wrote Osborn. “We have to start limiting our turnovers and crash the boards hard on both ends to play against the better teams.”

On Saturday, Jan. 3, the Lady Pirates faced off against the Kent Denver Sun Devils, losing 55-29.

The Lady Pirates started slow, falling

into a 18-3 deficit in the first quarter and carrying that 15-point deficit into halftime. They were then outscored 26-15 in the second half and lost by 26.

“Saturday against Kent Denver we had long stretches where we didn’t finish possessions the way we wanted, and we started the game off with low energy and a lot of turnovers,” wrote Osborn.

Garcia led the girls in scoring with 11 points, and Hittle added nine of her own. Vega and Snarr each added four points, and Campbell rounded out the scoring with one point. Garcia and Hittle each made a 3-pointer for the Lady Pirates and as a team the girls were five of eight from the charity stripe.

The Lady Pirates pulled down 25 rebounds as a team. Vega led the squad with six, Hittle added five, Limebrook and Campbell each had four, and Snarr and Garcia each had three rebounds.

As a team the Lady Pirates recorded four assists, 12 steals, four blocks and 24 turnovers.

Osborn emphasizes that when the Lady Pirates play connected and trust each other, they can hang with strong programs like Holy Family and Kent Denver, but, oftentimes, one really bad ■ See Basketball A12

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While viewing this home, imagine yourself 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



240 Glade Drive • \$1,055,000

Price Reduced

To tour this home go to:
<https://pspixeltree.com/240-Glade-Dr>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

MLS #822945

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.

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

Own Your Own Colorado Land!
30 High Drive, MLS # 794628, \$55,900



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 build areas close to power. Single car garage, 3-room bunkhouse, 1200-gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. Solar panels power the bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. Garage accommodates a 22’ RV. Pricing does not include the well on the property.

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



33 Fawn Court
\$875,000

MLS #824532

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, modern kitchen. Primary bedroom/bathroom located on the main floor. 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms/full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space plus a fourth bedroom with a full bath nearby.

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



109 Carol's Curves
\$230,000

MLS #824583

The mobile home portion of this residence is 500 square feet. 1304 square feet is stick built. There is also a small cabin built in 1993, 576 square feet with bath and studio kitchen. The 1.2 acres is partially fenced for dogs and the acreage is all usable. The house has large picture windows with very nice views. There are 3 outbuildings, the septic has been inspected.

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



Shellie Hogue
REALTOR®, BROKER
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ShellieHogue@gmail.com
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Michael Averette
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MountainMeadowRealEstate.info • office: 970.264.6673

Outdoors



Bill to delist wolves as endangered species passes in U.S. House

By Meryl Phair
Staff Writer

A bill that would permanently remove gray wolves from the endangered and threatened species list nationwide passed in the U.S. House of Representatives 211-204 in December 2025.

The Pet and Livestock Protection Act was brought forth by Colorado Rep. Lauren Boebert and co-sponsored by more than 30 other lawmakers. The Dec. 18, 2025, vote on the proposed legislation was split largely along party lines: Republicans voted for the bill, while Democrats cast their votes against.

The legislation seeks to remove gray wolves from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) list, allowing states to manage their resident populations. The bill would effectively remove protections from approximately 2,800 wolves currently living in seven western states and would also prevent courts from conducting any legal review of the decision.

The status of wolves on the endangered list has seen a lot of back and forth over the years. After almost being fully extirpated from the United States by the 1970s, wolves were placed for the first time under the ESA. In 2009, wolves were delisted, which ignited a slew of litigation, and it wasn't until 2022 that most U.S. wolves were once again back on the endangered list.

Boebert stated during the floor debate on the bill that "Colorado is at the center of our nation for wolf battles."

She added, "The science is crystal

clear on this issue. Gray wolves should no longer be on the endangered species list. We can no longer put farmers, ranchers and even our pets in harm's way by using taxpayer dollars to protect a species that has been fully recovered. It's time for the federal government to get out of the way and allow the state and tribal wildlife agencies to manage the species."

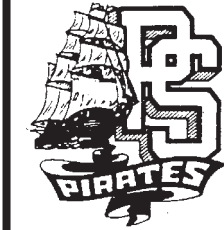
Democrats argued that with wolf reintroduction efforts currently underway, the predator had yet to make a full recovery and any effort to delist would do more harm than good.

"Removing federal protections would be premature and dangerous," said Democratic Rep. Debbie Dingell, of Michigan. "Too soon after previous de-listing efforts, several states moved quickly to authorize aggressive hunting and trapping seasons, and in some cases, wolf populations declined sharply within a single year. These setbacks erased decades of conservation progress and created instability rather than sound wildlife management."

In a similar effort, Boebert introduced the Trust the Science Act in 2025, which likewise passed in the House but made it no further. The most recent vote will need to make it through the Senate and receive the president's signature before officially becoming law.

Community news.

The Pagosa Springs SUN
970-264-2100

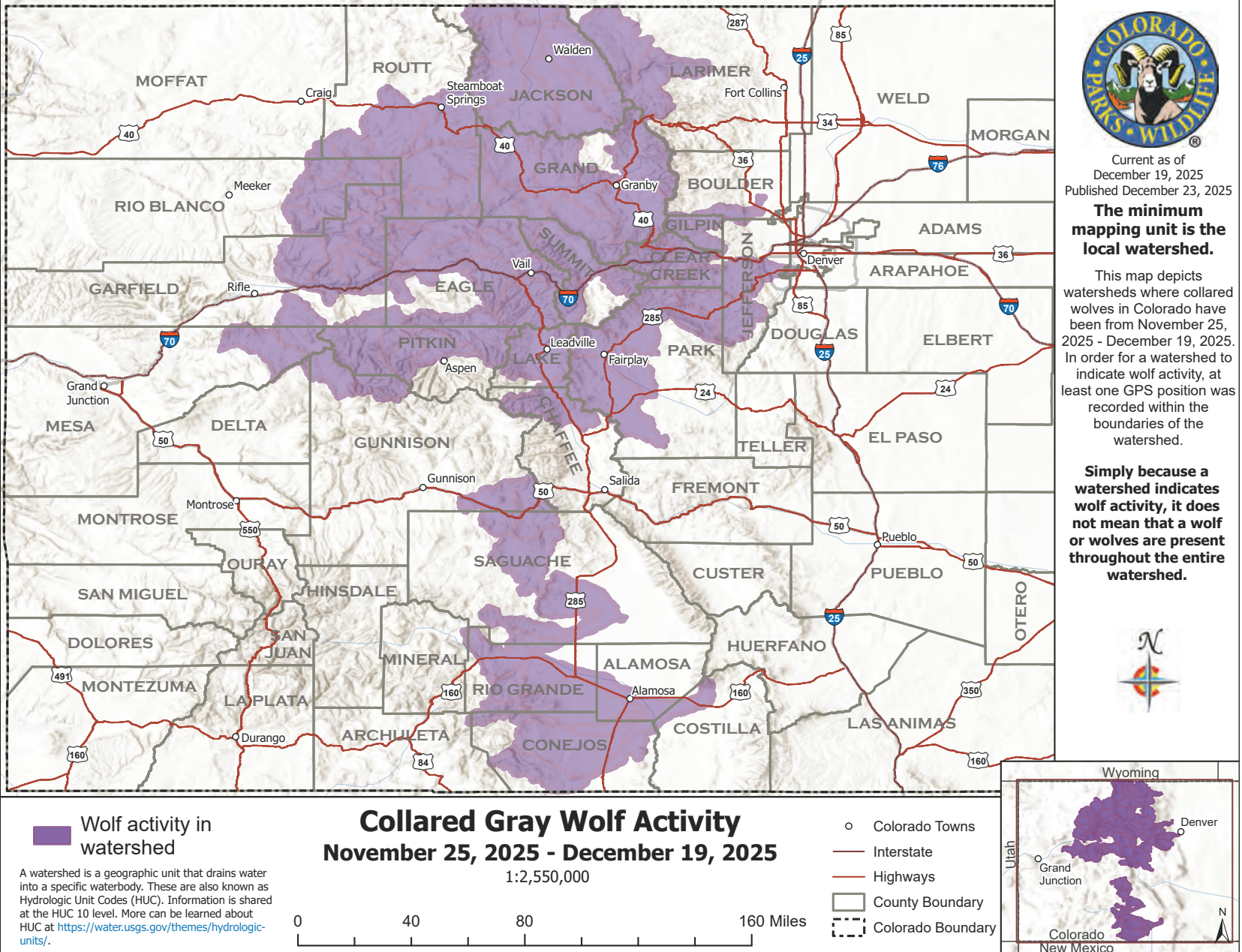


Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week Milo Deitemeyer Soccer



Comments from coaches Trevor Gian and Dyan Rice: "Milo exemplifies the triple impact athlete. He makes an incredible impact on our team through his effort and attitude. He exhibits everything we want to see in a captain and leader for Pagosa Pirates soccer. Even after Milo broke his leg, he continued to come to every practice and game to support his team. His dedication off the field is exemplified in his leadership roles as senior class president for student council and vice president for FBLA. Outside of school, Milo is already using his gregarious personality and leadership skills to create and run his own ski film company, all the while helping fellow students out of ditches on snowy mornings.

"I have watched Milo grow as a player and person over the years. I couldn't be more proud of the young man he has become on and off the field. His character and leadership have represented our team and soccer community in the best way. Milo has shown what it means to be a Pirate Soccer player and student athlete. It has been an honor to get the opportunity to coach you."

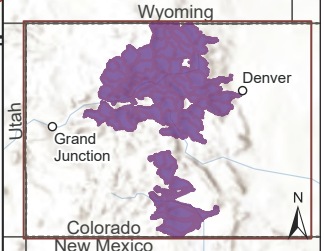


Current as of
December 19, 2025
Published December 23, 2025

The minimum mapping unit is the local watershed.

This map depicts watersheds where collared wolves in Colorado have been from November 25, 2025 - December 19, 2025. In order for a watershed to indicate wolf activity, at least one GPS position was recorded within the boundaries of the watershed.

Simply because a watershed indicates wolf activity, it does not mean that a wolf or wolves are present throughout the entire watershed.



Map courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife

The most recent collard wolf activity map shows activity between Nov. 25 and Dec. 19, 2025. A highlighted watershed indicates that at least one wolf was within that watershed during the month. It does not mean that wolves have traveled throughout the entire watershed or currently occupy it. Colorado Parks and Wildlife notes wolves explored watersheds near tribal lands in Colorado, and the agency has a memorandum of understanding with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and is working to finalize a similar one with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to address the potential effects of wolf restoration on the tribe's reservation and the Brunot Treaty Area in Southwestern Colorado.

Basketball

■ Continued from A11

quarter, either offensively or defensively, digs them into a hole that's hard for the girls to pull themselves out of.

"We want to improve our defensive rotations, rebounding effort, and offensive execution—especially taking care of the ball and finishing possessions," she wrote.

Moving forward, the Lady Pirates have a nine-day break in between games in which they will focus on consistency, wrote Osborn.

She adds she wants the girls to play hard, smart and together and to continue to build confidence as a team.

The Lady Pirates will play again on Tuesday, Jan. 13, as they look to get their first win of the new year against the 5A Durango Demons, who are 3-5 on the year. Tip-off is set for 5:30 p.m. in Durango.

jsellner@ourorkemediagroup.com

SWIMMING

Lady Pirates seeking state qualification at Grand Junction meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team will be back in the pool this Saturday, Jan. 10, when they face off against the Grand Junction Tigers at Colorado Mesa University.

The meet is set to start at 11:15 a.m.

Over the break, the Lady Pirates had voluntary practices in order to stay sharp with the second half of the season ramping up. Coach Heather Miller mentions in an email to The SUN that the swimmers who were

able to make it to practice over break worked on endurance.

The endurance training also continued into this week of practice before the meet on Saturday, according to Miller.

"For the meet in Grand Junction I am really hoping to see the swimmers push through the fatigue and soreness from their training and get up and race," Miller wrote.

Miller notes she hopes to see some best times at the meet on Saturday and is especially hopeful to get the Lady Pirates 200-yard freestyle relay qualified for the state meet. The state qualification time is two minutes,

2.00 seconds.

Miller also emphasizes that meets this time of year tend to be tough because of the break, as well as the emphasis on endurance.

jsellner@ourorkemediagroup.com

Good luck, Pirates!



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

Recording Information (Reception No. and/or Book/Page No.) 22206091 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 ENCUMBED 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 334531 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 Plaintiff 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 particularly described as follows: LOT 10 OF BLOCK 13 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3. ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JULY 6, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74567, BEING AN AMENDMENT OF ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3 FILED ON APRIL 9, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74284.

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

LOT 12 OF BLOCK 13 IN ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3. ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF FILED FOR RECORD JULY 6, 1971 AS RECEPTION

NO. 74567, BEING AN AMENDMENT OF ASPEN SPRINGS SUBDIVISION NO. 3 FILED ON APRIL 9, 1971 AS RECEPTION NO. 74284.

Respectfully submitted this 1st day of December, 2025.

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

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO
109 Harman Park Drive
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Petitioner: LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC., a Colorado corporation, v.
Respondents: DIAMOND A PROPERTIES, LLC, a Colorado limited liability company; ELSA P. WHITE in her capacity as ARCHULETA COUNTY TREASURER; and all unknown persons who claim any interest in the subject matter of this action.

Attorneys for Petitioner:
Amanda A. Bradley, Reg. No. 29489
Carrie S. Bernstein, Reg. No. 34966
ALDERMAN BERNSTEIN LLC
101 University Boulevard, Suite 350
Denver, Colorado 80206
Phone: 720-460-4200
E-mail: aab@ablawcolorado.com; csb@ablawcolorado.com
Case Number: 2025CV30058
Division: 3

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 Geographic Survey's PID DQ5989 (GSVS 050) a 3- 1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete, where the National Geographic Survey's PID DQ5954 (GSVS 015) also a 3-1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete, where the National Geographic Survey's PID DQ5954 (GSVS 015) also a 3-1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete bears South 89°18'16" West, 147654.52 feet;

THENCE, South 89°59'19" 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 Geographic Survey's PID DQ5989 (GSVS 050) a 3- 1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete, where the National Geographic Survey's PID DQ5954 (GSVS 015) also a 3-1/4 inch brass disk set in concrete bears South 89°18'16" West, 147654.52 feet; THENCE, South 89°59'08" East, a distance of 84662.86 feet to the Northwestern angle point of the previously described Electric Transmission Easement, the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'B'); THENCE, along North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement, South 65°43'36" West, a distance of 10.22 feet; THENCE, North 12°22'44" West, a distance of 19.80 feet; THENCE, North 77°37'16" East, a distance of 20.01 feet; THENCE, South 12°22'44" East, a distance of 19.80 feet to the North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement; THENCE, along the North boundary of said Electric Transmission Easement, South 89°30'41" West, a distance of 10.22 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING (POB 'B'); Containing 375 square feet or 0.009 acres, more or less.

Dated: December 5, 2025.
ALDERMAN BERNSTEIN LLC
By: /s/ Amanda A. Bradley
Attorney for Petitioner
Published December 11, 18 and 25, 2025, January 1 and 8, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (281390)

Entrance) 800 County Road 501, Bayfield, CO 81122 on Saturday January 31, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Sign in will start at 12:30 p.m. As is procedure at such a meeting, one director will be elected for a 3-year term and any other business that may properly come before the Board of Directors. Published January 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283346)

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION PURSUANT TO §15-10-401, C.R.S.

To: Whom it may concern
Last Known Address, if any: unknown
A hearing on December 15, 2025 for Guardianship of Liam Anthony Stratos. Julie Nordendahl, Liam's maternal grandmother, has been granted emergency guardianship and is seeking guardianship will be held at the following time and location or at a later date to which the hearing may be continued:
Date: February 13. Time: 3:30 p.m. Courtroom or Division: 3.
Address: 109 Harman Park Drive, Pagosa Springs CO

81147.
Published January 8, 15, 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283849)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Susan Katherine Rollins, Deceased
Case Number 2025 PR 0020
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 May 1, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.
Sandra Katherine Rollins
1851 Fuller Drive
Dallas TX 75228
Published January 1, 8, and 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283345)

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

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

Colorado Avalanche Information Center launches new public avalanche data, reporting and visualization tools

Colorado Avalanche Information Center

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) has launched new tools that expand access to avalanche information and make it easier for the public to understand current conditions.

“We want people traveling in the backcountry to have the best information possible,” said Ethan Greene, director of the CAIC. “These tools improve access to trustworthy data and help people understand current conditions before heading out into the mountains.”

The updates, now available on the CAIC’s website, include a new map-based weather station map display, expanded avalanche accident data display, improved media gallery and upgrades to public field reports.

The tools are part of the CAIC’s mission to make avalanche safety information easier to find, understand and use.

“As a backcountry skier, I know that more information is always better when it comes to making safe decisions in the mountains,” said Dan Gibbs, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural

Resources. “The Colorado Avalanche Information Center’s forecasts are relied on by many winter recreationists across the state. These new data, reporting and visualization features will help people better understand conditions, make smarter choices and ultimately protect lives. I congratulate the CAIC team on continuing to lead the nation in avalanche safety.”

Weather stations map

One of the most frequently requested tools from the public, the new weather stations map displays real-time data from hundreds of weather stations across Colorado, including sites operated by ski areas, the SNO-TEL network, the Colorado Department of Transportation and the CAIC.

The tool offers a deeper look at the meteorological data behind the CAIC’s forecasts, making it easier to track weather trends over time and understand how changing conditions influence avalanche hazard and snowpack development.

The existing weather station observations page will remain available, but this upgraded platform offers a more visual, user-friendly way to explore the data.

Avalanche accident data display

The CAIC has expanded its avalanche accident database to provide a clearer, more comprehensive view of avalanche incidents in Colorado and nationwide.

The database features summary tables highlighting travel mode, along with charts showing trends for both Colorado and the U.S.

New for the 2025-2026 winter season, the CAIC has added and quality-checked historical Colorado records, expanding the database to include fatal avalanche accidents dating back to 1997 and nonfatal involvements dating back to 2011.

The site also continues to track fatal avalanche accidents across the U.S. from 2009 to the present.

Field report improvements

The CAIC’s website publishes observations of snow, weather and avalanche conditions submitted by CAIC staff, outdoor and avalanche professionals, and the public.

These field reports are available in the observations section of the web-

site. This year, the CAIC improved the system to make reports easier to submit and read.

Updates include more detailed location information showing both a general report area and the specific location of each avalanche, plus a mobile-friendly display for phones and tablets. The upload process is also smoother, with easier image posting and support for native video.

Media gallery

The expanded media gallery lets people search, sort and browse thousands of images and videos from field observations and accident investigations.

The gallery will feature improved search functions, easier navigation between image views, a system for CAIC forecasters to rate images to highlight important media, and links back to original reports.

“We encourage everyone to explore these tools now, learn how to use them and check the forecast before heading into the backcountry,” Greene added.

The new features, along with statewide avalanche forecasts and observations, are available at colorado.gov/avalanche.

Unveiling moonless nights, supermoons and lunar eclipses

By Dena Laterza
Pagosa Sidewalk Astronomers

When are moonless nights? It depends on the moon’s orbit. The moon’s 29.5-day orbit means it is opposite the sun (and thus visible all night) around full moon, making stargazing virtually impossible. But, even a crescent moon can be bright enough to wash out the stars.

If you want to stargaze on a particular night, you need to know the phase of the moon.

Nights when the moon is not visible during nighttime hours are the only

true “moonless nights” and occur two to three nights around the new moon phase. This is because the moon is between Earth and the sun, rising and setting at nearly the same time as the sun.

However, as it orbits Earth, there are about 10 nights before new moon when the moon rises late enough to have several hours during prime stargazing hours — early evening.

Even two to three days after new moon work well for an evening under the stars due to how early the waxing crescent moon sets.

Did you know the moon’s orbital period is actually only 27.3 days? But,

due to Earth’s own orbit around the sun, it takes longer for a full cycle of moon phases because the moon has to “catch up.”

When will the moon rise?

The moon rises about 40 minutes later each day, depending on the season. The best way to know the exact time it will rise in a specific location is to consult an online moon phase calendar.

Timeanddate.com is one such tool which allows you to set the location, month and year to easily see the moon phases. You can also see the moonrise and moonset times with the exact azimuth angle of where on the horizon they will occur. Azimuth is measured clockwise in a circle, with north being zero degrees, east at 90 degrees, south at 180 degrees and west at 270 degrees.

The lunar calendar also shows the time of the meridian passing, which is when the moon will be highest in the sky.

Why does the full moon appear so big?

Does the full moon appear bigger on the horizon than when it is way up high in the sky? It does to me. However, this phenomenon is an optical illusion. The reason is the lack of scale. With no nearby mountains, trees or buildings, the moon seems smaller when it is higher in the sky.

Try this exercise: Compare the size of the full moon on the horizon with the full moon at the meridian using a dime held at arm’s length. Or, try bending over and look at the moon on the horizon upside down between your legs. The moon appears small again. It might look silly, but your brain does not perceive the horizon the same from this perspective.

Celebrations



Family and friends of Charles Formwalt are invited to wish him a happy 90th birthday. Come and go between 2 and 4 p.m. on Jan. 17 at the Community United Methodist Church. They are downsizing, so your presence is gift enough.

Gracie Horras

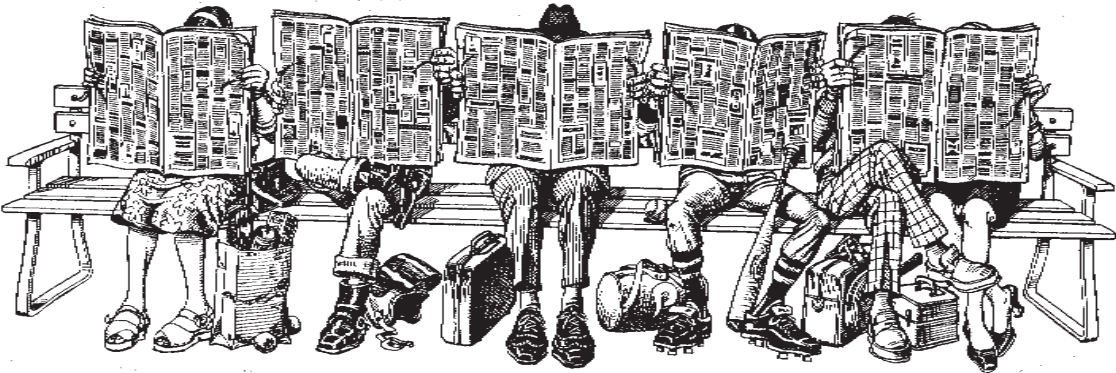
Gracie Horras, of Pagosa Springs, has been named to Southern New Hampshire University’s Fall 2025 President’s List. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President’s List.

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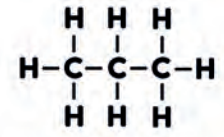
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ARTS & LIFE



PREVIEW photo/Clayton Chaney

January 8, 2026



Photo courtesy Andy Butler
A sandhill crane in flight at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Doug Coombs is leading a Pagosa Springs Photography Club trip to Bosque del Apache Jan. 9-12.

Live Performers

- Thursday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Open Mic with Eric Wade, 6:30 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.
- Friday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Max Miller, 6 p.m.
- Saturday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Rock ‘N’ Rebels, 7 p.m.
- Sunday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 5 p.m.
- Monday**
Coyote Moon Lounge: Dustin Burley, 5 p.m.

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The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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Pagosa Springs Photography Club to meet Jan. 14 for 'Top Ten: Show and Tell'

By Andy Butler

Pagosa Springs Photography Club

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club will get together on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St.

Feel free to arrive anytime after 6 p.m. to chat and mingle; the program kicks off at 6:30 p.m.

For our January meeting, we're having a "Top Ten: Show and Tell" session. In this fun event, club members can bring up to 10 of their favorite photos from the past year to share and discuss.

It's a great way to pick out your best images of the year — maybe they're your absolute favorites, the most interesting ones or the ones that challenged you the most. The aim is to spark some inspiration by discussing what makes a great photo, like composition, impact and how well it's done technically. Please bring your photos to the meeting on a flash drive.

This meeting will be a mix of in-person and online, with a Zoom link available, too. Club members will receive the Zoom link via email, and if you're not on the list, you can request it by emailing abutler@mac.com.

Bosque del Apache photography outing

Doug Coombs is leading a photography club trip to Bosque del Apache Jan. 9-12.

We'll be focusing on observing and photographing the sandhill cranes and snow geese that spend the winter there, along with other birds and mammals.

Bosque del Apache and Ladd S Gordon wildlife are refuges near Socorro, N.M., south of Albuquerque.

If you enjoyed Coombs' presentation at our November meeting, you'll have a good idea of the amazing photographic opportunities these refuges offer.

Socorro has several motels, and is conveniently located between the refuges. If you're interested or want more details, please reach out to Coombs at dfcoombs@gmail.com.

Coombs has also shared some videos from a recent trip to Bosque at www.dougview.com/Custom-Pages/Video. Be sure to turn your sound on when watching these.

January Virtual Shutter Therapy

This month, the club's online challenge is all about "For the Birds."

Try to capture the unique personalities of birds in their natural surroundings. Look for little details like preening, feeding, flying or just being still. The goal is to show off their personalities or the habitats they call home.

Join the club for a trip to Bosque del Apache this month to get some

fantastic shots or watch the birds in your backyard.

Please participate in the challenge by commenting on the post about this topic on the club's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Pagosa-PhotoClub.

All photographers are welcome to share up to three photos. And, don't forget to like and comment on the work of others.

Join for photography adventures

Did you get a new camera or lens for Christmas? If you're looking to get better at photography, learning from others is a great way to do it.

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club offers a fantastic chance to connect with like-minded people who

■ See Photography on next page

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Stalking Awareness Month: when control masquerades as love

Rise Above Violence

January is Stalking Awareness Month, a time to shed light on a crime that is often misunderstood, minimized or mischaracterized as romantic persistence. In reality, stalking is a serious, dangerous form of abuse that frequently intersects with dating violence, domestic violence and sexual assault — often serving as a warning sign of escalating harm.

Stalking is defined as a pattern of unwanted, fixated or obsessive behavior that causes fear or distress. It can include repeated texts or calls, monitoring someone’s movements, showing up uninvited, tracking through apps or social media, sending unwanted gifts, spreading rumors or threatening harm.

While popular culture may frame these behaviors as signs of passion, research and survivor experiences tell a very different story.

Stalking is especially prevalent in dating relationships, particularly among teens and young adults.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that a significant percentage of people who experience stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate partner. In early relationships, stalking behaviors are often dismissed as jealousy, protectiveness or intense interest. Survivors may hear phrases like, “They just care too much,” or “That’s how relationships are.”

But stalking is not about love — it is about control, obsession and intimidation.

In dating relationships, stalking often overlaps with digital abuse. Constant demands to share passwords, location tracking without consent, monitoring online activity

or punishing someone for interacting with others are all red flags. These behaviors can quickly escalate into emotional abuse, threats, physical violence or sexual coercion.

Stalking rarely exists in isolation. It is strongly connected to domestic violence and sexual assault, both as a tactic used during an abusive relationship and as a method of maintaining control after a relationship ends. Survivors who leave abusive partners are particularly vulnerable; separation is often the most dangerous time.

Perpetrators may use stalking to intimidate, punish or reassert power — showing up at work, following survivors to court, contacting friends and family or using children as leverage. In cases of sexual assault, stalking may precede the assault as a form of targeting, or follow it as retaliation for disclosure or refusal.

Importantly, stalking is one of the strongest predictors of intimate partner homicide. Many domestic violence homicide cases reveal a history of stalking behaviors that were overlooked or not taken seriously.

One of the challenges in addressing stalking is that individual behaviors may seem harmless on their own. A single text message or unexpected appearance may not raise alarms. It is the pattern — the repetition, the lack of consent and the fear it creates — that defines stalking.

Survivors often minimize their experiences, especially when the stalker is someone they once cared about. Survivors often begin to doubt their own reality. Repeated minimization, denial and manipulation by the person stalking them can lead survivors to feel “crazy,” question if they are overreacting or blame

themselves for the behavior. This psychological gaslighting can make it even harder for survivors to name the abuse and seek help.

Stalking Awareness Month calls on communities to move beyond awareness and toward action. That means believing survivors and taking their concerns of stalking seriously.

If you or someone you know is experiencing stalking, help is available. Rise Above Violence can assist with safety planning, protection orders and emotional support. Call our 24/7 helpline at (970) 264-9075 for additional information or to make an appointment with a confidential advocate. Visit the National Stalking Awareness Month website, www.stalkingawareness.org, to learn more.

Stalking is not a misunderstanding. It is not romance gone wrong. It is a serious form of abuse with potentially lethal consequences. This January — and all year long — we must name it, challenge it and stand with survivors.

Everyone deserves relationships rooted in respect, not fear.

Happy New Year!

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■ continued from previous page love photography.

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ment (the form has all the details), or you can bring it to a club meeting.

Community news.

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Community invited to Archuleta Food Summit on April 18

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta wishes everyone a healthy and happy 2026. As we begin the new year, our work continues to focus on strengthening Archuleta County's local food system and expanding equitable access to fresh, healthy food.

Over the past year, we have been laying the groundwork for a community food hub, an effort focused on strengthening our local food supply chain, supporting local growers and food businesses, and improving access to locally sourced food for our community.

This work is guided by community members through a Food Hub Community Learning and Leadership Circle and supported by early design planning that explores features such as a shared commercial kitchen, support for small food businesses and welcoming gathering spaces.

Together, these efforts reflect a long-term vision for local food resilience and food sovereignty in Archuleta County.

Looking ahead, we invite the community to take part in shaping this work at the 2026 Archuleta Food Summit on April 18.

The food summit is an opportunity for community members to learn more about the local food system; hear from growers, producers and

small food businesses; and share ideas about how food is grown, processed, distributed and accessed in our county.

The day will include a variety of sessions designed for community participation, conversation and learning, because the future of our food system is strongest when it is shaped by local voices.

The Archuleta Food Summit is a biannual community convening, bringing neighbors together every two years to reflect on where our local food system is today and to help guide where it goes next.

Ideas and insights shared during the summit directly inform ongoing food system planning and future investments, making community participation essential.

Mark your calendar for April 18 and plan to be part of this important moment in shaping Archuleta County's food future.

We are committed to building a healthier, more connected food system, and we can't do it alone. To learn more about the food summit or our ongoing food hub planning

efforts, visit www.foodcoalition-4archuleta.org, follow us on social media or email us at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

We hope you'll join us on April 18 and be part of the conversation.

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33 Fawn Court
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MLS #824532

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, modern kitchen. Primary bedroom/bathroom located on the main floor. 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms/full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space plus a fourth bedroom with a full bath nearby.

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



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

MLS #822945

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.

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

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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://pspixeltree.com/109-Carols-Curves>



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Preview Calendar

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

Thursday, Jan. 8

Ruby's Writers Guild. 9-10:30 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. 10:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Carrie Comer will speak on the Constitution.

Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

Emotional Freedom Techniques. 1:30 p.m., Senior Center. Practice a self-regulation technique to relieve symptoms of anxiety, depression, insomnia and more

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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

Friday, Jan. 9

Rocky Mountain Girls' Invitational Wrestling Tournament. Noon, Pagosa Springs High School.

Rocky Mountain Duals. 5 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa Springs versus Rocky Ford and Durango.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Rocky Mountain Invitational Wrestling Tournament. 9 a.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Pagosa Springs Scrapbook and Crafters Club. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center dining room. Bring your creative and scrapbooking projects and share time with other crafters. Bring a dish to share for the potluck lunch.

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

Monday, Jan. 12

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.

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, Jan. 13

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.

Online Author Talk. Noon, virtual. "The Creative and Compassionate Art of Seeing Others Deeply" with David Brooks. Go to the library's website, www.pagosalibrary.org, to watch nationally renowned authors giving hour-long presentations live via Zoom or view the recording later.

Film Screening: 'Warfare.' 1 p.m., Liberty Theatre. There will be free entry for all veterans to view this veteran-created movie, with tickets being \$10 for others. The doors will open at noon.

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

Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Archuleta County Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive. Join to discuss "The Many Lives of Mama Love: A Memoir of Lying, Stealing, Writing and Healing" by Lara Love Hardin.

Good News Club. 3:15-4:45 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

Teen Advisory Board. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Be a voice at your library. Build leadership skills, mentor others and plan programs that interest you. Snacks will be provided. For ages 12-18.

English as a Second Language.

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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, Jan. 14

Kids Kare. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. A weekly club for 3- to 5-year-olds where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more.

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.

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

Mindful Drawing. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Mexican Train Dominoes. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.

Virtual Legal Clinic. 2-3:40 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via 20-minute phone appointments. Registration opened Jan. 2 and space is limited. Registration is required. Call (970) 264-2209. Space is limited.

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, 141 S. 10th St. For grades 1-3. Elementary school children are tutored in reading and math. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information. A Sisson Library program.

Junior Youth Challenge. 3:30-4:45 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School music room. A weekly club for kids in fifth and sixth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

Pagosa Springs Photography Club. 6 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be a "Top Ten: Show and Tell" session.

Thursday, Jan. 15

Ruby's Writers Guild. 8:45-10:45 a.m., Senior Center. Ruby's Writers

Guild welcomes writers who are looking for opportunities, support and camaraderie with other writers. Members provide support, resources and guidance for each other.

End of Life Education. 1 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

Tai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

Tech Time. 2-4 p.m., Sisson Library. Taylor will answer basic questions related to computers, smartphones, tablets, etc., and provide assistance with accessing any of the library's online resources. Bring your device charger and passwords.

English as a Second Language. 4-7 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information. Beginning students are encouraged to attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

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

Friday, Jan. 16

Bingo. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Senior Center.

WinterFest: Bonfire and Battle of the Soups. 5-8 p.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. Enjoy a cozy bonfire, music the Battle of the Soup and local food vendors. The evening is free, but Battle of the Soup tickets are \$10 and are available at pagosachamber.com/winterfest.html.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Monte Vista.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Monte Vista.

Saturday, Jan. 17

WinterFest: Mass Hot Air Balloon Ascension. 8:30 a.m., Pagosa Lakes area. See the balloons fill the sky over the Pagosa Lakes area on the west side of Pagosa Springs. Parking is not permitted on U.S. 160.

WinterFest: BB Gun Biathlon. 9 a.m.-noon, Yamaguchi Park. For more information, visit www.PagosaNordic.com.

WinterFest: Barkus Parade. 9:30-11:30 a.m., Town Park. Dress your pet and boogie down the Riverwalk.

WinterFest: SkiJor Pagosa. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. For more

information and to purchase tickets, visit www.skisandsaddles.com. A live band will follow at 8 p.m.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's

■ See Calendar on next page

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Don't let the old woman in

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

Happy new year. 2025 was all about getting well, spending a lot of time at doctor offices, physical therapy and emergency rooms. It was a season of healing and learning about myself.

Someone said to me, "Don't let the old woman in."

I understood what she was saying. That old woman crouches at my door, with cane in hand, hollering, "Let me in. I'm hurting. I'm slow, and I need someone to feel sorry for me."

Since I'm still struggling to get around, it's easy to grovel in what happened with the Aug. 6, 2024, accident. My legs were damaged, and healing has been a slow process, tiny steps. I thought I'd bounce back quickly. Not happening.

My body is weak, but my spirit is robust for God things, more alive than ever. It's a wonderful time to be alive. What a paradox. The accident was a blessing in disguise — a contradiction in itself going against common sense, carrying a deeper truth, a better me.

The old woman is persistent. She

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The SpiritFire Inspiration Living Center's Sunday service at 11 a.m. on Jan. 11 will be "Who is Writing Your Life Script?"

Welcome a new year, a new chapter and a new part of you with Shayla Azriel at the Xanadu Retreat Pool House. A love donation will be collected.

Upcoming event

• Jan. 18, 11 a.m.: Sunday service with Himalayan sound bowls with Scott Maki. A \$25 donation will be collected.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Liv-

Artist's Lane

learned where my bruises are and what brings tears to my eyes.

I can't feel sorry for her. I can't lose sleep over her. It's time to move forward into a new year. I must intentionally refuse the old dialogue she wants to whine about. She has no place in this new year.

I can't afford to open the door to her, throw her a crumb, feed her with the dogs. We are in a new season. New challenges are ahead in our older days.

I heard that God talks differently to older people. I questioned the thought, but I can verify it to be true. He tells me things I could have only dreamed of hearing in my early years when I eagerly searched for Him, wanting to know Him more. Sometimes He was near and at times far away.

With that searching, I still wanted

title, position and praise. These things He speaks to me today are void of outward things — anxiousness, ambition, acquisitions, even good health, and time as I know it. He deals only with the heart. Out of the heart comes the real issues of life. And I know more than ever in my heart that God loves me. He even likes me.

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23, NKJV). I hear about older people who are struggle with disappointment and old age. My advice: Turn your hearts to the Lord and find your peace. He is as close as your breath. He is ready to answer you.

Each season has its reason and a new harvest. Not sure what is being planted this year in our lives. Maybe more faith to handle the days ahead?

It will be a busy year as we wrap up two books and release them into the world in 2026. We will continue with our newsletters and the "Artist's Lane" column in the newspaper. I teach a Bible study on Zoom, which is my greatest delight. I see my life making sense and coming full circle. It's all about the heart.

Each season has a beginning, middle and end, with a completion and harvest. The seeds planted last year are springing up into identifiable plants. They are sustaining me for the next season of life — more patience, more loving care for my husband and more full-circle disclosure. It's a wonderful time to be alive.

Final brushstroke: Let that old woman scream. I can't pay any attention to her. The Lord and I are on speed dial. He wakes me in the night just to hear my voice. He whispers to me new and amazing things and tells me He loves me. It's like living in His heart every moment of the day.

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

HELP PRESERVE PAGOSA'S HISTORIC SITES

Join the Historic Preservation Board (HPB)

The Town of Pagosa Springs is seeking motivated volunteers to help reestablish the HPB to maintain our Certified Local Government status. The purpose of this board is to recognize, protect, and promote the retention and use of historic sites and districts within the community and to promote educational opportunities and awareness of the unique heritage of Pagosa Springs.

Qualifications

- Members must live, work, own property or conduct business within the Town boundaries for at least (1) year
- At least (2) members must be professionals in architecture, archeology, history, or planning
- No more than (3) members shall be lay members

Members and terms of Office

- Members of the HPB are appointed by Town Council
- The HPB shall consist of (5) members
- Members are appointed to (4) year terms

For more information, please visit www.mypagosa.org or contact oodell@pagosasprings.co.gov or 970-585-8610.

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

WinterFest: Penguin Plunge. 1 p.m., San Juan River near the Visitor Center. Support your favorite nonprofits and watch from the Riverwalk. To plunge or donate, visit pagosachamber.com.

WinterFest: Sledz on Rez. 2:30 p.m., Reservoir Hill. Registration is from 1-2 p.m., with races beginning at 2:30 p.m. Preregistration is encouraged. Hosted by Build Pagosa. Contingent upon conditions.

Sunday, Jan. 18

WinterFest: Mass Hot Air Balloon Ascension. 8:30 a.m., Pagosa Lakes area. See the balloons fill the sky over the Pagosa Lakes area on the west side of Pagosa Springs. Parking is not permitted on U.S. 160.

WinterFest: Learn to XC Ski. 10 a.m., Cloman Park. For more information, visit www.PagosaNordic.com.

WinterFest: SkiJor Pagosa. 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds, 344 U.S. 84. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.skisandsaddles.com.



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A look back at America's 50th anniversary in 1826

Sarah Platt Decker Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution

On the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1826, only three of its original signers were alive.

However, by nightfall, only one was living. Around noon, Thomas Jefferson died of a combination of old age ailments and, a few hours later, John Adams died of a heart attack. That left only Charles Carroll to mark America's coming of age. In those 50 years, by 1826, the 13 colonies had grown to 24 states.

News of Jefferson's and Adams' passing did not reach the public until days later. So, the July 4, 1826, cele-

brations proceeded as planned. Most included the reading of the Declaration of Independence, speeches, the parading of Revolutionary War veterans, cannons firing, salutes and a community picnic. The current president, John Quincy Adams, participated in the July 4 celebration held in Washington, D.C.

The three living signers of the Declaration of Independence already noted and four living past U.S. presidents — Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe — had been invited to participate in the festivities at the nation's capital. All declined, sending letters of regret that were printed in the July 4, 1826, Daily National Journal.

In his masterful letter, Jefferson wrote he was delighted "that our fellow citizens, after half a century of experience and prosperity, continue to approve the choice we made. May it be to the world, what I believe it will be, (to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all.) the signal of arousing men to burst the chains, tinder which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-government."

If you were alive in 1826, you would have been one of 12 million Americans. In 1776, our population was 3 million. The first railroad in the United States, the Granite Railroad, made its debut in Quincy, Mass., and the Erie Canal was a year old. James Fenimore Cooper's "The Last of the Mohicans" was published.

Bible study to focus on joy, book of Philippians

By Brenda Hash
Special to The PREVIEW

Join us at Centerpoint Church, 2750 Cornerstone Drive, for a nine-week, in-depth study of the book of Philippians.

The adult Bible study on "Philippians: How to Have Joy" will take place on Thursdays, Jan. 29 through

March 26, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the church library.

There is a \$25 workbook fee. Financial aid is available.

Brenda and Richard Hash will lead the study.

Contact us with any questions and to order your workbook by Jan. 15: brenda.hash@gmail.com or (970) 398-1251.

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320 County Road 329
80 acres, 40 acres irrigated, barndominium, 3 ponds, horse corrals
MLS 826742, 827543 ■ \$965,000



327 Deer Park
3 bedroom, 3 bath lake home, 4 garages, on 1.66 acres
MLS 828167 ■ \$929,000



1019 County Road 330, Ignacio
3 bedroom, 2 bath home
46 shares irrigation, on 64 acres
MLS 821801, 821802 ■ \$920,000

.28 acre, greenbelt at the back, seasonal stream to the right. MLS 825046. \$40,000.

.35 acre on your way to Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 823897, \$55,000.

.28 acre in the Arboles area near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 823898, \$55,000.

Stunning views, near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 830353, \$60,000.

X Winterwood, 5 acres. MLS 829792, \$89,000.

4.03 acres, surveyed, close to San Juan River. MLS 820153. \$175,000.

106 Apple Court, 1 acre, park model home and an RV, compact garage and covered deck. MLS 830604. \$228,000.

Arboles area, X Cox Circle, 4 acres. MLS 828281. \$240,000.

Spacious mountain views from this 5 acre lot. MLS 802696. \$250,000.

3 acre property 3 miles down U.S. 84. MLS 830605. \$297,000.

2.25 acres on State Highway 151 near Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 822688, 825464. \$325,000.

2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 sheds, spacious deck, fenced area, .8 acre with great views of Navajo Lake. MLS 822684. \$350,000.

2 bedroom, 1 bath, .8 acre near Navajo Lake. MLS 828268. \$375,000.

3.7 acres, 5 minutes from Navajo Lake State Park. MLS 820794. \$400,000.



243 Wandering Hills
Custom- built modern, 3 bedroom, 3 bath on 1.6 acres near Navajo Lake.
MLS 826297 ■ \$640,000



20420 State Highway 151
Commercial property with metal building, concrete floor, on 10 acres.
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229 Hills Circle
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End of Life Education to begin 2026 programming on Jan. 15

By Joan Mieritz
End of Life Education

2026 End of Life Education programs will start on Thursday, Jan. 15, and continue into the spring.

Topics can be suggested and a schedule will be set.

End of Life Education, which has in the past met the third Thursday of the month at the Community United Methodist Church at 434 Lewis St., is not a church activity. Anyone from the Pagosa Springs community is welcome to attend.

Use the convenient parking lot with the side entrance into the kitchen and fellowship hall. The main doors into the church remain locked.

The program will begin at 1 p.m. with time for visiting, coffee, tea and treats, if someone brings something to share. It was decided that the official program should end between 2:30 and 3 p.m., but people can remain in the fellowship hall for socializing, discussions, support, etc. until 4 p.m.

Our programs are nondenominational and free, but people attending can bring canned food for the church pantry or make a cash donation in appreciation for using the room.

Attendance varies for each program, so feel welcome to come anytime and bring friends or anyone who might benefit from the topic.

A few topics include information given by a paramedic about what can happen when you call 911, a detailed talk presented by a local

doctor about the Colorado state laws about medical aid for the end of life and information from local funeral homes.

Four meetings have been scheduled, so far, the first being Thursdays, Jan. 15 and Jan. 29. We will also meet on the third Thursday in February, Feb. 19, and the third Thursday in March, March 19. The topics for each meeting have not been finalized yet, but will be by next week.

We will also be filling out the paperwork for the end of life that is given in the booklet "Your Right to Make Healthcare Decisions."

Federal law requires that you must be given information on advance directives at the time you are admitted by any hospital, nursing home, HMO, hospice, home health care or personal care program that receives federal funds (Medicare).

We have used this booklet as part of our program so people can get a start on the paperwork rather than waiting until a more stressful time. There is also a form to fill out about resuscitation that is important to have completed and left on your refrigerator.

There will be articles in The SUN announcing the dates and times to complete these important forms and other topics.

End-of-life education is a difficult topic, but so many people have been helped by these talks, lectures and discussions. I have never heard of anyone being too prepared.

Joan Mieritz will be facilitating the programs and is looking for a few helpers.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Type of saw
- 6 Reunion attendee
- 10 Genghis or Kublai
- 14 Dote on
- 15 Ill-mannered
- 16 Fancy trim
- 17 Scrabble pieces
- 18 Kind of triangle
- 20 Cry of triumph
- 21 Camper's need
- 23 Proof of pedigree
- 24 Vermont city
- 26 Sword handle
- 27 Some British nobles
- 28 Learn by _____
- 32 Move with swagger
- 34 Bond flick, "No _____ to Die"
- 36 Butcher's stock
- 37 "... now _____ the future"
- 38 Went a-courting
- 39 Athletic shoe brand
- 40 Bergman's role in "Casablanca"
- 41 Cozy lodgings
- 42 1998 film, "_____ of the State"
- 43 Lower in quality
- 45 Finn's creator
- 47 Mining finds
- 48 Posh properties
- 51 Tribal healer
- 54 Mexican peninsula
- 55 Pension alternative
- 56 Fined, maybe
- 58 Meadow sound
- 60 "If it _____ broke"
- 61 Musical mark
- 62 Starbucks serving
- 63 Spanish three
- 64 PRNDL pick
- 65 Cultural values

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63					64					65				

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DOWN

- 1 Mythical goat-man
- 2 Nice goodbye?
- 3 Shoring up
- 4 Before, in poems
- 5 Turn off and on again, say
- 6 Noses' places?
- 7 Fall shade
- 8 "Without further _____"
- 9 Couldn't stand
- 10 Taking issue?
- 11 Alan of a 60's sitcom
- 12 Tennis whiz
- 13 Capone nemesis
- 19 Storm preceder
- 22 Photo blow-up: Abbr.
- 25 Some coin-op establishments
- 26 1800s settler
- 29 New septuagenarian's birthday
- 30 "_____ to please!"
- 31 Legal delay

- 32 Auction cry
- 33 Lauper hit, "_____ Colors"
- 35 Charged bit
- 38 Adding lanes, say
- 42 Fit for consumption
- 44 Asia's dried-up "sea"
- 46 N.Y.C. financial daily
- 49 Poetic Muse
- 50 Fills up
- 51 Squabble
- 52 Will-reading attendee
- 53 Heche or Hathaway
- 54 Early release
- 57 Ballet-loving Muppet
- 59 Long. counter-part

Answers to Previous Crossword:

R	A	B	B	I		D	I	C	E		N	E	V	E	
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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship program to focus on hope

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

A joyous time of connection rang in the new year at the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship last Sunday. With nearly 20 in attendance, we listened to music by talented musicians, heard readings of hope and shared delicious treats.

Thanks to all those who participated, and stay tuned for additional offerings to feed your soul.

The second Sunday of each month is set aside for our Going Deeper Sharing Circle from 10:30 a.m. to noon. On Jan. 11, we will continue with the theme of hope using resources from the “On Being” podcast.

Our inspiration will be activist and author, Joanna Macy.

Krista Tippet, host of “On Being,” said of Macy, “What she embodies is a wild love for the world and a fierce hope that rises irrepressible from that.”

Macy, who died at the age of 96 last year, was a Buddhist philosopher of ecology, worked with the CIA in Cold War Europe and served in the

Peace Corps in post-colonial India. Her works include “Active Hope, Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives,” and four volumes of translated works of Rainer Maria Rilke.

This small-group gathering is a place of reflection and sharing as we practice deep listening and sharing from our hearts. All are invited to join in, as this is an open, safe circle of deepening your own life’s journey.

Visit our website, PagosaUU.org, where you will find information about upcoming services and programs. We offer space for ongoing programs and events at the UU Community Hub, such as the Tara Meditation Group held Sundays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and Qigong practice on Monday afternoons. The Wise and Wakeful Circle, hosted by Elaine Harding and Sam Johnson, will meet the second Saturday, Jan. 10, with a special play shop this month. There will be no Circle the fourth Saturday this month. For more information, check out the website.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is lo-

cated in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to “Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good.”

New series at Community United Methodist Church to focus on belonging

Community United Methodist Church

In a time when many people feel disconnected, overlooked or alone, the Community United Methodist Church in Pagosa Springs is launching a new worship series built around a simple human truth: everyone longs to belong, not just in general, but in particular.

Beginning Jan. 11, the six-week series, “Belonging: Known, Loved, and Never Alone,” invites the community to explore what it means to be seen, welcomed and valued — not because of what we do, but because of who we are as real people with real stories.

The series begins on the Baptism of the Lord Sunday, reflecting on the moment when Jesus is publicly named as “beloved” before his ministry even begins. From there, each week explores themes of inclusion, affirmation, hospitality, shared community and hope, drawing on stories of meals, friendships and moments where people discover that they are

not invisible and not alone.

“This series is for anyone who’s ever wondered if there’s a place for them,” said the Rev. Ken Daniell, pastor. “People don’t just want to hear that ‘God loves everybody.’ We long to know that our particular life, our story, our name matters and that there is room for us. You don’t have to have all the answers, and you don’t have to fit a mold. Belonging comes first.”

The Community United Methodist Church emphasizes that this is not about pressure or perfection, but about creating space for questions, for conversation and for people from all walks of life.

All are welcome to attend worship during the series, whether they are longtime churchgoers, new to the area, returning after time away or exploring faith for the first time in years.

Sometimes the first step is simply knowing there’s a seat for you — a place where you are loved, not in general, but in particular.

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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 common goldeneye.

These migratory ducks, known as “whistlers” for the sound made by their wings in flight, arrive in late fall to spend the winter on open water here. In North America they winter along the coasts and on large inland rivers and lakes as far north as open water occurs.

Common goldeneyes are one of the 15 species of sea ducks that live in North America. These waterfowl have specialized salt glands that filter excess salt from their bodies, allowing them to drink saltwater and eat marine prey without suffering dehydration. This adaptation allows them to divide their time between saltwater and freshwater environments.

Common goldeneyes are strong divers and swimmers that in fresh-water eat aquatic invertebrates, some fish and fish eggs. Males are mostly white with some black wisps from their folded wings showing on their sides. Their triangular-shaped heads are iridescent green and have a round, white spot behind the dark bill. Females have a gray body, a similarly shaped brown head and a blackish bill with orange at the tip. Both sexes have the radiant amber eyes which give them their name.

The less common Barrow’s goldeneye also winters here. These males have crescent-shaped facial marks and a black-and-white pattern on their sides that resemble piano keys. Females are very difficult to distinguish from their common goldeneye relatives.

From early December to April, common goldeneyes form monogamous pair bonds through elaborate courtship displays. Several males may compete for a female’s attention with moves that include stretching his neck out forward or straight up, or folding himself back with his head touching his rump, perhaps ending by splashing water with his feet. The female expresses interest with some head moves of her own.

In spring, these fast-flying ducks head to northern boreal forests, where they nest in tree cavities near lakes with clear water, little vegetation, lots of aquatic insects and no fish to compete for this food. Females return to the same nesting area and even the same nest year after year. Only one day after hatching, chicks drop from the nest located up to 40 feet above the ground.

Our warm winter has so far provided open water to host these winter visitors on area lakes.

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

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs announces two-part dream series

By Laurah Brock Young

Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs

The Spiritual Experiences Group of Pagosa Springs is inviting you to a special two-part dream series starting in January.

On Sunday, Jan. 11, we will begin a Raise Your Spiritual IQ series called “Understanding Your Dreams – Dive Deeper into the Purpose and Meaning of Your Dreams.” The second session will be held on Feb. 15. Save the dates.

Did you know that there are nine types of dreams? Are you interested in tips and techniques to help with recalling and interpreting your dreams? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you will enjoy this free series.

No prior experience is needed—just curiosity and an open heart.

This is for anyone seeking deeper meaning in life, spiritual tools for personal growth or a fresh perspective on understanding the value of our dreams.

We meet on Sunday, Jan. 11, at 1 p.m. at the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave.

Eckankar, a spiritual resource for people of all faiths and backgrounds, sponsors this free event. It is an individual, creative practice to experience our unique relationship with the Divine.

You can always find us on our Meet-up site at www.meetup.com/pagosa-springs-spiritual-experiences-group/.

To learn more about Eckankar, visit www.eckankar.org or eckankar-colorado.org.

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	8	1				2		
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5			4	2				
			7					
6	3	7			5			
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Level: Intermediate

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

New Year's resolutions? We can help

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

It's that time of year. A time of hope filled with big ideas and good intentions. This is the year, we tell ourselves, that we will get healthier, start our own business or fix our relationships. No matter what's on your 2026 to-do list, the library has books that can help you realize your goals.

Here are some new titles ready for you to check out:

- "Retire Often: How anyone can take multiple career breaks to unlock adventure, advance their career, and find financial freedom" by Jillian Johnsrud.
- "Serial Fixer: Break Free from the Habit of Solving Other People's Problems" by Leah Marone.
- "Yoshuku: The Japanese Art of Manifesting" by Azumi Uchitani.
- "AARP Personal Finance After 50."
- "Talk to Your Boys: 16 Conversations to Help Tweens and Teens Grow into Confident, Caring Young Men" by Joanna Schroeder and Christopher Pepper.
- "Countdown to Riches: 21 Days of Wealth-Attracting Habits" by Rhonda Byrne.
- "Somebody Should Do Something: How Anyone Can Help Create Social Change" by Michael Brownstein, et. al.
- "Connectability: Heal the Hidden Ways You Isolate, Find Your

Library News

People, and Feel (At Last) Like You Belong" by Anna Runkle.

- "Men's Work: A Practical Guide to Face Your Darkness, End Self-Sabotage, and Find Freedom" by Connor Beaton (Founder of ManTalks).

- "The Joy of Solitude: How to Reconnect with Yourself in an Overconnected World" by Robert J. Coplan.

- "Wise Effort: How to Focus Your Genius Energy on What Matters Most" by Diana Hill.

- "You, Your Husband, and His Mother: Create a Healthy Relationship with Your Mother-in-Law and your Spouse in Five Simple Steps" by Dr. Tracy Dalgleish.

- "The Complete Anti-inflammatory Cookbook: Optimize Health, Boost your Immune System, Promote Longevity" by Alicia Romano.

Construction update

The interior continues to be fleshed out, and we are busy purchasing desks and tables and making choices for flooring and countertops. Follow us on Facebook for periodic pictures of progress.

Your donations go a long way toward making this new library

exceptional. Naming rights are still available. Thanks from all of us.

Meet us out in the community

Now that we have much less space for our operations and no meeting rooms during construction, several

■ See Library on next page



Happy New Year!

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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New universal charitable deduction set to expand giving in 2026

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

A new tax provision taking effect in 2026 aims to expand charitable giving by allowing small donations to be deducted without itemizing a tax return.

Known as the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction, the policy applies to tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, and allows non-itemizers to deduct up to \$1,000 in charitable donations for individual filers and up to \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

By extending this benefit beyond those who itemize, the provision is designed to make charitable giving more accessible to millions of taxpayers.



The goal of the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction is to recognize and encourage generosity across all income levels, particularly among middle-income households who typically do not itemize deductions.

Supporters say the change could significantly influence charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors and providing more consistent support for nonprofit organizations. As charities continue to face rising demand

for services, proponents argue that this permanent, universal approach could help strengthen the nonprofit sector and foster a culture of giving nationwide.

Holiday closure

Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) will be closed on Monday, Jan. 19, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. No programs or lunch service will be provided that day.

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 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center

■ See Senior on next page

Library

■ continued from previous page
of our regular activities and special events are happening in other locations.

Please check the listings in this column and on your library's website, <https://pagosalibrary.org>, for location changes throughout the construction. If no other location is mentioned, the activity will stay at your library.

Activities calendars

Pick up monthly calendars at the library or check the website, <https://www.pagosalibrary.org/events-calendar>, so you don't miss any of the free programs, events and activities available to you and your family.

Online author talks

Our free online author talks with New York Times bestselling authors continue in January with some notable authors, including David Brooks and Liz Moore, for you to watch live on Zoom or via a recording later this month.

For details and to register, go to <https://libraryc.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Conversational Spanish

The Conversational Spanish group resumes on Mondays 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.

Ruby's Book Club

Join us for Ruby's Book Club from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13, as we discuss "The Many Lives of Mama Love" by Laura Love Hardin. Copies are available at your library.

This free book club for adults is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is wel-

come to attend.

During construction, it takes place at the new Harman Park Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive, next to the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office.

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 for first through third grades 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.

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

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Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
(Ross Aragon Community Center), 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

Check-in will be at noon, competition will be from 1 to 4 p.m., and awards will be from 4 to 5 p.m.

The team (two to four people) entry fee is \$40 per team.

Forms are available at givebutter.com/PagosaPuzzlePalooza26, or stop in the ASI office at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. You can return the forms by email or drop off at the office.

Get your friends, families, businesses, organizations, churches and community groups to form a team and compete in Pagosa's first local puzzle competition. Teams will race to complete a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle — but speed isn't the only way to win.

Each team will also rally support by gathering sponsorships and donations, with every dollar raised going directly to support our Senior Center and the Meals on Wheels Program that nourishes local elders year-round.

Create an original team name, and complete and submit your team registration form. Fundraise — reach out to friends, family or community members to sponsor your team with a donation of support.

Want to join but don't have a team? Call the ASI office to leave your name and phone number and ASI will see if there are other participants who may want to create a team.

Compete to see which team can raise the most for our seniors. Puzzle it out on Jan. 24. 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 from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. at the Senior Center.

For Jan. 19, since ASI will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Senior Conversations will be on Jan. 23 from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

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-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., 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.

■ **See Senior on page 17**



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LONG-TERM SLEEP DEPRIVATION MAY RESULT IN HEART DISEASE

Who doesn't appreciate a good night's sleep?

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For those suffering from or looking to avoid heart disease, a good night's sleep is vital for disease prevention, management and even reversal.

Today's excerpt explains more.

Sleeping less than six hours a night may make you more likely to have a heart attack, stroke, or heart failure.

A new study puts numbers on that risk. The study, based on more than 3,000 people older than 45, shows that people who sleep less than six hours per night are about twice as likely to have a stroke or heart attack as people who get six to eight hours of sleep.

And they are about 70% more likely to have congestive heart failure.

"The optimal sleep time appears to be six to eight hours," says Rohit R. Arora, MD, chairman of cardiology at Chicago Medical School.

The new study, presented in Chicago at the American College of Cardiology's annual meeting, isn't the first study to link sleep and heart health.

But it's one of the largest surveys to do that, Arora says.

That means a lot of Americans could be at greater risk for heart trouble because of their sleep habits.

Nearly 30% of U.S. adults report sleeping no more than six hours per night, according to a national health survey.

Source: "Too Little Sleep Bad for Heart". By Charlene Laino. <http://www.webmd.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

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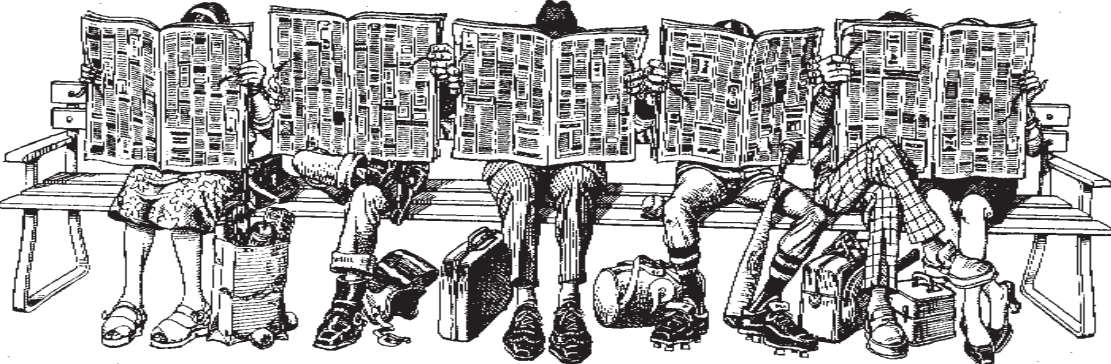
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Senior

■ continued from page 15

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

Tai chi classes will resume on Thursdays beginning Jan. 8.

Tai chi chih is not a martial art, but rather a tool for self-healing. Softness, flow and effortlessness are the guiding principles in this meditative practice. The 19 movements and one pose are designed to stimulate, circulate and balance the vital energy that is inherent in all of us.

Bingo

The Senior Center will host bingo on Friday, Jan. 16, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18 and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accom-

pany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as 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 or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on short notice.

Thursday, Jan. 8 — Beefstroganoff with egg noodles, peas and pearl onions, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Friday, Jan. 9 — Thai chicken with peanut sauce, sugar snap peas, garden salad, fruit, chocolate cake and milk.

Monday, Jan. 12 — Fried chicken with country gravy, peas and carrots, southern biscuit, garden salad, fruit, dessert bar and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 13 — Chicken Dijon, broccoli, dinner roll, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 14 — Singapore coffee ribs, jasmine rice, squash casserole, garden salad, fruit, bread pudding with rum sauce and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 15 — Beef cottage pie with mashed potatoes, sauteed cabbage, garden salad, fruit, brownie and milk.

Friday, Jan. 16 — Chipotle lime-tortilla crusted tilapia with tartar sauce, broccoli, rice pilaf, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Meals on Wheels

We deliver fresh Meals on Wheels five days a week (and provide frozen Meals on Wheels for weekends) to homebound Archuleta County residents. The meals are delivered by our wonderful volunteers. Call or text us at (970) 264-2167 for how to sign up for the program.

Text reservations

Don't forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

For more information about ASI, please visit www.psseniors.org.

Support the Senior Center

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

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

Another way to donate: Are you 70.5 years old or better? Do you have an IRA from which you need to take a distribution? Did you know you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution, up to \$100,000 per year? The donation from the account would be payable to ASI and sent to P.O. Box 344, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. This gift option is called the IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution.

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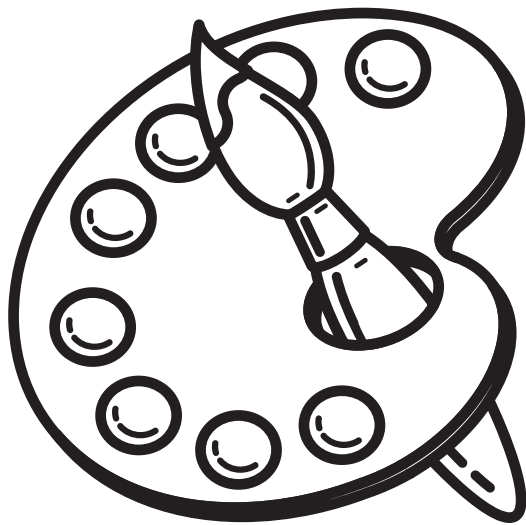
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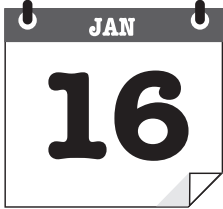


Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.



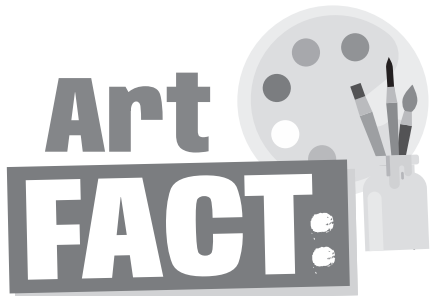
THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1909: Ernest Shackleton and his expedition find the magnetic South Pole.

1920: The League of Nations holds its first council meeting in Paris, France.

1969: Soviet spacecraft Soyuz 4 and Soyuz 5 perform the first-ever docking of crewed spacecraft in orbit.



Various artistic activities can be considered hobbies, including this pastime that involves clay.

Answer: Pottery

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

FCART

6	2	1	7	3	

TIGNTINK

	5		3	3			

ISTRAT

1	2			4	3

NTIPA

				3

1	2	3	4

		D
1	5	

6	2	1	7	3	4		

Answer: Arts and crafts

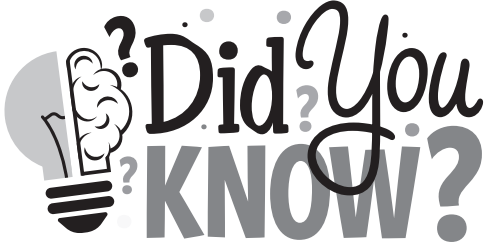


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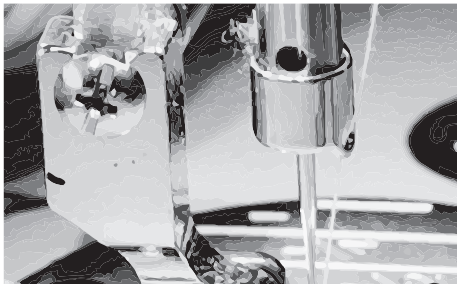
a specialized segment of the market



- English:** Hobby
- Spanish:** Pasatiempo
- Italian:** Passatempo
- French:** Passe-temps
- German:** Zeitvertreib



Hobbies have many benefits, including reducing stress, improving mood, fostering social connections, and encouraging community involvement.



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Sewing machine

Activities that exercise the brain

Special to The PREVIEW

Mental health is an important topic to acknowledge and discuss, and such recognition is vital for all people, including the aging population.

The World Health Organization indicates 57 million people had dementia worldwide in 2021. The National Institutes of Health reports the global prevalence of dementia in individuals under the age of 70 increased by 122 percent in recent decades, rising from roughly 6 million people in 1990 to more than 13 million in 2021.

Although many factors are involved in the development of dementias and cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease or other neurodegenerative illnesses are not inevitable as one gets older. But, it is understandable why so many adults make brain health a priority.

People of all ages can benefit from incorporating activities that exercise the brain into their daily lives.

Learn a new language

Speaking a new language opens up new opportunities for travel and socialization and also strengthens the brain.

A 2019 review published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience* noted that bilingualism increased and strengthened the connectivity between different areas of the brain.

This enhanced connectivity might play a role in delaying the onset of dementias, according to researchers.

Learn new skills

Trying something new might stimulate the brain in ways that improve its function. A cognitively demanding skill, such as photography, playing an instrument and other activities could enhance memory function. Teaching such skills to others also can reinforce brain functions.

Take dancing classes

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that dancing might help combat Alzheimer's disease by improving blood circulation throughout the body. It also forces a person's memory and processing speed to work at a higher capacity through learning the choreography.

Use all of your senses

A 2014 study in *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience* indicated doing activities that simultaneously engage

each of the five senses can strengthen the brain.

Working memory and recall were higher for multi-sensory interactions. Baking a batch of cookies is an example of a multisensory experience.

Work on puzzles

Crossword puzzles, word searches, word games and brain teaser-like puzzles are entertaining and work the brain.

Research has shown that even doing jigsaw puzzles "recruits multiple cognitive abilities and is a protective factor for visuospatial cognitive aging," according to Healthline.

Socialize with others

Socializing with other people can stimulate attention and memory. This helps to strengthen neural networks in the brain that makes the brain work harder. This increase in mental activity can pay off in the long run.

Socialization is also beneficial for mental health, especially among older adults who tend to be more isolated.

People are often concerned with giving their bodies a workout, but they also should focus on activities that strengthen their brains.

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ARCHULETA COUNTY

Public Health

DEPARTMENT



Benefits of family game nights

Special to The PREVIEW

Research continually points to the benefits of families spending time together, particularly in regard to how such time benefits children.

Researchers note family time decreases the likelihood of behavioral issues in children and increases the chances family units grow stronger.

A 2023 study published in *Frontiers in Psychology* found time spent with parents is a crucial factor in the growth of children, and fostering children's well-being and academic performance.

And, a recent Pew Research Center survey found 73 percent of adult respondents rate spending time with family as one of the most important things to them.

Family game nights can be an ideal way for families to spend time together. Psychologists note these sessions strengthen family bonds, enhance social skills and foster emotional well-being.

Family bonding

Scholar's Choice, a Canadian distributor of educational toys, teaching materials and more, says children from families who maintain strong lines of communication through interactions like family game nights or dinners enjoy the benefits of expanded vocabularies, higher reading scores, more school motivation, better relationships with peers and a more positive perception of the parent-child relationship.

Establish stronger

emotional connections

Game nights help develop memories that foster stronger emotional connections between family members. All of the wins, losses, unexpected twists and amazing moves become a part of the family fabric. These are memories that everyone can look back on through the years.

Stronger academic performance

Certain games promote the development of skills that are useful in kids' academic careers.

Research from Carnegie Mellon shows that even a small amount of time spent playing academic games can lead to improved results in the classroom.

Learn to solve problems

Kids who practice strategizing and problem solving with their parents or other adults can develop better memory techniques and be more successful at solving problems on their own, according to researchers from the University of Florida.

Practicing patience

Games help everyone around the table practice being patient with one another.

Waiting turns, handling setbacks and strategizing throughout the game are all lessons in building patience that comes from family game night.

Playing games can help enhance a child's ability to manage frustration and develop resilience, too.

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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.

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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? Diamond: (970)264-1073. Charlotte: (970)903-9690. More resources: www.aa.org, www.aa-westerncolorado.com, (970)245-9649, (888)333-9649 (24 hrs.).

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- A problem-solver with a positive can-do attitude
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- Strong grammar, spelling and typing skills
- 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

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HOUSEKEEPER WANTED. Part-time position, Saturdays & Sundays, starting at 6a.m. Duties include cleaning hot bath areas (no draining or pool cleaning) and guest rooms. Must be detail-oriented and dependable. Apply at 140 Hot Springs Blvd or online at <https://pshotsprings.com/employment>. See Alicia in Housekeeping, Tuesday–Saturday, 10a.m.–2p.m. Includes FREE hot springs admission for you and your immediate family.

J AND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for dependable LMTs to join our team. Utilize your healing gifts. TOP PAY \$55/ hour plus tips. Email racheldevloo@gmail.com.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

OFFICE MANAGER /PATIENT CARE COORDINATOR. \$20-22 per hour, Monday -Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Needing a detail oriented outgoing person to help with light bookkeeping, filing, answering phones, greeting clients, keeping track of devices coming and going. Technical abilities are a must. History of working longevity. Send resume to: ears2u@centurytel.net or call (970)903-3942.

(970) 264-2100

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.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

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Walmart
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Full Time and Part Time positions available
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Begin the application process at
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Hiring for the Ski Season:
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Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski School & Reservationist
- Food & Beverage Staff
- Baker - Barista
- Retail
- Ticket Office
- Snow Reporter/Guest Services
- Snow Removal
- Grooming
- Custodial & Building Maintenance
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ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
STARTING WAGE OF \$19/HOUR
Merit increases based on performance & experience

Applications at
WolfCreekSki.com/employment

Send applications & resumes to:
WolfCreekSki@WolfCreekSki.com
P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

OPENING for CDL Driver. Experience with forestry equipment helpful. Must pass drug test. Local driving only. Please send your resume to frontdesk@pagosalandcompany.com.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.



PAGOSA PEAK
FAMILY DENTISTRY

**NOW HIRING
DENTAL HYGIENE
ASSISTANT**

Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is seeking a friendly, reliable Dental Hygiene Assistant. **Experience not required; willing to train the right candidate.** Competitive pay in a fun, supportive work environment.

Submit your resume—and your favorite ice cream—to [Hello@PagosaPeakFamilyDentistry.com](mailto>Hello@PagosaPeakFamilyDentistry.com) or stop by with your resume.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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 or stop by to pick one up. Resumes / applications can be emailed to: sales@pshotsprings.com, Attention Front Desk Position or dropped off at Healing Waters Resort & Spa, 140 Hot Springs Blvd.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

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.

SEEKING PART -TIME HELP for winter season snow shoveling /snowplowing. Experience preferred. Call Eric, (970)946-2061.

TEAM UP is seeking a skilled and highly organized contract fundraising Event Coordinator to plan, coordinate, promote, and execute several of our major fundraising events. This contractor will manage many aspects of event logistics and growth strategies, in conjunction with Team Up staff, while also helping identify and develop new fundraising event opportunities. The ideal candidate is creative, detail-oriented, experienced in fundraising or large-scale events, and comfortable working collaboratively with staff, volunteers, vendors, sponsors, and marketing partners. <https://www.teamupsw.org/about>.

THE SANCTUARY IS LOOKING for a housekeeper, someone to work outside and stucco person. (970)264-2592.

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1954 WILLY'S JEEP
RUNS, 4X4, 4 CYLINDER \$7,777.
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GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

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 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. Staline Firewood & Logging. 112 Turkey Lane, Pagosa Springs, 81147.

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.

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.

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Specializing in organizing, pricing, and managing estate sales from start to finish.

We provide reliable service and strong results.

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COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

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.

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.

Email us at classads@pagosasun.com to submit your classified.

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Classifieds

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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

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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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RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

SHORT TERM — 30 DAY RENTAL spiritual retreat drug free zone, month to month, up to 120 days, 5 minutes from downtown. Wooded area, greenhouse atmosphere, mountain views. Quiet serene. One person, no pets / no children. Available January 10th. \$1600. References. (970)510-0309.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying or Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



MarcieLewis.com

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.

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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