



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 16, THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026



Lady Pirate wrestlers pose for a photo after making history on Friday, Jan. 9. The day featured the first girls' wrestling tournament hosted by Pagosa Springs High School, with the Lady Pirates making the occasion better with a first-place finish.

Photo courtesy Ashli Stretton

School board weighs possible school sites, to decide next week

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta School District(ASD) Board of Education (BoE) is preparing to make its decision on a site location for a proposed new school building serving kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8) at an upcoming special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 21, at 6 p.m. in the Pagosa Springs Middle School library located at 309 Lewis St.

At its regular meeting held on Jan.

7, the BoE heard multiple public comments on the matter and discussed updated information provided by RTA Architects relating to the specific costs for each potential site.

The first commenter chose to focus on “one specific factual concern regarding the site location decision,” explaining that the traffic study commissioned for this decision “actually favored the downtown school location due to the existing street grid, pedestrian infrastructure and

■ See School A8

Town responds to sewer system emergency

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At a Pagosa Springs Town Council work session on Jan. 13, Public Works Director Karl Johnson gave an update on a wastewater system emergency, which developed late last week after a submersible pump guide rail system disconnected, halting the operation of

Pump Station #1.

As of Monday, Jan. 12, the town-run Pagosa Springs Sanitation General Improvement District (PSSGID) was asking residents in the downtown area to continue to “flush solid waste and minimize flushing liquid waste,” “take shorter showers and baths” and “minimize using the sink, washing machine

■ See Sewer A7

State’s snowpack hits record low, ski area sees record numbers

By Clayton Chaney
and Randi Pierce
Staff Writers

On Tuesday, Jan. 13, Colorado hit its lowest snowpack as a state since official statewide measurements began in 1987, with the state sitting at 62 percent of that date’s median.

As of the end of the day Tuesday, the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan basins sat at 56 percent of median, according to National Resource Con-

servation Service data.

The Wolf Creek summit, the data shows, had 8.2 inches of snow water equivalent at the end of the day on Jan. 13, which is 52 percent of the date’s median snow water equivalent of 15.8 inches.

The Archuleta County and Wolf Creek Pass area is classified as abnormally dry by the U.S. Drought Monitor.

But, despite below-average snowfall this season, Wolf Creek Ski Area has

■ See Snowpack A7

Town council considers ways to help businesses during highway reconstruction

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

At a Jan. 13 work session, the Pagosa Springs Town Council met to discuss potential ways that the town can help businesses navigate the highway reconstruction project through downtown.

Both Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sandy Douthey and Main Street Coordinator Kathleen McFadden were on hand to offer suggestions, but no business owners were in person at the meeting.

Douthey previously gave a report to the council at a Dec. 16, 2025, meeting

on a survey of downtown business sentiment, stating that, since then, the Chamber has reached out to uptown businesses who felt left out of the initial survey.

“It’s not just money, but it’s perception, the perception that uptown businesses are being left out of the focus,” she said. “So, I think it was huge that we included them in this survey, and we will continue to see more responses from uptown as we continue”

“Thank you for expanding that survey. I think that was really vital to getting more information,” Mayor Shari Pierce said.

■ See Reconstruction A7



Photo courtesy Joe Tedder

Nordic ski racers crest a steep hill during the Saturday, Jan.10, Pagosa Nordic Club Cabin Fever race. Racers will be back in action this Saturday, Jan. 17, with the BB Gun Biathlon, part of WinterFest.

Commissioners discuss runway repaving, Cloman Park

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Tuesday, Jan. 13, the board heard from Airport Manager Chris Torres in regard to the upcoming runway repaving project at Stevens Field Airport.

Torres explained that he was presenting the “best estimate of what this project is gonna cost,” and that the design phase of the project will occur in 2026, while the construction phase will occur in 2027.

Torres noted that the design phase includes boring approximately 80 holes along the runway to determine what level of work needs to be done, noting

that at least four spots need a complete reconstruction.

Torres also explained that exact costs won’t be known until the county receives bids for the construction phase, but noted that right now there is an estimated \$4 million “shortfall.”

Torres mentioned that the county has been in communication with Congressman Jeff Hurd getting information on how to possibly get more funding for the project.

“We’re trying to find other routes to find more funding for this,” he said.

Torres described the repaving as a “big project,” noting that it shouldn’t have to be redone for at least 20 years after completion.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez asked for an explanation on the

“matching” aspect of the project, with Torres explaining that, right now, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) would cover 95 percent of the project, while the county and the state would each provide a 2.5 percent match.

He also explained that the FAA is currently reviewing its matching percentages, and there is a possibility that it will change it from 95 percent down to 90 percent, requiring a 5 percent match from both the state and the county.

“The FAA is looking at it right now,” Torres said.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented that, according to the information provided to him, with a 2.5 percent match, the cost to the county for the project would be \$376,543 for the con-

struction phase.

Brown also noted that if the FAA changes its percentages, the cost to the county would go up to just over \$1 million.

“We won’t know final numbers until we start getting bids in,” Torres commented.

Commissioner John Ranson expressed frustration with the situation, stating, “I know nothing ... I know absolutely nothing about this.”

He mentioned that he has heard about the project from constituents and friends who utilize the airport.

“So, I would look for better information if you’re gonna ask me for any kind of a vote. It’s just not right to bring stuff like that to us if we don’t have the

■ See Airport A7

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Opinion

The Pagosa Springs SUN

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1/8	34	26	0.03	NA	NA	NA
1/9	32	11	0.60	S	5.0	
1/10	37	4	0.00	NA	NA	NA
1/11	44	11	0.00	NA	NA	NA
1/12	50	16	0.00	NA	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

Government livestreams and WinterFest

When the Colorado General Assembly convened its session yesterday, Wednesday, Jan. 14, a new feature was slated to be available to the general public — a live video feed of legislative committee meetings. Previously, only an audio feed was available for committee meetings. Video feed of the Colorado House has been available since 2008, with the Colorado Senate following in 2010.

This is a great step forward for transparency and for supporting folks to who want to see if their elected officials are serving them adequately and appropriately.

Kudos to the Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition (CFOIC) for working on and pushing this since the fall of 2024. Kudos also go to Bart Miller, who the CFOIC notes is chair of the Colorado Channel Authority board that oversees video coverage of House and Senate floor proceedings and who has been promoting the committee video idea for years.

As the CFOIC explains in a post on its website, "The Executive Committee of Legislative Council voted 5-1 to spend up to

\$70,000 to activate video livestreaming on the Sliq Media Technologies system that for several years has provided streaming audio of legislative committees. The committee's action follows a summer/fall pilot that tested video coverage using fixed cameras in five committee rooms, with more than 15,000 viewers through mid-November."

But, it cautions, don't expect anything too fancy.

"Adding video to the existing Sliq system has its limitations: Viewers should not expect a high-resolution experience with multiple camera angles," it states. "Those tuning in online during the pilot could see a wide shot of the committee as well as any slides referenced by speakers." But previously, you would see nothing but an illustration of the state Capitol building under the words 'Audio Only.'"

In its research, the CFOIC found that Colorado was the only state not providing at least some video coverage of legislative committee meetings.

It's about time we caught up.

We can't say we'll tune in all the time,

but knowing we can tune in and more easily track what is going on than audio alone sometimes allows is certainly nice, especially when bills important to our area are being discussed.

We're obviously fans of things that make our governments more accessible and the hundreds of miles between us and the state capitol feel a little shorter.

WinterFest

This weekend's WinterFest events will be a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy a little bit of what makes Pagosa Country special.

The weather looks beautiful to take in everything from the bonfire, live music and delicious homemade soups to the hot air balloon ascensions, BB gun Biathlon and Penguin Plunge. It's unfortunate Mother Nature didn't cooperate to allow the skijoring and Sledz on Rez events to be safely held, but we hope the weather cooperates for them to make a grand return next year. For more on the events and schedule, see The PREVIEW.

We hope to see you there.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Jan. 22, 1954 Pagosa SUN — 1954 "B" CHAMPS??? — This photo by Loren Snook shows the Pagosa High School basketball team which is hanging up a good record in league play. In conference play they presently have four wins and no losses—which gives them a mighty good chance of becoming Basin 'B' league champs. From left to right they are: Coach Tom Gribben, who deserves a major share of the credit for bringing the team along this far; Junior Sorenson, Manuel Archuleta, Alva Lee Cox, Freddy Catchpole, Charles Erdman, Norman Jones, Herman Lucero, Sam Trujillo, Leonard Kinser and Manager Jerry Willett.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 15, 1926

Brice Howard and family on Saturday moved into their new quarters recently built in the rear of their new store, the former Sparks Merc. Co. or Catchpole & Catchpole establishment. On Tuesday the store opened to the public for business with a new stock of groceries and dry goods just received.

The Archuleta county board of commissioners, consisting of Chairman Thos. S. Reavis and Fred Catchpole of Pagosa Springs and John E. Walker of Arboles will attend the annual meeting of county commissioners of the state, which will be held in Denver during the Stock Show week.

Max Mickey, manager of the Hersch Merc. Co. store, departed Monday for Santa Fe to spend a week on business matters. At Antonito he was joined by David Hersch, who went to Denver last week on business.

The Piedra store is putting up considerable ice from the Tinnin reservoir, so prospects are good for plenty of lemonade and ice cream next summer.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 19, 1951

Glen Edmonds attended a meeting of the San Juan Basin Press Association in Durango on Sunday. Among other things the group of newspapermen voted to urge all legislators from this area to give favorable consideration to an increased appropriation for publicity and advertising for the State of Colorado. Other business matters were discussed by the Basin newsmen.

Allison News by Georgeanna Etheridge Monday evening
Dear Editor:

I hope to goodness I can catch my items before they go to press. Reason — I was given an item that is incorrect and it can cause both you and me embarrassment.

The item was — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Engler are rejoicing over the arrival of a daughter, Jan. 12. The mother is a niece of Mrs. Raymond Brown of Pagosa, or words to that effect.

It should read Mr. and Mrs. Richard Engler. The mother is the former Miss Shirley Tate of Bayfield. The men are brothers and I was given the wrong name by a well meaning friend who got the boys confused. The first couple have no children. I am sorry and I'll be more careful in the future.

We will go to Arboles tonight to mail this in hopes it will get there in time. If it doesn't I'll make a retraction next week.

Sorry,
Mrs. Etheridge.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 15, 1976

It was a dry week in these parts the past seven days and early this week a January thaw was noted in town. Water ran, snow settled, and some of the ice on the streets melted away. There is still plenty of ice on the San Juan River in shady spots and ice is thick and safe at most good fishing lakes in the area.

The storm on January 5-6-7 left 14 inches of new snow on Wolf Creek, bringing the January total fall to 21 inches and the total season fall to 191-1/2 inches, which is below normal. However, there is plenty of time for more snow and there is enough snow for excellent skiing and snowmobiling.

Skiing these days at Wolf Creek Ski Area is rated as excellent. All lifts are operating, as are the lunchroom, ski rental, and ski school facilities. Crowds are light, snow is very good and at the present time Wolf Creek Ski area has the greatest depth of snow of any ski area in the United States. Everything is better in Southwestern Colorado.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 18, 2001

Pagosa Springs police officers apprehended two local juveniles and are set to move forward with charges against two others for their parts in the burglary at the School District 50 Joint administration office during the early morning hours of Jan. 1.

According to Pagosa Springs Chief of Police Don Volger, officers developed information that led them to four juvenile suspects in the administration office burglary. Volger interviewed two of the suspects and obtained confessions. Officer George Daniels interviewed a third suspect and, likewise, obtained a confession.

A fourth suspect, who left the area for Phoenix, Ariz., was interviewed by Volger in a telephone conversation and the youngster admitted his part in the incident.

Following interviews with suspects, police officers went to a location south of the Sports Complex grounds in South Pagosa and located the floor safe taken from the administration building.

Letters



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

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

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

Absolutely yes

Dear Editor:

The “about the oil” person ended her letter with a question...” are we satisfied with our vote Absolutely yes

Dear Editor: The “about the oil” person ended her letter with a question...” are we satisfied with our votes for President Trump?”“absolutely yes!” America has hands on the oil & resources and Venezuelans are going to gain their free country and prosper, too! China was in our backyard, Madura, TDA terrorist drug cartel, gone! Would you Demos rather China have it? Pres. Trump has negotiated eight peace agreements and working on more across the world. He has stood strong with Israel, as Judeo-Christians, that is a must for America to be blessed, that’s Biblical. He miraculously closed the southern border, stopping the illegal flow. Now, ICE is getting illegals, murderers, rapists, child abusers, sex traffickers, etc. out. Pres. Trump remains in high gear and with God’s continued supernatural help....America great again! The mind cannot imagine how terrible it would be if “word salad” Kamala and Gov.”T.p.” Waltz, in control. Waltz, knuckle head, his words, apparently knee deep in fraud of children’s day care learning centers, particularly autistic children’s programs. Give away was the word “learning on their sign misspelled, learing” and no children at the centers! Millions of Somalian illegals entered our country, ripped off millions of tax dollars, being figured

\$9 billion and up, stolen! And, the Squad Congress members, Omar & Talib particularly, are in the middle of this corruption! Pres Trump hates thieves and is going to take care of this, too. He will be having a “Fraud Director”, to take on this fraud in all the states...prosecution for the fraudsters and the evil politicians getting rich on our tax dollars! Go Pres. Trump! Really good news, to the regular folks like us, Social Security, tips, overtime, no tax! Fuel prices are down & still dropping....\$2.42 & \$2.52/gal. As you recall we were over \$5.00/gal during the horrible Biden regime. Eggs, a must for protein, are now \$1.97 & less...Remembering Biden’s eggs were \$11.00/dz. & up!....Butterball young turkeys \$ 0.75/lb. All affordable and much more. It will take time to overcome those 4 years, an awful time for our country. We can each have an opinion. But, there is lies and there is truths. There is so much lying in the media, and evil deception if one wants to believe. We have the truth broadcasted: Fox News, Flashpoint Army, Victory News, & Newsmax , but you got to want it! If you are a true American and still identify as a Democrat, you’d better take note.... look at New York and Seattle, now have radical Communist, Marxist, Islamic, Muslim mayors. And, are being supported by most of demo Congress & Senate members. Communism is demonic, it destroys wealth, individualism, & freedom.... Venezuela, big example! “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst...” Math.18:20. Americans please pray fervently for our country, stay free, and lift up our Pres. Trump and the great leaders with him.



Family & Friends
You are invited to wish
Charles Formwalt a
Happy 90th Birthday.
Come and go from 2-4 pm on January 17, 2026, at Community United Methodist Church.
We are downsizing so please, your presence is gift enough.

Jan and Tom Carnley

Forever in your debt

Dear Editor:

January 13, 2026 marks the first anniversary of our house fire in Aspen Springs 5. At the time, I was rather overwhelmed and was remiss in properly thanking the Fire Department and the volunteer firefighters. They did an incredible job in a very difficult environment including a 150-foot, steep driveway and having to haul all the water onto the site. They responded quickly and saved much of the house and kept the fire from spreading into a wildfire which could have threatened our neighbors. Since the fire spread under the house, it was a total loss, but much of it was saved and many of our most valuable items (the sentimental ones) were salvageable. One of the firefighters even found and returned a cat that was feared lost in the fire, but had run away and was safe. Thank you to all the dedicated men and women, both County and Volunteer. We are forever in your debt.

Elizabeth Carr
Coeur D’alene, Idaho

Law and order

Dear Editor:

Where would we be as a society, and what language would be speaking, if, for the last 250 years we behaved like the Saturday library sidewalk crowd?

Most of those folks are not generationally from this area. Most of those folks appear to have lived privileged lives. Most of those folks most likely moved from some city, somewhere USA, to somewhere in Archuleta County and not Pagosa Springs proper. Every weekend that they decide to show up, they have something to wave signs about, that have something related to mass media hysteria. All of the good things that have occurred during and after WW II could not and would not have happened if the people of this country had not agreed to work together. All God-given life force power is in the real people, not the corporations, not the political parties, and not government employees. The ideas and principles laid out in the 1776 “Declaration”, establishing independence was the beginning of change from the old ways. Freedom and liberty are in the DNA of God’s people. It cannot be denied or extinguished. Law and order is for everyone’s health, safety, and welfare.

Greg Giehl

Restoring balance

Dear Editor:

I often wonder why there’s such chaos in our world and the American culture. We are frantically, desperately grasping at straws, like people caught in our increasingly frequent and violent floods.

This reminds me of the recent

prairie dog overpopulation that occurred around my home. The prairie dog’s den digging went on for years, pocking the earth, endangering hikers and horses. Then the Black Plague wiped them out. I haven’t seen or heard any for a couple of years. That’s Nature’s way of restoring balance - disease and death in an overpopulated species.

We need to learn from nature and give it the respect it deserves. This earth, our home, always seeks balance. We humans, especially of European descent, have greedily lusted to conquer the world, its resources, and the indigenous peoples who have known how to live in harmony with nature. Now humans are the overpopulators!

Scientists have been sounding the alarm for over 50 years about the disastrous consequences that human behavior is wreaking on our climate, our lives, and the condition of all nature. Since the Industrial Revolution, we’ve been extracting coal and oil from the earth, burning them at gluttonous rates, while spewing out toxic fumes and gases.

We have built cities in the desert, like Vegas, then drained rivers to water green lawns and fill swimming pools, while trampling on the rights of indigenous tribes and communities.

At the same time, we’ve been polluting the earth by using pesticides and fertilizers to manipulate plants and increase food production to prop up our rapidly expanding populations, while building more towns at the city-wilderness interfaces. We’ve expanded human living space at the expense of habitats needed by nature’s wild species. Thus, adding to the imbalance nature will not tolerate. We, the homosapians, with our large brains and unbridled arrogance, are the greatest danger.

Meanwhile, the resources continue dwindling because Trump, DOGE, (along with the derelict GOP,) slashed the EPA, FEMA, USAID, and so many agencies we and the world desperately need.

Trump’s dictatorship with his “drill baby drill” and “climate hoax” lies threatens the earth and We the People. He only cares for himself, his money, his power, and his greed. Donald is intoxicated with nearly absolute power. He is power-greedy-crazy. In time, Trump and Trumpism will vanish like dust in the wind.

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Jan. 15-22

Work activity

- Crews are focusing on utility-related tasks ahead of the full construction season, which is scheduled to restart in March. Currently, crews are excavating and “potholing” along the south side of the main street (Pagosa Street) between the 100 and 300 blocks to prepare for upcoming stormwater utility upgrades.
- The team is starting to work on sidewalks near the Humane Society Thrift Store.
- We appreciate the community’s continued patience and cooperation as we take advantage of favorable winter weather to safely advance this important work. Your support helps keep the project moving forward and positions us well for the 2026 construction season.

Snow removal plan

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

How the snow removal team will work

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

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

CDOT snow removal duties

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

To allow for safe and efficient snow clearing in this new configuration:

On-street parking will be unavailable between 1st Street and 10th Street due to space constraints and snow removal operations.

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

Town of Pagosa Springs snow removal

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

duties

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

Business owner responsibilities

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

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

Help protect new concrete sidewalks this winter

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

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

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■ Continued from A3

But the Earth will remain, in some form, as it has for billions of years, through ice ages and the meteor that caused the extinction of dinosaurs. Climate change isn't new. But grand-scale human choices and abuses are.

So, let's follow the wise reality of science, not greedy, lying politicians. We do need good governance, wise leaders, and people with a heart for the earth and love for the people that will, hopefully, remain here. Character does matter!

Choice is our power. We can and must educate ourselves, speak boldly, and stand strong! This is our challenge. Together, we must unite and work together while we still can.

Mitch Nielsen

Affordable health care

Dear Editor:

Funding to prevent and treat diseases has been dramatically reduced this past year, in our country and worldwide. Everyone deserves to have their basic human needs met and that includes access to affordable healthcare. Here at home, the US Congress has decided to let tax credits for health premiums expire, and many people are now seeing their health insurance premiums double or worse. Federal assistance keeps premiums lower and affordable. Ask Representative Hurd to fight for Coloradans who need access to healthcare. The House is voting on it now. Lack of health insurance increases healthcare costs for all of us. Abroad, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has been an effective tool for the last twenty years, saving 70 million lives by providing solutions to deadly diseases. Last year alone the Global Fund helped provide HIV treatment for 25.6 million people and tuberculosis treatment for 7.4 million people. You might say, "Why should I care about that?" We care because we live in a very connected world and if we ignore disease outbreaks abroad, it is just a matter of time before those diseases are increasing in our own country. Logically, the US needs to uphold its commitment to this Fund and pay what is owed. The money has been appropriated by Congress but is being withheld by the US Treasury. Is this really in our best interest? Ask our Colorado Senators and Representatives to make the Global Fund a priority, release the withheld funds, and fully fund the US's \$4.6 billion pledge. And here at home we must support access to affordable health care for all. Whether you live in the US or in another country, we are safer when all of us can get access to low cost prevention and treatment, which includes vaccination.

Carol Pierce

Commissioner priorities

Dear Editor:

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Jim Sneath

Letters

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We must resist this murderous regime.

Lee Stopher s for President Trump?" "absolutely yes!" America has hands on the oil & resources and Venezuelans are going to gain their free country and prosper, too! China was in our backyard, Madura, TDA terrorist drug cartel, gone! Would you Demos rather China have it? Pres. Trump has negotiated eight peace agreements and working on more across the world. He has stood strong with Israel, as Judeo-Christians, that is a must for America to be blessed, that's Biblical. He miraculously closed the southern border, stopping the illegal flow. Now, ICE is getting illegals, murderers, rapists, child abusers, sex traffickers, etc. out. Pres. Trump remains in high gear and with God's continued supernatural help....America great again! The mind cannot imagine how terrible it would be if "word salad" Kamala and Gov."T.p." Waltz, in control. Waltz, knuckle head, his words, apparently knee deep in fraud of children's day

care learning centers, particularly autistic children's programs. Give away was the word "learning on their sign misspelled, learing" and no children at the centers! Millions of Somalian illegals entered our country, ripped off millions of tax dollars, being figured

\$9 billion and up, stolen! And, the Squad Congress members, Omar & Talib particularly, are in the middle of this corruption! Pres Trump hates thieves and is going to take care of this, too. He will be having a "Fraud Director", to take on this fraud in all the states...prosecution for the fraudsters and the evil politicians getting rich on our tax dollars! Go Pres. Trump!

Really good news, to the regular folks like us, Social Security, tips, overtime, no tax! Fuel prices are down & still dropping....\$2.42 & \$2.52/gal. As you recall we were over \$5.00/gal during the horrible Biden regime. Eggs, a must for protein, are now \$1.97 & less...Remembering Biden's eggs were \$11.00/dz. & up!....Butterball young turkeys \$ 0.75/lb. All affordable and much more. It will take time to overcome those 4 years, an awful time for our country.

We can each have an opinion. But, there is lies and there is truths. There is so much lying in the media, and evil deception if one wants to believe. We have the truth broadcasted: Fox News, Flashpoint Army, Victory News, & Newsmax , but you got to want it!

If you are a true American and still identify as a Democrat, you'd better take note...look at New York and Seattle, now have radical Communist, Marxist, Islamic, Muslim mayors. And, are being supported by most of demo Congress & Senate members. Communism is demonic, it destroys wealth, individualism, & freedom.... Venezuela, big example!

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst..." Math.18:20. Americans please pray fervently for our country, stay free, and lift up our Pres. Trump and the great leaders with him.

Jan and Tom Carnley

Forever in your debt

Dear Editor:

January 13, 2026 marks the first anniversary of our house fire in Aspen Springs 5. At the time, I was rather overwhelmed and was remiss in properly thanking the Fire Department and the volunteer firefighters. They did an incredible job in a very difficult environment including a 150-foot, steep driveway and having to haul all the water onto the site. They responded quickly and saved much of the house and kept the fire from spreading into a wildfire which could have threatened our neighbors. Since the fire spread under the house, it was a total loss, but much of it was saved and many of our most valuable items (the sentimental ones) were salvageable. One of the firefighters even found and returned a cat that was feared lost in the fire, but had run away and was safe. Thank you to all the dedicated men and women, both County and Volunteer. We are forever in your debt.

Elizabeth Carr
Coeur D'alene, Idaho

Law and order

Dear Editor:

Where would we be as a society, and what language would be speaking, if, for the last 250 years we behaved like the Saturday library sidewalk crowd?

Most of those folks are not generationally from this area. Most of those folks appear to have lived privileged lives. Most of those folks most likely moved from some city, somewhere USA, to somewhere in Archuleta County and not Pagosa Springs proper. Every weekend that they decide to show up, they have something to wave signs about, that have something related to mass media hysteria. All of the good things that have occurred during and after WW II could not and would not have happened if the people of this country had not agreed to work together. All God-given life force power is in the real people, not the corporations, not the political parties, and not government employees. The ideas and

principles laid out in the 1776 "Declaration", establishing independence was the beginning of change from the old ways. Freedom and liberty are in the DNA of God's people. It cannot be denied or extinguished. Law and order is for everyone's health, safety, and welfare.

Real law is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Statutes come and go at the whims of corrupt politicians. Live honorably by the law as your protection. Deliberately live outside the law; you are justly dealt with as an "outlaw".

Greg Gieh

Restoring balance

Dear Editor:

I often wonder why there's such chaos in our world and the American culture. We are frantically, desperately grasping at straws, like people caught in our increasingly frequent and violent floods.

This reminds me of the recent prairie dog overpopulation that occurred around my home. The prairie dog's den digging went on for years, pocking the earth, endangering hikers and horses. Then the Black Plague wiped them out. I haven't seen or heard any for a couple of years. That's Nature's way of restoring balance - disease and death in an overpopulated species.

We need to learn from nature and give it the respect it deserves. This earth, our home, always seeks balance. We humans, especially of European descent, have greedily lusted to conquer the world, its resources, and the indigenous peoples who have known how to live in harmony with nature. Now humans are the overpopulators!

Scientists have been sounding the alarm for over 50 years about the disastrous consequences that human behavior is wreaking on our climate, our lives, and the condition of all nature. Since the Industrial Revolution, we've been extracting coal and oil from the earth, burning them at gluttonous rates, while spewing out toxic fumes and gases.

We have built cities in the desert, like Vegas, then drained rivers to water green lawns and fill swimming pools, while trampling on the rights of indigenous tribes and communities.

At the same time, we've been polluting the earth by using pesticides and fertilizers to manipulate plants and increase food production to prop up our rapidly expanding populations, while building more towns at the city-wilderness interfaces. We've expanded human living space at the expense of habitats needed by nature's wild species. Thus, adding to the imbalance nature will not tolerate. We, the homosapians, with our large brains and unbridled arrogance, are the greatest danger.

Meanwhile, the resources continue dwindling because Trump, DOGE, (along with the derelict GOP,) slashed the EPA, FEMA, USAID, and so many agencies we and the world desperately need.

Trump's dictatorship with his "drill baby drill" and "climate hoax"

■ See Letters A5

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Matthew Hintzman, PA-C

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■ Continued from A4

lies threatens the earth and We the People. He only cares for himself, his money, his power, and his greed. Donald is intoxicated with nearly absolute power. He is power-greedy-crazy. In time, Trump and Trumpism will vanish like dust in the wind.

But the Earth will remain, in some form, as it has for billions of years, through ice ages and the meteor that caused the extinction of dinosaurs. Climate change isn't new. But grand-scale human choices and abuses are.

So, let's follow the wise reality of science, not greedy, lying politicians. We do need good governance, wise leaders, and people with a heart for the earth and love for the people that will, hopefully, remain here. Character does matter!

Choice is our power. We can and must educate ourselves, speak boldly, and stand strong! This is our challenge. Together, we must unite and work together while we still can.

Mitch Nielsen

Affordable health care

Dear Editor:

Funding to prevent and treat diseases has been dramatically reduced this past year, in our country and worldwide. Everyone deserves to have their basic human needs met and that includes access to affordable healthcare. Here at home, the US Congress has decided to let tax credits for health premiums expire, and many people are now seeing their health insurance premiums double or worse. Federal assistance keeps premiums lower and affordable. Ask Representative Hurd to fight for Coloradans who need access to healthcare. The House is voting on it now. Lack of health insurance increases healthcare costs for all of us. Abroad, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has been an effective tool for the last twenty years, saving 70 million lives by providing solutions to deadly diseases. Last year alone the Global

Fund helped provide HIV treatment for 25.6 million people and tuberculosis treatment for 7.4 million people. You might say, "Why should I care about that?" We care because we live in a very connected world and if we ignore disease outbreaks abroad, it is just a matter of time before those diseases are increasing in our own country. Logically, the US needs to uphold its commitment to this Fund and pay what is owed. The money has been appropriated by Congress but is being withheld by the US Treasury. Is this really in our best interest? Ask our Colorado Senators and Representatives to make the Global Fund a priority, release the withheld funds, and fully fund the US's \$4.6 billion pledge. And here at home we must support access to affordable health care for all. Whether you live in the US or in another country, we are safer when all of us can get access to low cost prevention and treatment, which includes vaccination.

Carol Pierce

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proval) in Archuleta County.

Bus stop #2 for elementary school and bus stop #9 for middle/high schoolers will bring orchestra students to the Forge drop-off location and from there students can walk to Pagosa Peak Open School.

Does this program cost money?

Yes, however the goal is for this to be an affordable and accessible music education opportunity. Need-based scholarships are available — don't hesitate to reach out if you need financial assistance.

Will I need to buy anything for this?

Instrument rental or purchase will be necessary if you don't already own the instrument.

Essential Elements for Strings will be the book we learn out of, which ranges in price from \$9 to \$15.

A music stand for home use will be encouraged and can be found for \$15+.

How could this benefit my student(s)?

- Music can help with schooling.
- Music can help build confidence.
- Music plays a positive role in cognitive development.
- But, most importantly, it's fun.

We are accepting new students until the end of January. Registration is through www.orchestra.stillwater-music.org/classes.

Let's build something amazing together — for our students, our schools and our community.

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We must resist this murderous regime.

Lee Stopher

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Jan. 17 from Noon to 3 pm

This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, uptown near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Stunning mountain views. The open floor plan connects the great room with a cozy fireplace to a modern kitchen boasting granite countertops, high end appliances, and an island for extra prep space.

To tour this home go to:
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Pagosa Peak Strings youth orchestra accepting new students

By Payton McIntyre
Pagosa Strings

Pagosa Peak Strings, a youth string orchestra program, is accepting new students until the end of January for the spring semester.

No prior experience is required. Beginning Jan. 7, students in the fourth through eighth grades are invited to join us at Pagosa Peak Open School every Wednesday and Friday for five months to explore the beautiful world of orchestral music.

Whether it's the violin, viola, cello or double bass, students will learn to play alongside friends and build musical skills together in a fun, encouraging environment.

This amazing opportunity has become possible thanks to Stillwater Music, a music nonprofit collaboration that is dedicated to providing accessible music instruction to La Plata and Archuleta county residents.

When does this occur?

The program takes place Wednesdays from 3:15 to 4:40 p.m. and Fridays from 1:15 to 2:40 p.m.

Next Archuleta County Democratic Club meeting set for Jan. 26

By Lynn Frederick
Archuleta County Democratic Club

The Archuleta County Democratic Club will meet on Monday, Jan. 26, at 11:30 a.m. at Coyote Moon.

Judy Patton will be the speaker. She will be talking about PIRAC, or Proponents of Immigrant Rights in Archuleta County — who they are, what they do and why their work matters right now in this community.

Our laws and constitution define what the rights of immigrants are. Plan to attend this meeting to learn

about these rights.

The Archuleta County Democratic Club meets every month. The club gives local Democrats the opportunity to meet with other Democrats, to hear speakers from the community, to meet candidates for local and national offices, and to hear about topics of timely interest.

All are welcome to attend.

Please plan to come by 11:30 a.m. to order lunch. The speaker will present at noon. Having cash will facilitate ordering.

For more information, you may email lynnfrederick1@gmail.com.

Archuleta League of Women voters to meet Jan. 27

By Janice McIntyre
Archuleta League of Women Voters

The Archuleta League of Women Voters will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

After a short business meeting, the program, "What Archuleta Schools Teach About Democracy," will provide information as to how students are prepared for their future civic responsibilities.

The Archuleta League is a grassroots nonpartisan organization that provides information to the public about election issues and supports the rights of citizens to engage in the critical roles of voter education, and fair, inclusive and equitable elections.

Meetings are open to all of the general public.

Started over a hundred years ago when women first received the right to vote, men are now welcomed and participate in the League of Women Voters organization. We hope you can join us.

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2025 year in review: July, August, September

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 July, August and September.

July

- A number of area agencies implemented fire restrictions due to high fire danger effective July 1.
- The Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education held a work session on July 1 at which the board was presented with initial results from a community poll, surveying 300 registered voters throughout the county to gauge the community's knowledge and perception of the district and its current facility needs, along with testing potential ballot language for voters to decide on a future bond issue for new school facilities.

- Numerous Fourth of July events were held over the patriotic holiday weekend, among them the inaugural Stars and Strips Stroll, a fireworks display, Freedom Float, Pagosa Springs Community Band concert, Park to Park Artisan Market and 75th annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo.

According to a report provided by Tourism Director Jennifer Green, 62,700 visitors visited the area between July 2 and July 6.

- In July, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce announced it had chosen Sandy Douthey to be the next executive director of the Chamber following Mary Jo Coulehan's retirement at the end of the year.

- Archuleta County Development Director Pamela Flowers and Building Code Official Tony Medved both submitted resignation letters from their respective positions on July 14.

Flowers' resignation letter was effective immediately, while Medved indicated his final working day for the county would be July 25.

- Pagosa Country continued to experience warm, dry weather over in mid-July, with multiple fires caused by lightning being combated by fire management officials and smoke from regional fires continuing to move into the area. The conditions led the U.S. Forest Service to expand fire restrictions July 15.

- The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) held a special meeting on July 22, at which the board approved Resolution 2025-40, approving donating and transferring 11 county-owned lots on Bonita Drive to the Archuleta County Housing Authority for the purpose of developing workforce and low-income housing.

- The majority of Pagosa Country experienced some level of precipitation moving into the second half of the month, with the heaviest rainfall amounts recorded on July 22.

From July 22 through July 23, the heaviest amount of rainfall reported in Archuleta County was near the Pagosa Lakes area with a report of 1.54 inches.

- The Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors voted at a July 31 special meeting to immediately enter stage two drought under the district's drought management plan due to low water levels in area rivers and other concerns.

- The 74th annual Archuleta County Fair kicked off July 31. The year's Archuleta County Fair Royalty Court was Princess Sophia Ellis, Queen Olivia Mazur and Junior Princess Nora Forrest. The Super Volunteer was Ashley Torres, and Lisa Vail was honored as Super Superintendent.

August

- The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library held a groundbreaking ceremony on Aug. 1 celebrating its \$5 million expansion and renovation project.

- In early August, Emiliano Martinez, 8, placed second overall in the Drive, Chip and Putt held at the University of New Mexico Championship Golf Course in Albuquerque, N.M. He placed first in the putting discipline and second in the chipping discipline, earning a spot to compete in Hawaii in October.

- Archuleta County joined the San Juan National Forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by implementing Stage 1 fire restrictions effective Aug. 5.

- On Aug. 5, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the first reading an ordinance calling for a coordinated election and setting the ballot language to ask the town's voters for a 1 percent town-only sales tax to address issues with its sewer system.

An agenda document on the matter states, "The sewer system is failing and needs funding for repairs, wastewater treatment plant, and possible reuse system."

- During its regular meeting on Aug. 5, the BoCC unanimously approved entering into a lease agreement with Wyndham Vacation Resorts Inc. for temporary office space for multiple county offices.

- During the same meeting, the BoCC approved a contract with AEC-West Consultants to assist the county with building inspections and plan reviews to help the county keep up with plan reviews following resignations in the planning and building departments.

- The Forest Service announced on Aug. 7 that, based on recent wildfire activity and persistent severe fire weather conditions, San Juan National Forest fire management staff would be implementing Stage 2 fire restrictions, including for the wilderness, on Aug. 8.

The BLM implemented Stage 2 restrictions effective Aug. 8 for public lands administered by the Tres Rios office, including within Archuleta County.

- The 22nd annual Knights of Columbus Duck Race took place at Yamaguchi Park on Aug. 9.

- What began as an illegal burn that took place during a Stage 1 fire ban on Aug. 10 turned into a 75-acre wildfire that prompted the mandatory evacuation of 144 residential structures for roughly 70 hours.

The Oak Fire, began on Aug. 10, with the first call at about 1:15 p.m. By 2:28 p.m., an evacuation order had been issued for residents in the area, with that order then expanded. A reported 320 parcels were included in the mandatory evacuation zone. An estimated 300 people were displaced.

A pre-evacuation notice for the area stretching along U.S. 160 to North Pagosa Boulevard and Martinez Canyon was issued at 5:29 p.m. that evening.

At 8:20 p.m. that night, it was announced that Gov. Jared Polis had verbally declared an emergency to support response efforts for the fire and authorized the use of the Colorado National Guard as needed.

- On Aug. 11, the Town of Pagosa Springs issued an emergency order imposing Stage 1 fire restrictions within the town limits.

- According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Piedra River near Arboles set a record low flow level on Aug. 13, flowing at 7.64 cubic feet per second (cfs). The previous record low flow for Aug. 13 was set in 2018 at a rate of 15.6 cfs, while the record high was set in 1999 at 818 cfs.

The San Juan River also tied a record low flow on Aug. 11, when the river was measured at 13 cfs, matching the record low for that date, which was set in 2002.

- Colorado Department of Transportation and town officials discussed the ongoing U.S. 160 reconstruction project with members of the community at an Aug. 13 open house. As of that day, the project was 30 percent complete, with the goal being 50 percent completion by the end of 2025.

- The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate golf team teed off its 2025 season on Aug. 15, landing first place at the Alamosa Invitational.

- Archuleta County Sheriff's Office deputies arrested two male suspects — Sergio Alaniz Jr., 41, and Ross Heirigs, 60 — in connection with the Oak Fire on Aug. 17.

Charges were later filed on Aug. 27. The cases are ongoing.

- Archuleta County Manager Jack Harper's resignation was unanimously accepted during the Aug. 19 BoCC meeting.

Following an executive session that was convened for legal advice

and personnel matters, the board directed staff to hold a conversation and announced that the regular meeting would be recessed for about 15 minutes.

After calling the meeting back to order, Commissioner Veronica Medina explained that, according to staff, Harper would be resigning. The board then voted unanimously to accept his resignation.

- On Aug. 19, staff from the town's Parks and Recreation Department presented an opportunity to the town council for the expansion of Reservoir Hill Park.

Parks Director Darren Lewis and Recreation Supervisor Amanda Gadowski described it as an "opportunity to conserve Reservoir Hill" to protect "a community treasure for future generations."

It was explained the acquisition of land would come through grants and private donors.

- On Aug. 19, the town council approved the second reading of an ordinance calling for the coordinated election and setting the language appearing on the ballot.

- On Aug. 20, Polis appointed Justin P. Fay to the 6th Judicial District Court, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Suzanne F. Carlson. Fay's appointment would be effective Oct. 1.

- The BoCC held a meeting on Aug. 20 at which the BoCC invited builders and developers in the county to provide input on the county's Development Services Department on areas it needs to improve, as well as what the department does well.

- On Aug. 25, ASD's Master Plan Advisory Committee and members of the Board of Education heard polling results from a community poll and initial site analysis information that included potential design layouts, assessed access points. The group also weighed pros and cons of building a pre-kindergarten through eighth-grade building on either ASD's property located uptown along Vista Boulevard or downtown on the high school campus property.

- Following an executive session on Aug. 26, the BoCC unanimously approved appointing Public Works Director Mike Torres as the interim county manager effective Aug. 27.

September

- Sept. 2 was the start of the new school year for the bulk of Archuleta School District students.

- The ASD board held a special meeting on Sept. 2 to cancel the school board election and deem David Iverson, Butch Mackey and Tim Taylor elected by acclamation after no more than three qualified as candidates.

Taylor will serve a four-year term representing District 1. Mackey will serve a four-year term representing District 5. Iverson will serve a two-year term representing District 4.

- With the region receiving increased moisture, all area fire restrictions were rescinded effective Sept. 5.

- On Sept. 5, the BoCC unanimously approved a contract for services with ECONorthwest for the creation of the Regional Housing Strategy Plan.

- In September, it was announced that the Pagosa Springs Smashers Special Olympics softball team took second in its division in the New Mexico Four Corners State Invitational Softball Tournament. Also representing the Smashers, Jase Mills took first place in his division.

- Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser visited Pagosa Springs on Sept. 10 for a community meeting. Weiser answered questions that touched upon immigration pro-

tection, broadband access, voter redistricting, state minimum wage requirements, ways to support politicians without donations, federal water quality requirements being proposed and other topics.

- The BoCC held a second meeting for builders and developers on Sept. 10, at which Building Official Randy Betts explained that the county is getting back on track with getting building plans turned out in 15 days or less.

- At a Sept. 11 meeting, the PAWSD board approved capital investment fee waivers for an affordable housing project by Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County and denied them for two others — the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation and a private developer.

- Areas of Archuleta County received upwards of 2 inches of rain last in mid-September, leaving parts of the county experiencing flooding and mudslides. Colo. 151 between U.S. 160 and Arboles was closed for approximately 3.5 hours on Sept. 12 while maintenance crews cleared the road after flash flooding. Archuleta County reported flooding and mudslide issues from the Carracas area to Colo. 151.

As of Sept. 17, sites around Archuleta County reported between 1.87 inches (between downtown and uptown Pagosa Springs) and 3.68 inches (east of Chromo) of rain received so far in September, besting the month's average of about 2 inches.

- A crowd gathered at Town Park the afternoon of Sept. 14, holding a prayer vigil and tribute for Charlie Kirk, the conservative activist who was killed on Sept. 10 while speaking at a college campus in Utah.

- On Sept. 16, the town council voted to accept a new geothermal water rate study after seeking the new study "to identify the revenue requirements to operate and maintain the geothermal system, given the recently identified capital projects ... as the system has largely reached the end of its useful life," according to the study.

- Dozens of hot air balloons took to the sky downtown on Sept. 20 and 21, part of the 39th annual ColorFest festivities.

- Students, staff and community members celebrated the opening of Pagosa Peak Open School's newly redesigned and rebuilt "Playground for the People" on Sept. 26.



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Celebrations

Zachery Hubbard

Texas State University is pleased to announce Zachery Hubbard, of Pagosa Springs, has been named to its President's List for fall 2025.

Hubbard is majoring in integrated studies.

The President's List is made up of students who earned a GPA of 4.0 while enrolled in 12 or more GPA hours at

Texas State University in the semester.

Kylie Ketchum

Kylie Ketchum, of Pagosa Springs, was named to the South Plains College fall 2025 dean's list.

Ketchum was among more than 800 students named to the list.

To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.25 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 credit hours.

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Sewer

■ Continued from front and dishwasher.”

The PSSGID serves an area generally east of Piedra Road and including the downtown area.

At the work session, Johnson said that “a bypass pump is installed, and we have another one coming to be on standby, explaining that a back up bypass pump is needed at Pump Station #1 “due to the pressures we’re dealing with at that station compared to Pump Station #2.”

He added, “The manufacturer recommended we have another pump on standby just in case, so there should be one on site by Thursday morning.”

When asked what caused the guide rail system to become disconnected, Johnson explained, “We have yet to be able to do a full assessment to find out what happened within the wet well.”

He further explained, “From what we can tell, right now, there was a guide rail that the submersible pump follows to get connected to the force main,

and we think the bottom bracket to the guide rail came loose and actually came loose on both of those pumps in that wet well.”

He added that staff are looking at some “after-market” manufacturers who offer a different guide rail system, and the town may also look at ordering pumps from a different manufacturer than the current pumps.

“I wanted to plant that seed that we may be coming before you to let you know that we are going to do that,” he explained.

The good news, he noted, is that “we did not have a sanitary sewer overflow,” adding that “the crew spent all night skimming off the top and taking loads ... to Pump Station 2 while we were waiting for velocity to come with the bypass pump.”

He explained the crew got the bypass up and running on Friday and had it “pretty well figured out” by Saturday, and that, by Sunday, “we were able to pump out the overflow vault and get

that under control. So, right now, we are actually working on a flow system from the bypass pump at our normal set points within the wet well.”

The PSSGID currently maintains about 17 miles of sewer pipes, with 325,000 gallons of sewage pumped per day, serving 1,500 households, according to the town.

This setback for the PSSGID is part of a long list of repairs and replacements of pumps since the PSSGID began pumping its wastewater through a series of lift stations seven miles uphill to the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District’s Vista wastewater treatment plant.

Last summer, the town also had to battle an emergency situation caused by the failure of a submersible pump at Pump Station #2 after an electrical surge caused by a lightning strike took out one of the pumps at that station, with the remaining pump failing on the afternoon of June 16.

Flooding in October 2025 also

knocked out a sewer main under the U.S. 160 bridge at 1st Street, necessitating a bypass of that sewer main.

“We’re finding, as time goes by, that besides trying to do that distance and the lift we are doing, that alone was not a good idea,” Johnson said.

He also noted that his staff is finding flaws in the equipment originally purchased for the uphill conveyance system.

“The materials of construction and how it was constructed and who constructed it — it all wasn’t a good idea from the get go, and it’s been really challenging,” he said, adding, “We’re going from one pump station to the other, chasing our tail.

He explained that Utilities Supervisor Lucian Brewster “and his crew have been on site and have not worked a normal day since the first of the year.”

Johnson described “pump failures, control system failures — it’s just been constant since the first day of the year.”

derek@pagosasun.com

Reconstruction

■ Continued from front

McFadden explained that she wanted to “take the survey results” from December “and throw them into an analysis with the results” from the Main Street Advisory Board’s survey from “last spring when we surveyed businesses to ask: What can we do to help you?”

She explained that she wanted to analyze “what we are experiencing on the ground — programs that have worked, programs that have not worked — and put that all together to identify what are the big problems and what are some practical, feasible solutions that we can implement that don’t cause a cost burden or administrative burden for the businesses?”

She added, “I pulled that together in one streamlined document.”

But now, she continued, “We have a real opportunity to take what we have learned from” the first season of road construction “and make some changes, make some feasible changes that will help us,”

She noted that the primary goal should be to “increase foot traffic to build revenue during the construction,” adding that “access” to businesses was a top concern.

“If I can’t get there, I’m not gonna go shop,” she said.

She noted that, while some are more willing to find parking, in general, if people can’t find a place to stop or

figure out how to get to that storefront or that block, they are just going to drive on through.

She added, “People still think Pagosa is closed for business as a result of the flooding” in October and suggested that a “Pagosa is open campaign ... is something that we should consider.”

However, later in the meeting Tourism Director Jennifer Green explained that, from her end, she was not seeing comments from visitors “about the flood,” but that the comments “had shifted more about the snow.”

“Our local community, obviously, remembers [the flood] well, but the media cycle has changed significantly since then, so we are leaning into, given the lack of snow, a lot of hot springs messaging, and we doing as much as we can to show current situations so that people can see what Pagosa looks like right now,” Green explained. “Wolf Creek, year to date, has had 81 inches of snow.”

She added, “And we are not alone. All of Colorado is definitely suffering through the ... lack of winter.”

Council member Brooks Lindner asked Green, “So, are you suggesting that the comments you are seeing online have shifted to the ‘lack of snow’ and therefore maybe the ‘Pagosa is open’ message is maybe not as relevant as it was post-flood?”

“Yes. That is my personal opinion,”

Green responded.

She continued, “I would also say that we could do a regional campaign that focuses on Durango and maybe South Fork and over in New Mexico and really hit the more frequent visitors” who were concerned about shopping being impacted by the flood.

Green suggested that the “Pagosa is open” campaign should focus more on “the day-trip audience.”

She added that a focus going into spring break would be to emphasize that Wolf Creek has “more snow than New Mexico right now” to pull in more from that audience.

Lindner noted that he thought the town should pull together a campaign that combined what the town faced with the flooding and construction events and “all the proactive things that our community has done and use that as a piece of pillar content.”

Pierce suggested she wanted to “push back on that,” asking that if the flood “is going out of their minds, why bring it back up? Let’s just do the positive side of the messaging.”

Lindner explained he’d like to see a little more data showing that the flood event “has gone out of their minds than just some comments on social media.”

He said, “If anything we’ve benefited from the lack of snow, because Wolf Creek is the only ski area that is 100 percent open.”

Green chimed in to say that it’s not

Airport

■ Continued from front

information,” Ranson said.

Ranson commented that there may have been some communication with the previous BoCC chair, Commissioner Veronica Medina, but expressed that this project needs to be done “professionally.”

“I’m not gonna sign things if I don’t know the facts behind it,” he added, asking who is paying for the engineer that the BoCC is being asked to sign for.

Torres explained the engineer design is part of the project, so it would be split between the county, state and FAA.

Brown asked if the county had budgeted for that expense, with Torres confirming that the cost is in the 2026 county budget.

Ranson explained that he was the one who asked for the matter to be put on the work session agenda, stating, “I am gonna demand better information.”

He added, “We need to know and the public needs to know what the heck’s going on.”

He compared the matter to the county’s administration building situation.

Medina commented that there have been conversations about the project to get it to this point, but noted that it has not been on the top of the BoCC’s priority list, with other events such as historic floods and multiple fire events over the past year taking priority.

Medina also stated that while she was chair of the BoCC, she made sure to share any information she received with her fellow commissioners by asking either the county attorney or county manager to relay information.

Snowpack

■ Continued from front

been able to open 100 percent of the mountain to skiers and borders and has hit record numbers, with its busiest days this season coming over the winter break between Christmas and New Year’s.

According to an email to The SUN from the ski area’s marketing team, “Generally, December 27th through 31st are some of the busiest days of the ski season across the industry. Wolf Creek’s previous busiest day on record was December 28th, 2010, with a skier count of 6,355.”

The email notes that a few factors this season lead to the ski area’s busiest day over the holiday break being Monday, Dec. 29, 2025, “with a skier count of 6,512 skiers/snowboarders.”

The email explains, “Some factors that we believe contributed to the skier count include Telluride being closed, Wolf Creek having 100% of the mountain open with all lifts operating, and nearly 70 inches of snowfall by the end of December. Employees have also worked very hard and farmed roughly 40,000 barrels of snow to supplement the natural snowfall and distribute the

farmed snow throughout the runs/trails where it is needed. Hopefully, there is a change in the weather pattern, and not only Wolf Creek, but all ski areas and resorts see a shift that favors consistent snowfall and cooler, more winterlike weather.”

As of press time Wednesday, the ski area reported a year-to-date snowfall of 81 inches, with a midway snow depth of 35 inches.

No snowfall is predicted for the area for the next week, with multiple forecasts indicating that the next chance for snow may be around Jan. 22-24.

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Broadband manager discusses state of federal funding

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session on Tuesday, Jan. 6, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard from Broadband Services Manager Eric Hittle, who requested a letter to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in support of its Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program funds. The program is a \$42.45 billion federal grant program “that aims to connect every American to high-speed internet by funding partnerships to build infrastructure,” according to the NTIA website.

School

■ Continued from front

multiple access routes, which better support traffic flow.”

She mentioned that traffic congestion was listed as a “con” for the downtown site, but information shared during the April Master Planning Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting included a traffic matrix, “and this shows the cost to the district to mitigate the identified traffic concerns are much lower for the downtown campus.”

She also mentioned the traffic congestion point has been a recurring debate in this discussion, acknowledging there are other points to consider, “but when a point as important as this is presented without the study’s findings it risks shaping perceptions in a way that isn’t fully supported by the evidence before you.”

The next commenter spoke about the distinction between uptown and downtown, stating that people do not like to travel downtown if they do not have multiple things to do there.

She also spoke from the perspective of a business owner.

“My concerns are with the business structure downtown, is we’re spending so much time, money and effort on bettering the downtown area,” she said, explaining that if the school is located uptown it may take away from the culture of the downtown community.

One person commented that he is “leaning” toward the downtown location, noting that the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) Clubhouse near the Vista site is not open to the public.

He also listed off benefits of schools being located near the San Juan River and downtown parks for unique learning opportunities.

The commenter also noted that there has been no formally posted public survey on the site selection.

“So, I feel like the community hasn’t really had the chance to give input on site selection,” he said, also suggesting that the fields at the current elementary school site could potentially be used as a building location.

He also asked the district to consider revenue opportunities, noting that the district has “commercially viable” properties downtown.

Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis commented, “We have this incredible connectivity of trails that can lead you to lots of wonderful destinations downtown,” suggesting that there are no options like that uptown, “and I think the children are gonna miss out on opportunities.”

Lewis also expressed that the BoE has not voiced a preference on either site yet.

“I haven’t heard that yet,” he said.

The next commenter spoke about the possibility of the district repurposing its existing buildings to house community nonprofits.

One commenter stated they’ve been a resident in the county for 50 years and voiced support for the downtown location due to the available amenities for students, including the library being able to offer after-school programs.

“If we’re really thinking about the kids, they need to be downtown,” he said.

Another spoke about environmental sustainability, suggesting that the downtown location is not a sustainable option for the community, stating that those in support of the downtown location are not “encouraging unsustainable behavior on the part of the school board.”

A former school board member spoke in support of the downtown location, stating it is the “best” way to go for the kids.

A parent of a student spoke next, explaining they are recent transplants from central Illinois.

She noted she is in favor of the uptown location, explaining that many students in the PLPOA area would be able to walk or bike to

In June 2023, the NTIA announced allocation amounts for certain eligible uses, which include installing internet and Wi-Fi service in multi-unit residential buildings, deploying or upgrading internet infrastructure and planning for the deployment of high-speed internet.

In June 2025, the NTIA issued new rules for the program, requiring states to reopen bidding to consider all technologies, not just fiber.

On Dec. 2, 2025, the Colorado Broadband Office announced the acquisition of \$420.6 million in federal BEAD funding.

“These funds are earmarked for infrastructure expansion in rural and underserved regions, targeting high-speed access for over 96,000 currently

unserved Coloradans. This initiative aligns with the administration’s commitment to achieve 99% statewide connectivity, providing the foundational infrastructure required for remote work, telehealth, and digital learning,” the website states.

During the work session, Hittle explained that many counties around the state, and in other states, have been petitioning the NTIA “to do what the original plan was,” which was to let states use those funds on all other eligible purposes if it is not going to use BEAD funds for building out to eligible addresses.

“And this letter really talks about the infrastructure side of that,” Hittle said, explaining that Archuleta County still has an “infrastructure gap” and

described that as a “market failure,” noting that is a reason why the county has been in the situation it has been for many years.

“With our middle mile in particular,” he added.

In response to a question from Commissioner Warren Brown, Hittle explained that the state would receive the funds and that secondary petitions would need to go to the state on how to use those funds, noting that middle-mile fiber is “critical for our communications.”

Hittle explained the fiber project along Colo. 151 is “only one piece of the middle-mile issue for Archuleta County,” reiterating that “our biggest issue is redundancy.”

Taylor commented that most of what he heard from ASD staff, not administration, is that they did not prefer the high school site with serious safety concerns about younger and older student conflicts.

“This was brought up by staff,” he said.

Mackey noted there is a cost savings with the Vista site.

Lynch mentioned that the Vista site offers fewer disruptions for students, while Taylor noted the site offers a “pro” for middle school athletics.

BoE member David Iverson noted that there is a community sentiment for the downtown site, while Mackey expressed that the Vista site complicates drop-offs for families.

Schick noted that the Vista site did not poll higher with the community last summer.

She also mentioned that growth projections for the district and the community should be looked at, expressing she wants to have “minimal regret” with making this decision.

She added, “I want us to do this well.”

Lynch encouraged the board to not be shortsighted, noting that “sooner or later, Pagosa’s gonna grow.”

Before concluding the discussion, Holt commented that the district is past the point of delaying this decision to a future board, explaining that the district will keep trying to move forward however it can, regardless of BEST grant decisions, or if a bond measure fails.

Lynch commented, “We want to do the right thing.”

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Sports

WRESTLING

Pirates take second at Rocky Mountain Invitational

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate boys’ wrestling team had a strong weekend coming out of the break, winning two duals on Friday and placing second in their home tournament on Saturday.

“The past weekend was special for the Pagosa Springs High School wrestling program, with action on 4 mats in Pagosa’s home gym, starting at 12:00 noon on Friday and concluding late Saturday afternoon,” coach Dan Janowsky wrote in an email to The SUN.

The boys started the weekend off on Friday, Jan. 9, with duals against Sargent and Durango. The Pirates won both, defeating Sargent 65-12 and defeating Durango 39-34.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, 18 teams from southern Colorado, northern New Mexico and southeast Utah gathered to kick off the boys’ Rocky Mountain Invitational. The lead changed hands amongst the top five teams throughout the day. Going into the finals, the Pirates were sitting in fourth place, but the Pirates won nine matches in the finals to take second place behind Rocky Ford.

The Pirates had two individual champions, three wrestlers place third and four wrestlers place fifth. In total, the Pirates had 11 wrestlers place in the tournament.

Colton Lucero continued his winning ways, going 3-0 in the tournament and 5-0 on the weekend.

Lucero was the champion of the 157-pound bracket, earning 25.5 points for the Pirates. He pinned his first opponent in two minutes and 33 seconds and advanced to semifinals, where he once again pinned his opponent, this time after 1:42 to advance to the championship. Lucero took first place by defeating his opponent via a 19-2 technical fall after 4:09.

Eric Smith was the other Pirate to be crowned champion of his bracket. Wrestling at 132 pounds, Smith went 4-0 at the tournament and earned 28 points with his first-place finish.

Smith pinned his first opponent after 3:10, pinned his second opponent after 4:43 and won his semifinal match via a 8-7 decision to advance to the first-place match. He defeated his opponent by pinning him after 5:11.

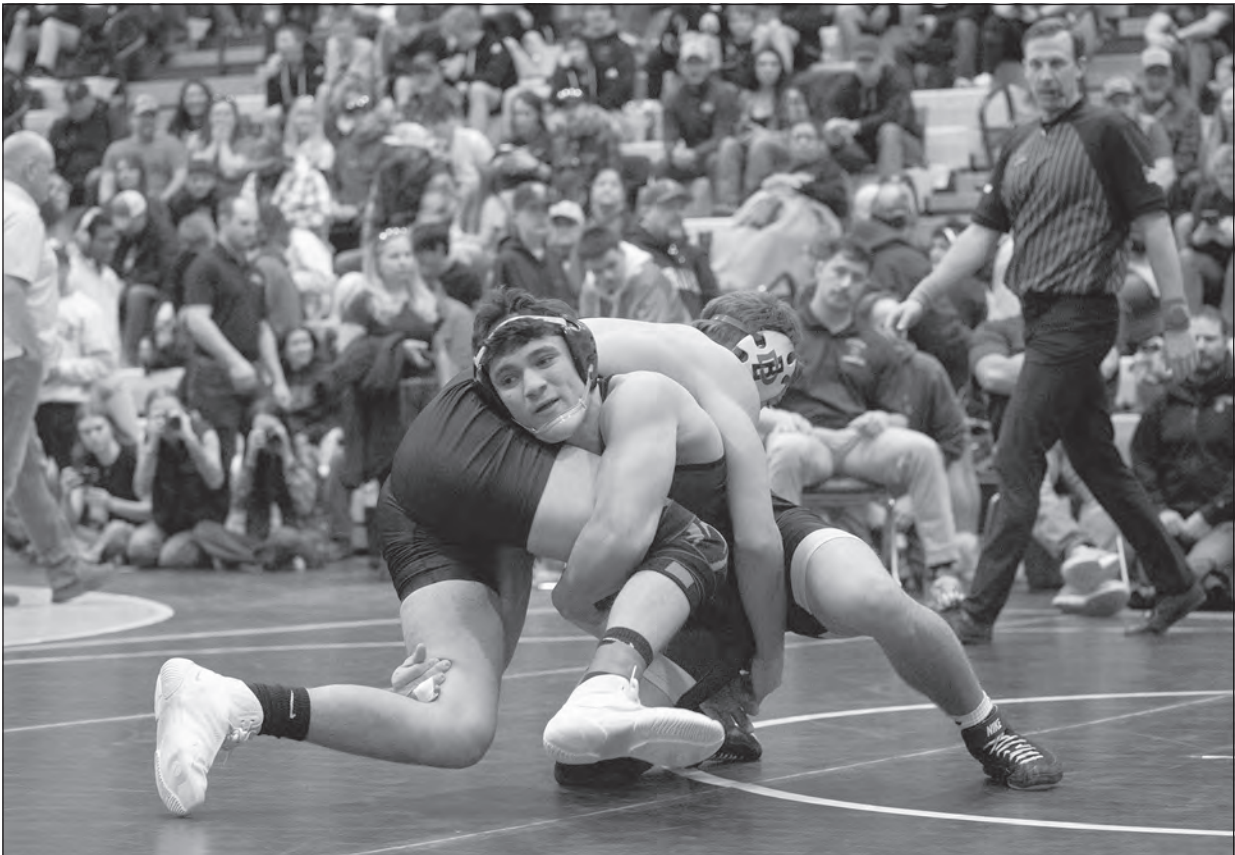
“Eric Smith was rewarded with his steady improvement, winning four matches on the day with no losses and earning his first varsity championship at 132 pounds,” Janowsky highlights.

Wrestling at 144 pounds, Asher McKennie took third place in his bracket with a 4-1 record at the tournament and scored 18 points.

McKennie lost his first match by a 14-10 decision, but bounced back and won four straight. He pinned his first opponent in the consolation bracket in 21 seconds, pinned his next opponent after 1:37, advanced to the third-place match with a 9-3 decision win in the consolation semifinals and claimed third place by defeating his opponent via a 5-3 decision.

Jimmy Elledge also placed third for the Pirates, scoring 20 points while wrestling at 215 pounds.

Elledge won his first match via a 4-1 decision, but lost in the semifinals after being pinned in 2:19. He pinned his next two opponents, the first in the consolation semifinals after 3:31 and



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Colton Lucero works to defeat an opponent during Saturday’s Rocky Mountain Invitational. Lucero took first on the day, with the Pirates finishing second out of 18 teams.

the second to take third place after 4:12.

Hunter Martinez was the final Pirate wrestler to take third at the tournament. Wrestling at 285 pounds, Martinez went 3-1 and scored 17.5 points.

Martinez pinned his first opponent after 2:38, but lost his next match after being pinned in 2:40. He won the consolation semifinal match via a 15-0 technical fall after 3:40 to advance to the third-place match, which he won by pinning his opponent after 4:10.

Wrestling at 150 pounds, Hudson Mazur placed fifth and scored 14.5 team points.

Mazur pinned his first opponent after 3:03, was pinned in his second match after 1:55, won his third match by a 21-1 technical fall and won his fourth match after pinning his opponent after 3:39. Mazur lost in the consolation semifinals on a 7-4 decision, but came back to win the fifth-place match with a 15-13 decision.

Wrestling at 165 pounds, Devin Gonzalez placed fifth and scored 15 points.

Gonzalez won his first match, pinning his opponent after 1:37, but lost in the semifinals after being pinned in 5:33. Gonzalez was pinned after 2:31 in the consolation semifinals, but bounced back and pinned his opponent after 3:38 to take fifth place.

Wrestling at 175 pounds, Ryker Hanson placed fifth and scored 15 points.

Hanson lost his quarterfinal match to start the tournament, being pinned in 3:17. He received a bye and then won his next match by pinning his opponent in 54 seconds to advance to the consolation semifinals. Hanson lost his semifinal matchup, getting pinned after 3:36, but he bounced back to pin his final opponent after 2:53 and take fifth.

Wrestling at 190 pounds, Ty Garcia placed fifth and scored nine team points.

Garcia was pinned in his first match after 1:47, received a bye and then lost via a 11-2 major decision in the consolation semifinals. Garcia bounced back and pinned his op-

ponent after 3:53 to take fifth.

Wrestling at 106 pounds, Garrett Elliot placed sixth and scored 11 points.

Elliot won his first two matches, pinning his first opponent after 2:29 and his second opponent after 54 seconds. He then was pinned after 5:31 in the semifinals, pinned after 1:34 in the consolation semifinals and lost the fifth-place match via a 15-14 decision.

Wrestling at 138 pounds, Stetson Osborn placed sixth and scored 10 team points.

Osborn pinned his first opponent after 1:51, but lost in the quarterfinals after being pinned in 1:16. Osborn bounced back, winning his next two matches, the first by a pin after 2:59 and the second via a 13-12 decision. Osborn then was pinned after 3:52 in the consolation semifinals and lost on a 18-7 major decision in the fifth-place match.

Wrestling at 126 pounds, Johnny Baker placed eighth and scored seven team points.

Baker won his first match, pinning his opponent after 1:05. He then lost his second match via a 17-2 technical fall. Baker received a bye in the second round of the consolation bracket, then dropped his next two matches, the first via a 8-6 decision and the second via a pin after 2:09.

Wrestling at 132 pounds, Noah Bellina did not place. Bellina went 0-2, losing via a 18-3 technical fall in the first round and getting pinned after 2:56 in the second round.

Wrestling at 138 pounds, Mark Ray did not place. Ray was pinned in 38 seconds in his first match and lost via a technical fall score of 15-0 in his second match.

Wrestling at 138 pounds, Gage Sams did not place. Sams lost his first match after being pinned in 2:52. He came back to win his second match via a 15-0 technical fall, but lost his third match via a 26-9 technical fall.

Wrestling at 144 pounds, Gabe Ramirez did not place. Ramirez was pinned in his first match after 3:30

and was pinned in his second match after 2:08.

Wrestling at 144 pounds, Vinny Fish did not place. Fish was pinned in his first match after 2:45, but he came back to pin fellow teammate Ramirez after 2:08. Fish then lost in the second round of the consolation bracket after being pinned in 2:15.

The Pirates will head to Farmington, N.M., for the Clash at the Coliseum on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16-17. Action will begin at 9 a.m. both days.

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BASKETBALL

Pirates fall to Demons, will host Monte Vista Friday

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The 4A Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team lost a close matchup to the 5A Durango Demons 50-45 on Tuesday, Jan. 13, to move to 2-7 overall on the season.

“It was tough,” said coach Brandon Forster after the game. “We didn’t play to our best.”

The Pirates got down early in the game and were stuck battling back from the deficit in the second, third and fourth quarters, Forster explained.

The boys were able to tie it up in the fourth quarter, but the Demons made their foul shots after a couple of Pirate fouls and were able to close the game out with a win.

“We kind of let their pressure get to us. We need to work on being more

composed when that happens,” said Forster when talking about how the Pirates got down early.

The Pirates had three players in double figures: Creede Dozier led the team with 14 points, Duke Ketchum scored 12 and Ty Richey had 10. Bode Hubbard and Jeremiah Jones each had four, and Kasen Limebrook rounded out the scoring with one point.

The Pirates hauled down 21 rebounds as a team. Jones and Dozier each had five, Ketchum had four, Richey had three, Jerry Dean had two, and Hubbard and Jayton Ross each finished with one.

As a team, the Pirates assisted on six of their 19 made field goals, shot 50 percent from the field, 50 percent from the free-throw line, 13 percent from the 3-point line and had 21 turnovers.

The Pirates are still searching for the first win of the new year, but Forster emphasized that this team has no quit and they will continue to fight.

The Pirates just have to control themselves and play composed, he added.

The Pirates will have games on back-to-back days this week.

The team will host 3A Monte Vista, who is 5-2 on the season, on Friday, Jan. 16, beginning at 7 p.m. They will then travel to Ignacio to take on the 3A Ignacio Bobcats, who are 6-3, on Saturday, Jan. 17. Saturday’s tipoff is set for 4 p.m.

“Monte Vista has been playing well,” said Forster. “Ignacio played really well early in the season in the Aztec tournament, so, you know, we’ve got our work cut out for us, but [we’re] putting our nose to the grindstone.”

WRESTLING

Lady Pirates win inaugural home tournament

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team hosted the first-ever Rocky Mountain Girls Invitational on Friday, Jan. 9, winning the inaugural tournament to kick off the new year.

“The new year marked a new era for the girls wrestling division, as Pagosa hosted its first Rocky Mountain Invitational Girls Tournament,” coach Dan Janowsky wrote in an email to The SUN. “The Pagosa girls showed their skills and wrestling knowledge throughout the day, taking first place in the team race out of a field of 8 teams.”

Snow accumulations barred several teams from making it to the tournament, but the show went on for the eight teams in attendance, Janowsky notes.

The Lady Pirates had three champions, three wrestlers placed second and one wrestler placed third. Overall, the Lady Pirates had 10 wrestlers placed in the tournament.

Janowsky highlights that after the tournament several of the girls are getting recognition in the state’s On the Mat rankings.

Wrestling at 110 pounds, Madisen Stretton took first place after going 4-0, improving her season record to 13-2.

Stretton pinned her first three opponents to reach the first place match, the first after one minute and 37 seconds, the second after 1:22 and the third after 2:39. Stretton won the championship via a 19-2 technical fall after 4:48, scoring 17.5 team points.

Bella Jackson wrestled at 105 pounds and also took first place in her bracket after going 2-0.

Jackson received a bye in the first round, pinned her next opponent in 45 seconds and won her final match by a 9-0 major decision. Jackson scored 19 points for the Lady Pirates and is now 12-3 on the year.

Laykyn Baxstrom also placed first for the Lady Pirates while wrestling at 190 pounds.

Baxstrom placed first without hav-

ing to wrestle, receiving a bye in both rounds. Baxstrom scored eight points for the Lady Pirates and remained undefeated at 12-0 on the season.

Kyle Matyniak placed second for the Lady Pirates and scored 12 points while wrestling at 130 pounds.

Matyniak won her first three matches of the day, the first by fall after 2:32, the second by fall after 3:28 and the third via a disqualification. Matyniak lost in the first-place match via a 9-5 decision. Matyniak’s 3-1 performance at the tournament moved her season record to 12-5.

Audrina Smith placed second for the Lady Pirates while wrestling at 135 pounds.

“The new year marked a new era for the girls wrestling division, as Pagosa hosted its first Rocky Mountain Invitational Girls Tournament.”
Coach Dan Janowsky

Smith won her first match, pinning her first opponent after 2:22, then she received a bye in the second round and was pinned in the third round after 1:54 to take second place. Smith scored 14 points for the Lady Pirates and is now 10-6 on the year.

Wrestling at 125 pounds, Corrina Galabota placed second for the Lady Pirates.

Galabota took an unusual route to her second-place finish, losing to the same opponent twice. She was pinned after 3:04 the first time and after 2:56 the second time.

Neveah Castaneda placed third for the Lady Pirates and scored seven points while wrestling at 115 pounds.

Castaneda was pinned by her first opponent after 3:45, but pinned her next two opponents, the first in 42 seconds and the second in 38 sec-



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Madisen Stretton eyes the clock during a match at the team’s first-ever home tournament on Friday, Jan. 9. Stretton, as well as the team, took first on the day.

onds. Castaneda then lost her final match by being pinned in 1:43.

While wrestling at 110 pounds, Carli Duncan placed fourth.

Duncan lost to her first opponent after being pinned in 1:17, was pinned by her second opponent after 3:26 and was pinned by Stretton after 2:39 in her third match. Duncan ended the

tournament with a win, defeating her final opponent by pin after 1:08.

While wrestling at 115 pounds, MacKayla Beach placed fourth.

Beach won her first match via a 7-4 decision. She then subsequently lost her next three matches, the first by fall after 42 seconds, the second by fall after 1:41 and the third by fall

after 23 seconds.

Kelsey Matyniak wrestled at 120 pounds and placed fifth for the Lady Pirates, scoring eight points.

She received a bye in the quarterfinal, then lost in the semifinal by fall after 1:34 and the consolation semifinal by fall after 49 seconds. She bounced back, though, winning the

fifth-place match by a 20-10 major decision.

The Lady Pirates will head to Edwards to compete in the Queens of the Mountain tournament on Saturday, Jan. 17, at Battle Mountain High School, with action beginning at 9 a.m.

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates drop matchup against Durango

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The 4A Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team lost 53-34 to the 5A Durango Demons on Tuesday, Jan. 13, falling to 0-3 after the winter break and 3-6 on the season.

The Lady Pirates fell behind early, finishing the first half down 20-9.

The Lady Pirates were outscored 18-8 in the third quarter, falling behind 38- 17 heading into the fourth.

The Lady Pirates outscored their hosts 17-15 in the fourth quarter, but returned home with the loss.

Liana Vega led the team in scoring with 12 points. Amber Snarr and Adelyn Hittle each had seven points, Charity Domingo had three points, and Kaila Limebrook and Ximena Garcia each had two points to round out the scoring for the Lady Pirates.

Snarr and Vega each led the team with six rebounds. Hittle finished with five, Garcia and Limebrook each

had three, and Lexi Campbell had two. The team had 25 rebounds total.

As a team the girls assisted on six of their 10 made field goals, shot 58 percent from the foul line, finished with eight steals and turned the ball over 19 times.

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

The Lady Pirates have two games coming up this week, with the first

being a home contest against 3A Monte Vista (6-1) on Friday, Jan. 16, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Monte Vista’s Pirates are 6-1 on the season.

Pagosa’s Lady Pirates will travel to Ignacio and take on the 3A Ignacio Bobcats beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17.

The Bobcats own a 1-8 record on the season.

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Play hard, Pirates!

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Town Invests \$7.7 Million to Enhance Infrastructure, Safety, and Utility Reliability Along US 160

As part of the Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) U.S. Highway 160 Reconstruction Project, the Town is making a \$7.7 million local investment to deliver long-term infrastructure upgrades that extend beyond the scope of the state-funded roadway work. These Town-funded improvements focus on pedestrian access, modern lighting, improved drainage, fire protection, and critical utility reliability, ensuring that Main Street and adjacent corridors serve residents, businesses, and visitors for decades to come.

While CDOT’s project will reconstruct the roadway, sidewalks, bike lanes, storm drainage, and accessibility features along US 160, the Town has strategically coordinated its own investments to complete underground utility work and streetscape enhancements simultaneously, minimizing future disruptions and maximizing taxpayer value.

Learn more at pagosasprings.co.gov/US160-Investment

Serve Your Community on Town Council

On Tuesday, April 7, Pagosa Springs voters will elect a Mayor and three Town Council members. If you are interested in serving on the Town Council and giving back to the community, eligible candidates must complete a nomination petition packet and return it to the Town Clerk’s office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26. Learn more at pagosasprings.co.gov/327/Town-Clerk.

Town Allocates \$88,000 to Early Childcare and Education Funding

The Town is accepting funding requests from organizations seeking to provide and expand early childcare and education opportunities in our community. The Town Council has approved \$88,000 from the General Fund to help support daycare centers, in-home daycares, and other childcare needs in 2026. Apply online at pagosasprings.co.gov/2026-ECE-Funding.



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SWIMMING



Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Lady Pirate Gianna Shaeffer outpaces her opponent during the team's meet in Grand Junction on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Lady Pirates log personal bests at Grand Junction meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team traveled to Grand Junction on Saturday, Jan. 10, to take part in their first meet back after the winter break.

"The meet went really well," wrote coach Heather Miller in an email to The SUN. "I hoped for a few best times but we had seventeen best times with a few being really big time drops."

The Lady Pirates placed seventh as a team, scoring 111 points across 10 events.

The first event of the meet was the 200-yard medley relay.

The team of Grace Cram, Gianna Schaeffer, Natalia Monterroso and Katelyn Fricke placed 13th with a time of two minutes, 34.18 seconds. The team of Brooklyn Trujillo, Angela Gomez, Kailey Vincent and Cheyenne Trujillo placed 18th with a time of 3:02.25. The team of Avery Book, Lucia Rivera, Kaillen Taylor and Angelique Buffum placed 20th with a time of 3:24.85. The team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Asia Gorman was disqualified.

The 200-yard freestyle was the second event. Brooklyn Trujillo was the top finisher for the Lady Pirates, swimming a 3:16.60 to take 24th. She also dropped 13.27 seconds from her previous fastest time. Rivera swam a 3:34.80, placing her 25th.

Gorman placed ninth in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2:56.03, and Shaeffer placed 14th with a time of 3:14.89.

Both girls dropped over seven seconds off their previous fastest times, with Gorman dropping 7.13 seconds and Shaeffer dropping 16.84 seconds.

In the fourth event, the 50-yard

freestyle, six of the 10 swimmers swam their best times.

Gantt swam a personal best 29.13 seconds and placed 13th. Fricke swam a personal best 32.16 and placed 26th. Gomez swam a personal best 34.34 and placed 32nd. Monterroso swam a 34.96 and placed 34th, Cheyenne Trujillo swam a 36.76 and placed 42nd, and Vincent swam a 37.63 and placed 45th. Book swam a personal best 37.64 and placed 46th. Buffum swam a 38.48 and placed 51st. Isabela Forster swam a personal best 39.71 and placed 55th. Arya Patel swam a personal best 45.71 and placed 59th.

"The meet went really well. I hoped for a few best times but we had seventeen best times with a few being really big time drops."
Coach Heather Miller

The 100-yard butterfly was the sixth event. Gantt placed sixth for the Lady Pirates, swimming a 1:14.52. Cram placed 13th after swimming a 1:51.24. Taylor was disqualified.

Three Lady Pirates competed in the 100-yard freestyle. Hedgecock placed 17th after swimming a 1:09.20. Blackman posted a personal best time of 1:22.80, dropping 1.89 seconds, and placed 41st. Forster posted a personal best time of 1:29.63, dropping 14.64 seconds, and placed 49th.

The eighth event was the 500-yard freestyle. Gorman placed ninth for the Lady Pirates with her personal best time of 6:45.59, dropping 8.07

seconds. Gomez placed 13th with a time of 8:00.09, Rivera placed 15th with a time of 9:24.55, and Vincent placed 16th with a time of 9:41.89.

The ninth event was the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The team of Gantt, Cram, Hedgecock and Gorman placed ninth with a time of 2:03.81. The team of Fricke, Monterroso, Blackman and Shaeffer placed 17th with a time of 2:15.25. The team of Cheyenne Trujillo, Brooklyn Trujillo, Vincent and Gomez placed 20th with a time of 2:28.43. The team of Book, Forster, Patel and Buffum placed 23rd with a time of 2:52.73.

Though the team of Gantt, Cram, Hedgecock and Gorman did not reach the time of 2:02.00 to qualify for the state meet, Miller notes she believes they can get it at their next meet.

The 100-yard backstroke was the 10th event.

The Lady Pirates had eight swimmers competing in the event, three of whom swam personal bests. Hedgecock was the top Lady Pirate finisher, placing 22nd after swimming a 1:25.88. Cram swam a 1:34.14 and placed 31st. Monterroso swam a personal best time of 1:37.72 and placed 35th. Cheyenne Trujillo swam a 1:41.47 and placed 38th, Book swam a 1:46.48 and placed 41st, and Brooklyn Trujillo swam a 1:48.74 and placed 42nd. Both Buffum and Taylor swam personal best times. Buffum dropped 2.75 seconds and swam a 2:11.06, placing 45th. Taylor dropped 17.43 seconds and swam a 2:40.47, placing 46th.

The last event of the meet for the Lady Pirates was the 100-yard breaststroke.

Shaeffer placed 11th after swimming a 1:27.19. Blackman finished 15th after swimming a 1:31.30. Fricke and Patel each swam personal best

times. Fricke dropped 9.54 seconds and swam a 1:36.18, placing 21st. Patel dropped 8.76 seconds and swam a 2:17.41, placing 31st.

The Lady Pirates will be in the pool again this Friday, Jan. 16, in Montrose, with action set to begin at 5 p.m.

"We are continuing some endurance work this week and adding in a little speed work as well," wrote Miller when talking about their preparation this week.

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Photo courtesy Susan Adams

Two bald eagles are spotted in front of Pagosa Peak during the December 2025 Christmas Bird Count.



Photo courtesy Charles Martinez

A white-winged dove is photographed during the December 2025 Christmas Bird Count.

Christmas Bird Count results in lower total numbers, more species counted

By Keith Bruno and Jean Zirnhehl
Weminuche Audubon Society

The December 2025 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) marked 126 years of this winter bird census in the Western Hemisphere.

The project has grown to include not only portions of the Northern Hemisphere reaching as far north as the Arctic Bay in Canada, but also as far south as the Drake Passage in South America. This monumental community science annual inventory creates a 24-hour snapshot of resident winter bird populations.

Locally, the Weminuche Audubon Society chapter has hosted annual counts for the last 15 years.

With open water and largely bare ground, 74 birders fanned out to cover a 15-mile diameter circle on Dec. 14, 2025. The conditions were oddly warm for “a winter’s day,” with highs in the mid-50s.

The overwhelming sentiment from the group was that bird numbers seemed notably low. Participants tallied 71 species in the field and at feeders for a total bird count of 4,453 birds.

A closer look at the dataset reveals that though we had the second highest species count in the past five years (the highest being 78 in 2024), our total number of birds was the third lowest and down about 1,600 birds overall from last year.

Concerning? Yes, especially when you look at the national numbers, which indicate a continued downward trend and loss of overall birds throughout the Northern and Southern hemispheres, despite increased CBC participation.

These findings are most noticeable since the year 2014, when total bird numbers registered 20-plus million more birds overall than are counted today across the sampled area. Long-standing data trends continue to reflect impacts from climate change equating to birds shifting their winter ranges to the north.

Let’s look closer at the numbers locally.

Open water naturally equated to some species of waterfowl lingering longer than normal and even to finding some species that we haven’t observed for several years such as canvasbacks.

With open water on water bodies like Echo Lake, the species with the highest count was the American coot, a little-known semi-aquatic rail species that often behaves like waterfowl, tallying 467 (up from 167 last year).

In December of 2024 we found American robins seemingly every-

■ See Count B2



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27 Talisman Rd.



Federal officials threaten to take over Colorado wolf reintroduction program

By Meryl Phair
Staff Writer

Colorado's three-year-old, voter-approved wolf reintroduction program is facing a potential federal takeover, as the Trump administration threatens to revoke the authority of Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) over the effort.

In a letter dated Dec. 18, 2025, addressed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik to CPW Acting Director Lauren Clellan, Fish and Wildlife formally requested the state address compliance issues identified in an existing memorandum of agreement between the two agencies.

With a deadline of Jan. 18, the letter requests the state submit a complete report of all gray wolf conservation and management activities from Dec. 12, 2023, when the first wave of wolves was released in the Rocky Mountains, to the present.

If the report is not received within the allotted 30-day deadline, Fish and Wildlife will pursue legal alternatives, including a management takeover of all wolves in Colorado. This could include terminating the special permit allowing the state to lead the reintroduction, a move that would allow the federal government to pursue relocation and lethal removal of wolves "as determined necessary," the letter states.

Wolf reintroduction in Colorado has been controversial from the start.

CPW has been tasked with juggling the complex initiative along with

balancing the impact of introducing a predator on the landscape with the concerns of Colorado ranchers and stockgrowers who bear the economic brunt of reintroduction.

The growing tensions have recently reached the federal level as a bill to delist wolves as an endangered species passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on Dec. 18, 2025.

"Colorado is prioritizing wolves over American ranchers," U.S. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum wrote in a social media post following the bill's passage. "In January [2025], they released 15 wolves into the wild with no warning and recently re-released a wolf from a pack known to kill livestock. This is a warning: if Colorado does not get control of the wolves immediately, we will!"

The issues noted by Burgum are the core of the letter sent to CPW, with Nesvik identifying two major compliance issues within the correspondence.

The first deals with the release of 15 wolves captured in British Columbia in January 2025.

Nesvik claims the state violated existing terms by bringing wolves across the border, according to recently updated federal guidelines that wolves could only be sourced from Northern Rockies states where they are not listed as endangered.

In an October letter to CPW, Fish and Wildlife identified those areas as Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and Utah.

Colorado had an agreement to source 15 more Canadian wolves for this year's third wave of reintroduction, but British Columbia has since backed out in response to Nesvik's letter. The state has since been unable to secure a source population from other states or tribal nations.

The second issue in the most recent correspondence from Nesvik states, "On Dec. 17, 2025, USFWS was informed that CPW recently released a wolf from a pack with a confirmed history of depredation."

The wolf in question was a young male from the Copper Creek Pack, a group associated with multiple reports of livestock kills. The wolf wandered into New Mexico before a capture-and-release operation between the neighboring states returned the wolf to Grand County.

CPW acknowledged the wolf was responsible for the death of a cow on Nov. 22 in Gunnison County just weeks earlier.

Since releasing wolves with a history of killing livestock is not recommended per Colorado's wolf management plan, Nesvik suggests Colorado could be at fault for violating its agreement with the federal government.

As the federal tensions escalate, the recently passed House bill could further muddy the management waters. While passed in the House, the bill would need to make it through the Senate to become law. If the push to remove wolves from the U.S. Endan-

gered Species list becomes codified, management authority of wolves would be returned to the states and Colorado could continue to have control over wolf management without federal oversight.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Count

■ Continued from B1

where and counted 452. This year we found one. Townsend's solitaire numbers also took a dive from 30 to five. Both of these thrush species rely on berries, including those of juniper, for winter food.

Lewis's woodpecker and red crossbill numbers were also way down, likely a response to diminished food (acorns and pine nuts) availability this winter.

A common question from observers across our count circle was, "Where are all of the dark-eyed juncos?" The number of these altitudinal forest migrants dropped from 383 to 45, likely a response to food access at

higher elevations with a lower-than-average snowpack.

The impacts of October's notable flood event directly impacted numbers of birds on the San Juan River. To note, numbers of common mergansers, dependent on fish fry, and goldeneye sp., dependent on aquatic macroinvertebrate, were notably down when compared to five-year totals.

On a positive note, both pygmy and white-breasted nuthatch numbers increased over those of 2024.

Our mild temperatures found lots of fat prairie dogs out and about, food for watchful raptors. Participants tallied nine golden eagles, 17 bald eagles, 38 red-tailed hawks, one

Cooper's hawk, two sharp-shinned hawks, three ferruginous hawks and a prairie falcon across the eight zones for the CBC.

An exciting discovery, two northern pygmy owls were spotted on count day, and one great-horned owl was identified during count week.

While previously only seen during count week, a white-winged dove was spotted on count day.

We would like to extend our thanks to the volunteers who got out to log birds for the count. Also, many thanks to the landowners who allowed us passage on private lands to view birds, allowing for a more rounded and accurate count.

Public Notices

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 ENCMBERED 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 all issue to the purchaser a Certificate of Purchase, all as provided by law.
First Publication 12/25/2025
Last Publication 1/22/2026
Name of Publication Pagosa Springs Sun
IF THE SALE DATE IS CONTINUED TO A LATER DATE, THE DEADLINE TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO CURE BY THOSE PARTIES ENTITLED TO CURE MAY ALSO BE EXTENDED;
DATE: 10/22/2025

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: /s/ Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Alison L. Berry #34531
Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (855) 263-9295 Attorney File # 25-035715
The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect 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, WATER DIVISION 7, COLORADO WATER RESUME
(This publication can be viewed in its entirety on the state court website at: www.coloradajudicial.gov).

TO: ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN WATER APPLICATIONS IN SAID WATER DIVISION NO. 7
Pursuant to C.R.S. §7-62-302, you are notified that the following is the resume of all water right applications filed in the Office of the Water Clerk during the month of December 2025, for Archuleta County.
2025CW3037 Archuleta County Application for Conditional Underground Water Rights and Conditional Surface Water Rights. A. Applicant: Lucky K Holdings, LLC, a Florida limited liability company 11643 CR 600

Pagosa Springs, CO 81147 Telephone: (561) 747-7300
c/o Wayne F. Forman and Jack A. Wolf-McCimsey at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP 675 15th Street, Suite 2100 Denver, Colorado 80202 Telephone: (303) 223-1100
b. New Conditional Underground Water Right. 1. Lucky K Gallery Well: a. Legal Description: SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 2, Township 36.0 N., Range 2.5 W., New Mexico P.M.; UTM Zone 13, NAD83, 4139975m N, 310172m E; Archuleta County, Colorado. See Figures 1 and 2. b. Source: Groundwater tributary to Spring Creek, tributary to O'Neal Creek, tributary to the Piedra River. c. Surface Area of Exposed Groundwater: 0.0 acres. d. Maximum Pumping Rate: 25 gallons per minute (gpm), or 0.0557 cubic feet per second (cfs). e. Appropriation Date: March 25, 2025. (1) How appropriation initiated: By the formation of an intent to appropriate, submitting notice of a change of ownership for the well permit (permit #B4928 F), preparation of an engineering report, and filing the Application in this matter. (2) Date water applied to beneficial use: N/A. i. Uses: To fill and successively refill Spring Pond, domestic, irrigation, recreation, piscatorial, firefighting, wildlife enhancement, and stock watering. g. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 5 acres in portions of the SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 2, Township 36.0 N., Range 2.5 W. New Mexico P.M.; UTM Zone 13, NAD83; Archuleta County, Colorado. See Figure 2. Approximately 2.1 of the 5.0 acres of the area irrigated by the Lucky K Gallery Well are also irrigated by the Spring Creek Reservoir. See Decree CA 73-3080, issued December 19, 1968, Priority No. 1968-48, Archuleta County District Court (detailing location and associated water rights of the Spring Creek Reservoir). c. New Conditional Storage Water Rights. 1. Spring Pond: a. Legal Description: SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 2 Township 36.0 N., Range 2.5 W., New Mexico P.M.; UTM Zone 13, NAD83, 4140051m N, 310174m E; Archuleta County, Colorado. See Figures 1 and 2. b. Surface Area: 0.75 acres. c. Total Capacity: The estimated total capacity is 7.0 acre-feet. (1) Active Capacity: 2.05 acre-feet. (2) Dead Storage: 4.95 acre-feet. d. Type: Unlined, on-channel. e. Dam length: Approximately 200 feet. f. Dam height: Approximately 5 feet. g. Amount Claimed: 7.0 acre-feet per year, conditional, subject to as-built storage capacity. h. Source: Spring Creek, tributary to O'Neal Creek, tributary to the Piedra River, including tributary groundwater via the Lucky K Gallery Well and natural surface inflow. i. Appropriation Date: June 11, 2025. (1) How appropriation initiated: By the formation of an intent to appropriate, filing the notice of intent to construct a non-jurisdictional water impoundment structure, developing engineering plans to construct the pond, and filing the Application in this matter. (2) Date water applied to beneficial use: N/A. j. Uses: Storage, irrigation, stock watering, augmentation, and wildlife. k. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 25 acres in portions of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4; SW 1/4 NW 1/4; NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 2, Township 36.0 N Range 2.5 W New Mexico P.M.; UTM Zone 13, NAD83; Archuleta County, Colorado. See Figure 2. All of the 11 acres irrigated by the Spring Pond are also irrigated by the Spring Creek Reservoir. 2. East Pond: a. Legal Description: NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 2 Township 36.0 N Range 2.5 W New Mexico P.M.; UTM Zone 13, NAD83, 4139899m N, 310246m E; Archuleta County, Colorado. See Figures 1 and 2. b. Surface Area: 0.77 acres. c. Total Capacity: The estimated total capacity is 3.3 acre-feet. (1) Active Capacity: 3.09 acre-feet. (2) Dead Storage: 0.21 acre-feet. d. Type: Unlined, on-channel. e. Dam length: Approximately 150 feet. f. Dam height: Approximately 9 feet. g. Amount Claimed: 3.3 acre-feet per year, conditional, subject to as-built storage capacity. h. Source: Spring Creek, tributary to O'Neal Creek, tributary to the Piedra River. i. Appropriation Date: June 11, 2025. (1) How appropriation initiated: By the formation of an intent to appropriate, filing the notice of intent to construct a non-jurisdictional water impoundment structure, developing engineering plans to construct the pond, and filing the Application in this matter. (2) Date water applied to beneficial use: N/A. j. Uses: Storage, irrigation, stock watering, augmentation, and wildlife. k. Irrigated Area Description: Approximately 25 acres in portions of the NW 1/4 NW 1/4; SW 1/4 NW 1/4; NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 2, Township 36.0 N Range 2.5 W New Mexico P.M.; UTM Zone 13, NAD83; Archuleta County, Colorado. See Figure 2. All of the 25 acres irrigated by the East Pond are also irrigated by the Spring Creek Reservoir. d. Prayers For Relief. 1. Applicant requests a decree granting the new conditional underground water right and new conditional storage water rights described in Sections B and C of this Application. For any conditional water rights requested by this Application that are put to beneficial use during the pendency of this Application, Applicant seeks a decree

awarding absolute water rights for those structures. 2. Applicant further requests such additional relief as the Court deems necessary and appropriate to further the purposes of the rights requested herein. (8 pages including exhibits)
THE WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED BY THE FOREGOING APPLICATION(S) MAY AFFECT IN PRIORITY ANY WATER RIGHTS CLAIMED OR HERETOFORE ADJUDICATED WITHIN THIS DIVISION AND OWNERS OF AFFECTED RIGHTS MUST APPEAR TO OBJECT AND PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY STATUTE, OR BE FOREVER BARRED.
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE until the last day of February 2026, to file with the Water Clerk, a verified Statement of Opposition, setting forth facts as to why a certain application should not be granted or why it should be granted only in part or on certain conditions. A copy of such Statement of Opposition must also be served upon the applicant or the applicant's attorney and an affidavit or certificate of such service shall be filed with the Water Clerk, as prescribed by Rule 5, CRCP. (Filing fee: \$192.00; Forms are available through the Office of the Water Clerk or on the Judicial web site at: www.coloradajudicial.gov; Jason Poyer, Water Court Specialist, 1060 E. 2nd Ave., Room 106, Durango, CO 81301; 970-247-2304) /s/ Jason Poyer
Water Court Specialist
Published: before January 31, 2026
Published: January 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (285192)

Notice of Annual Meeting of Pine River Irrigation District
Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the PINE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT will be held at the Bayfield High School Performing Arts Auditorium (South 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*. (283349)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a public meeting shall be held concerning the following project:
Pine Valley Church Rezoning Project No. 2025-10
The Bayfield Town Trustees shall hold a public hearing on **February 3, 2026 at 6:30pm** concerning the following request:
A request to rezone 60.76 acres of (R-10) Single-Family Residential to (A) Agricultural.
The location of the property is generally 601 Dove Ranch Road.
Assessor Parcel No.: 567701201021.
The public hearing shall be held at Bayfield Town Hall, 1199 Bayfield Parkway, Bayfield, Colorado, or at such other time or place in the event this hearing is adjourned.
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS MAY ATTEND
Legal Description:
Subdivision: Pine Valley Church Outlots Subdivision; Replat of Dove Ranch Unit 1, Phase 2, Remainder Parcel Located in Government Lots 3 & 4, Section1, T34N, R7W, NMPM; Town of Bayfield, county of La Plata, State of Colorado.
Published January 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (285191)

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)

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR QUALIFYING SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS WITH A DISABILITY, GOLD STAR VETERAN SPOUSES AND QUALIFIED SENIOR PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTACT:
Sherry Boyce - Hinsdale County Assessor
PO Box 26
Lake City, CO 81235
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 970-944-2225 ext. 140
The Colorado Constitution establishes a property tax exemption for senior citizens, veterans with a disability and gold star veteran spouses. For those who qualify, 50 percent of the first \$200,000 in actual value of the primary residence is exempted from property tax. The State of Colorado pays the property taxes on the exempted value. Qualifying seniors are urged to submit applications if they have not yet done so.
SENIOR CITIZEN EXEMPTION:
Basic Qualifications - Generally, each of the following statements must be true to qualify for the senior citizen exemption. The qualifying senior:
• Must be at least 65 years old on January 1 of the year the application is filed; and
• Must be the current owner of record, and listed as the owner of record for at least 10 consecutive years prior to January 1; and
• Must occupy the property as his/her primary residence, and must have done so for at least 10 consecutive years prior to January 1.
• Surviving spouses of previously qualified senior citizens may be able to continue receiving the exemption with a long form application.
Exceptions to Basic Qualifications - The applicant may still qualify if one or more of the following statements are true:

- Ownership is in the spouse's name, and the spouse also occupies the property;
- Ownership has been transferred to or purchased by a trust, corporate partnership or other legal entity solely for estate planning purposes;
- The qualifying senior or his/her spouse was or is confined to a health care facility;
- The applicant was forced to move when the prior residence was condemned in an eminent domain proceeding;
- The applicant is the surviving spouse of a senior who met the requirements on January 1, 2002, or on any January 1 thereafter.
- The qualifying senior citizen's prior residence was destroyed or otherwise rendered uninhabitable by a natural disaster.

How to Apply - To apply, you must complete the appropriate application form and return it to the assessor by July 15. The assessor must accept late applications until August 17. The "Short Form" application may be used by qualifying senior citizens who meet each of the basic qualifications. The "Long Form" application must be used by applicants who satisfy one or more of the exceptions to the basic qualifications. If you would like to receive an application form or a brochure that explains the senior citizen exemption in greater detail, or if you have any questions regarding the exemption, please call the assessor's office at 970-944-2225 ext. 140
VETERAN WITH A DISABILITY EXEMPTION:
Basic Qualifications - Generally, each of the following statements must be true to qualify:

- The applicant must be a veteran who sustained a service-connected disability while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States. This includes members of the National Guard and Reserves who sustained injuries while serving on active duty;
- The applicant must have been honorably discharged;
- The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has rated the applicant's service-connected disability as a one hundred percent permanent disability through disability retirement benefits pursuant to a law or regulation administered by the department, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, or the Department of the Army, Navy, or Air Force. Starting in tax year 2025, applicants who do not have a 100% disability rating but

have been awarded individual unemployability status as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs are also eligible for the program.

- The applicant must be the owner of record and must have been the owner of record since January 1 of the current year; and
- The applicant must have occupied the property as his/her primary residence since January 1 of the current year.

• In many cases, an eligible surviving spouse of a previously qualified disabled veteran may continue to receive the exemption by submitting a disabled veteran surviving spouse form to the assessor's office.

• Exceptions to Basic Qualifications - The applicant may still qualify if one or more of the following statements are true:

- Ownership is in the spouse's name, and the spouse also occupies the property;
- Ownership has been transferred to or purchased by a trust, corporate partnership or other legal entity solely for estate planning purposes;
- The qualifying veteran with a disability or his/her spouse was or is confined to a health care facility.
- The applicant was forced to move when the prior residence was condemned in an eminent domain proceeding.
- The applicant is the surviving spouse of a previously qualified veteran who met the requirements through the Colorado Division of Veterans Affairs.

GOLD STAR VETERAN SPOUSE EXEMPTION:
Basic Qualifications - The applicant may qualify if the following statements are true:

- The surviving spouse was legally married to a qualifying Gold Star Veteran that has passed away; and
 - Ownership is in the surviving spouse's name and was the primary residence of the surviving spouse as of January 1 in the year of the application; and
 - The surviving spouse cannot have remarried.
- How to Apply** - To apply, you must complete the appropriate application form and return it to the assessor by July 1. The assessor may accept late applications until August 3 if the applicant can show good cause for missing the July 1 deadline. The surviving spouse of a prequalified veteran must apply directly to the assessor's office no later than July 1. If you would like to receive an application form or a brochure that explains the disabled veteran exemption in greater detail, or if you have any questions regarding the exemption,

please call the assessor's office at 970-944-2225 ext. 140

QUALIFIED SENIOR PRIMARY RESIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION:

A qualified senior primary residential property tax classification is available for tax years 2025 and 2026. This allows property owners who moved and lost their senior exemption, or will move in 2025 or 2026, to have it temporarily reinstated for their new primary residence, if they meet certain requirements. For those who qualify, 50 percent of the first \$200,000 in actual value of their primary residence real property is not taxable, unless it causes the assessed value to drop below \$1,000.

- Application requirements are as follows
- The applicant must have previously qualified for, and received, the senior property tax exemption in property tax year 2020 or later, but are not currently receiving it; and
- The applicant must be the owner of record and must have been the owner of record since January 1 of the current year; and
- The applicant must have occupied the property as his/her primary residence since January 1 of the current year.

Exceptions to Basic Qualifications - The applicant may still qualify if one or more of the following statements are true:

- Ownership is in the spouse's name, and the spouse also occupies the property;
- Ownership has been transferred to or purchased by a trust, corporate partnership or other legal entity solely for estate planning purposes;
- The qualifying senior or his/her spouse was or is confined to a health care facility;

How to Apply - To apply, you must complete the appropriate application form and return it to the assessor by March 16. The assessor must accept late applications until July 15. If you would like to receive an application form or a brochure that explains this classification in greater detail, or if you have any questions regarding this classification, please call the assessor's office at 970-944-2225 ext. 140
Published January 15, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (285190)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Legal advertising

Deadline: Friday 4 p.m.*

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

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

Weminuche Audubon Society to hear about ‘Birds and Energy’ Jan. 21

By Herb Grover
Colorado State Patrol

The Weminuche Audubon Society invites everyone to join us for our monthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

The January program on “Birds and Energy” will be presented by Martin Ogle, who has been a naturalist and energy educator for more than 40 years.

Birds are full of energy — literally and figuratively. With the highest body temperatures of all animals,



Martin Ogle

remarkable adaptations and awe-inspiring migrations, they have much

to teach us about energy.

Ogle will provide a fascinating exploration of avian life through the lens of energy, and vice versa.

Discover how the National Audubon Society is connecting energy, birds, climate change and other concerns of our day. Learn also about the myriad of energy-related adaptations exhibited by birds and new ways we are lessening the impact of human energy systems on birds.

To learn more about Ogle’s work, visit his website describing the non-profit he recently created called Geosapiens at www.geosapiens.org.

Cabin Fever Nordic Ski race results announced

Pagosa Nordic Club

The Pagosa Nordic Club hosted the Cabin Fever Nordic Ski races on Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Alberta Park Nordic Trails.

A big thank you to the Wolf Creek Ski Area for grooming the race course for the event.

The Cabin Fever event included a competitive 12km freestyle race as part of the SW Nordic Race Series, which also includes races at Grand Mesa, Flagstaff, Chama, Telluride and Durango, with the best of three races being crowned

king and queen of the SW Nordic Race Series.

The event also included a citizens 3 km race and a KidK race. 45 racers participated with the following race leaders:

- Men’s 12 km: first place Brett Wilson (Durango), second Brendon Trimboli (Durango), third Daniel Murray (Durango).

- Women’s 12 km: first place Laura Spector (Durango), second Mila Moseley (Los Alamos), third Jennifer Amstadter (Durango).

- Men’s 3 km: first place Archer Nicovich (Durango), second Quannah

Moseley (Los Alamos), third Topher Horning (Telluride).

- Women’s 3 km: first place Jia Bock (Los Alamos), second Janelle Dinger (Durango), third Ellie Bruckbauer (Durango).

- KidK: Juniper and Yarrow Wilson (Durango) were both winners.

Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon Saturday

The Pagosa Nordic Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon Race is this Saturday, Jan. 17, in Alberta Park at Wolf Creek Ski Area. Races will include a competitive 12km race (10 a.m.), citizens/

youth 3 km race (11 a.m.) and a KidK race (11:30 a.m.).

Racers use provided Red Ryder BB Guns to shoot at targets between race laps.

Race information and registration is available at PagosaNordic.com, under the events tab. Starting at 8:30 a.m. at the far east end of the Tranquility parking lot at the Wolf Creek Ski Area, racers can also register and pick up their race bibs.

Costumes are encouraged, with prizes for the best. Bring your skate skis or classic cross-country skis and participate in the excitement.

EXTENSION VIEWPOINTS

High-elevation food preparation resources, join the fair board

By Cindi Galabota
SUN Columnist

Newcomers to Colorado or those traveling to the mountains are often surprised when their favorite recipes at sea level fail to produce expected results when made at higher elevations.

Below is some helpful information from our colleagues at Colorado State University (CSU) Extension. For additional information, please reach out to us at the Archuleta County Extension office or visit extension.colostate.edu.

Pagosa Springs sits at an elevation of approximately 7,200 feet (this number will fluctuate depending on where you live in Archuleta County), and preparation of food may require changes in time, temperature and/or ingredients due to lower atmospheric pressure. Air pressure decreases as elevation increases. In other words, the blanket of air above us is lighter. At sea level, atmospheric pressure is 14.7 pounds per square inch (psi); at 5,000 feet it’s 12.3 psi, and at 10,000 feet only 10.2 psi — a decrease of about one-half pound per 1,000 feet.

Decreased atmospheric pressure as elevation increases affects food preparation in two major ways: Water and other liquids evaporate faster and boil at lower temperatures, and leavening gases in breads and cakes expand more quickly.

Whether boiling eggs, baking bread or making cookies, small adjustments can often improve the results.

The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at CSU has a long history of addressing challenges associated with preparing and preserving food at higher elevations.

The temperature at which water boils declines as elevation rises. Because of this, foods prepared by boiling or simmering cook at a lower temperature at high elevation than at sea level and, thus, require a longer cooking time. This includes vegetables, beans, pot roasts, soups and stews. When deep-fat frying, consider lowering the frying temperature about 3 degrees F for every increase of 1,000 feet in elevation.

At high elevations, slow cookers simmer at a lower temperature, making it more difficult for food to reach a safe temperature and for bacteria to be destroyed. If your slow cooker has

an adjustable temperature control, select a setting that will maintain the food at 200 degrees F or higher. If your slow cooker has both a high and low setting, start the food cooking on high for the first hour, then either continue to use high or turn it to the low setting for the remainder of cooking. Allow longer cooking times at high elevation and do not remove the lid. It can take 20 minutes or longer for the lost steam and heat to be regained each time the lid is lifted.

With yeast breads, decreased atmospheric pressure at higher elevations allows the dough to rise too fast, negatively impacting texture and flavor. To counteract this effect, less yeast may be used or the dough can be punched down and allowed to rise a second time before molding into loaves or rolls. Watch carefully to prevent over-rising. Allow dough to rise until just doubled in bulk, as over-proofing can result in a heavy, dry loaf, or a misshapen or collapsed loaf.

Flours tend to be drier and absorb more liquid in high, dry climates. Therefore, less flour or additional liquid may be needed to moisten the dough to the proper consistency. Yeast breads benefit from flour with a higher protein content compared to other, more tender baked products. For improved texture and volume, especially when baking at higher elevations, use flour with at least 12 percent protein. Bread flour or whole-wheat flour usually have higher protein content than other types of flour.

Most one-bowl cake recipes perfected for sea level need no modifications up to 3,000 feet. Above that, decreased atmospheric pressure may result in excessive rising, which stretches the cell structure of the cake, making the texture coarse, or breaks the cells, causing the cake to fall.

Leavening: Measure accurately and reduce both baking powder and/or baking soda.

Increase baking temperature by 15 to 25 degrees F to help “set” the batter before cells formed by the leavening gas expand too much. Note that baking time may be reduced, so check during baking.

Excessive evaporation of water at high elevation leads to high concentration of sugar, which weakens the cell structure. Therefore, decrease sugar in the recipe and increase

liquid.

In making rich cakes at high elevations, you might have to reduce shortening by 1 or 2 tablespoons. Fat, like sugar, weakens the cell structure. Also, increasing the amount of egg strengthens the cell structure and may prevent the rich cake from falling.

When wheat flour is replaced with gluten-free flour(s), high elevation challenges remain, although there are no set guidelines on how to successfully compensate for the elevation change. The home cook is advised to experiment with recipes, first making any necessary adjustments for the elevation change and then altering the recipe further as needed to adjust for the properties of gluten-free flours.

Do not assume your sea level recipe will fail. Try it first. It may need little or no modification. Take notes to keep track of which adjustments resulted in improvements. Take non-stick precautions seriously. At higher elevations, baked goods have a higher tendency to stick to pans.

When you have questions, CSU Extension has research-based answers. Contact your Archuleta CSU Extension Office to learn more about high-elevation food preparation at (970) 264-5931 or archuleta.extension.colostate.edu.

Resources:

- High-Elevation Food Preparation. (n.d.). Colorado State University Extension. <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/high-elevation-food-preparation/>.

- CSU Extension Staff. FoodSmart Colorado. (October 2025). Crockpot and Slow Cooker Food Safety. <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/crockpot-and-slow-cooker-food-safety/>.

- FoodSmart Colorado. Colorado State University Extension. <https://foodsmartcolorado.colostate.edu/>.

- Preserve Smart. Colorado State University Extension. <https://apps.chhs.colostate.edu/preservesmart/>.

Email list

Do you want to be added to our email distribution list to learn about upcoming programs and the latest resources? Email cindi.galabota@colostate.edu to be added to our list.

Or, to learn more about the many programs, resources and services offered by CSU Extension, visit <https://extension.colostate.edu>.

gram offers low-interest loans, not a tax reduction.

Deferred taxes accrue interest and are recorded as a junior lien against the property. Homeowners repay the loan over time or when a nonqualifying event occurs, such as the sale of the home.

Eligible homeowners must submit their applications by April 1. Participants who deferred their property taxes in previous years must reapply annually to continue their loans.

For eligibility requirements and application details, homeowners should contact their county treasurer’s office directly.

For more information, please visit treasury.colorado.gov/programs/property-tax-deferral.

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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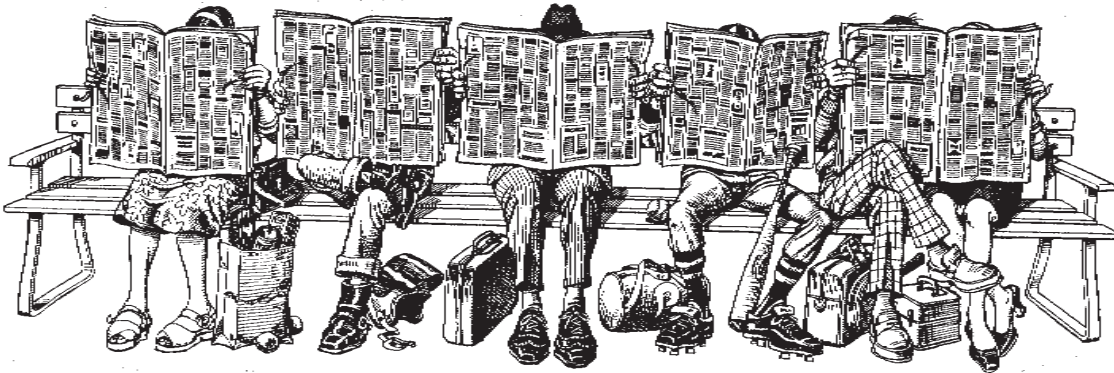
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Rocky Mountain Invitational

Pagosa Springs High School hosts two days of wrestling action with the annual Rocky Mountain Invitational. The Lady Pirates held their first-ever home tournament on Friday afternoon, with the Pirate boys hosting action on Saturday.

SUN photos/Randi Pierce



preview

ARTS & LIFE

WinterFest

Jan. 16-18



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon

January 15, 2026

WinterFest to return Friday through Sunday

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

WinterFest will return Friday through Sunday, Jan. 16-18.

WinterFest, brought to you by the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce, stretches across three days with events centered at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds and uptown.

The festival blends classic mountain-town traditions with newer attractions to create a family-friendly celebration of the coldest season.

The festivities start Friday evening, Jan. 16, with a community bonfire and live music at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds.

A new Battle of the Soups invites local restaurants and home cooks to ladle up their best recipes as visitors sample, vote and warm their hands beside the flames. For \$10 you receive six 4-ounce samples of some of the best soup in Pagosa Springs.

The bonfire and live music will run from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds. The Battle of The Soups winners will be announced at 7 p.m.

Balloons, plunge and Nordic fun

On Saturday and Sunday mornings, residents and visitors are encouraged to look to the skies as a mass hot air balloon ascension lifts off from the Pagosa Lakes area, filling the winter sky with color above the snow-covered

peaks. Viewing begins around 8:30 a.m., and spectators are asked not to park along U.S. 160.

Saturday also brings a full slate of fun.

The BB Gun Biathlon will be held at Alberta Park at Wolf Creek Ski Area. Registration will be 8:20 to 10:15 a.m. at the very back of the Tranquility parking lot. Race times begin at 10 a.m. For more information, go to pagosanordic.com/bb-gun-biathlon/.

The costumed Barkus Parade, presented by Rugby's Rescue House, will turn Town Park and the Riverwalk into a runway for dressed-up dogs from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

In the afternoon, the Penguin Plunge at the Visitor Center will begin at 1 p.m. Registration will begin at noon. This event challenges hardy locals and nonprofit fundraising teams to dive into the icy San Juan River while onlookers' cheer from the Riverwalk.

Sunday morning will continue the balloon spectacle uptown beginning around 8:30 a.m., and spectators are asked not to park along U.S. 160.

The hot air balloon ascensions are free to attend both Saturday and Sunday.

For a full schedule, tickets and volunteer opportunities, please reach out to the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce at (970) 264-2360 or online at pagosachamber.com.

Whether plunging into the San Juan or simply sipping cocoa under a sky of balloons, WinterFest is definitely not an event to miss.

Live Performers

Thursday
Coyote Moon Lounge: San Juan Mountain Boys, 6 p.m.
The Pagosa Bar: Karaoke, 8 p.m.

Friday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Rock 'N' Rebels, 7 p.m.

Saturday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jackson Mountain Ramblers, 6 p.m.

Sunday
Coyote Moon Lounge: High Altitude Blues, 5 p.m.

Monday
Coyote Moon Lounge: Jonny Keys, 5 p.m.

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Archuleta County residents unite to provide food assistance

Healthy Archuleta

When the recent federal government shutdown disrupted Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and strained household budgets across Archuleta County, our community came together in an extraordinary way. What could have been a moment of hardship instead became a powerful example of generosity, coordination and care.

That spirit was reflected in countless acts of kindness, one of the most touching being a local child, supported by their mother, who organized a neighborhood food drive. The food they collected was donated to a Healthy Archuleta-sponsored drive, helping stock food pantries across the Archuleta County Food Pantry Network for neighbors in need.

As families who rely on SNAP faced delays and gaps in their benefits, local food pantries, donors and partners moved quickly to respond. Pantries increased distributions, volunteers stepped up, and donors from across the community and beyond gave both food and financial support to help ensure families could keep food on the table.

Regional partnerships, along with Healthy Archuleta's charitable county-wide food system support infrastructure, were vital to the success of this effort.

The Southwest Community Foundation's CERF-SNAP Funds, for example, provided emergency assistance that allowed Healthy Archuleta to purchase local food such as meat for families and distribute it through the Healthy Archuleta Food Distribution Center (FDC) to the local food pantries participating in the Food Pantry Network, which reaches across the entire county, including Arboles and Aspen Springs.

At the same time, regional partners like Care and Share Food Bank and the Durango Food Bank procured and delivered food to the FDC. The FDC then coordinated the

distribution of this food to various county pantries, thereby ensuring efficient access for families, seniors and working households.

Together, these efforts ensured that households had access to food when they needed it most. More importantly, they showed what is possible when a community comes together with compassion and shared purpose. When larger systems are disrupted, it is local relationships, trust and collaboration that make the difference.

Healthy Archuleta extends heart-

felt thanks to every donor, pantry volunteer and partner who stepped up to care for our neighbors. While the shutdown has ended, it reminded us how vulnerable many families are to sudden disruptions, and how essential our coordinated local and regional food systems are to community resilience.

For more information about Healthy Archuleta and local food access efforts, or to support this work, visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org or email fsfearchuleta@gmail.com.

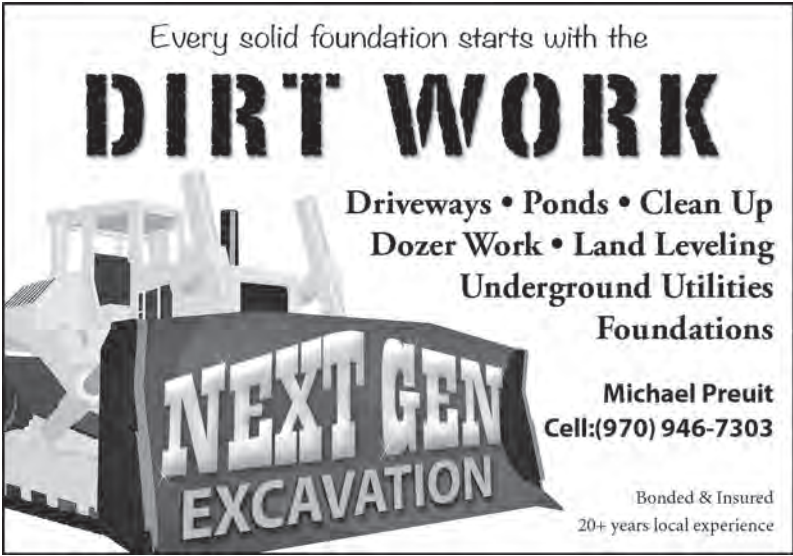
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Photo courtesy Pagosa Community Initiative

The Pagosa Community Initiative’s annual Second Chance Prom will be held in May. The event plays a crucial role in funding the organization’s community programs and services.

Community invited to Pagosa Community Initiative’s Second Chance Prom fundraiser

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

The Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI) is inviting residents to join in planning and supporting its signature annual fundraiser, the Second Chance Prom.

This much-anticipated event, slated for May, is PCI’s largest fundraiser of the year and plays a crucial role in funding community programs and services.

Initial planning meetings are underway, and PCI is calling on community members from all walks of life to lend their time, ideas and

talents. Volunteers will help shape the event theme, organize tickets and donations, recruit sponsors, and coordinate on-site logistics to ensure a memorable evening for all attendees.

“Prom is more than a night of celebration,” said PCI board chair Carrie Blue-White. “It’s a community effort that funds vital initiatives — from youth programs to therapy services and family support projects. We rely on local energy and generosity to make it possible.”

Details at a glance

- What: Second Chance Prom fundraiser (PCI’s largest annual

fundraiser).

- When: May (exact date to be announced)

■ See Prom on next page

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This meticulously cared for full-round log cabin, uptown near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Stunning mountain views. The open floor plan connects the great room with a cozy fireplace to a modern kitchen boasting granite countertops, high end appliances, and an island for extra prep space.

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

33 Fawn Court
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Blood drive planned for Jan. 21

By David Hamilton
Special to The PREVIEW

As part of the Martin Luther King Day of Service, thousands of people are gathering and completing community service projects honoring King's legacy.

The Martin Luther King Day of Service was established to honor the life and legacy of King, and encour-

age all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

What better way to honor King's legacy than by donating your gift of blood at our next local blood drive.

There is always a need — and sometimes a critical one — for blood donors in Southwest Colorado.

Join other caring and generous friends and neighbors in celebration of Dr. King's legacy at the Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1879 Majestic Drive, on Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 2:30 to 7 p.m.

Please contact local volunteer David Hamilton by call or text to (970) 799-4056 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

You may also go directly to vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL.

Trinity Anglican Church



"Jesus promised his disciples three things — that they would be completely fearless, absurdly happy, and in constant trouble."
~ G. K. Chesterton.

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Prom

■ continued from previous page
nounced).

• Where: To be announced; venue will be confirmed by the planning committee.

• Who: Open to all community members 21 and older; volunteers and attendees welcome.

• Why: Supports PCI's programs and services across Archuleta County.

What to expect at the meetings

• Overview of the fundraiser goals and timeline.

• Roles and volunteer opportunities (decor, entertainment, silent auction, sponsorship outreach, logistics, communications).

• Brainstorming sessions for fundraising ideas, donor engagement and community partnerships.

• How to get involved, lend expertise and help spread the word.

How to get involved

Reach out to Blue-White at carrie.blue@gmail.com or Rebecca Tenpenny at PCI at (970) 585-6461.

Community members who have participated in PCI's events in the past have highlighted the sense of shared purpose and the tangible impact of their work.

The Second Chance Prom is not only a fundraiser, but a chance to

celebrate community resilience and generosity while supporting programs that benefit families, students and neighbors throughout Pagosa. PCI is Archuleta County's vetted Family Resource Center.

PCI notes that every helping hand makes a difference, whether it's contributing ideas, sharing connections with local businesses or donating auction items. No prior fundraising experience is necessary — enthusiasm, creativity and a collaborative spirit are what matter most.

The first planning committee meeting will be Jan. 29 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the PCI offices.

For more information about PCI and the Second Chance Prom, or to learn how you can join the planning team, contact PCI at director@pagosacommunityinitiative.org or (970) 585-6461, or visit www.pagosacommunityinitiative.org.

About PCI

PCI is a local nonprofit dedicated to strengthening community bonds and expanding access to resources and services for Pagosa Springs families.

Through programs, initiatives, and partnerships, PCI strives to create a vibrant, supportive and inclusive community that benefits everyone.

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1001 Soaring Eagle Court
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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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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
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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>



\$20,000 in Buyer Concessions

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>

Fourth in the Dr. Josie Tate series now available!

Pagosa Gold, set in the Pagosa Springs area, is by local author Patty Latham, DVM



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Photo courtesy A Safe Place in Pagosa

Thanks to more than \$1 million in in-kind donations, construction will begin on Aspen House in the spring, with \$750,000 left to raise for the project.

Aspen House announces reduced fundraising goal following \$1 million in community in-kind support

By Pattie Copenhaver
A Safe Place in Pagosa

Aspen House is proud to announce a transformative milestone in our capital campaign: Our remaining fundraising goal has been reduced to \$750,000 to complete construction of Aspen House — a 24-hour, fully supportive group home for adults with developmental disabilities in Pagosa Springs.

This extraordinary progress is possible because Tim Brown, a builder of more than 200 homes in our community, has stepped out of retirement to help bring Aspen House to life.

Brown’s commitment is deeply

personal. His son, Christopher, lives with Fragile X Syndrome, and Tim Brown understands firsthand how critical it is for families to have local, long-term supports that allow adults with developmental disabilities to grow, gain independence and live meaningful, fulfilling lives.

His leadership has sparked an incredible wave of generosity, accelerating our timeline and inspiring more than \$1 million in in-kind donations

and discounted labor and materials from local trades and suppliers.

Together, these businesses are uniting around a shared vision — building the first home of its kind in Archuleta County and creating a lasting legacy of care, dignity and opportunity for our community.

Thanks to this unprecedented collaboration, Aspen House is moving confidently into construction. With ■ See Support on next page



In loving memory Cyrilla M Lucero

February 2, 1935
to January 18, 2025

Although you are not with us physically, your love and memory remain within our hearts.
Very much missed by her family and friends.



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

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Support

■ **continued from previous page**
generous support, the foundation is scheduled to be poured in late spring. The home is expected to be dried-in by late summer, with completion targeted for late 2026 to early 2027.

At that time, Aspen House will proudly welcome its first residents into a safe, stable and fully supportive environment designed to help them live full, rewarding and connected lives.

A true community-built home

This project represents the very best of Pagosa Springs and Southwest Colorado — concerned parents, friends and neighbors coming together to build something that will serve families for generations.

Aspen House gratefully acknowledges its trade partners for their in-kind contributions and commitments. Their generosity has accelerated the timeline and brought Aspen House within reach.

The final stretch: \$750,000 to the finish line

Final site infrastructure and permitting is currently underway, and Aspen House is now focused on raising the final \$750,000 needed to complete the construction.

In parallel, the organization is actively pursuing several grant opportunities that could help close the remaining gap and carry Aspen House across the finish line.

Now is the moment for donors to step in and be part of this historic effort. Every gift — large or small — directly advances construction and brings us closer to opening the doors to our first residents.

Build this legacy with us — today

Aspen House invites community members, businesses and philanthropic partners to donate now and help transform this momentum into reality.

Your contribution today will:

- Lock in pledged in-kind support.
- Keep construction on schedule.
- Create a permanent, life-changing resource for adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

Donate today and be part of the foundation — literally and figuratively — of Aspen House.

For more information or to contribute, please visit www.aspen-housepagosa.org or contact Pattie Copenhaver at executivedirector@aspenhousepagosa.org.

About Aspen House

Aspen House is dedicated to cultivating an environment of success for adults with developmental

disabilities and their community by providing safe, supportive housing and services that foster independence, dignity and belonging.

Thank you for being part of this momentous time for Aspen House — and for helping create an enduring legacy of care, inclusion and opportunity right here in Pagosa Springs.



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Durango Wine Experience nonprofit partner grant opens to local nonprofits

By Rachel Rosenthal

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

The Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado has opened the nonprofit partner grant application for this year's Durango Wine Experience.

The popular shoulder-season event, which serves as the foundation's biggest fundraiser, will be held April 24-25. This year's event will once again highlight the work of 10 area nonprofits and provide each selected nonprofit with a \$2,500 grant.

This is the fourth year Durango Wine Experience has incorporated the grant into the event, which helps support the Community Foundation's

mission to connect the community to local nonprofits.

The nonprofits selected to receive this year's grant will have the opportunity to share about their organization's mission with key community members during the Walkabout event in downtown Durango from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on April 24.

Attendees will have a unique experience of getting a taste of delectable wines and the nonprofit sector in Southwest Colorado.

On April 25, the nonprofits will help with various needs at the Grand Tasting in Buckley Park from 3 to 6 p.m. This portion of the event typically attracts more than 850 guests.

Nonprofits interested in learning more and applying for this unique

grant opportunity should go to www.swcommunityfoundation.org/dwe-nonprofit-partners/.

Weekend passes are available now at www.durangowine.com/tickets/.

The Community Foundation inspires hope, leadership and generosity in the community by bringing economic stability, professional development and collaboration to the nonprofit sector.

As a community facilitator, the Community Foundation works to increase efficiency, sustainability and success for nonprofits, while maximizing effective grant-making for philanthropists.

End of Life Education programs delayed until spring

By Joan Mieritz

End of Life Education

End of Life Education Programs will not start in January, but later in the spring due to the severity of the flu in Colorado and our whole country.

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 being postponed until later in the spring.

Last week Joan Mieritz turned in an article to The SUN on Monday morning thinking we'd get an early start on End of Life Education programs. On Tuesday we heard on national news that Colorado was the state with the highest incidence of the flu in the nation. Later there was news that 15 million cases of flu have been reported in the U.S., 180,000 hospitalizations have happened and 7,400 flu deaths have happened already this year.

Later in the week there was other really bad flu information that a major problem this year is that the virus selected to make the flu vaccine last August mutated and is no longer a problem. The good news is that those

having been vaccinated should still have lower incidence of hospitalization and death.

This past week New York surpassed Colorado for having the most flu, but both states have record breaking numbers.

We will have to wait until flu season is safely over before we can meet to study End of Life Education.

End of Life Education is a difficult topic, but many people have been helped by the talks, lectures and discussions held in the past. Our culture has not developed to accept death as part of life. I have never heard of anyone being too prepared.

Mieritz will again be facilitating the programs and is looking for a few helpers to set up tables, etc. and clean up after the program. We would also like someone to lead people attending do brief balance exercises as a break. There was a balance program given several years ago in Pagosa and we can use the book to create a shortened version of exercises. Falls are one of the most dangerous problems for seniors as they age. Balance exercises are simple, but very effective.

Check The SUN for future articles on End of Life Education.

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.

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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Community United Methodist Church to hold prayer vigil

Community United Methodist Church

In a time marked by unrest, division, gun violence and growing hatred of others, the Community United Methodist Church invites the community to come together for a prayer vigil for peace and hope.

The vigil will be held on Sunday, Jan. 18, at 4 p.m. at Community United Methodist Church, located at 434 Lewis St.

This gathering is open to all — people of faith, people with questions, and people simply longing for a moment of quiet and connection.

Together, we will pray for healing in our world and for the courage to live into the teachings of Jesus, especially the call found in Matthew 25

to feed the hungry, heal the sick and welcome the stranger.

This vigil is also a faithful act of speaking out against gun violence and the hatred that divides neighbors from one another. We gather to name our grief, our fear and our longing for a different way — a way shaped by love, justice and compassion.

At its heart, this vigil is about remembering who we are called to be: neighbors who care for one another, communities that choose compassion over fear and people who believe that love is stronger than division.

The service will include simple prayers, moments of silence, music and space to reflect. No prior church experience is needed — just a willingness to pause and hold hope together.

In a world that often feels loud and fractured, this vigil will offer a different way: a way of listening, praying and standing for peace.

All are welcome.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming event

By Shayla McClure

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The SpiritFire Inspiration Living Center's Sunday service at 11 a.m. on Jan. 18 will be with Himalayan sound bowls with Scott Maki.

A \$25 donation will be collected. Text or call (970) 510-0309 for directions to Xanadu Retreat, located five minutes from downtown.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an

all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge.

SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us, emailing pagosa-communitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

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Preview Calendar

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

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.

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. 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.

Sarah Platt Decker Chapter of the Daughters of the American ■ See Calendar on next page

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship service will honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Pagosa Unitarian Universalist (UU) Fellowship meets the first and third Sundays for services at 10:30 a.m. This Sunday, Jan. 18, we will honor the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

King’s day is recognized nationally on the third Monday of January and is a time to honor his memory with a day of service encouraging community engagement and volunteering.

We will remember and celebrate what he accomplished; it will acknowledge the suffering and death experienced by those involved in the struggle for basic human rights and, most immediately relevant, we will be reminded and know deeply, in this time of rising authoritarianism, that such acts of resistance are humanely possible and that the loss of basic human rights can only happen if we, the people, allow it to happen.

As a Unitarian Universalist congregation, we aspire to build beloved community and work toward a world

of justice and equity for all.

The PagosaUU.org website is a place you will find additional information about upcoming services and programs. We offer space for groups holding events at the UU Community Hub.

The Tara Pagosa Meditation Group has been an ongoing group for several years, and continues to meet Sundays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. through the winter. If you cannot attend in person, join us on Zoom.

Please email Pagosa UU Fellowship to be added to our meditation email list. Emails may include a short dharma message, notifications about upcoming dharma events or cancellations.

Qigong practice is held on Mondays at 1 p.m., and all are welcome for this gentle and grounding practice.

The Pagosa UU Fellowship is located in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. We welcome all who are looking for a warm community of open hearts and minds to “Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good.”

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 One of the "back 40"
- 5 Make _____ (hurry)
- 10 Where some admire from
- 14 Attention-getting sound
- 15 Anesthetic of old
- 16 Cause of misery
- 17 Classic wagon
- 19 Location
- 20 Proportionately
- 21 Loomed over-head
- 23 Lack of alignment, timewise
- 25 Weaken
- 28 Pipe fitting
- 29 Eight-ish?
- 32 Fabric used in adhesive pads
- 34 Children's author Beverly
- 35 Gallery piece
- 36 Performed for the camera
- 38 ____-Manuel Miranda
- 39 Way to make it?
- 42 Talk endlessly
- 45 California mission founder Junípero
- 46 ____ in Charlie
- 47 Kilns
- 48 Corresponded to
- 51 Turntable shaft
- 53 Winless horses
- 57 First portrayer of Obi-Wan
- 58 Online pop-up, say
- 60 Defensive spray
- 61 Brouhaha
- 62 Actress Lee of "Funny Face"
- 63 Observed
- 64 "____ life!"
- 65 Blouse fabric

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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				23				24						
25	26	27				28				29			30	31
32					33				34					
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39			40	41			42			43	44			
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		48			49				50					
51	52							53				54	55	56
57					58		59							
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

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DOWN

- 1 Org. for seniors
- 2 Burn a bit
- 3 Give a facelift to
- 4 Bahrain or Dubai
- 5 Weighty
- 6 Second largest ocean
- 7 Far from forward
- 8 Grow incisors
- 9 Typo, e.g.
- 10 Newman film, "____ of Malice"
- 11 "Cinderella" et al.
- 12 It's just for openers
- 13 Basket material
- 18 They might be spring-loaded
- 22 Some winter wear
- 24 CPU part
- 25 Store up
- 26 ____ out (proven)
- 27 Triptych in a church

- 30 Incite ____ (disturb the peace)
- 31 Redgrave et al.
- 33 Starr of song
- 34 Summer hrs. in Chicago
- 37 Right of passage
- 40 Moved like a show horse
- 41 Cowpoke's pal
- 43 Nail at an angle
- 44 Chutes partner

- 46 Tighten, like a jaw
- 49 Select group
- 50 Roman spirits
- 51 Indistinguishable
- 52 Wiggle room
- 54 Small needle case
- 55 Part of NBA: Abbr.
- 56 Minn. Neighbor
- 59 Hot or cold beverage

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
Revolution. 10:30 a.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Carrie Comer will speak on the Constitution.

LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

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.

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. For more information, visit www.PagosaNordic.com.

Prayer Vigil for Peace and Hope. 4 p.m., Community United Methodist Church.

Monday, Jan. 19

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.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Film Event. 1-4 p.m., Liberty Theatre. See a special screening of "Selma." Tickets include entry for door prizes. Proceeds benefit the Archuleta County Democratic Party. Tickets, \$27.38 each, are available at archuletaadems.org or pagosamoviews.com/events.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 20

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. "Nature, Art and Service as Medicine" with journalist and author Julia Hotz. 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.

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

Tween Baddie Buddies Book Club. 4-5 p.m., Sisson Library. Join to adventure into the world of books. For ages 11-14. Snacks will be provided.

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

attend from 4-5 p.m., intermediate students from 5-6 p.m. and advanced students from 6-7 p.m.

PALS Adult Education. 5:30-8 p.m., Sisson Library. Pagosa Adult Learning Services, or PALS, can help you with high school equivalent

■ **See Calendar on next page**



CAN SLEEPING MORE HELP DROP THOSE EXTRA POUNDS?

If you are finding it hard to shed those last few unwanted pounds (or perhaps the first few unwanted pounds) try getting a better night's sleep.

The study below makes a serious case for the old maxim: Early to bed, early to rise, makes one healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Sleep — it's free and too simple an option to overlook. Read today's research excerpt and see for yourself.

Skimping on sleep sets your brain up to make bad decisions. It dulls activity in the brain's frontal lobe, the locus of decision-making and impulse control.

So it's a little like being drunk. You don't have the mental clarity to make good decisions.

Plus, when you're overtired, your brain's reward centers rev up, looking for something that feels good. So while you might be able to squash comfort food cravings when you're well-rested, your sleep-deprived brain may have trouble saying no to a second slice of cake.

Research tells the story. A study in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that when people were starved of sleep, late-night snacking increased, and they were more likely to choose high-carb snacks.

A second study found that sleeping too little prompts people to eat bigger portions of all foods, increasing weight gain.

And in a review of 18 studies, researchers found that a lack of sleep led to increased cravings for energy-dense, high-carbohydrate foods.

Add it all together, and a sleepy brain appears to crave junk food while also lacking the impulse control to say no.

Source: "Sleep More, Weigh Less." By Amy Paturel. <http://www.webmd.com>

Bonus Tip: Visit <http://www.AmazingFacts.org> for spiritual refreshment every week!

"I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me." Psalm 3:5

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Disclaimer: This and all our Nature's Remedies are for health information purposes only. The Seventh Day Adventist Church is not responsible for results.



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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 red-tailed hawk.

No other bird of prey graces us with regular occurrences in the Four Corners more than the red-tailed hawk. With a wingspan often exceeding 4 feet; long, rounded wings; and a wide tail, this species can cover a lot of ground with little exertion. Forming long-term pair bonds with mates, a pair will typically share a territory of approximately up to 2 square miles. Their prey base consists of 85 percent mammals, consisting largely of meadow voles, wood rats, mice, cottontail rabbits, jackrabbits, ground squirrels, prairie dogs and even carrion. Red-tailed hawks also enjoy a good snake or bird, when they can catch them.

In the Four Corners region, birds tend to be year-round residents, whereas individuals at latitudes further north may migrate to make ends meet. Plumage can vary across regions. A few key field marks to note for the most ubiquitous plumage in this region (light morph) are the discernible brown belly band that divides the lighter colored breast and belly, the dark leading edge of the wing (patagium) when viewed from below, and the copper-colored red tail feathers. Juvenile birds exhibit more brownish tails and often have very dark, nearly blackish, beaks. When viewed from the backside, collapsed wings will often show a white “V.” A rarer plumage variation in our region is the Harlan’s red-tailed hawk, which can look almost solidly brown.

An adaptable bird, this species frequents open country, where visibility for predation is key. Look for birds on such perches as tall trees and telephone poles. Nesting season can run from early February through late spring with courtship behavior beginning in January. So, if you witness a pair playing together, involving steep-angled flight stunts, extended legs or even displays involving locking talons, then chances are that there may be nest construction or rehabilitation happening in the same region. Christmas Bird Count participants detected 38 red-tailed hawks during the December 2025 count.

A somewhat rare success story among fellow bird populations, this species has shown increases of more than 1 percent per year since the late 1960s. That said, they still struggle with modern development and habitat loss, energy infrastructure and lead poisoning. Visit peregrinefund.org to support the protection and habitat of red-tailed hawks and other raptors.

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

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
lency, 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. 21
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.
■ See Calendar on next page

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SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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

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Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page
tion.

Therapy Dog Visit. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For all ages. Take a moment to visit with certified therapy dog Mia.

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

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

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

Blood Drive. 2:30-7 p.m., Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1879 Majestic Drive. Contact local volunteer David Hamilton by call or text at (970) 799-4056 for more information or to schedule an appointment. You may also go to vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL.

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 High School Booster Club. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School.

Weminuche Audubon Society. 6:30 p.m., Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Mortin Ogle will present "Birds and Energy." Social time will begin at 6 p.m., with the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 22

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.

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.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Wrestling. 5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Bayfield.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Wrestling. 6 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Bayfield.

Friday, Jan. 23

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

Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School. A weekly club for kids in kindergarten through the fourth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.

Saturday, Jan. 24

Pagosa Puzzle Palooza. Noon-5 p.m., Senior Center. Check-in will be at noon, with the competition from 1-4 p.m. and awards from 4-5 p.m. The team entry fee is \$40. A fundraiser for Archuleta Seniors

Inc. Forms are available at givebut-ter.com/PagosaPuzzlePalooza26 or at the Senior Center.

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

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 12:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Montezuma-Cortez.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 2 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Montezuma-Cortez.

Monday, Jan. 26

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

Archuleta County Democratic Club. 11:30 a.m., Coyote Moon. Judy Patton will speak about the Proponents of Immigrant Rights in Archuleta County. Please come by 11:30 a.m. to order lunch. The speaker will present at noon. For more information, email lynnfred-erick1@gmail.com.

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.

Submit your calendar items to editor@pagosasun.com; mail them to The Pagosa Springs SUN, P.O. Box 9, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147; or deliver them to The SUN office by noon Monday.



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New books celebrate America’s 250th anniversary

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

If you recently watched Ken Burns’ latest six-part video series “The American Revolution,” you probably learned a lot you didn’t know about our country’s struggle to free ourselves from British rule and form an independent nation.

Conflict wasn’t isolated to the battlefield. Up until that time, each colony had its own identity and its own leaders. In order to break free from British rule, colonies had to join forces, decide who among them would lead, and together write a new framework for how they would govern.

Looking back, it all seems so overwhelming. How did we ever move past our differences and compromise enough to form the united front necessary to win independence? And how has the union lasted for 250 years?

In honor of the 250th anniversary of our country’s founding, many historians have written some wonderful new books digging into the social and military history of our transformation from colonies to fledgling nation to world power, and exploring the ultimate question: Will this union endure?

Here are a few titles recently added to our collection:

- Walter Isaacson, “The Greatest

Library News

Sentence Ever Written.” This short book by the famous biographer analyzes the impact on our nation’s history of the most famous sentence from the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”

• Joseph Ellis, “The Great Contradiction: The Tragic Side of the American Founding.” Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award winner Ellis is back with his latest historical analysis on how America’s founders thought about the issue of slavery as they drafted the Declaration of Independence and Constitution, and how their decisions shaped the future history of our country.

• Geoffrey Ward, “The American Revolution: An Intimate History.” Companion book to Burns’ six-part PBS series “The American Revolution.”

• Nathaniel Philbrick, “Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the Fate of

the American Revolution.” A deeply researched military history of the early battles of the Revolutionary War fought in Canada and upstate New York. Also available as an e-book and audiobook on the Libby app.

It’s an exciting year ahead as we celebrate both the 250th anniversary of our nation and Colorado’s 150th

anniversary. Plans are underway locally with many celebrations ahead. Watch for weekly news announcing year-long festivities.

Don’t forget we’re closed on Monday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday.

Construction update

Electrical, plumbing and mechanical elements of the building are roughed in, and exterior windows will begin to be installed this month. You’ll see exterior doors toward the end of January and drywall will begin in February. Follow us on Facebook for periodic pictures of progress.

■ See Library on page 17



Town Invests \$7.7 Million to Enhance Infrastructure, Safety, and Utility Reliability Along US 160



As part of the Colorado Department of Transportation’s (CDOT) U.S. Highway 160 Reconstruction Project, the Town is making a \$7.7 million local investment to deliver long-term infrastructure upgrades that extend beyond the scope of the state-funded roadway work. These Town-funded improvements focus on pedestrian access, modern lighting, improved drainage, fire protection, and critical utility reliability, ensuring that Main Street and adjacent corridors serve residents, businesses, and visitors for decades to come.

While CDOT’s project will reconstruct the roadway, sidewalks, bike lanes, storm drainage, and accessibility features along US 160, the Town has strategically coordinated its own investments to complete underground utility work and streetscape enhancements simultaneously, minimizing future disruptions and maximizing taxpayer value.

Learn more at pagosasprings.co.gov/US160-Investment

Serve Your Community on Town Council

On Tuesday, April 7, Pagosa Springs voters will elect a Mayor and three Town Council members. If you are interested in serving on the Town Council and giving back to the community, eligible candidates must complete a nomination petition packet and return it to the Town Clerk’s office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26. Learn more at pagosasprings.co.gov/327/Town-Clerk.

Town Allocates \$88,000 to Early Childcare and Education Funding

The Town is accepting funding requests from organizations seeking to provide and expand early childcare and education opportunities in our community. The Town Council has approved \$88,000 from the General Fund to help support daycare centers, in-home daycares, and other childcare needs in 2026. Apply online at pagosasprings.co.gov/2026-ECE-Funding.



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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

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- AVALANCHE
- BASE LAYER
- BINDINGS
- BLACK DIAMOND
- CARVING
- CHAIR
- DROP
- EDGE
- GLADE
- GONDOLA
- GROOMER
- HELMET
- JACKET
- LIFT
- MOGULS
- POLES
- POWDER
- SLOPE
- SNOWPLOW
- TERRAIN
- TICKET
- VERTICAL
- WAX

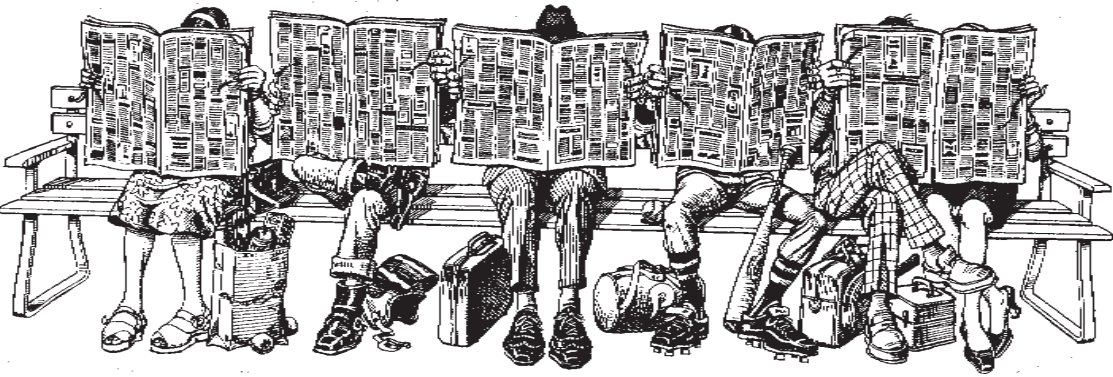
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Martin Luther King Jr. Day a day of honoring

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an important national observance because it recognizes the life and legacy of a leader who reshaped the civil rights movement through courage and nonviolent action.

King's efforts helped dismantle segregation, broaden voting rights, and elevate conversations about justice and equality across the United States.

Senior News

His teachings continue to inspire new generations to challenge discrimination and work toward a more inclusive society, making the federal holiday both a reflection on history and a call to continued action.

For the senior community, MLK Day carries particular meaning.

Many older adults lived through the civil rights era and witnessed firsthand the struggle for equal rights, giving them a unique perspective on how far society has come and how far it still must go.

The holiday also encourages seniors to share their experiences with younger generations, strengthening intergenerational learning and connection.

In addition, the day's emphasis

on service aligns with volunteer opportunities often embraced by senior groups, allowing them to contribute to community well-being while honoring King's enduring message of unity, dignity and justice for all.

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 pro-

vided 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 Saturday, Jan. 24, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Pagosa Senior Center (Ross Aragon Community Center), 451 Hot Springs Blvd.

■ See Senior on next page

Library

■ continued from page 15

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 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, 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, Feb. 10, as we discuss "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck. 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

Free in-person evening classes happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 p.m. for students of all levels at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Please help us pass the word about these classes.

Pagosa Adult Learning Services (PALS)

Join Mark or Sally for free individualized PALS sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 8 p.m. to help with high school equivalency, GED, college prep, financial aid, tutoring and more. No appointment is necessary.

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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

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.

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.

Tai chi chih

Tai chi classes have resumed. 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.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends,
■ See Senior on next page



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Senior

■ continued from previous page 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. 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.

Monday, Jan. 19 — Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Tuesday, Jan. 20 — Crispy codfish with tartar sauce, zucchini, garden salad, fruit, cherry crisp and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 21 — Beef chili with cheese, green beans and bacon, cornbread, garden salad, fruit, vanilla yogurt, and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 22 — Zuppa Toscana with Italian sausage and spinach, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, tiramisu, and milk.

Friday, Jan. 23 — Asian chicken salad with Mandarin oranges, scalions and crispy noodles; chicken dumplings with dipping sauce; 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

New, starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without itemizing your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The goal of this provision is to recognize and encourage charitable giving across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions. This change has the potential to significantly impact charitable giving patterns by incentivizing a broader base of donors.

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.



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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Meet Trixie! A friendly 10-year-old female pitbull who loves to snuggle and lounge. She's always happy and loves to play fetch. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.

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.

LEAD. Is it in your drinking water? Wherever it comes from, use water test strips, then speak up.

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.).



Meet Kirk! He is a sweet 4-year-old male waiting for his forever home. Kirk is extremely playful and sweet. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.

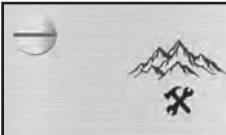
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HOUSEKEEPER WANTED. Part-time position, Saturdays & Sundays, starting at 6a.m. Duties include cleaning hot bath areas (no draining or pool cleaning) and guest rooms. Must be detail-oriented and dependable. Apply at 140 Hot Springs Blvd or online at <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.

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FOUR RADIAL STUDDED SNOW TIRES. 265/70/R16, \$550 for all. Powder snow skis by G3 Manhattan, size 175, pristine condition with bindings, \$500. (970)317-9541.

GUITAR: SANTA CRUZ D Pre-War Model. Excellent condition. Passive bridge -plate feather transducer installed by Bruce Allsop. \$4,800. Merry Christmas. (970)731-3117.

NEED FIREWOOD? Pine /Fir mix \$350 per cord, full dump truck load, \$600. Contact Dan with FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

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

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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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.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

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1-1/2 BEDROOM, SIMPLY FURNISHED CABIN. 4WD needed for hauling water, plus utility and security deposits. \$900 /month. Please no smoking /pets /DISH. (970)731-5098.

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.

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.

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.

MASTER BEDROOM FOR RENT. Private bathroom with a shower. Walk in closet. Bedroom is fully furnished. \$700 a month. Contact Shara or Josh at (970)398-0990.

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.

ROOM FOR RENT. \$550, utilities included. First, last and security. Own bathroom. Kitchen, living room and washer /dryer access. (970)946-2540. Available February 1st.

SANCTUARY HAS A MODULAR for rent. 2 bedroom, 1 bath on the Navajo River. Part of the rent can be work, rent is negotiable, needs a little work. (970)264-2592.

SWEET FURNISHED 2 BEDROOM 2 bath 2 car garage home in Pagosa Lakes. Available around JANUARY 10th. \$2,600 /month Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599 or visit teampagosa.com to view the unit.

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.



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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.

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HOMES FOR SALE

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COMMERCIAL

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

LAND/ BUILDING SITES

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.

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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.

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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.

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.

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All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination."

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