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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney



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Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

WinterFest may not have featured ample snow, but it did feature ample fun, with participants and spectators enjoying events like the hot air balloon ascension, Battle of the Soups, bonfire, Penguin Plunge, Barkus Parade and more.

Governor submits appeal on major disaster declaration for flooding

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Friday, Jan. 16, Gov. Jared Polis submitted appeals to President Donald Trump appealing Trump's denials of Colorado's two major disaster declaration requests for flooding in Western Colorado, as well as for the Elk and Lee fires.

On, Nov. 12, 2025, Polis formally requested a major disaster declaration from the president and the

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support ongoing recovery efforts in La Plata, Archuleta and Mineral counties following the record-breaking western Colorado flooding that occurred Oct. 10-14.

The declaration would unlock FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to help communities recover from severe flooding, debris flows, infrastructure damage and long-term

■ See Appeal A8

BoCC approves moving forward with facilities feasibility study

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 20, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved a motion to direct the county manager to work with Performance Services Inc. to finalize and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for a county facilities feasibility study to be performed.

The motion was approved by a split vote of 2-1, with commissioners John Ranson and Warren Brown approving and Commissioner Veronica Medina voting against the motion.

Earlier that day during a work session, the BoCC heard a presentation from representatives of Performance Services.

Business Development Manager Kate Sawyer briefed the BoCC on what her company provides, the work it does "and potentially supporting [the county] around a feasibility study for this piece of land, and also the different buildings you all own and operate and lease as well."

Sawyer explained that, based on previous discussions with current and former county administrators, and with Brown, the county has multiple

■ See Facilities A7

Commissioners to request fee waiver for affordable housing from PAWSD

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) will be going to the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District's (PAWSD's) board meeting in February to request a waiver of capital investment fees for the county's grant requirement of building affordable homes.

During a work session held by the BoCC on Jan. 20, Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (PSCDC) Executive Director Emily Lashbrooke explained that she had spoken with all three commission-

ers individually "about the issue with PAWSD and our [Department of Local Affairs] grant" on building home ownership in the Chris Mountain II and Trails neighborhoods.

Lashbrooke explained that she previously went before the PAWSD board with the PSCDC to request the fee waivers for phase two of the county's and PSCDC's affordable housing program.

In 2023, the county donated 35 vacant lots to the PSCDC to have homes built that are affordable for residents to purchase who make 80 to 100 percent of the area median income

■ See Waiver A7

Sheriff's Office responds to medical call involving ICE agent

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) reported that it responded to a medical call involving an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent. According to a press release, the ACSO responded to the call at approximately 7:50 a.m.

"While conducting operations in the County, an ICE Agent slipped and fell on the ice, sustaining injuries which required medical treatment," it states.

It adds an ACSO deputy respond-

ed to the scene "to ensure that all Archuleta County citizens, medical personnel, and law enforcement officers were safe, and that medical personnel could provide the necessary medical response."

It notes the case was closed with no further action from the ACSO.

Archuleta County Sheriff Mike Le Roux explains in an email to The SUN, "Colorado law prevents local law enforcement from assisting ICE with civil immigration enforcement: 1) by prohibiting arrests or detentions by local law enforcement based solely on immigration status;

■ See Call A7

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Opinion



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1/9	47	15	0.00	NA	NA
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OUR VIEW

Big decision

A big decision was scheduled to be made yesterday evening, Wednesday, Jan. 21, by the Archuleta School District Board of Education. In a special meeting, the board was slated to choose a site for a potential new building to serve students in kindergarten through eighth grade.

While you won't find which potential site the board opted for in this issue because we needed to print this week's paper before that meeting began, you can find that information at www.PagosaSUN.com and in next week's issue of The SUN.

While we're really not sure which site the board will choose — near the existing high school or off of Vista Boulevard — we know the decision has not been easy, and the board hasn't made it lightly.

For the last year, the district has involved the community in the decision-making process about which direction to head for its facilities, including renovating existing facilities or building new, and where.

We appreciate the thoughtful approach the district has taken, especially because we know every option comes with a multitude of pros and cons, and we know there's no perfect answer that will make everyone happy.

We've liked hearing the different opinions, thoughts and knowledge expressed by the members of the Master Plan Advisory Committee, school board, district staff, community members and experts, and they've given us ample food for thought as we've pondered what decisions we would

make if we were in their shoes (thank goodness we're not).

Decisions like this have the potential to affect everyone in Pagosa Country, whether they have a student in school or not, and we appreciate that the gravity of the situation has not escaped those who have been tasked with helping to gather information and offer their thoughts each step of the way.

Regardless of the decision made on Jan. 21, this process is, in many ways, just beginning, and we hope the district and board will continue to be as open and transparent with the community every step of the way to help us make an informed decision about if and how we'd like to invest in our community and its future.

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the April 2, 1954, Pagosa SUN — Pvt. George Lucero of Pagosa Springs, a supplyman in the 115th Regimental Combat Team's Company C, is at Camp Hale, Colo., for Exercise Ski Jump, the Army's 1954 cold weather and mountain training maneuver. Private Lucero, son of Mrs. E.F. Lucero, Pagosa Springs, entered the Army in May of 1953. (U.S. Army Photo)

LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 22, 1926

Max Mickey returned home Saturday evening from Santa Fe, where he spent a week on business. The Mrs. Joseph Hersch stock of merchandise is being shipped from that city to Pagosa Springs, and will be put on display in the front room of the Legion hall for local sale.

These snappy cold mornings should be sufficient reason to use every caution to prevent the fire menace.

For the second time within two weeks Otis Snooks of Piedra bagged another mountain lion in that vicinity during the past week.

It commenced snowing Tuesday night, resulting in an accumulation of about four inches of light snow. Wednesday night it turned cold, the thermometers of town registering all the way from 12 to 28 below yesterday and this morning.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 26, 1951

A light snow fell last Thursday but that has been the size of the snowfall during the past week. The rest of the week has featured warm days and not too cold nights and it appears as if the snowfall, if any, this year is going to be late in the spring.

The annual report of the San Juan Basin Health Unit for 1950 has been issued and shows the work in public health by that agency during the past year. Mr. Ben K. Lynch, Archuleta County representative in 1950 served as president of the board. He was re-appointed as county representative for 1951 by the Board of County Commissioners and will serve again this year.

During 1950 the San Juan Basin Health Unit had one of their nurses stationed here throughout the year. According to reports this week, the present nurse, Mildred W. Murray is being transferred to Dolores and Archuleta County will be served by the nurse at Ignacio, Elizabeth L. Rowe. This change was necessitated by a shortage of nurses.

Archuleta County is a cooperator in the Basin Health Unit and annually levies a one mill tax for the purpose of helping support the unit.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 22, 1976

C.W. McCall, of "Wolf Creek Pass" song fame has been invited to visit here and ski at Wolf Creek. He and his wife were presented complimentary season passes by Glen Edmonds president of the Wolf Creek Ski Area. The McCalls indicated that they do plan to accept the invitation. By decree of Mayor Jim Cloman, C.W. McCall was also designated as honorary chicken inspector for the town of Pagosa Springs and the Wolf Creek Pass highway. In real life he is Wm. Fries, a TV advertising executive in Omaha, Nebraska who spends much time in the Ouray area.

One of the larger real estate transactions in recent years was recorded at the county clerk's office last week. The transaction involved approximately 3000 acres of land in the Dyke area.

Sellers were Harold and Ruby Radcliff, who own the Dyke Ranch. The property involved is that portion of the ranch north of Highway 160. Buyers were listed as Keyah-Grande, a partnership. It is understood that principals of the firm are from Dayton, Ohio.

No plans for the land have been announced by the purchaser.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 25, 2001

The closing of Valle Seco Road last fall was discussed at Tuesday's regular meeting of Archuleta County commissioners.

Placing the issue on the agenda was Jeff Greer, a local citizen concerned about the closing and with a desire to keep the road open to the public.

Gene Crabtree, chairman of the board of county commissioners, excused himself from the discussion because private property owned by his family and crossed by the road is involved in the dispute. Because Commissioner Alden Ecker was out of town attending a Colorado Counties Inc. training session for newly-elected commissioners, only Commissioner Bill Downey remained in official capacity as commissioner.

County attorney Mary Weiss said Crabtree could take part in the discussion.

Greer questioned Downey and Crabtree, seeking to learn why two months elapsed between the time the commissioners learned of the road closure from the U.S. Forest Service and the time the issue was addressed at a commissioners meeting.

Downey said the time lapse was necessary while he studied the issue and the various related laws. Crabtree refused to comment because "everything I say has been twisted and the second side has not been presented."





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.

Editor's note: Last week The SUN inadvertently printed the letters to the editor twice. We regret any confusion it may have caused.

Unity

Dear Editor:

There is an unmoored criminal in the White House. We cannot allow him and his weak, low-rent cabinet of suck-ups to destroy American wealth and rewrite the rules of American power. Don't let the windsock and the weathervane steer the boat. A humble captain, careful not to offend the Poseidons and to heed the Aeoluses of the earth, names his ship to recognize national glory and hopefully carry on in its honor; he does not name it after himself. Refraining from plastering his own obscene and obnoxious name on the sacred gunwales would be the action of a captain who understands seafaring and the withering realities of pitched battle on the high seas. We are instead dealing with someone- and something - that no doubt has a real president like D. D. Eisenhower, there interred in his hometown cemetery in Abilene, Kansas, spinning, revolving agonizingly, lamentably, in his grave, despite the profound, grand and restful eternal sleep he deserves. Just 10 hours' drive east of here, General Eisenhower spins at such a high velocity and gruesome rpm that GE may as well harness the phenomenon for power. An induction motor there 6 feet below the surface beside the small chapel in the Place of Meditation at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. Who says Trump isn't creating opportunities for renewable energy?

I don't even like using his name. He is inviting a storm he cannot navigate. On the merits of our name, not his.

Treating one another with respect is how we become safer. And if there is an infraction, we work constructively together, we fight together, not against each other, for how to solve it. Forgiving one another is the seed of our evolution. So, after this brief deviation into national madness, let's forgive one another and move on. Let's start taking on the profound and difficult challenges that face us in a mature way, thankful for having had this opportunity to witness a glaring example of how not to do it. This erratic era potentially can help us to realize how precious our time is. Let's come together and lift each other up in faithfulness to one another in the name of what we can accomplish together. We need to rid ourselves of these faithless losers seeking to divide us. The schoolyard bully does not make a good president. We have more worth, and we have more dignity, than this.

We are all fighters. A good leader works to bring us all together and point our efforts toward a common weal, goal. This non-leader in office presently is taking that incredible instinct that we all share - to fight - and he is turning it inward so that we use it against one another, baffling our best instincts. We must stop allowing this. We must wake up and realize that we are all the same and that the force of our unity is what keeps the ship.

Jonathan Dobson

Incompatible

Dear Editor:

There are absurdities in the pos-

turing of our current federal government that simply will not stand. We invade a sovereign nation, and promptly decide that we will rape its natural resources while leaving a murderous dictatorship in place, without even lip service to restoring any sort of democracy or holding elections. The author of this adventure claims to have negotiated 8 peace agreements when in fact he has negotiated none. This fella says that he does not like thieves, then practices thievery and grifting on a scale never before seen in the American presidency. Grocery prices are up, clothing prices are up, automobile prices are up, and he has the audacity to stand before the American people and lie about it, as if we are too stupid or too blind to see it. And now, he sends masked and unidentifiable, undertrained and overfed "officers" to harass American cities. His federal emergency management agency has denied emergency help to communities who need it, if they happen to share a state with a blue city. And our folks in Congress (looking at you, Mr Hurd) wring their hands, mouth platitudes, and do nothing. Buyer's remorse is beginning to show all over the nation. Trumpism is incompatible with American democracy.

Cathlynn Groh

Re: Law and order

Dear Editor:

Greg Giehl's "Law and Order" letter last week raises an important question about who gets to speak, protest, and participate in civic life.

The answer is simple: in a free society, it does not matter where one lives, how long one has lived there, or whether one protests in Pagosa Springs or travels there from elsewhere in Archuleta County.

What matters is the commitment to justice, the rule of law, and the democratic values that have guided this country for generations.

The people who stood on the sidewalk Saturday were not rejecting cooperation or sowing division. They were doing exactly what Americans have done since before our nation's founding— peacefully exercising their constitutional rights to speak, assemble, and petition their government. These rights are not reserved for "generational" residents, nor are they forfeited by living a so-called "privileged" life.

They belong to all of us.

Ironically, many of the good things Greg references—those achieved during and after World War II— came about precisely because ordinary people spoke out. Labor protections, civil rights, women's rights, veterans' benefits, and expanded democratic participation were not gifts from power; they were demanded by citizens who refused to stay silent. Protest is not a rejection of working together—it is often the mechanism by which progress is made.

Standing up for justice also means insisting on accountability under the law for everyone. Justice is meaningless if it only applies to some and not others. Upholding the rule of law requires that those who have broken it face consequences, regardless of wealth, status, or office—including the President of the United States.

Letters

The SUN welcomes letters from readers.

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

All letters must:

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

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

Letters quoting other people must contain proper attribution.

Letters from letter-writing campaigns may not be printed.

There is no guarantee letters will be published.

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

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

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

That principle is not lawlessness; it is the very definition of equal justice under the law.

If seeing neighbors peacefully standing up for their rights was bothersome, perhaps that discomfort is worth examining.

Democracy is not quiet, tidy, or always convenient. It is sustained by people willing to show up, speak out, and insist that freedom and liberty apply to all—not just those who agree with us or have lived here the longest.

Respectfully,
Melissa Lawson

Saturdays

Dear Editor:

Although some may not want to believe it, those of us who rally outside the Library on Saturdays are locals. We're your neighbors, your relatives, your co-workers, your friends. Skeptics can stop searching Lewis Street for the hidden buses. There aren't any.

Instead of asking who we are, it might be more useful to ask why we're out there.

We're saying "out loud" what we believe should be obvious:

Many policies of this administration are unkind. Read Matthew 5:3-12.

Many policies are un-American. Read the Constitution.

Many policies are un-Christian. Read Jesus's red-letter words in the Bible.

Many policies enrich the ultra-wealthy and beggar the rest of us. Read the Trump National Debt which just topped \$38 trillion.

A disgusted judge once said of one of my in-laws: "You're the kind of person who'd steal the pennies off a dead man's eyes."

The same could be said of the con artist who spends his time demanding tribute and robbing Venezuelans of their oil.

Many of the people of the United States disagree. We peacefully assemble on Saturdays to express our dissent. It's our constitutional right to do so.

We resist the bully who threatens masked ICE thugs, a tariff, a lawsuit, a federal investigation, an invasion, or a primary challenge whenever a citizen, a sovereign nation, or a conscientious politician disagrees.

Aren't we sick of the toddler tantrums yet?

Sincerely,
Kathy Muth

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Jan. 26-30

Work activity

- Stormwater utility work is ongoing on the 100-300 blocks on the south side of Pagosa Street.
- Utility placement on the south side of the 2nd Street intersection is ongoing and may affect access to businesses with storefronts facing 2nd Street. All businesses are open, but patrons should plan for alternate access to these businesses from Hermosa Alley East.
- Inlet placement and pipe installation continues in front of Kip's Grill and Cantina.
- The east driveway to the Humane Society is anticipated to be closed early next week to work on pipe installation at this location. The west-end driveway remains open. Work is weather dependent.
- Pedestrian crossings: With the new traffic shift there are several locations that no longer have pedestrian barriers where the sidewalks, curb and gutter have been completed. Please pay attention when traversing the roadway and use identified crossings.

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.

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 duties

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

Business owner responsibilities

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

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

Stay informed and connect with the project

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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

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SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners, Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) members and community members stand together after reading a proclamation by ASI expressing gratitude for its partnership with the county during a work session held on Jan. 20.

ASI thanks county commissioners for funding and partnership

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a work session held by the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Jan. 20, Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) Executive Director Ricardo Martinez provided an update to the BoCC, mainly expressing gratitude for the partnership between the two entities and the BoCC's commitment to providing funds for ASI to run programs and provide services for seniors in the community.

"We're here just to show our appreciation," Martinez said.

He explained that ASI had prepared a proclamation recognizing the BoCC's partnership.

While reading the proclamation, Martinez stated that the funding provided by the BoCC supports the work of ASI "to provide programs and

services critical to the well-being of seniors of Archuleta County."

He also stated that funding provided by the BoCC supports nutritional sustenance for seniors, with more than 20,700 meals being provided in 2025, and more than 8,000 of those meals specifically for home-bound Meals on Wheels participants and more than 11,000 dine-in/grab-and-go meals.

Martinez mentioned that the funding provided by the BoCC goes toward providing programs, like Senior Conversations, tai chi and mindful drawing classes, which prevent "social isolation" and "enhance physical and emotional well-being."

The number of seniors living in Archuleta County is expected "to continue to grow," Martinez said, explaining that there will be a concurrent increase in the need for senior

services.

Martinez concluded by expressing that ASI is "very thankful" for the BoCC's support.

"We couldn't do this without the partnership that you guys provide," he added.

He explained that the ASI Board of Directors recently had a strategic planning meeting where it was shared that, "We are the only senior center that has not reduced hours, we have not reduced staff, we have not reduced services," noting that would not be possible without the partnership with the BoCC.

A member of the senior community also spoke, expressing gratitude for the senior center and stating how grateful they are to have a place to go.

The individual mentioned that during the COVID-19 pandemic, she and her husband had meals deliv-

ered, but highlighted that being able to have a "facility to go to" is crucial, as they otherwise are just at home.

She mentioned that having meals at the senior center with other community members feels like dining with family.

"Everybody treats you like you're just part of the family; it means a lot," she said.

She also stated that she and her husband have lived in six different states, and that "Archuleta County has by far the best senior center and meals."

Commissioner John Ranson commended ASI's work, noting that he sits on the board and has noticed "incredible improvements" over the last year.

"It's the best group I've ever worked with," Ranson said.
clayton@pagosasun.com

County commissioners discuss potential AI adoption guidelines

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) heard from Information Technologies (IT) Coordinator Gabe Cersonsky during a work session held on Tuesday, Jan. 13, with Cersonsky reviewing a potential county artificial intelligence (AI) use policy.

Cersonsky explained that he felt there is a "need for us" to have an AI policy, explaining he looked at other policies adopted across Colorado and Utah, and "fine-tuned [it] for us."

He mentioned the policy would provide a clean line of action to train employees on AI use.

Cersonsky read from the proposed policy, stating that it would "position the county at the forefront of

responsible technology adoption," noting, "that's something we've always done."

He added, "We like other counties to look at us to see how to do things."

Cersonsky explained that he would work with each county department to figure out "how AI can assist them in their everyday jobs," hopefully eliminating mundane activities.

"We have to start using AI or we'll fall behind," Cersonsky added.

Cersonsky cautioned that the county does not want employees to enter any personal identifying information when using AI, as that information is sent to the cloud.

He noted another reason to train employees is to protect certain information, such as personal health records.

"Even if we have an internal AI

system, we have to be careful about that," Cersonsky said.

He went on to explain that employees would not be able to post anything that is AI assisted without citing that AI was used or fact-checking.

"Everything that goes out has to have a human in between," he said.

Commissioner John Ranson commented that he is "all for it," mentioning that AI is good for summarizing long documents.

Commissioner Veronica Medina stated, "So, I'm concerned," explaining that it has been in the news on a national level with people using AI and not fact-checking it.

"They take it as the gospel," she said, mentioning that people can lose jobs over improper use of AI. "Frankly, it's worrisome to me."

Archuleta League of Women voters to discuss local schools, democracy Jan. 27

By Janice McIntyre
Archuleta League of Women Voters

The Archuleta League of Women Voters (LWV) invites the public and LWV membership to a program meeting next Tuesday, Jan. 27, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The program, "What Archuleta Schools Teach About Democracy," will focus on the civics and social studies curriculum that prepares students to be knowledgeable voters.

The meeting will be held at the Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St.

The Colorado League works to support the "key indicators" of healthy democracies: "voter participation, campaign finance reform, diversity of representation, civic knowledge, participation, and education."

We look forward to sharing this information with you.

Obituary

Franklin W. Anderson

Cmdr. Franklin W. Anderson, USN/Ret., passed away at his ranch outside of Ignacio, Colo., on Jan. 5, 2026. He was born on April 25, 1934 to Lloyd and Goldie Anderson in Pagosa Springs, Colo., and was a fifth-generation Archuleta County resident. He graduated from Pagosa Springs High School in 1952, from Fort Lewis College in 1954 and then Colorado State University in 1956 with a B.S. degree in animal sciences. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.

In October 1956, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was selected to attend officer candidate school and was commissioned an ensign in February 1957. Franklin then reported on board the U.S. Navy Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif., to commence training for the Underwater Demolition Team with Class 18, graduating in July 1957 and reporting to UDT-11 for duty.

In August 1961, he was selected to become executive officer of UDT-11,

and shortly thereafter was assigned on a committee of four to study the formation of a special unit (later to be called SEALs) and, in January 1962, he personally selected two officers and 25 men from UDT-11 to help form the nucleus of soon-to-be SEAL Team One.

In June 1964, he volunteered for duty in Vietnam to establish a UDT/SEAL Team for the Vietnamese Navy. Lt. Anderson trained a new group from scratch, and they were very successful on missions. Most noteworthy was the Battle of Vung Ro Bay. Lt. Anderson received the Bronze Star Medal with combat "V" along with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with the Silver Star for his actions.

In July 1966, Lt. Cmdr. Anderson became commanding officer of SEAL Team One where he immediately made significant changes. Among his many commendations, Lt. Cmdr. Anderson received the Presidential Unit Citation from President Johnson and Legion of Merit for his actions while assigned to SEAL Team One. Later, Lt. Cmdr. Anderson was promoted to full commander and received a Meritorious Service Medal. After many successful assignments and duty stations, Cmdr. Anderson received outstanding performance records and was recommended for early promotion and to become director of all UDT and SEAL Training for the Navy — back where he started almost

20 years later. Many of the programs and practices that Franklin started are still in effect today.

In May 1977, Franklin retired after 21 years to be near his father who had become ill and moved back to Colorado. Besides providing moral support to his father, he proceeded in building a ranch from the ground up into a productive enterprise. Franklin raised sheep, cattle and horses. He became active in the local community and La Plata County.

He was commended by the Colorado House of Representatives for activities in agriculture, community affairs and politics. In 1996 he was selected as La Plata County Agri-culturist of the Year. In 2017 he was recognized by the Colorado State University Alumni Association for more than 50 years of public service. Most recently, in 2025, he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award from La Plata County Farm Bureau.

Franklin and Martha just recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. Together they have raised four children: Gisela, Linda Susan, Warren, and Wynne. He is also survived by eight grandchildren: Abby, Audra, Joe, Jack, Sebastian, Mason, Jim and Billy Ann.

Franklin was an inspiration to many, he loved his family and this country, and he will be dearly missed. Services will be held at a later date.



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Our beloved son, Zeke Rivera, was violently taken from us in front of our home by someone hitting him with their vehicle on Monday, 01/05/2026 between 8:15-8:35 p.m.

You have left your paw prints on our hearts and you gave us unconditional love and endless joy. If love could have kept you here, you would have lived forever.

Zeke joined this family over 9 years ago as a small puppy. He grew up knowing and greeted everyone who brought their vehicle over to be fixed by his dad. Even some of the people had dog treats that he and Nikko, his brother, would wait for by their car door. Every time the UPS or FedEx drivers dropped off packages, they would give both of them treats. One time Zeke got into

the FedEx truck and the driver dropped him off in the back of the shop.

When the school kids walked by going to Yamaguchi Park, he would go over and get loving attention from them. He was a loved friend in this neighborhood. He always had a lot to say. To some people, he was only a dog, but to us and other dog people, he was a member of our family. We lost our son today. We will miss you so much. Your wings were ready, but our hearts were not.



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PSMC Primary Care Community Presentation

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Corrinne Johnson, PA-C



Matthew Hintzman, PA-C

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WinterFest a success

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

The Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce expresses its deepest gratitude to all our sponsors, participants, volunteers and attendees who made the 2026 WinterFest a success.

This annual celebration showcased the best of what Pagosa Springs has to offer — from Battle of the Soups to the Penguin Plunge — and none of it would have been possible without your amazing support.

We had an amazing turn out of soup participants and soup tasters. Thank you for bringing out your best soup recipes. This was our inaugural event, and thanks to everyone it was a huge success.

Congratulations again to our Battle Of The Soup winners:

- Best Homemade Soup: Andrea Weisbrod, Chicken Enchilada Soup.
- Best Restaurant Soup: Natalee Sargent, Marry Me Tortellini Chicken Soup.

- People's Choice Soup: Sargent, Marry Me Tortellini Chicken Soup.

To the many volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm ensured every detail ran smoothly, we want to say "thank you." Your time and energy made this event and the inaugural Battle of the Soups a grand and fun time.

A special thanks also goes to the Penguin Plunge participants, who once again demonstrated remarkable courage in braving the icy San Juan River for our local charities.

Your efforts embody the true heart of this community: generosity, spirit and good humor in all conditions. The Penguin Plunge raised more than \$20,000 for nine different charities.

The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs raised \$5,103 and was the big winner for the 2026 Penguin Plunge Challenge.

Finally, to attendees and supporters from near and far, thank you for joining us in celebrating Winterfest in Pagosa Springs. Your participation is everything.

The Chamber looks forward to welcoming everyone back for the 2027 WinterFest, and our second annual Battle of The Soups.



Photo courtesy Stacey Couch

A juvenile American goshawk is spotted during the December 2025 Christmas Bird Count. The bird was originally identified as a Cooper's hawk, but, after taking a closer look, members of the Weminuche Audubon Society changed their minds and updated the Christmas Bird Count database. The organization notes the two birds are very closely related and are often difficult to tell apart in their first year.

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2025 year in review: October, November, December

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 October, November and December.

October

- A trio of Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Pirate cross-country runners earned all-conference honors at the Oct. 3 Zaragoza Invitational/Intermountain League (IML) Meet in Alamosa.

Rylan Ash, Madisen Stretton and Lily DeClark earned second-team all-conference honors.

- In early October, the Colorado Main Street network recognized Pagosa Springs Main Street as Community of the Year and Kathleen McFadden as Manager of the Year, honoring their leadership, innovation and results in downtown revitalization.

- Pirates Johnathon Smith and Tyler Diamond represented the PSHS golf team at the 3A state tournament on Oct. 6 and 7 in Eagle after finishing the regular season among the classification's top 84 golfers.

Smith, a senior, capped off his high school career as part of a four-way tie for 21st, while Diamond, a sophomore, tied for 56th.

- On Oct. 7, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) named a sole finalist for the county manager position — Loginos Gonzalez Jr. from Colorado Springs.

- On Oct. 7, the BoCC unanimously voted to host an Independence Day parade in Pagosa Springs in 2026. The town traditionally hosts the event.

- At its Oct. 9 meeting, the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD) Board of Directors voted to offer the district manager position opened by the upcoming departure of District Engineer/Manager Justin Ramsey to Andrew Connor, who served as PAWSD's operations manager.

The decision followed the board interviewing district manager finalists Connor and Dillon Cottingham at its Sept. 29 meeting.

- Pagosa Country experienced two historic floods in four days on Oct. 11 and 14 thanks to moisture from the remnants of a pair of tropical storms, Priscilla and Raymond.

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

At 11 a.m. on Oct. 9, prior to the storms moving through the area, the San Juan River at Pagosa Springs was flowing at 71.4 cfs or 3.72 feet.

The Pagosa Springs area saw 2.45 inches to 6.93 inches of rain between Oct. 10 and Oct. 14, with mountain SNOTEL totals ranging from 8.7 inches to 9.8 inches.

The floods left officials dealing with a number of infrastructure issues, ranging from roads to sewer services, and the floods resulted in millions in infrastructure damage and drew visits from the area's congressional representatives.

- With an overall record of 10-2-1, including a league mark of 5-0-1, the Pirate soccer team secured the IML title for the second year in a row in mid-October.

- Ten athletes from the DUST2 mountain bike team qualified for the state championships in Glenwood Springs Oct. 18-19: Quinn Howard, Gianna Shaeffer, Adelyn Hittle, Max Roukema, Justin Sewell, Jackson Chaney, Weston Phillips, Amon Phillips, Kaylee Hensle and Eric Smith.

- During an Oct. 21 regular meeting, the BoCC unanimously voted to enter into an employment agreement with Gonzalez for the county manager position.

- The Pirate cross-country team logged a number of highlights at the Oct. 23 regional meet: Ash qualified for state and became PSHS's first freshman boy to qualify after placing 13th, several Pirate runners set new personal records, and Stretton displayed sportsmanship and sacrifice, giving up a potential personal record to help a fallen runner to the finish line.

- The Pirate boys' soccer team capped off its regular season with a 6-2 win over the Lake County Panthers at home on Oct. 24, bringing its overall record to 11-2-1, including a league mark of 5-0-1.

The Pirates ended the regular season as the 23rd-ranked team in the state's 3A division, earning a first-round playoff match against the 10th-ranked Atlas Preparatory School Gryphons out of Colorado Springs.

The Pirates traveled to Colorado Springs on Oct. 29, to take on the Gryphons, but fell 3-1.

- On Oct. 31, Gov. Jared Polis made two appointments in the 6th Judicial District — Archuleta County's new county court judge and a new district court judge.

Polis appointed Anthony D. Edwards to the Archuleta County Court in the 6th Judicial District. The vacancy was occasioned by the appointment of Justin P. Fay to the 6th Judicial District Court.

Polis appointed R. Reid Stewart to the 6th Judicial District Court.

- The Pirate football team claimed the Intermountain League (IML) title and earned a playoff spot after defeating the Alamosa Mean Moose 24-21 on Oct. 31 at Golden Peaks Stadium.

November

- The 3A Lady Pirate volleyball team finished its season with a win against a 4A opponent Nov. 1 at the Coal Ridge Tournament, where the team went 2-2 over two days.

Despite the wins, the Lady Pirates were unable to break into the 3A playoffs, ending the season at No. 38, with 36 teams advancing. The Lady Pirates ended the season with a 5-18 record.

- The high school cross-country season drew to a close on Nov. 1 at the Norris Penrose Event Center in Colorado Springs with the state championship meet.

Ash finished 28th overall out of 153 runners with a time of 17 minutes, 10.10 seconds, making him the top freshman finisher at the meet and earning him an all-state honorable mention.

- A 23-year-old New York man was killed after the semi he was driving went off the side of U.S. 160 on Wolf Creek Pass the morning of Nov. 3.

- On Nov. 4, Town of Pagosa Springs voters voted in favor of a 1 percent sales tax rate increase for sewerage and wastewater reuse facilities beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

- The Pirate football team traveled to Elizabeth on Nov. 8 to take on the Elizabeth Cardinals in the first round of the state's 2A division playoffs. The Pirates fell to the Cardinals by a score of 44-38 in a back-and-forth game.

- The Pirate boys' soccer coach and multiple players received Intermountain League (IML) all-conference awards for their efforts during the 2025 season: coach Trevor Gian (IML Coach of the Year), Hudson Davis (honorable mention), Ryder King (first team), Milo Deitemeyer (first team), Gavin Carter (first team, Player of the Year), Jacob Castaneda (honorable mention) and Chance Ramirez (first team).

- Sky watchers across a good portion of the U.S. were treated to displays of the northern lights the week of Nov. 10, with Pagosa Country being no exception.

- In annual tradition, members of Mullins-Nickerson American Legion Post 108 presented a Veterans Day ceremony in honor of veterans on Nov. 11 at Veterans Memorial Park, and local veterans were honored at a breakfast hosted by Pagosa Springs Middle School's eighth-graders.

- Sometime overnight between Nov. 11 and the early hours of Nov. 12, individuals entered the active construction zone along the 400 block of U.S. 160 and walked through newly poured concrete sidewalk. The act set the project back by an estimated two days and more than \$10,000.

- On Nov. 12, Polis formally requested a major disaster declaration from President Donald Trump and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support ongoing recovery efforts in La Plata, Archuleta and Mineral counties following the record-breaking western Colorado flooding that occurred Oct. 10-14.

The declaration would unlock FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding to help communities recover from severe flooding, debris flows, infrastructure damage and long-term watershed impacts.

- A fire at PSHS's vocational education building on Nov. 12 was determined to be arson. The incident was paged out at about 3:31 p.m., with fire personnel locating the fire in the kitchen area and knocking it down.

The Pagosa Springs Police Department indicated the fire began in a small closet pantry in the kitchen located in the building.

- The PAWSD board approved an employment agreement with Connor at its Nov. 13 meeting.

- At its Nov. 13 meeting, the PAWSD board also agreed to end the district's affordable housing surcharge, which had been used to support fee waivers for affordable housing.

- At meetings on Nov. 4 and 18, The majority of the governmental entities who utilize dispatch services locally have approved dissolving the existing intergovernmental agreement for operation of the dispatch center and approved having the Archuleta County Sheriff's Office operate the dispatch

center.

- The suspect in a fatal Feb. 15 crash on U.S. 84 who was reported as a missing person in Texas in October was booked into the Archuleta County jail on Nov. 20 after turning himself in.

Justin Levi McCelvey, 38, of New Braunfels, Texas, is facing charges stemming from a two-vehicle crash that took place near milepost 18 on U.S. 84 that killed two — a 7-year-old and an adult — and left another adult with serious injuries.

McCelvey was out on a \$1 million bond when he was reported as a missing person out of Port Aransas, Texas, with his last appearance listed on missing posts on Facebook as Oct. 9.

The case is ongoing.

- The Pirate Unified bowling team logged its best state finish in team history at the Nov. 21 state bowling championships in Lone Tree, taking 10th out of 29 teams with a total pinfall of 513.

The Pirates qualified for state after placing second at regionals.

- Wolf Creek Ski Area opened for the season on Nov. 22. As of Nov. 25, the ski area had reported 33 inches of snow so far on the season.

December

- The shift of the lanes of traffic from the south side of U.S. 160 to the north side from 4th Street to 1st Street was completed on Dec. 2, ahead of the week's snowstorm.

- On Dec. 2, the Colorado Broadband Office announced that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration approved Colorado's final proposal under the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program, unlocking \$420.6 million in federal funding for the state's broadband infrastructure.

Eric Hittle, technical director of the Archuleta County Broadband Services Management Office, noted the project will include about \$22 million in investment in Archuleta County.

- On Dec. 5, Fay issued an order providing summary judgment on several key issues in the ongoing litigation between the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) and PAWSD over PAWSD's efforts to sell the Running Iron Ranch, which the entities jointly own.

- A pair of Lady Pirates garnered postseason honors for their work on the volleyball court during the fall season, with Hayden Peterson earning an all-conference honorable mention and Lexi Campbell being named to the all-conference second team.

- The sales tax collections report released Dec. 8 revealed that sales tax collections in Archuleta County for the month of October 2025 were reported to be down 16.3 percent compared to figures from October 2024.

The county's sales tax collections had been up every other month so far in the month-to-month comparisons with 2024, with the biggest increase coming in February, which showed an 11.6 percent increase.

- On Dec. 12, the Pirate cheer squad recorded its best finish in more than a decade at the state spirit championships at the Denver Coliseum.

The team took sixth in the Coed 2A/3A division with a semifinals score of 60.65, which included no deductions.

- The Lady Pirate swim team returned to action with the Delta Invite on Dec. 12, where the team started with a bang as the 200-meter medley relay team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Asia Gorman qualified for state.

- Pagosa Country experienced record high temperatures Dec. 12 and 13.

According to Pagosa Weather's Shawn Prochazka, the previous record high in Pagosa Springs for Dec. 12 was set in 1934 at 55 degrees, which was

broken with a high temperature of 57 degrees.

The previous record high for Dec. 13 was set in 1929 at 54 degrees, which was broken with a high temperature of 55 degrees.

- On Dec. 15, Gov. Jared Polis, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Great Outdoors Colorado announced 19 grant awards totaling \$9,990,240 through the Regional Partnerships Initiative. Of that, the Pagosa Area Recreation Coalition will receive \$86,055 to support collaborative efforts advancing regional conservation and recreation goals.

The investments support regional coalitions working together to advance outdoor recreation, conservation and climate resilience goals aligned with Colorado's Outdoors Strategy.

- On Dec. 15, the BoCC unanimously approved a resolution honoring military veterans and declaring Archuleta County as a Purple Heart county. Commissioner Veronica Medina noted there are 35 known Purple Heart recipients in Archuleta County.

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

- On Dec. 20, FEMA denied Colorado's two disaster requests, including the one for the flooding that occurred in southwest Colorado in October. The other request was for support following the Elk and Lee fires in Rio Blanco County.

The following day, Polis and Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper announced appeals would be filed soon after the "late Saturday night" denial and called on Trump to reverse the decision.

- More record high temperatures were set on Dec. 22 and Dec. 23.

According to Prochazka, the previous record high temperature for Dec. 22 was set in 1906 at 57 degrees. The new record high set was 58 degrees.

The previous record high for Dec. 23 was also set in 1906, at 56 degrees.

■ See Review A7

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facilities without adjacencies, aging buildings and needs a clearer plan on how to move forward.

Sawyer explained that her company is a design-build company that is “fully integrated” with architects, engineers and construction teams that have projects in 16 states that are “design-build friendly.”

She also noted that her company is currently active in maintaining more than 1,000 projects.

“Once we help you get you to where you need to go, we don’t just leave, so we stick around,” Sawyer said.

She described her company as a “one-stop shop,” noting that “there’s a lot of different things we can handle,” including looking at new builds, renovations and infrastructure improvements.

Sawyer also noted that Performance Services only works in a “design-build capacity.”

She then mentioned that Performance Services would also support understanding of funding for the project, and possible bond elections or certificates of participation (COPs).

In response to a question from Ranson, Sawyer explained that bigger projects that get up to the \$100 million mark usually require a tax increase, whereas smaller projects can be done through COPs or lease-purchase options, noting that it is all “very project dependent.”

Principal Architect Tim Weber joined Sawyer during the work session, explaining the differences between a “traditional” design-bid-build process and what his company offers, the design-build process.

Instead of hiring an architect and engineer on the front end to provide drawings for a general contractor to then seek subcontractors, in a design-build process there is basically one contractor and the design-builders “take on 100 percent of that risk.”

The risk being referred to is the possibility of change orders coming from the project in the event there is any confusion between the architect, engineer and contractors.

In response to a question from Medina, Weber stated, “we are very local focused,” explaining that there are options for sourcing materials locally.

Brown asked for clarification on if there would be no change orders if the county were to select Performance Services for the project.

“We do offer no change orders,” Weber said.

Weber explained that change orders may occur during the project, but they

would not be the responsibility of the county, adding, “they’re ours.”

Ranson mentioned recent issues the county faced with running into rock when trying to build the new transit center at Harman Park, asking if Performance Services would look at stuff like that ahead of starting the project.

“You will find that we are very careful on the front end,” Weber said.

Weber explained that his company would start with a needs assessment by reviewing the situation and establishing goals with the county, performing stakeholder interviews, survey buildings, and identify needs, solutions, costs and benefits.

That assessment typically takes about 12 to 16 weeks, Weber noted.

Sawyer spoke more about the “no-change-order guarantee,” reiterating that her company takes on that risk.

She stated that her company does not use change orders as an excuse to make more money or delay projects.

“It’s just not an excuse,” she added.

Medina described the no-change-order guarantee as a “great selling point,” noting the “trauma” the county has experienced with previous projects’ change orders and asked what percentage would be padded on in the front-end of the contract for potential change orders.

Sawyer explained that her company is always upfront with that as it is part of negotiations.

“It really is project dependent,” she said, noting it could range from 5 percent to 20 percent of the total project cost.

In response to a question from Brown, Sawyer also explained that there is no charge for the feasibility study, even if Performance Services is not selected to do the actual build.

Sawyer also explained that the feasibility study is intended to be dynamic, with updates made as needed.

Pricing and costs included in the study may have an expiration date, but the study itself is flexible, she explained.

Ranson mentioned that he is familiar with COPs and bond financing, commenting, “This community went through a very painful COP a few years back.”

He described the COP as a hard sell and a “difficult decision in my mind.”

Ranson also asked about the potential of remodeling existing buildings being a suggestion put forward based on what is discovered through the feasibility study.

“We’re definitely gonna look at that,” Sawyer said, explaining that the

county is currently leasing a building as well.

“If it turns out that it would just be absolutely cost prohibitive to do one option over the other, ... you’re gonna know really, really quickly after the study,” Sawyer said.

She also noted that Performance Services does not advocate or recommend any certain option, but simply provides data to let its clients make the best decision possible.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez explained that this is an opportunity for the county to obtain a feasibility study for free, and, based on the commissioners’ priorities for this year, “this really gives an opportunity at no cost to the public to get ideas.”

Later in the day, during the BoCC’s regular meeting and prior to approving its motion, the BoCC heard comments on the matter from other elected county officials, Assessor Johanna Tully-Elliott and Treasurer Elsa White.

Tully-Elliott spoke with reasons for justification of a new county administration building to be built, stating, “The county’s current facilities no longer meet the operational, safety, legal or service delivery requirements of our own county government.”

She stated that having county employees working across multiple locations and in spaces that do not meet standards, constituents are forced to navigate a confusing system for routine county business.

Tully-Elliott encouraged creating a centralized, secure and efficient location for county services that will improve compliance, safety and legal access.

“This fragmented model creates daily inefficiencies,” she added.

Tully-Elliott also mentioned the lack of storage space for county records, noting that currently records have to be stored off-site in rented units.

She also mentioned the lack of basic security infrastructure in the county’s current buildings.

“Exterior doors and windows do not provide adequate protection from angry taxpayers,” she said, adding, “We’ve already experienced the repercussions of windows that are not secure.”

White expressed that it should not be just the county’s elected officials who are able to provide input on the matter, but everyone else who would be going into a new building, as well.

Tully-Elliott added that the existing building is not suitable for long-term use as it has sewer issues and sub-par electrical systems.

She added that the county’s decision is not to spend the money or not,

but rather how the money should be spent.

Tully-Elliott stated that a consolidated county facility “represents a strategic capital investment that stabilizes cost, reduce risks, improves safety and compliance, and creates a durable public asset while flattening long-term operating expenses.”

Medina commented that it does not make sense for the county to spend money on a building “that currently does not meet the needs of the county.”

She noted the discussion has been going on for years now and has been a topic for the BoCC before mentioning that constituents have expressed to her that the county does not need a new building, and if it does, if services would be provided five days a week, and if additional services — like driver’s license services — could also be brought in.

“Just know that I’ve been asked that multiple times,” Medina said.

Ranson acknowledged Tully-Elliott’s and White’s input, stating that many people within the county are unhappy with him right now, “but I’m elected by the people.”

White noted that she is also elected by the people.

Ranson then indicated that if the project moves forward with a new building being built, “I’m not gonna vote for a COP.”

Ranson motioned to direct Gonzalez to finalize and sign an MOU with Performance Services for a feasibility study.

Before voting on the motion, Medina explained that she agreed with a lot of what’s been said, adding, “I do feel like we need a building.”

However, given where the county’s at, “unfortunately, this is not one of the priorities this year for me,” Medina said, noting that the budget is tight and fixing the county’s road situation is more of a priority for her.

Brown explained that four years ago the county began talking about this and taking public input as the plan was to have one location for county services.

Along the way, the public asked the BoCC to be mindful of costs, Brown explained.

He noted that he is pleased with the opportunity to have a feasibility study performed for free in hopes of getting a better idea about what the county’s best option is moving forward.

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Waiver

■ Continued from front

(AMI).

The PSCDC completed phase one of the project in 2024, building 10 homes, of which nine have sold. Phase two of the project will consist of building five homes in 2026.

“We are only building five homes in phase two, due to Travelers Circle was not complete when we started phase two and that’s where we own the rest of the properties,” Lashbrooke said.

She went on to explain that when she asked for the fee waivers from PAWSD for phase two, the PSCDC had already been awarded a \$675,000 grant through DOLA through Proposition 123 for home ownership funds.

She later explained that the grant would allow for \$65,000 to be taken off of the purchase price of each home to help keep the total cost for buyers in the affordable range.

“This is for 100 percent AMI and below,” Lashbrooke said, explaining that with the raw cost to build a home and the capital investment fees added on phase two, “it knocks us out of the affordability piece.”

She noted that would take a three-bedroom home from \$330,000 up to \$360,000, “and our 100 percent AMI, the cap on the house they can afford is [\$298,000].”

She added, “So, it knocks us out of affordability, which would also knock me out of the \$650,000 dollar grant if I can’t build these houses affordably.”

She went on to mention that in speaking with a specific PAWSD board member, it was suggested to her that the BoCC should be making the fee

waiver request to PAWSD, as she is “simply just a contractor for the county building housing.”

She clarified that the DOLA More Housing Now Grant is the county’s grant.

“So, I am here today to officially request if the county commissioners could see if in your vision to go forward to the February PAWSD meeting to request a waiver of these fees for phase two,” Lashbrooke said.

She noted that the PSCDC will factor in the PAWSD capital investment fees as the project moves forward with the commitment to build 35 homes, “unless anything changes between now and then.”

However, having to factor in the capital investment fees for future builds would likely mean moving away from stick-built homes to some sort of modular or “panelized” home, Lashbrooke mentioned.

“We probably would most likely have to change the product that we bring to the market,” she said, “because we can’t hit the number that we’re required to hit.”

Lashbrooke also mentioned that Colorado Sen. Cleave Simpson is working on a bill to raise the AMI levels outlined in Proposition 123, “so we don’t have to disqualify 35 people for under \$1,000 a year.”

Lashbrooke then mentioned that “there is some sort of misunderstanding between PAWSD and the [PSCDC]” with the fee waiver request for phase one of the project.

She explained that the PSCDC thought when it applied for fee waivers

for phase one, that it applied to 80 to 100 percent AMI levels, “however, the minutes reflect 80 and below.”

She indicated that at the February meeting she will need to re-ask for the phase one fee waivers.

In response to a question from Commissioner John Ranson, Lashbrooke noted that the total cost of fee waivers for the first 10 homes is about \$250,000.

Commissioner Warren Brown commented, “That’s disappointing; that was not my recollection, and I was at the meeting.”

He noted that if the request were for 80 percent and below, it would have been the same as Habitat for Humanity projects, “and clearly this is not the same project.”

Ranson commented that in meetings with DOLA representatives and PAWSD board members, what he got out of those meetings is that “the county needs to put the best foot forward.”

He explained that it is the county’s responsibility to do what it can to help with PAWSD.

“If we’re not working together, we’re not gonna be able to build affordable housing,” Ranson said, indicating that he is “all for” going to the next PAWSD board meeting. “To me, it’s a little bit ridiculous that we can’t work together, especially on something like this. It’s just been very trivial in the past, and I’m kind of fed up with it.”

Regular PAWSD board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at 100 Lyn Ave. For additional meeting information, visit www.pawsd.org/district-business/public-meetings/.

that our entire community, including all first response agencies, law enforcement personnel, and citizens, are kept safe while conducting business.”

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and keep local resources focused on public safety rather than federal immigration duties. Archuleta County Sheriff’s Office’s primary focus is to uphold public safety in the county, which ultimately includes ensuring

Monument had been designated an International Dark Sky Park by Dark Sky International.

The monument becomes Colo-

rado’s 19th certified International Dark Sky Park and joined a growing list of places known for dark sky conservation and education.

Call

■ Continued from front

2) by honoring civil detainees only where there is a judicial warrant, and 3) by limiting data sharing. These statutes aim to build community trust, ensure due process,

Review

■ Continued from A6

The new record high set was 58 degrees.

• In late December, it was announced that Chimney Rock National



Students wait for the start of the annual Intermountain League Honor Band festival in Monte Vista Jan. 16. Seven high schools participated, including Pagosa Springs. The guest conductor was André Wilkins from Salida High School.

Appeal

■ Continued from front watershed impacts.

Trump and FEMA denied Colorado's requests on Dec. 20, 2025, with the denial letter stating, "Based on our review of all of the information available, it has been determined that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted. Therefore, I must inform you that your request for a major disaster declaration is denied."

The state's request for funding for the Elk and Lee fires was also denied.

The following day, Polis, along with Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, announced that appeals would be filed soon after the "late Saturday night" denial and called on Trump to reverse the decision.

That appeal was then submitted on Friday, Jan. 16, with the appeals also including new information collected since the initial request.

"We are submitting these appeals to help ensure that the Colorado communities impacted can get the support they deserve to recover more quickly. Whether fires or floods, Coloradans have been deeply impacted by these natural disasters. With this appeal, we hope that the federal government steps in to help Coloradans recover stronger," said Polis.

Polis' letter to Trump regarding the flooding, sent through FEMA's acting regional manager for Region VIII, Katherine Fox, notes, "The State is appealing your denial of the request because the damages from the flooding clearly exceeded FEMA's indicators for a Major Disaster Declaration."

It continues, "The Western Colorado Flooding event significantly impacted southwest Colorado. Multiple waves of heavy rainfall hit the Vallecito, Piedra, San Juan River, and South Fork Rio Grande basins over the course of four days, resulting in numerous instances of moderate to major river flooding. Streamflows rose quickly and fluctuated at high levels over the course of the incident period, providing little relief to systems downstream. The intensity and widespread impacts of the floods pulled significant resources from local and state partners. This was compounded by other ongoing emergency incidents that required regional and state resources to be dedicated concurrently. I authorized \$6 million by Executive Order to help with response, consequence management, mitigation, and recovery efforts."

The letter further discusses that the floods "caused consequential damage to the infrastructure of counties, municipalities, and special districts, as well as to valuable natural resources. Individuals, households, and businesses that rely on the landscape and infrastructure that existed pre-disaster were immediately impacted and still face impacts today. After conducting a series of local and state damage assessments, verified through FEMA's Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment, this incident caused \$13,820,036 in damage to roads, culverts, and publicly-owned infrastructure, and high costs for debris removal."

In Archuleta County, it states, "the per capita indicator equates to more than \$995 per person to repair damages to roads and other county in-

frastructure. The total annual road repair and maintenance budget for the County falls vastly short at approximately \$7,000,000, when total costs exceed \$13,292,000."

The letter later notes the flooding "highlighted a significant financial challenge regarding road repairs in Archuleta County. The impacted infrastructure in this area is very remote, which increases the cost of repairing and rebuilding the roads to pre-disaster condition. The cost to make the needed repairs is well above the average cost of repairing roads because of additional expenses associated with transporting materials long distances. The damage is especially financially burdensome because the County does not have access to gravel pits nearby to support repairs. As repairs have begun, the actual costs match the high estimated costs listed in the State's initial request."

It continues, "In order to minimize costs, Public Assistance funds will be sought to establish a local gravel pit to assist with repairs."

It further notes the gravel pit would reduce recovery costs, as well as providing a long-lasting benefit to the community.

"This will be a great opportunity to immediately bring costs down, and the savings will continue well after disaster repairs have been completed," it states. "A breakdown of costs associated with remote road repair is outlined in the State's initial request."

The letter further notes the impacted roads overlap with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's reservation boundary and also serve a number of tribal members.

The letter then discusses the flood impacts on the San Juan River and notes the river's role as a "substantial economic driver" and potential impacts of not repairing the river.

"Seven parks were damaged by large amounts of debris and sediment covering river walkways," it states. "Many public trails, which support the local tourism economy, were damaged and destroyed. In the Town of Pagosa Springs, several large rocks in the river were moved or damaged, creating hazards for anglers, recreational boaters, tubers, and swimmers. In addition, the fish habitat was destroyed. If the river is not repaired, there will be a substantial negative impact on visitation, the local economy, and local tax revenue, further hampering recovery efforts. Wetlands were also flooded, and a large amount of sediment was deposited, which raised the flood plain, putting additional homes at risk for future flooding. In other areas, the flood caused shallow waters that now threaten wildlife habitats."

It further notes that leaving the riverways in their current states would have "significant ramifications" and that public assistance funds would provide the support needed to find solutions for rebuilding and reducing impacts ahead of additional rainstorms or spring runoff.

"This region needs significant help to protect its communities from risk and put mitigation measures in place to ensure it can withstand future storms," it states.

The letter then discusses Vallecito Reservoir in La Plata County and the state's support.

"In summary, the impact of the

Western Colorado Flooding event reached a local, regional, and state-wide level," the letter concludes. "The additional information provided in this appeal builds upon the State's initial request for assistance. The State plans to keep communication lines open with entities impacted by the flooding to continue to understand evolving issues and ensure local partners are receiving the support they need. The remoteness of damage, widespread river impacts, and the potential for increased impacts from future hazards create a complex situation in southwest Colorado. FEMA Public Assistance is necessary to support these communities, mitigate future losses, and help these communities recover."

Town and county letters

The Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County also addressed letters to Trump in support of the appeal.

Those letters, signed by the commissioners and Mayor Shari Pierce, are largely the same and discuss the scope of the damage that occurred in the three southwest Colorado counties, "impacting our public infrastructure and utilities as well as important resources for our local economies."

The letters continue, "Flood waters and debris have washed out roads, bridges, and water management systems, damaged a local reservoir, and severely damaged multiple sewer systems. The extent of the damage is considerable and the cost to repair a wide range of public infrastructure is significant; our rural southwestern Colorado communities don't have the financial capacity to cover the costs incurred by responding to the emergency as well as recovering from it."

The letters also discuss the damage to the local economy, with washed-out and damaged roads, bridges and culverts making travel to, from and within the region more difficult.

"Outdoor recreation is also a major part of our economy, and people travel from long distances to enjoy hunting, fishing, boating, and other water sports in our area. The floods significantly damaged rivers, streams and other waterways that are the core of our outdoor recreation industry, and repairs will be key to our recovery both physically and economically," the letters add.

The letters then state that the most critical need for federal funding isn't just repairing roads or removing debris, but that the large amount of water redirected channels and washed out berms, leaving the streams very susceptible to repeated overflows in the future.

"Without federal assistance to proactively fix the rivers and control the channels, we will see recurring floods every year and resulting damage to the surrounding communities, businesses, and local economy," they state.

Both letters note the rural communities are "struggling to recover, rebuild, and take action to prevent further destructive flooding without federal aid. We respectfully ask you to approve the state's major disaster declaration request, to help us rebuild and protect our constituents, our small businesses, and our rural economy."

Elk and Lee fires

The Lee Fire was a record-setting event in Colorado. It grew to become the fourth-largest fire in the state's history, reaching more than 137,000 acres. Concurrently, the Elk Fire ramped up a few miles away, reaching nearly 15,000 acres.

The fires burned through complex and rugged topography, together burning over 237 square miles, larger than the city of Chicago.

The size, intensity and close proximity of these fires pulled significant resources from local and state partners, the state notes. As shown by conducting a series of local and state damage assessments, and verified through FEMA's Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment, this incident caused \$27,491,064 in damage.

Editor's note: For transparency, Randi Pierce is related to Shari Pierce. randi@pagosasun.com

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Sports

SWIMMING

Lady Pirates earn state qualification at Montrose meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team logged one of its best meets of the season so far at the Montrose High School Girls Invitational on Friday, Jan. 16.

“We had one of our best meets of the season in Montrose,” wrote coach Heather Miller in an email to The SUN. “We had many best times and many were big drops.”

Another highlight of the meet for the Lady Pirates was the 200-yard freestyle relay qualifying for state with a time of two minutes, 00.09 seconds. The state cut for that race is 2:02.00.

The first event of the meet was the 200-yard medley relay. The Lady Pirates had two teams competing. The team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Asia Gorman placed fifth and swam a 2:18.75. The team of Ruby Snell, Leilani Snell, Natalia Monterroso and Brooklyn Trujillo was disqualified.

The next event, the 200-yard freestyle, saw eight Lady Pirates compete. The top finisher was Gorman, who swam a personal 2:26.50, dropping 1.64 seconds and placing seventh. Gianna Shaeffer placed 13th and swam a personal best 2:38.74, dropping 2.53 seconds. Grace Cram was the next Lady Pirate to finish, swimming a 2:42.10 and placing 16th. Cheyenne Trujillo swam a 3:12.33 and placed 22nd.

The next three girls all dropped more than 17 seconds off their previous personal bests in the 200-yard freestyle: Avery Book swam a 3:12.44, placed 23rd and dropped 22.72 seconds. Kailey Vincent swam a 3:13.23, placed 24th and dropped 17.03 seconds. Isabela Forster swam a 3:37.12, placed 26th and dropped 24 seconds. Arya Patel was the final Lady Pirate to compete in the event, swimming a 3:53.44 and placing 27th.

The next event was the 200-yard individual medley. Gantt swam a 2:47.89 in and finished sixth. Blackman swam a 3:21.80 and finished 12th, dropping 0.20 seconds off her previous best time. Angela Gomez and Monterroso were both disqualified.

The Lady Pirates had six swimmers compete in the 50-yard freestyle. The top finisher was Hedgecock, who swam a 21.67 and placed 15th. Katelyn Fricke swam a 32.31 and placed 17th. Ruby Snell swam a personal best 32.39, dropping 3.96 seconds and placing 18th. Leilani Snell also swam a personal best time

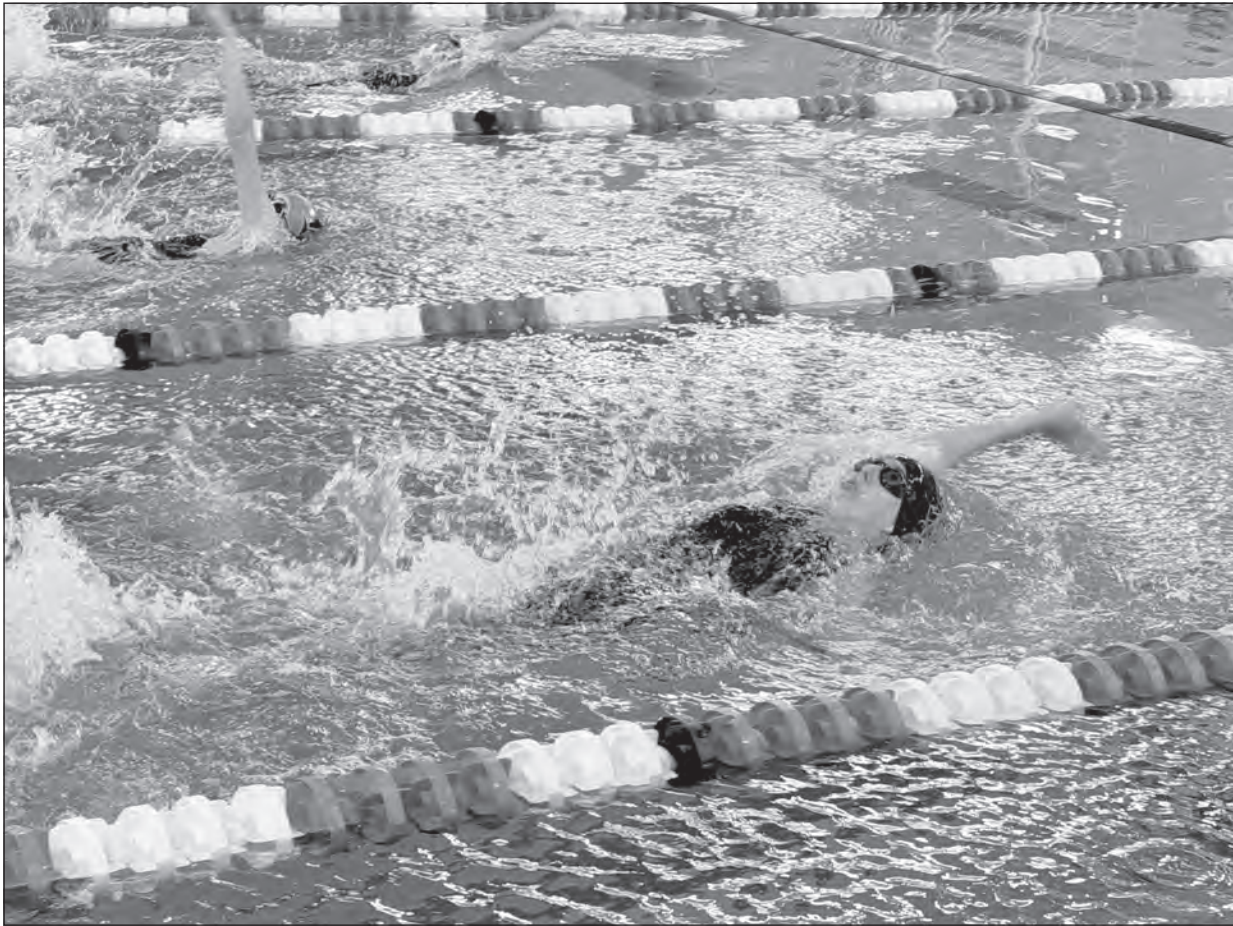


Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Lady Pirate Ruby Snell swims the backstroke in Montrose on Friday, Jan. 16. Snell swam in multiple events at the meet and recorded a personal best in the 50-yard freestyle.

of 32.85, dropping 0.22 seconds and placing 20th. Brooklyn Trujillo swam a 36.99 and placed 32nd, and Lucia Rivera swam a 40.11 and placed 37th.

Gomez was the only Lady Pirate who swam the 100-yard butterfly. She placed ninth, swimming a 1:44.66.

Every single swimmer in the 100-yard freestyle swam a personal best. Gantt was the top finisher, dropping 0.47 seconds and placing fifth with a time of 1:05.19. Shaeffer placed 13th, dropping 16.66 seconds en route to her personal-best swim of 1:11.77. Fricke dropped 0.70 seconds and placed 16th, swimming a 1:13.52. Ruby Snell swam a 1:17.64, dropping 5.92 seconds and placing 22nd. Book swam a 1:26.40, dropping 0.78 seconds and placing 30th. Vincent swam a 1:27.85, dropping 5.57 seconds and placing 31st.

There were six swimmers who competed in the 500-yard freestyle. Cram swam a 7:09.66 and placed ninth, Monterroso swam a 8:20.98 and placed 11th, Leilani Snell swam a 8:36.44 and placed 12th, Brooklyn Trujillo swam a 8:56.10 and placed 13th, Cheyenne Trujillo swam a 8:59.39 and placed 14th, and Forster

swam a 10:06.94 and placed 15th.

The 200-yard freestyle relay was next. The team of Hedgecock, Shaeffer, Gorman and Gantt qualified for state with their time of 2:00.09. They also placed fifth at the meet. The team of Blackman, Gomez, Fricke and Cram placed 10th with a time of 2:16.54. The team of Patel, Book, Rivera and Vincent placed 14th with a time of 2:40.53.

Patel was the only Lady Pirate to compete in the 100-yard backstroke. She swam a 2:17.99 and placed 22nd.

Blackman was the top Lady Pirate finisher in the 100-yard breaststroke, swimming a 1:30.96 and placing 11th. Hedgecock swam a personal best 1:33.18, dropping 2.09 seconds and placing 14th. Gorman swam a personal best 1:44.25, dropping 12.65 seconds and placing 25th. Rivera swam a personal best 1:51.12, dropping 0.28 seconds and placing 28th.

The final event of the meet for the Lady Pirates was the 100-yard freestyle relay. The team of Ruby Snell, Shaeffer, Gomez and Cram swam a 5:06.81 and placed sixth. The team of Fricke, Monterroso, Book and Leilani Snell swam a 5:23.68 and placed sev-

enth. The team of Cheyenne Trujillo, Forster, Brooklyn Trujillo and Vincent swam a 6:01.59 and placed 10th.

This Friday, Jan. 23, the Lady Pirates will be competing in Gunnison for the second time this year.

“For Gunnison we will continue some endurance work but with a bit more focus on sprinting and race strategy,” wrote Miller. “We will also focus a little more on starts and turns since we did have a few mistakes in Montrose.”

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WRESTLING

Lady Pirates take third at Queens of the Mountain tournament

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate wrestling team traveled to Edwards to compete in the Queens of the Mountain tournament on Saturday, Jan. 17, finishing third out of 12 teams.

All seven of the girls placed, with five placing in the top three.

“[It was] Another big day for the wrestling team,” wrote coach Dan Janowsky in an email to The SUN.

Wrestling at 190 pounds, Laykyn Baxstrom was the only champion for the Lady Pirates on Saturday.

She pinned her first opponent after one minute and 18 seconds, pinned her second opponent after 52 seconds and won by a 18-3 technical fall in her third match. In her final match, she won by 13-3 major decision, scoring 22.5 points for the Lady Pirates.

Baxstrom improved her season record to 13-0.

Madisen Stretton placed second while wrestling at 110 pounds, scoring 14 points.

Stretton lost her first match by 13-7 decision. She then came back and won her next two matches, the first by a 16-2 major decision and the second by a 9-0 major decision.

Stretton now has a 15-3 record on the season.

Kyley Matyniak also placed second for the Lady Pirates while wrestling at 130 pounds.

She won her first round match by 17-1 technical fall, won her second

match on a medical forfeit and lost her last match after being pinned after 50 seconds.

Matyniak scored 15.5 points and improved her record to 14-6 on the season.

Bella Jackson placed third for the Lady Pirates while wrestling at 105 pounds.

Jackson lost in the first round after being pinned in 1:16, then won three straight. She won her next match by a 21-5 technical fall, pinned her opponent after two minutes in the third round and won by a 17-1 technical fall in the quarterfinals. Jackson then lost in the semifinal after being pinned in 3:03, but came back to pin her opponent in the third-place match after 3:38.

Jackson scored 18 points and improved her season record to 15-5.

Corrina Galabota placed third, wrestling at 125 pounds and scoring 11 points.

Galabota pinned her first opponent after 1:31, but lost her next two matches, the first by a fall after 2:44 and the second by a fall after 4:25.

Galabota has a 4-7 record on the season for the Lady Pirates.

Kelsey Matyniak placed fifth while wrestling at 115 pounds, scoring two points for the Lady Pirates.

Kelsey Matyniak lost her first two matches, the first by fall after 36 seconds and the second by fall after 5:40. She bounced back and won her third match, pinning her opponent after 1:19. She then lost her next two matches, the fourth by fall after 3:15 and the fifth by fall after 35 seconds.

Kelsey Matyniak has a 5-14 record on the season.

Wrestling at 135 pounds, Audrina Smith placed sixth.

Smith was pinned after 56 seconds in her first match, after 1:07 in her second match, after 3:20 in her third match, after 2:52 in her fourth match and after 1:20 in her fifth match.

Smith has a 9-11 record on the year.

The Lady Pirates will be back in action on Thursday, Jan. 22, when they host a dual against Bayfield.

This will be the last home event of the year for the team and is also senior night.

Action is slated to begin around 5:30 p.m.

The Lady Pirates will then head to Ignacio for the Four Corners Girls Invite on Saturday, Jan. 24, with action set to begin at 8:30 a.m.

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BASKETBALL

Lady Pirates move to 5-6 after league wins

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate basketball team moved to 5-6 after going 2-0 last week against Monte Vista and Ignacio.

The 4A Lady Pirates defeated 3A Monte Vista 40-31 at home on Friday, Jan. 16.

“The Monte Vista game was a solid team win,” wrote coach Sarah Osborn in an email to The SUN. “Our ball movement on offense created quality shots, and we finished well around the rim.”

Pagosa led Monte Vista 10-8 by the end of the first quarter and expanded that lead to 21-12 by halftime and 33-20 by the end of the third. Monte Vista outscored Pagosa 11-7 in the fourth, but Pagosa held on for the 40-31 win.

“When we defend, rebound, and play unselfish basketball, we put ourselves in a great position to be successful.”

Coach Sarah Osborn

The Lady Pirates were led in scoring by Charity Domingo, who finished with 12 points. Kaila Limebrook added eight, Lexi Campbell scored seven, Amber Snarr had five, Ximena Garcia had four, Adelyn Hittle scored three and Liana Vega contributed one point.

The Lady Pirates made four of six free-throw attempts.

As a team, the Lady Pirates hauled down 28 rebounds. Snarr led the way with seven, Hittle had six, Vega and Domingo each had four, Garcia had three, and Limebrook and Campbell each had two.

The girls assisted on 12 of their 16 made field goals, finished with 13 steals, one block and 34 turnovers.

“What stood out most was our ability to respond when Monte Vista made runs—we stayed composed and trusted one another,” wrote Osborn. “When we defend, rebound, and play unselfish basketball, we put ourselves in a great position to be successful.”

The Lady Pirates then traveled to Ignacio to take on the 3A Ignacio Bobcats on Saturday, Jan. 17.

Despite finishing the first quarter down 11-7, the Lady Pirates rallied to outscore the Bobcats 37-20 over the rest of the game to come away with the 44-31 win.

“Ignacio was a gritty game that required a lot of toughness and focus,” wrote Osborn. “It is always hard to come out with a win in Ignacio. We didn’t always play our cleanest basketball, but our effort never wavered.”

Hittle led the team with 14 points in the matchup. Limebrook added 11 of her own, Garcia had nine, Snarr and Domingo each had four, and Campbell had two to round out the



SUN photo/
Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Ximena Garcia puts up a shot against Monte Vista on Friday, Jan. 16. The team won the matchup 40-31, with Garcia putting up four points.

scoring for the Lady Pirates.

The team made 13 out of 23 shots from the charity stripe.

The girls hauled down a total of 36 rebounds, led by Campbell with 12. Hittle had six, Limebrook had five, Vega and Garcia each had four, Snarr had three, and Domingo and Victoria Currier each had one.

As a team, the girls assisted on seven of their 14 made field goals, finished with 22 steals and forced a total of 27 Bobcat turnovers. The Lady Pirates turned the ball over 19 times.

“Defensive pressure and hustle plays—loose balls, rebounds, and second-chance opportunities—were the difference,” wrote Osborn. “We leaned heavily on Lexi’s rebounding effort and Kaila’s offense. This game showed our growth mentally; we stayed locked in and found ways to win even when things weren’t perfect.”

The Lady Pirates have two games coming up this weekend.

First, they will travel to Alamosa to take on the Alamosa Mean Moose, who are 7-3 on the season, on Friday, Jan. 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Alamosa is the No. 8 team in Colorado 4A girls’ basketball, with the Lady Pirates sitting as the No. 21 team.

The Lady Pirates will then host No. 26 Montezuma-Cortez (4-6) on Saturday, Jan. 24, with tip-off set for 12:30 p.m.

“Both Alamosa and Montezuma-Cortez are strong, well-coached teams that will challenge us in different ways,” wrote Osborn. “We feel confident in our matchups as long as we play our style of basketball—defending as a unit, rebounding, and making smart decisions on offense.”

jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Thanks

Formwalt family

Thank you family and friends for your good birthday wishes for Charles. Seeing people we know and hold dear is a wonderful treat and makes great memories. Take care of each other.

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Pam and Rich Strunk

Speech and debate team

Our gratitude goes out to the Pagosa Springs community, which supported our recent bake sale fundraiser for the high school speech and debate team. Your generosity will allow us to attend a total of four tournaments this year, and may even provide an extra boost for next year’s season. We appreciate you.

Coach Emrys Tyler

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Triple Impact Student-Athlete of the Week Asia Gorman Swimming



Comments from coach Heather Miller: “Asia is a perfect example of a triple impact athlete. She is always striving to make herself better, make her team better, and make her sport better through her dedication, leadership, and character.”

“First, Asia consistently strives for personal excellence. She approaches training and competition with focus, determination, and a strong desire to improve. Asia is committed to improving her technique, accepting feedback, and pushing herself to grow as both an athlete and an individual. Her work ethic and perseverance are evident in everything she does.”

“Second, Asia makes her team better through her leadership and positive influence. She is an excellent role model who leads by example, encouraging her teammates to work hard and support one another. Asia has played a significant role

in bringing many swimmers to the team, helping to grow the program by welcoming new athletes and making them feel supported and included. Her ability to inspire others has strengthened team unity and created a positive, motivating environment.

“Finally, Asia makes her sport better by representing it with integrity, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm. She shows respect for her teammates, coaches, and competitors and takes pride in promoting the values of swimming. Through her actions and attitude, Asia inspires younger athletes and contributes to the continued growth and success of the sport.”

“Asia Gorman exemplifies what it means to be a Triple Impact Athlete. Her dedication, leadership, and commitment to others make her a truly deserving candidate for this honor.”

Local reporting that matters.

BASKETBALL

Pirates pick up wins in pair of close games

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team got back to its winning ways last week, winning two games in a row to improve to 4-7 on the season.

The 4A Pirates hosted 3A Monte Vista on Friday, Jan. 16, winning a close game 67-58 to snap a six-game losing streak.

“It was a way to pick up a league win, [and] start the league in the right way,” said coach Brandon Forster. “You know, it sets the tone for what we want to accomplish for the rest of the season.”

Monte Vista led 16-14 at the end of the first quarter, with the home-town Pirates leading 30-26 at the half. The Pirates held a 46-40 lead at the end of the third.

The game was back and forth up until the final quarter, when a Monte Vista player fouled out and their coach proceeded to rack up three technical fouls, which led to eight free-throws for the Pirates.

At that point, Pagosa Springs was only up two points, but after the Pirates landed seven of their eight free-throws, they improved their lead to nine and were able to close out the win.

Creede Dozier was the leading scorer for the Pirates on Friday with 23 points. Ty Richey had 14 points, Jeremiah Jones had nine, Duke Ketchum had eight, Bode Hubbard had six, Jerry Dean had five, and Koen Pitcher had two points to round out the scoring for the Pirates.

As a team, Pagosa outrebounded Monte Vista 30-26. Ketchum led the squad with eight, followed by Jones with seven, Dozier with six, Richey with five, Hubbard with two, and Ross and Dean with one each.

The team shot 44 percent from the field, 18 percent from the 3-point line and made 26 of 31 from the foul line, or 84 percent. They assisted on four of their 19 made field goals, finished with six steals and logged 17 turnovers.

The Pirates then traveled to Ignacio to take on the 3A Bobcats on Saturday, Jan. 17, coming away with the 48-44 win on the road.

“Taking the ball, finishing when we need to and being able to come out with a win — it’s always a hard place to go in and win because they’re tough,” Forster said about the Ignacio game.

The Pirates trailed 13-7 at the end of the first, but outscored the Bobcats 15-10 in the second to take the lead, which they held onto, outscoring their hosts 14-10 in the third and 12-11 in the fourth to earn their second win in as many games.

Richey was the leading scorer for the Pirates with 15 points, Ketchum added nine, Jones scored eight, Ross had seven, Hubbard had five and Dozier had four.

Jones and Richey led the team in rebounds with five each. Ross had four rebounds; Dean, Dozier and Ketchum each had three; and Hubbard and Pitcher each had one rebound.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Ty Richey works through a pair of Monte Vista defenders during the teams’ back-and-forth matchup on Friday, Jan. 16. Richey had 14 points in the win.

As a team, the Pirates shot 49 percent from the field and 71 percent from the free-throw line. They finished the game with nine turnovers and eight assists.

“Jeremiah Jones had big free throws at the end, and Duke Ketchum has been big since he’s gotten into the starting lineup, helping us get some wins,” Forster said.

After losing their first four games decided by 10-points or less, the Pirates were able to win two in a row.

Forster noted he credits the improved free-throw shooting and more emphasis on taking care of the ball as the reasons for the wins last week.

The Pirates have two games this week.

The first will be played in Alamosa on Friday, Jan. 23, when the Pirates take on the Alamosa Mean Moose, who are 5-7 on the season and are the No. 37 team in Colorado 4A boys’ basketball.

The Pirates are the No. 36 team. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

The Pirates will then host the No. 3 Montezuma-Cortez Panthers, who are 12-0 on the season, on Saturday, Jan. 24, with tip-off set for 3 p.m.

Forster explained he feels his team matches up well with both upcoming opponents and is confident that his team can hang with anybody, especially after their two big wins last week.

jsellner@orourkmediagroup.com

FOOTBALL



SUN Photo/Clayton Chaney

Multiple Pirate football players received all-state honors for their performances over the 2025 season. Pictured, left to right, are Jayton Ross (honorable mention, offensive lineman/linebacker), Creede Dozier (honorable mention, quarterback/free safety) and Colton Lucero (first team, running back/linebacker). Not pictured is Jimmy Elledge (honorable mention, offensive/defensive lineman).

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WRESTLING



Photo courtesy Joetta Osborn

Pirate Hunter Martinez watches for a pin call at the Clash at the Coliseum on Saturday, Jan. 17, in Aztec, N.M. Martinez picked up eight wins at the tournament.



Photo courtesy Joetta Osborn

Pirate Devon Gonzalez works to maintain control over an opponent at the Clash at the Coliseum on Saturday, Jan. 17, in Aztec, N.M. Gonzalez won seven matches at the tournament.

Pirates grapplers take seventh at Clash at the Coliseum

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School boys' wrestling team wrestled at the Clash at the Coliseum in Farmington, N.M., on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 16 and 17.

Not every Pirate on the team went to New Mexico, though.

Coach Dan Janowsky sent Colton Lucero to the 2026 Top of the Rockies Tournament.

"Colton Lucero earned a medal at the tough and prestigious Top of the Rockies Tournament - placing 4th at 157 pounds in a weight which featured 3A, 4A and 5A state finalists from 2025," Janowsky wrote in an email to The SUN.

Lucero received a bye in the first round, then lost in the second championship round by a 10-7 decision. He bounced back, though, winning five straight. Lucero won by forfeit in the second consolation round, pinned his opponent after 40 seconds in the third consolation round, won on an 18-2 technical fall in the fourth consolation round, won by 7-2 decision in the fifth consolation round and pinned his opponent after 4 minutes and 53 seconds in the consolation semifinals to reach the third-place match. Lucero lost the third-place match 1-0, placing fourth.

While Lucero was wrestling at the Top of the Rockies, the rest of the team competed in 10 different duals, winning seven.

Their first dual was against Montrose, with the Pirates falling 53-17.

At 126 pounds, Jonathan Baker lost by a 10-9 decision. At 132 pounds, Eric Smith was pinned after 2:42. At 138 pounds, Stetson Osborn lost by a 13-1 major decision. At 144 pounds, Asher McKennie lost by a 17-1 technical fall. Hudson won the first match of the day for the Pirates, defeating his opponent by a 16-1 technical fall while wrestling at 150 pounds. Devin Gonzalez lost by an 18-2 technical fall at 165 pounds. Ryker Hanson was pinned after 1:45 at 175 pounds. Truman Vasek was pinned after 1:03 at 190 pounds. Jimmy Elledge wrestled at 215 pounds and pinned his opponent after 38 seconds. Hunter Martinez wrestled at 285 pounds and pinned his opponent in four minutes.

After the loss to Montrose, the Pirates won seven straight duals.

Pagosa Springs defeated Gallup 59-6.

Baker pinned his opponent after 1:02. Smith won by a 16-0 technical fall. Mazur pinned his opponent after 42 seconds. Hanson pinned his opponent after 1:27. Elledge pinned his opponent after 2:19, and Martinez pinned his opponent after 1:41. Osborn, McKennie, Gonzalez and Vasek won by forfeit.

The Pirates then defeated Taos 41-35.

Baker won by a 18-2 technical fall, and Smith lost by a 19-4 technical fall. Osborn pinned his opponent after 3:08. Mazur was pinned after

2:49. Gonzalez pinned his opponent after 1:01. Vasek was pinned after 1:36. Elledge pinned his opponent after 2:31, and Martinez pinned his opponent after 1:50. McKennie and Hanson won by forfeit.

The Pirates won their fourth dual, against Shiprock, 47-24.

Smith won on a 17-0 technical fall. Osborn pinned his opponent after 41 seconds. McKennie pinned his opponent after 33 seconds. Gonzalez pinned his opponent after 40 seconds. Hanson pinned his opponent after 3:06. Vasek was pinned after 49 seconds. Martinez lost after being pinned in 2:36. Baker, Mazur and Elledge won by forfeit.

The Pirates won against Kirtland Central 42-21.

McKennie pinned his opponent after 5:52. Mazur was pinned after 2:55. Gonzalez lost 8-7. Hanson pinned his opponent after 3:34, and Vasek was pinned after 2:35. Elledge pinned his opponent after 1:27. Baker, Smith, Osborn and Martinez won by forfeit.

The Pirates defeated Ignacio 52-16.

Baker lost by a 19-6 major decision. McKennie won by a 20-2 technical fall. Mazur pinned his opponent after 1:53, and Gonzalez pinned his opponent after 4:50. Hanson won by a 15-0 technical fall. Smith, Osborn, Vasek, Elledge and Martinez all won by forfeit.

The Pirates won their seventh dual, against Valencia, 40-36.

Baker was pinned after 58 seconds, Smith was pinned after 3:13, and Osborn pinned his opponent after 2:24. McKennie won by a 18-3 technical fall. Mazur pinned his opponent after 3:11. Gonzalez won by a 21-5 technical fall. Hanson pinned his opponent after 2:32. Vasek was pinned after 1:45, Elledge pinned his opponent after 1:02, and Martinez won by forfeit.

The Pirates defeated Socorro 42-

33.

Baker lost by a 6-3 decision. Smith was pinned after 1:50. Osborn pinned his opponent after 4:52. Mazur pinned his opponent after 4:58. Vasek was pinned in 57 seconds. McKennie, Gonzalez, Hanson, Elledge and Martinez won by forfeit.

The Pirates lost their ninth dual of the tournament to St. Pius X 47-29.

Baker was pinned after 5:08 at 126 pounds, Smith lost by a 22-7 technical fall. Osborn was pinned after

2:33., McKennie was pinned after 34 seconds. Gonzalez won by a 16-1 technical fall. Vasek was pinned after 1:04. Martinez pinned his opponent after 1:09. Mazur, Hanson and Elledge won by forfeit.

In the final dual of the tournament, the Pirates fell to West Las Vegas 53-30.

Baker was pinned after 1:16, and Smith was pinned after 2:52. McKennie pinned his opponent after 1:46, and Mazur pinned his opponent after

14 seconds. Gonzalez was pinned after 1:06. Hanson was pinned after 16 seconds. Vasek lost by a 15-0 technical fall. Elledge pinned his opponent after 1:31. Osborn and Martinez won by forfeit.

"The tournament had 28 teams entered and Pagosa finished 7th," wrote Janowsky, highlighting, "Jimmy Elledge was undefeated on the day with 10 wins and zero losses. Finishing with eight wins were Stetson Osborn, Asher McKennie, Hudson

Mazur, Ryker Hanson and Hunter Martinez and Devin Gonzalez had seven wins on the day."

The Pirates will host a dual against Bayfield on Thursday, Jan. 22. It will be the final home event of the year and it is also senior night.

The Pirates then will head to La Jara on Saturday, Jan. 24, to compete in Centauri's Randy and Naomi Keyes Dual tournament, with action beginning at 9 a.m.

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Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon Nordic Ski race results announced

Pagosa Nordic Club

The Pagosa Nordic Club hosted the annual Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon Nordic Ski races on Saturday, Jan. 17, at Alberta Park Nordic trails located at Wolf Creek Ski Area.

A big thank you to the ski area for grooming the racecourse for the race.

This event is a super fun race for all ages and abilities, where Nordic skiers shoot at targets with BB guns between ski laps for their final score.

Following are the top finishers for each race category.

- 12km male skate ski: First place Caley Fretz (Durango), second Brett Wilson (Durango) and third Nick McKey (Durango).

- 12km female skate ski: First place Michelle Wilson (Durango) and second Gina Basse with 1.5-year-old Lark in tow (Pagosa).

- 12km female classic ski: First place Kim Kosciusko (Creede).

- 4km male skate ski: First place Dominic Schiavone (Durango), 2nd Jeff Dinger (Durango) and 3rd Chris Chaput (Telluride).

- 4km female skate ski: First place Sage Wilson (Durango), second Amy Chaput (Telluride) and third Allison Dinger (Durango).

- 4km male classic ski: First place Andy Spall (Pagosa), second Eryc Mischker (Durango) and third Thom-



Photo courtesy Jim Bodoh

Youngsters take off for the kids' race at the Pagosa Nordic Club's annual BB Gun Biathlon on Saturday, Jan. 16, at Alberta Park at Wolf Creek Ski Area. The event is a part of WinterFest.

as Grizincic (Durango).

- 4km female classic ski: First place Jen Spall (Pagosa), second Laura

Colbert (Telluride) and third Allison Dinger (Durango).

- Kid K top finishers include: Nico-

las Dinger, Willa Waring, Juniper Wilson, Rufu Mischker, Ralph Mischker and Yarrow Wilson.

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Education



Photos courtesy Build Pagosa

Pagosa Springs High School students in Garrett Fong's class take to the outdoors to learn. Fong is the school's agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor.

Garrett Fong's leadership cultivates success in high school agriculture program

Build Pagosa

The story of career and technical education (CTE) at Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) continues to flourish under the dedicated leadership of Garrett Fong, the accomplished agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor.

With a Bachelor of Science in agricultural education from Colorado State University (CSU) and more than a decade of involvement in the National FFA Organization, Fong brings both passion and expertise to the classroom.

Now in his second year at PSHS, Fong leads a dynamic agricultural program that offers students six major pathways within the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources cluster:

- Agricultural business.
- Animal systems.
- Plant systems.
- Food products and processing.
- Power structure and technical systems (including tractor operation).
- Natural resources and environmental management.

Students can currently enroll in Introduction to Agriculture and choose either the food science or animal science pathway. One of Fong's goals moving forward is to expand both areas, offering deeper, more specialized learning in food processing and animal science.

He also hopes to introduce an

aquaculture tank, giving students the chance to raise fish and manage a small-scale fishery — an innovative step that promotes hands-on and real-world environmental stewardship.

Despite the absence of a formal certification in agricultural education for the students, Fong ensures they all gain real-world experience. Many work in veterinary clinics and pursue certification as veterinary assistants, sparking growing interest in animal feed, reproduction and veterinary science.

Enrollment in his program has surged to 64 students — an impressive 70 percent of whom are young women — reflecting a shift in interest and inclusivity.

Fong is eager to expand offerings to include intermediate veterinary science and natural resource principles.

Another exciting initiative on the horizon is the opportunity for students to earn their tractor safety certification, which will qualify them to operate farm equipment. It's a valuable skill and an impressive opportunity that opens the door to real agricultural experience.

Beyond the classroom, Fong is a tireless advocate for FFA. A proud member since high school, he earned the prestigious state degree from the California FFA Association and was honored with the Charles M. Shepardson Award as an exemplary graduating senior at CSU.

His commitment to FFA is transforming the school's chapter, from just four members last year to a thriving group actively participating in competitions like cattle and horse judging.

Fong envisions FFA as more than an extracurricular — it's a leadership incubator.

He aims to embed FFA into the curriculum, empowering students with skills that transcend agriculture and prepare them for any career path. To support this vision, he invites the community to support Build Pagosa to rally behind the program, offering financial support and mentorship to help students thrive.

As Fong steps into his role leading the agricultural education department, his mission is clear: to guide students toward meaningful careers in agriculture, food systems and natural resource management or simply to become informed, engaged citizens.

With community collaboration and student enthusiasm, the seeds of success are already being sown.

Under Fong's guidance, PSHS is cultivating the next generation of agricultural leaders.

If you're interested in learning more or would like to donate to help us build our new regional workforce center, please visit our website at www.buildpagosa.org.

You can also contact us at office-manager@buildpagosa.org or marie@buildpagosa.org.



Photo courtesy Lisa Scott

Paola Hasbun's third-grade class at Pagosa Peak Open School receives dictionaries during the annual tradition to give all third-graders their own book. Rotarians Cindi Galabota and Lisa Scott distributed the dictionaries and led the class in an explanation and exploration of the dictionaries.

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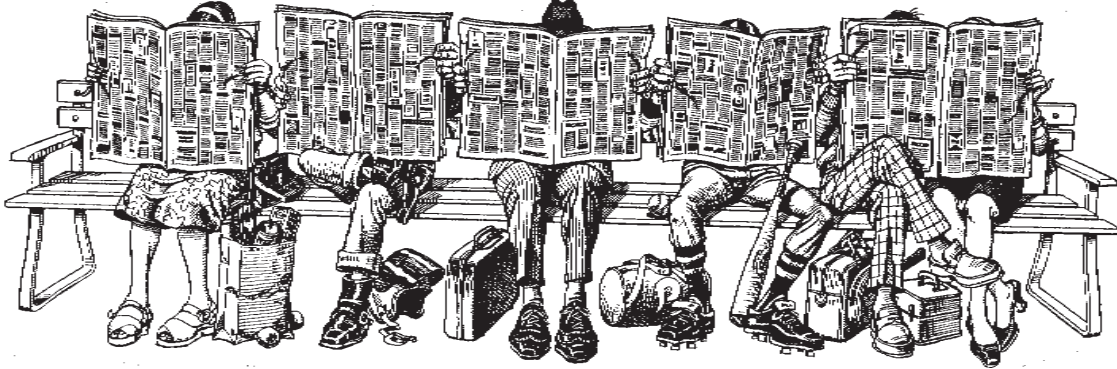
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Price Reduced



240 Glade Drive • \$1,055,000

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



33 Fawn Court
\$875,000

MLS #824532

This meticulously cared for log cabin, near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Covered deck, backyard patio, stunning mountain views. Open floor plan, modern kitchen. Primary bedroom/bathroom located on the main floor. 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms/full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space plus a fourth bedroom with a full bath nearby.

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



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

MLS #822945

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

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



1231 Ranchland Drive
\$290,000

MLS #829827

40 acres qualifying for Forest Service Ag, has had significant fire mitigation done and property taxes are under \$200 per year. Borders Ute Indian Reservation and has multiple build areas close to power. Single car garage, 3-room bunkhouse, 1200-gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. Solar panels power the bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. Garage accommodates a 22' RV. Pricing does not include the well on the property.

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



\$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://pspxeltree.com/109-Carols-Curves>



Shellie Hogue
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ShellieCHogue@gmail.com
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Outdoors

Colorado Parks and Wildlife provides updates on wolves

By Meryl Phair and Randi Pierce
Staff Writers

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) announced on Wednesday, Jan. 21, that it currently has no plans for translocating additional gray wolves this release season and is continuing to explore options for translocations in winter 2026-2027.

“During this intermediate time, CPW will continue to meet with producers and other stakeholders, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to explore how to maximize the restoration effort and achieve our plan of establishing a self-sustaining gray wolf population in Colorado,” said CPW Acting Director Laura Clellan via a press release. “Our team has invested in a significant conflict minimization program, and we look forward to exploring how we continue to improve this program with producers to protect both livestock and wolves.”

CPW to comply with federal request

CPW will fully comply with a request from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to provide further information about the state’s voter-approved gray wolf reintroduction program in response to threats of a federal takeover of the three-year project to establish a resident wolf population in the Rocky Mountain state.

Clellan confirmed the move during the agency’s January CPW Commission meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14, as she provided updates on recent developments that have complicated an already tense third round of gray wolf releases.

Clellan referred to a letter dated Dec. 18, 2025, addressed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Brian Nesvik to CPW.

That 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.

The letter outlines two specific compliance inconsistencies in the agreement between the two agencies, specifically relating to the sourcing of wolves and the relocation of one wolf connected to a livestock kill.

If the report is not received by the 30-day deadline, Fish and Wildlife stated that it 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.

“The letter is not intended to make a final determination on any future program outcomes, but rather to document the management actions taken from Dec. 12, 2023, to the present,” Clellan said during the commission meeting. “The letter notes that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may take further action based on information provided later this month, but no immediate changes are identified.”

Clellan further clarified that CPW was working on providing the requested information by the Jan. 18 deadline, with the intention of avoiding the removal of the state’s authority to head the ongoing reintroduction effort.

“I want to reiterate that CPW has coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife throughout the gray wolf reintroduction effort, and complied with all applicable federal and state laws, as well as international treaties,” Clellan said. “This includes translocations in January of 2025, which were planned and performed in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

The acting director also addressed the third wave of gray wolf releases scheduled for this winter in the southwest corner of the state, stating that “CPW continues to evaluate all op-

tions.”

The release has faced delays as recently updated federal guidelines state that wolves can only be sourced from Northern Rockies states where they are not listed as endangered, complicating a prior agreement to source the candids from British Columbia, which has since fallen through. The state has since been unable to secure a source population from other states or tribal nations.

“If we do not release wolves this season, the impact on restoration success from a biological perspective is dependent on several factors, including wolf survival and reproduction,” Clellan said, adding that the program has seen 10 mortalities out of the reintroduced 25 animals. “This is not far off from what is expected among wolves that do not live in a pack.”

Despite the fatalities, CPW has seen the establishment of several packs along with pups born this summer. While these are encouraging markers of success for reintroduction efforts, Clellan noted, “When populations are small, each individual becomes increasingly important.”

She added, “Not knowing the mortality rate over the next year, it’s going to be difficult to predict with certainty the overall impact of not completing a third year of translocations. If we have a high level of mortality, as we observed in 2025, we run a higher risk of not meeting the goal of establishing a self-sustaining population of wolves in Colorado, and having to spend more resources to do so.”

The agency’s Jan. 21 press release explains, “CPW has confirmed successful reproduction in four packs and its staff is working to determine how many pups made it through the summer and will be successfully recruited into the population. Female gray wolves give birth to an average litter of four to six pups.”

The state’s Colorado Wolf Management Plan recommends the state wildlife agency release 30 to 50 wolves over the course of three to five years. As of early 2026, the reintroduced wolf population is estimated to be just around 30 wolves.

Mortality of wolf 2504 confirmed

Late Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 20, CPW confirmed the mortality of

wolf 2504.

According to the agency, it was alerted of the mortality of female gray wolf 2504 on Jan. 16 in northwest Colorado.

As a federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. ■ See Update A15

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

DATE: 10/22/2025

Elsa P. White, Public Trustee in and for the County of Archuleta, State of Colorado
By: /s/ Elsa P. White, Public Trustee
The name, address, business telephone number and bar registration number of the attorney(s) representing the legal holder of the indebtedness is: Alison L. Berry #34531
Janeway Law Firm, P.C. 9540 Maroon Circle, Suite 320, Englewood, CO 80112 (855) 263-9295 Attorney File # 25-035715

The Attorney above is acting as a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information provided may be used for that purpose.
Published December 25, 2025, January 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (280589)

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*. (283849)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

2025-011

R015695

To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office:

You are hereby notified that on December 10, 2025, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to AVALON REAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("COP HOLDER").
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: ASPEN SPRINGS SUB 6 Lot: 49 AS 6 Sec: 17 Twn: 34U Rng: 3W
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 266 WEST VIEW ROAD, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO, 81147

A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2024. The property was assessed in the name of LAURA EASON ("PROPERTY OWNER").

On December 9, 2025, AVALON REAL PEROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificated holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101.

NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.

First Publication: 1/22/2026
Last Publication 2/5/2026
Published in PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website:

The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.

Dated: December 29, 2025
/s/ Elsa P White
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County Colorado

Published January 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283871)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

2025-012

R010341

To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office:

You are hereby notified that on December 10, 2025, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to AVALON REAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("COP HOLDER").
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: LAKEWOOD VILLAGE Lot: 79 LWV Sec: 19 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 16 SUMBA COURT, PAGOSA

SPRINGS, CO, 81147

A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2024. The property was assessed in the name of MEAD-PRO UNITS LLC ("PROPERTY OWNER").

On December 9, 2025, AVALON REAL PEROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificated holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101.

NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.

First Publication: 1/22/2026
Last Publication 2/5/2026
Published in PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website:

The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.

Dated: December 29, 2025
/s/ Elsa P White
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County Colorado

Published January 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283881)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

2025-012

R011410

To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office:

You are hereby notified that on December 10, 2025, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to AVALON REAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("COP HOLDER").
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: pagosa pines condominiums UNIT: 37C PAG PINES CONDOS Sec: 21 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W BUILDING 20
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 145 DAVIS CUP DRIVE # 4037, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO, 81147

A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2024. The property was assessed in the name of BONI LYNN MCINTYRE ("PROPERTY OWNER").

On December 9, 2025, AVALON REAL PEROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificated holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101.

NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.

First Publication: 1/22/2026
Last Publication 2/5/2026
Published in PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website:

The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.

Dated: December 29, 2025
/s/ Elsa P White
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County Colorado

Published January 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283879)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

2025-012

R012784

To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office:

You are hereby notified that on December 10, 2025, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to AVALON REAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("COP HOLDER").
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: ASPEN SPRINGS SUB 6 Lot: 229 AS 6 Sec: 17 Twn: 34U Rng: 3W
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3606 COUNTY ROAD 700, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO, 81147

A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2024. The property was assessed in the name of CHANNING M WELLS ("PROPERTY OWNER").

On December 9, 2025, AVALON REAL PEROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificated holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101.

NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.

First Publication: 1/22/2026
Last Publication 2/5/2026
Published in PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website:

The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.

Dated: December 29, 2025
/s/ Elsa P White
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County Colorado

Published January 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283877)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION FOR TREASURER'S DEED

2025-012

R015836

To all current occupants, owners, parties of interest, and to all others listed on the mailing list on file at the Treasurer's Office:

You are hereby notified that on December 10, 2025, the Treasurer of Archuleta County, Colorado, sold a tax lien on the following property at public sale to AVALON REAL PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("COP HOLDER").
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: ASPEN SPRINGS SUB 6 Lot: 229 AS 6 Sec: 17 Twn: 34U Rng: 3W
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3606 COUNTY ROAD 700, PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO, 81147

A Certificate of Purchase was issued to the COP HOLDER for unpaid property taxes for the year 2021-2024. The property was assessed in the name of JOSEPH FEBBO ("PROPERTY OWNER").

On December 9, 2025, AVALON REAL PEROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC ("LAWFUL HOLDER"), the current certificated holder, filed an Application for a Public Auction of a Certificate of Option for Treasurer's Deed (COO), under C.R.S. 39-11.5-101.

NOTICE: The property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 27, 2026. The sale will include the real estate and all interests held by the Lawful Holder, along with applicable fees, costs, and legal charges.

First Publication: 1/22/2026
Last Publication 2/5/2026
Published in PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN
You may track the Public Auction date on the Treasurer's website:

The property may be redeemed at any time before the actual public auction.

Dated: December 29, 2025
/s/ Elsa P White
ELSA P. WHITE, TREASURER of Archuleta County Colorado

Published January 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (283867)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Charles William Irland
Case Number 2026 PR 30001
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before May 22, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published January 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (286257)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of Patty Sue Patton Tillerson
Case Number 2026 PR 30002
All persons having claims against the above-named estate are required to present them to the personal representative or to the District Court of Archuleta, County, Colorado on or before May 22, 2026, or the claims may be forever barred.

Daniel L. Fiedler, Attorney at Law
190 Talisman Drive, Suite D-6
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published January 22, 29, and February 5, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (286258)

PERSONAL PROPERTY DECLARATION SCHEDULE

NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTACT:
Sherri Boyce - Hinsdale County Assessor PO Box 28
Lake City, CO 81235

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 970-944-2225 ext. 140

All persons owning, possessing, or controlling taxable personal property with a total actual value greater than \$56,000 (per owner, per county) on January 1, 2026, are required to report the personal property to the assessor by April 15, 2026. Personal Property Declaration Schedules have been mailed to every person, business, or company known to own, possess, or control taxable personal property in the county. Non-receipt of a declaration schedule DOES NOT excuse taxpayers from declaring taxable personal property to the assessor. If you have not received a declaration schedule and own personal property with a value greater than \$56,000,

contact the assessor at 970-944-2225 ext. 140
All personal property with a total actual value in excess of \$56,000 (per owner, per county) is taxable unless specifically exempt by law.

Taxable personal property includes:

- All residential household furnishings used to produce income
- Equipment, furniture, and machinery used by commercial, industrial, and natural resource operations
- Property used in an agribusiness that does not qualify as agricultural pursuant to § 39-1-102(1.6)(a), C.R.S.
- Expensed assets with a life greater than one year
- Fully depreciated assets still in use
- Personal property in storage that is subject to IRS depreciation
- Leasehold improvements

Equipment that is licensed as a motor vehicle (SMM plate or Z-Tab) is not reported on the Personal Property Declaration Schedule.

Completed declaration schedules are due April 15, 2026. You may extend the deadline if, prior to April 15, the assessor receives your written request for an extension along with \$20 for a 10-day extension, or \$40 for a 20-day extension. If you do not meet the April 15 deadline and do not request an extension, a penalty in the amount of \$50 or 15% of the taxes due (whichever is less) will be applied to your account.

If you fail to file a declaration schedule, the assessor will establish a taxable value based on the "best information available" and add a penalty of up to 25% of assessed value for any omitted property that is subsequently discovered.

Published January 22, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (286191)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The notices you see on this page include important



The Blotter

Items listed in The Blotter report where an alleged incident occurred and the nature of the incident. Readers should not assume employees or owners of a place of business or a parking lot reported as the scene of an event are involved as perpetrators of the incident.

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office

- Dec. 22 — Warrant arrest, Solomon Drive.
- Dec. 23 — False imprisonment, sexual assault-no consent, domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Aspen Village Drive/Midiron Avenue.
- Dec. 24 — Dog at large, information only, Oakwood Circle.
- Dec. 25 — Vicious dog with injury to person, Canyon Circle.
- Dec. 25 — Warrant arrest, U.S. 160.
- Dec. 26 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, red light-fail to stop, turning without signaling, Cornerstone Drive/U.S. 160.
- Dec. 27 — Operated motor vehicle with expired license plates, failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, Turkey Lane.
- Dec. 27 — Littering, Indian Land Road.
- Dec. 28 — Driving under the influence of alcohol, U.S. 84.
- Dec. 28 — Warrant arrest, Aspen Village Drive.
- Dec. 29 — Criminal attempt to commit class one misdemeanor, theft-\$300 to \$750 from building, Navajo Trail Drive.
- Dec. 29 — Information only, Park Avenue.
- Dec. 30 — Agency assist, County Road 982.
- Dec. 30 — Information only, 438 Hummingbird Place.
- Dec. 30 — Theft-\$750 to \$2,000 from banking type institution, Nutria Circle.
- Dec. 30 — Theft-\$750 to \$2,000 other (includes gas), County Road 600.
- Dec. 30 — Dog at large, vicious dog with injury-bodily injury to domestic animal, Sam Houston Avenue/Trails Boulevard/Harman Park Drive.
- Dec. 30 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.
- Dec. 30 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, harassment-insults/taunts/challenges DV, Meadow Lark.
- Dec. 31 — Information only, Antler Court.
- Dec. 31 — Theft-\$2,000 to \$5,000, criminal impersonation-misdemeanor, North 5th Street.
- Dec. 31 — Agency assist, information only, Navajo River Road.
- Dec. 31 — Agency assist, Colo. 151.
- Dec. 31 — Agency assist, County Road 982.
- Dec. 31 — Criminal extortion-threat injure reputation, information only, Aspenglow Boulevard.
- Dec. 31 — Speeding 20-24 over limit, driving under the influence of alcohol, South Pagosa Boulevard.
- Jan. 1 — Information only, County Road 700.
- Jan. 1 — Information only, West U.S. 160.
- Jan. 2 — Information only, U.S. 84.
- Jan. 2 — Warrant arrest, Chipper Court.
- Jan. 3 — Menacing-misdemeanor, criminal mischief \$1,000 to \$5,000 public, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Davis Cup Drive.
- Jan. 3 — Vicious dog with injury to person, information only, Chase Court/South Pagosa Boulevard.
- Jan. 4 — Driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), license plate not lighted, Colo. 151.
- Jan. 4 — Warrant arrest, no location listed.
- Jan. 5 — Information only, lost/found property, North Pagosa Boulevard.
- Jan. 5 — Information only, Rec Center Road.
- Jan. 6 — Failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, Colo. 151.
- Jan. 6 — Driving under restraint, driving after revocation prohibited (HTO), failed to display valid registration, no insurance-driver, County Road 988.
- Jan. 6 — Agency assist, Morro Circle.
- Jan. 6 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.
- Jan. 7 — Information only, Loma Linda Drive.
- Jan. 7 — Information only, Crooked Road.
- Jan. 7 — Second-degree burglary, theft M, criminal mischief M, Settler Drive.

Update

■ **Continued from A14**
Fish and Wildlife Service is investigating this mortality.
A final determination of the cause of death will not be made until the investigation is completed, including

- Jan. 8 — Information only, Bastille Drive.
 - Jan. 9 — Agency assist, North 5th Street.
 - Jan. 9 — Lane usage violation, speeding 5-9 over limit, driving under the influence of alcohol, Eagle Drive.
 - Jan. 10 — Information only, Harman Park Drive.
 - Jan. 10 — Information only, Solomon Drive.
 - Jan. 11 — Warrant arrest, East Pagosa Street.
 - Jan. 11 — Information only, Buttercup Drive.
 - Jan. 12 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, Fireside Street.
 - Jan. 12 — Agency assist, U.S. 160.
 - Jan. 12 — Dog at large, Sage Circle.
 - Jan. 13 — Dog at large, U.S. 84.
 - Jan. 13 — Fraud by check-other method, Echo Drive.
 - Jan. 14 — Information only, U.S. 160.
 - Jan. 14 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks, South Pagosa Boulevard.
 - Jan. 16 — Vicious dog with injury, information only, South Pagosa Boulevard.
 - Jan. 16 — Information only, Beaver Circle/Harman Park Drive.
 - Jan. 17 — Information only, County Road 973.
 - Jan. 17 — Domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, Badger Road.
 - Jan. 17 — Resisting arrest, obstructing peace officer/police animal/fireman, driving under the influence of alcohol, Granada Drive.
 - Jan. 18 — Drug paraphernalia-possess, driving under restraint-alcohol/drug related, U.S. 160.
 - Jan. 18 — Theft M, County Road 600.
- Pagosa Springs Police Department**
- Dec. 16 — Criminal mischief, Yamaguchi Park/South 5th Street.
 - Dec. 16 — Criminal mischief, Rob Snow Road.
 - Dec. 17 — Driving under restraint, passed on left when prohibited by signs/markings, reckless driving, no insurance-owner, expired registration, Eagle Drive.
 - Dec. 17 — Assault in the second degree, Country Center Drive.
 - Dec. 17 — Warrant arrest, Pagosa Street.
 - Dec. 17 — Trespass warning, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 - Dec. 18 — Abandonment of vehicle, North 6th Street.
 - Dec. 19 — Warrant arrest, San Juan Street/Apache Street.
 - Dec. 19 — Attempt to locate, San Juan Street/Apache Street.
 - Dec. 19 — Possession/consumption open container of alcohol in public, San Juan Street.
 - Dec. 19 — Trespass warning, Pagosa Street.
 - Dec. 19 — Information only, Hot Springs Boulevard/Lewis Alley.
 - Dec. 20 — False imprisonment, domestic violence, violation of protection order-criminal, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, North 8th Street.
 - Dec. 20 — Second-degree assault on police officer while in custody, assault in the third degree-fluids-first responder, menacing-felony-aggravated-nonfamily-weapon, violation of protection order-criminal, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct-petty, Pagosa Street.
 - Dec. 22 — Traffic stop, 14th Street.
 - Dec. 22 — No insurance-owner, 14th Street.
 - Dec. 22 — Assault in the third degree, domestic violence, Eagle Drive.
 - Dec. 23 — Speeding 25-39 over prima facie limit, U.S. 160.
 - Dec. 23 — Lost/found property, Pagosa Street.
 - Dec. 26 — Trespass warning, Talisman Drive.
 - Dec. 27 — Trespass warning, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 - Dec. 27 — Assault, Pagosa Street.
 - Dec. 27 — Criminal mischief, South 8th Street.
 - Dec. 27 — Lost/found property, Country Center Drive.
 - Dec. 28 — Disorderly conduct/offensive utterance or gesture, harassment/obscene language or gesture, Eagle Drive.
 - Dec. 30 — Lost/found property, Florida Street.
 - Dec. 30 — Nuisance/animal running at large, harbored vicious animals prohibited, North 7th Street.
 - Dec. 31 — Littering, trespass warning, Eagle Drive.
 - Dec. 31 — Vehicle accident no injuries, Aspen Village Drive.

- Jan. 1 — Assault, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 - Jan. 2 — Theft/intends to deprive person, Hot Springs Boulevard.
 - Jan. 5 — Possess illegal weapon, driving under restraint, warrant arrest, County Road 359/Goldmine Drive.
 - Jan. 5 — First-degree criminal trespass, South 5th Street.
 - Jan. 5 — Failed to yield ROW on right turn after stop at red light, driver operated vehicle without insurance, Lewis Street.
 - Jan. 6 — Trespass, Country Center Drive.
 - Jan. 6 — Possession of drug paraphernalia-person over age of 21, Eagle Drive.
 - Jan. 7 — Disturbance, Eagle Drive.
 - Jan. 8 — Assault in the second degree, violation of protection order-criminal, 15th Street.
 - Jan. 9 — Criminal mischief under \$300 private, domestic violence, harassment-strikes/shoves/kicks DV, North 5th Street.
 - Jan. 9 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, East Pagosa Street.
 - Jan. 10 — Harassment, U.S. 160.
 - Jan. 10 — Child abuse, South 9th Street.
 - Jan. 11 — Nuisance/animal running at large, Mesa Drive.
 - Jan. 11 — Disturbance, East Pagosa Street.
 - Jan. 12 — Theft-\$5,000 to \$20,000, Great West Avenue.
 - Jan. 12 — Nuisance/animal running at large, South 5th Street.
 - Jan. 13 — Public assist, Country Center Drive.
 - Jan. 13 — Assault, Pagosa Street.
 - Jan. 14 — Lost/found property, Lewis Street.
 - Jan. 15 — Left scene without providing information after striking unattended vehicle or property, Pagosa Street.
 - Jan. 15 — Second-degree burglary-no force entry-residence, 15th Street.
 - Jan. 15 — Assault, Pagosa Street.
 - Jan. 16 — Second-degree burglary-no force entry-residence, theft-\$750 to \$2,000 from building, theft of a firearm, North 4th Street.
 - Jan. 18 — Shoplifting/departs or attempts to depart without payment, criminal trespass, Aspen Village Drive.
- Pagosa Springs Municipal Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**
- Jan. 12 — Michael Byrum, failed to oncoming traffic when making a left turn, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.
 - Jan. 12 — Sebastian Garcia, failed to yield when proceeding from a yield sign, three points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$116.
 - Jan. 12 — Chelse Haines, following too closely, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$146.
 - Jan. 12 — Lucas Arellano, careless driving, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$202.
 - Jan. 12 — George Hasselbrink, careless driving, four points off, fine, surcharge and costs — \$202.
 - Jan. 12 — Nicholas Ayers, animal at large, fine and costs — \$85.
 - Jan. 13 — Jessica Lucero, disorderly conduct, fine and costs — \$85.
 - Jan. 13 — Anthony Poma Jr., assault, 10 days incarceration.
 - Jan. 13 — Matthew Keller, indecent exposure, fine — \$150.
 - Jan. 13 — Matthew Keller, animal running at large, fine and costs — \$85.
- Archuleta County Court: Judge Anthony D. Edwards**
- Jan. 9 — Jessica Wallace, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Jeremy Lee Martin, driver's license-driving without, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$207.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Kayla Mattice, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Kaitlyn Marie Neher, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$155.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Pablo Ochoa, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$107.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Nathaniel Levi Ross, passed when prohibited, fines and costs — \$170.
 - Jan. 9 — Jannelle Scott, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Shawn M. Shepherd, speeding 20-24 over limit, driver's license-driving without, fines and costs — \$360.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Theresa A. Talamonte, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$161.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Garrett Wyatt Walker, driving under restraint, fines and costs — \$177.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Brandon M. Calhoun, registration-unregistered vehicle, fines and costs — \$126.50.
 - Jan. 9 — James Everett Willingham, burning without a permit, fines and costs — \$184.
 - Jan. 9 — Davis M. Amaya, tail lamps/reflectors, fines and costs —

- \$81.
 - Jan. 9 — Martha P. Amenta Nava, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$160.
 - Jan. 9 — Jessica Bahe, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Jose Cruz, registration-unregistered vehicle, alcohol-open container/drink in vehicle, fines and costs — \$228.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Melanie L. Dixon, registration-unregistered permit, license plates not automatically readable, fines and costs — \$299.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Robert Shane Harrison, failed to stop at stop sign, fines and costs — \$140.
 - Jan. 9 — Aaron J. Kelley, speeding 10-19 over limit, fines and costs — \$233.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Kyle Fine, speeding 1-4 over, fines and costs — \$85.
 - Jan. 9 — Isaac Lynn, license plates-expired, fines and costs — \$83.
 - Jan. 9 — Aaron Bogard, speeding 5-9 over, fines and costs — \$125.
- 6th Judicial District Court: Judge Justin P. Fay**
- Dec. 19 — Joshua Sean Walker, motor vehicle theft second degree-attempt, carrying a concealed weapon-knife/gun, two years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.
 - Dec. 19 — Phillip Salas, driving under the influence-with 3+ priors, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$850.50.
 - Dec. 19 — Phillip Salas, controlled substance-manufacture-fentanyl <4g, driving under the influence-with 2+ priors, two years Department of Corrections, 364 days jail, two years probation, 48 hours community service, fines and costs — \$4,877.50.
 - Dec. 19 — Mathew Louis Poma, driving under the influence-with 3+ priors, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$850.50.
 - Dec. 19 — Mathew Louis Poma, Wildlife-illegal sale/purchase-big game, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$1,472.50.
 - Dec. 19 — Mathew Louis Poma, driving under the influence-with 3+ priors, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$850.50.
 - Jan. 9 — Lawrence Joseph Happ, assault 2-peace officer, four years Department of Corrections, fines and costs — \$428.50.



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January 22, 2026

Healthy Archuleta Growers and Producers Forum set for Jan. 22

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is pleased to announce the next Growers and Producers Forum meeting on Thursday, Jan. 22, from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Our guest speaker will be Guidestone Colorado, a community-based organization located in Salida, Colo.

Its focus is on sustainability through community participation in gardening, farming, agriculture education and access to locally sourced food.

Established in 2007 and located in the Arkansas River Valley in Chaffee County, the founders wanted to create a space that highlighted farming

and agriculture to “build capacity for agricultural education, support new farmers, and foster local food systems by connecting people to local food production.”

During this meeting, Guidestone will share how it meets the challenges of growing at high elevations and in cooler climates, and how it organizes their community to provide opportunities to learn and grow skills through garden education and support.

In Pagosa Springs, we have two community gardens: the Pagosa Springs Community Garden, located downtown, and the Vista Lake Community Garden, located in the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association.

This forum is a great opportunity to learn more about the growing community and offer insight into developing and increasing participation in our local community gardens.

The Growers and Producers Forum event will be hosted online via Zoom. The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to attend, please email us at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com to obtain the Zoom link for this meeting.

For more information about Guidestone Colorado, visit Guidestone.org. To learn more about Healthy Archuleta and future events, please visit www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

Pagosa Community Initiative announces Mom’s Night of Self-Care

By Carrie Blue-White
Pagosa Community Initiative

Pagosa Community Initiative (PCI), your local family resource center, is proud to present a brand-new monthly gathering designed just for moms: Mom’s Night of Self-Care.

Enjoy a kid-free evening of fun, food and friendship — with free child care provided.

Are you a mom in need of a break? Looking for a space to unwind, share stories and simply be yourself — without little ones tugging at your sleeve? We hear you, and we’re thrilled to invite you to an evening dedicated entirely to you.

On Friday, Jan. 23, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at The Studios of PCI, we’re hosting our inaugural mom’s night

— a relaxed, judgment-free gathering designed to help mothers laugh, connect and recharge.

This isn’t a workshop or a lecture; it’s a chance to step away from the daily grind and enjoy some well-deserved “me time” in the company of other moms who get it.

This event will be held monthly on the fourth Friday.

What to expect

- A delicious, stress-free meal (because you deserve a night off from cooking).
- Lighthearted trivia and games — all optional, just for fun.
- A simple, creative craft — no expertise required, just relax and enjoy.
- Exciting prizes and giveaways to add an extra sprinkle of joy.

- Most importantly: genuine conversation and the opportunity to build meaningful connections.

We know finding child care can be a barrier, so we’ve got you covered. Free child care will be provided on-site by PCI, giving you peace of mind while you enjoy your evening.

This event is the first of what we hope will become a beloved monthly tradition — a safe space created by moms, for moms. Your feedback will help shape future gatherings, ensuring they reflect what you need most.

We also extend a warm invitation to community members and local businesses interested in supporting this initiative. Donations and sponsorships will help us continue offering these events at no cost to

■ See Mom on next page

Live Performers

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

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SUN

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Stalking Awareness Month: what stalking looks and feels like

Rise Above Violence

As Stalking Awareness Month continues, understanding the reality of stalking — especially in the context of dating relationships, domestic violence and sexual assault — is more important than ever.

Stalking isn't just the plot of a thriller movie; it's a lived experience for millions of people in the United States and often a precursor to more severe violence.

Stalking is widespread. In the U.S., millions of people are stalked

each year, and many more live with the effects of stalking over a longer period. According to federal data, about 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men report having been stalked at some point in their lives. Women are stalked at more than twice the rate of men overall.

Most victims know their stalker.

Intimate partners or ex-partners account for a significant portion of stalking cases, especially for women; two-thirds of female victims are stalked by current or former intimate partners.

Stalking isn't a single act — it's a pattern of repeated, unwanted

■ See Awareness on next page

WHIPS to hold monthly luncheon Jan. 27

By Nancy Ford

Women Helping in Pagosa Springs

WHIPS, Women Helping in Pagosa Springs, will have their monthly luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 11:30 a.m. at Black Bart's Brunch.

The cost is \$20, and all women are welcome. We must have you RSVP to (970) 946-1895 by Sunday evening, Jan. 25.

Mom

■ continued from previous page attendees, ensuring every mom has access to a supportive community.

Event details

Date: Friday, Jan. 23 (recurring on the fourth Friday monthly).

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Location: The Studios at PCI, 550B Hot Springs Blvd.

RSVP: Call or text Randye at (970) 585-6253 to reserve your spot.

Child care: Child care is free. Please mention your child care needs when you RSVP.

Let's come together to celebrate the incredible work moms do every day — and give ourselves permission to pause, connect and recharge. You've earned this.

For more information, to RSVP or to inquire about supporting this event as a donor or sponsor, please email randye@pagosacommunity-initiative.org.

We can't wait to see you there.

PCI is strengthening families and building community.



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Awareness

■ continued from previous page behaviors that create fear, distress or a pervasive sense of being watched.

Typical stalking behaviors include:

- Unwanted contact, including repeated calls, texts, social media messages or letters.
- Following or watching someone in person or through digital means like GPS tracking or spyware.
- Showing up uninvited at someone’s home, workplace or social spaces.
- Leaving unwanted gifts, notes or threatening items.
- Monitoring online activity or demanding constant updates about location and interactions.

Nearly half of stalking victims report unwanted contact at least once per week, and some are stalked for years.

These behaviors may appear “small” in isolation — just one text, one unexpected appearance — but when repeated over time and without consent, they establish a climate of fear and control.

Stalking isn’t just about physical proximity. Its impact is deeply emotional and psychological. Victims

commonly describe:

- Persistent anxiety, constantly scanning for the stalker or anticipating contact.
- Hypervigilance and sleep disruption, making everyday tasks like going to work or school feel unsafe.
- Self-doubt and confusion, especially when the stalker is — or was — a partner who gaslights, denies wrongdoing or blames the victim for “misunderstanding.”
- Depression and isolation, as victims cut back on social interaction to avoid potential encounters or because they no longer trust their judgment.

Experts note that stalking carries significant mental health consequences, including post-traumatic stress symptoms, anxiety disorders and lasting emotional harm.

For many victims — especially those stalked by a partner or ex-partner — stalking is part of a broader pattern of control and abuse. In these contexts, stalking can:

- Serve as punishment after a breakup, a way to regain power or force communication.
- Be accompanied by physical or sexual violence, with stalking often

co-occurring alongside other forms of domestic violence.

- Precede sexual assault or escalation to lethal violence, making it one of the strongest predictors of intimate partner homicide.

Because stalking behaviors often escalate over time — from seemingly innocuous gestures to intimidation or threats — recognizing the pattern early can be lifesaving. Healthy relationships are built on trust and consent, not monitoring, pressure or fear.

If you or someone you know is experiencing stalking, take unwanted contact seriously — patterns matter. Document all incidents — texts, calls, sightings. Reach out for support. Call Rise Above Violence at (970) 264-9075 to discuss your concerns and your options for increasing your safety or that of someone you know.

Stalking isn’t a misunderstanding or “love gone wrong.” It’s a pattern of behavior that violates personal boundaries and can have lasting impacts on physical, emotional and psychological well-being. Understanding what it looks and feels like is a crucial step toward prevention and support.

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America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission announces Community Grants Program to support local commemorative projects statewide

America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission

On Jan. 15, the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission announced the launch of its Community Grants Program, a new initiative designed to support localized, high-impact projects as Colorado prepares to commemorate its 150th anniversary of statehood alongside the nation's 250th anniversary in 2026.

The Community Grants Program expands on the commission's existing Aligned Giving Program, shifting focus toward smaller, community-based projects that can be activated quickly and reflect the unique stories, histories and creativity of communities across Colorado.

"The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission has worked hard to create multiple ways for Coloradans to engage in Colorado's 150th birthday. I'm excited to see how many community partners across the state have proposed exhibits, events and historic projects through the Aligned Giving and Community Grants programs to energize our communities to commemorate this historic milestone. Investing in our communities boosts our economies, increases collaboration and creates a lasting impact that will be felt for generations to come," said Gov. Jared Polis.

Through its first round of community grantmaking, the commission identified 46 highly aligned projects submitted between May and November 2025 to receive funding. These initial awards total \$345,000 and support projects intended to be activated by summer 2026.

While the Aligned Giving Program continues to serve as the commission's primary vehicle for large-scale legacy and capital projects, the Community Grants Program is designed

to support quicker, localized initiatives that foster participation, storytelling and community engagement during the commemoration.

"These grants allow us to directly invest in the creativity and leadership already happening in communities across Colorado," said Nick Lopez, president and CEO of the Latin American Educational Foundation and a member of the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission. "The Community Grants Program reflects our belief that meaningful commemoration happens at the local level. By supporting smaller, highly aligned projects, we're helping communities bring their own history, culture and vision into this once-in-a-generation moment."

The Community Grants Program awards up to \$7,500 per project, supported by the commission's ongoing fundraising, resource development and philanthropic partners. Grant recipients are selected based on strong alignment with the commission's goals, themes and values, ensuring meaningful impact rather than a first-come, first-served approach.

In addition to the initial awards, the commission has announced a second wave of community grants, with an additional \$200,000 available to support new projects.

The application deadline is Feb. 15. Applicants will be notified by March 30. All interest forms submitted after November 2025 will be considered.

Projects funded through both grant cycles are designed to activate communities across Colorado and complement the commission's 13 signature initiatives leading up to and throughout 2026.

For more information about the Community Grants Program or other signature initiatives, visit the official

website at Am250CO150.org.

About the America 250 - Colorado 150

■ See Grants on next page

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Photo courtesy Humane Society of Pagosa Springs

Joan Ward and Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Executive Director Elizabeth Kirwin stand for a photo during the final installation of the first of two much-needed new washing machines at the Humane Society of Pagosa Springs’ animal shelter. After months of volunteers making countless laundromat trips and laundry piling up in the parking lot, the community came to the rescue. The staff and shelter pets are deeply thankful to longtime HSPS supporter Joan Ward, along with other generous donors, for the two high-capacity machines that will ensure dogs and cats have clean, comfortable bedding.

Grants

■ continued from previous page
commemoration

The America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission is leading Colorado’s commemoration of 150 years of statehood and 250 years of American independence in 2026.

Established by Polis and the Colorado General Assembly, the commission brings together leaders from across the state to guide this historic milestone.

Through its campaign, “The View From Here,” the commission invites all Coloradans to reflect on our shared history and imagine the future, recognizing Colorado’s unique legacy as the only state founded on the nation’s 100th birthday in 1876.

Working alongside state agencies, regional advisory panel members and local communities, the commission will showcase signature initiatives, educational programs, exhibits and community-led events to inspire engagement statewide.

For more information and ways to get involved, visit Am250CO150.org.



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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship to continue discussion on ‘Social Change Now’

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

As a member congregation in the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Association, the Pagosa UU Fellowship often asks questions such as: “What are people of faith, people of conscience and people who want and work for liberation to do?” This question, and the following statement, come from another member organization, namely The Church of the Larger Fellowship.

“We do what we can where we are. ... Lean into community and focus your energy on your friends and neighbors.”

This fourth Sunday, Jan. 25, at 10:30 a.m., the Pagosa fellowship will engage in Action Sunday as we have been doing for a year. As a small, lay-led congregation, we engage

with resources that strengthen our capacity to question and confront the injustices we see in the world. Part of the action is to educate ourselves as we continue the book group reading “Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection” by Deepa Iyer.

This workbook-style read focuses on roles we all participate in when doing the work of building beloved community. Iyer lays out 10 roles that individuals or organizations play, and a how-to of the building blocks for taking part in actions. The roles are: frontline responders, visionaries, builders, caregivers, disrupters, healers, storytellers, guides, weavers and experimenters.

This week we will explore each role and name where we might fit into it. Looking ahead at the sched-

uled reading for the book, our plan is: January and February will be “Introduction” and “Mapping Social Change Roles” sections, and we will finish up the fourth Sunday in March with “For Now, and For the Long Haul” section.

Join us any of these Sundays, as this reflection and discussion group will provide enough content to be meaningful even if you were unable to read the book.

We also make our space available for adjacent groups to meet in our Community Hub. The Tara Meditation Group held Sundays from 4:30 to 6 p.m., Qigong practice on Monday afternoons, and the Wise and Wakeful Circle are on-going. There will be no Circle the fourth Saturday this month. Check out PagosaUU.org for our current monthly newsletter and more.

The fellowship space is located in the Greenbriar Plaza, Unit B-15, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd., on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. We celebrate diversity and foster a spiritual home for those wishing to “Make Friends, Grow in Spirit and Do Good,” and gather together in active hope.

Giving the gift of time: Help people in need as a Red Cross volunteer

American Red Cross of Western Colorado

The American Red Cross asks you to consider giving the gift of your time this year and resolving to help people in need as a volunteer in Western Colorado.

“Our volunteers make up 90 percent of our work force, and are the beating heart and soul of the Red Cross,” said Christie Caster, executive director of the Red Cross of Western Colorado. “Their support is immeasurable. Their precious gift of time builds our capacity to help people in what can be their darkest hour.”

Depending on your interests, the Red Cross offers a variety of volunteer opportunities — from supporting a family after a fire in their home, helping a member of the military during an emergency or helping us ensure blood is available for patients who need it.

• Disaster Action Team (DAT): Help families in your community after a home fire or other disaster. DAT team members provide emotional support, emergency financial assistance and information to help families begin to recover.

• Hero Care caseworker: Support members of the military, their families and our veterans. Become a casework volunteer and help provide emergency communications and critical services to military families all over the world.

Volunteers come from all walks of life, ready to help their local communities at a moment’s notice. Myrna Candreia, a volunteer from New Castle, Colo., deployed in response to the Elk and Lee fires during the summer of 2025. Once helped by Red Cross volunteers herself in the aftermath of the 2002 Waldo Canyon Fire, Candreia served as a volunteer

in a Red Cross shelter in Craig, Colo., helping those on the Western Slope who found themselves displaced by evacuations.

“I never really thought that much about it but then realized, ‘Wow, this is a way to give back,’” Candreia said about her decision to volunteer. “We are now going through trying times with fire, and so I decided it was time to give back to the Red Cross.”

She recounted several times where she went to pick up coffee for her fellow volunteers or after ending a shift, people would see her Red Cross shirt and thank her for her service.

“It gives you a sense of how appreciative people can be in the communities you serve,” Candreia said.

The need to help has never been greater. Join us to provide relief and hope when it matters most. Visit redcross.org/volunteer and get started today.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org.

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Losing with greed and fear

By Joyce Holdread
Special to The PREVIEW

Wealth is versatile. Jesus told two parables to demonstrate varying approaches toward wealth.

In Luke 12:13-21, he tells of a rich man whose annual crops were abundant. This man judged that he had no way of storing all his abundance, so he would tear down the barns he already had and build bigger ones to guard all his stuff. Then, he could relax, dine in luxury and enjoy his life for years to come.

But God declared: "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" (NIV).

Greed isn't only amassing material blessings which we may or may not have "earned." It can also manifest in the bold visibility of accomplishments, the recognition of peers or our favorable reputation before the community. This man could merely have added on to adequate storehouses he already possessed, but perhaps building new ones would further impress his status upon the community.

In the second parable (Luke 19:12-27, NIV), Jesus told of a nobleman who traveled to a distant country, but before leaving distributed one mina (worth about three months' wages) to each of his servants to invest until he came back. Upon his return, he called for his servants to give an account of their investment of his money. The first reported that his mina had earned 10 more, the second that his mina had garnered five more. One servant, however, returned the original mina saying he had guarded it carefully because he was afraid. He knew his master was a hard man, one who reaped where he had not sown and took advantage where he had contributed nothing.

The master firmly chided this fearful servant, saying that if he knew of his master's severity, he definitely

A Matter of Faith

should have made a good faith effort to put his mina to work so that the master could have collected it again plus interest. Then, this one mina was taken away from him and given to the servant with the 10 minas. His fear and cowardice caused him to lose even the least amount he had, let alone any gain.

As a much younger person, I thought this parable terribly unfair. After all, the servant wasn't dishonest with the mina trying to keep it for himself and was returning it whole to the rightful owner. Why was the master so harsh with this servant?

It seems in these two parables that both the rich man and the servant held their "resources" in a tight, self-oriented grasp. The rich fool planned to stash all his grain/goods in his bigger barns so he would always have plenty to squander on himself. The servant squirreled away his lone mina, preserving it carefully as it's a dog-eat-dog world out there and if he should lose it, the master would have his head. No doubt, false belief systems or hurtful experiences endured earlier in their lives helped them to form these limiting conclusions.

But both decided on a course of action, although very different, to "save" themselves.

The way of Jesus counters both these options. Trust God and "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (NIV). Only with open hands and hearts toward God and others will we be unfettered and thus ready to receive abundantly from our truest Father all things needful for this life.

As C.S. Lewis expressed so succinctly: "Aim at heaven, and you get earth thrown in. Aim at earth, and you get neither one."

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

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SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center announces upcoming events

By Shayla McClure
SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center

The SpiritFire Inspiration Living Center will hold a fundraiser Sunday, Jan. 25.
Text or call (970) 510-0309 for directions or more information.

Upcoming activities

Save the date for the following activity at the SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center:
• Feb. 15, noon to 3 p.m.: Firehorse Valentine's Celebration. Drumming with a special fire ceremony. A \$33 donation will be collected. Reserve your space by contacting (970) 510-0309.

About us

The SpiritFire Inspirational Liv-

ing Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking. The vision of SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center is to empower each participating member to become their "best self" Our mission is to create a world that works for everyone through self empowerment and awareness of the creator's divinity. We welcome local talents to share gifts, aptitudes and knowledge. SpiritFire Inspirational Living Center events are held at Xanadu private retreat. Obtain information by joining us, emailing pagosacom-munitynewthought@gmail.com or texting/calling (970) 510-0309.

Tips to safeguard your mental health each day

Special to The PREVIEW

When seeking to be as healthy as possible, it's important that people do not overlook the importance of protecting mental health.
The World Health Organization says more than a billion people across the globe live with a mental health condition. The need for action on mental health is urgent and undeniable, as safeguarding mental health is integral to a person's well-being.
The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) says that mental health is more than just the absence of a mental illness. It includes emotional, psychological and social well-being. Self-care and action play key roles in maintaining good mental health, and getting support and treatment if a serious issue is present.
Here are steps anyone can take each day to protect their mental health:
• Exercise regularly. Just 30 minutes of exercise most days, which can include walking, can boost a person's mood and improve health. The NIMH says small amounts of exercise add up, so it's possible to spread out the 30 minutes over the course of the day. Exercising outdoors also exposes a person to natural sunlight, which is proven to boost mood.
• Foster relationships. Good relationships are important for mental well-being. If possible, a person should take time each day to be with family, friends or colleagues. Volunteer work at a local school, community group or hospital can foster socialization for those who may not be able to get together with friends or

family with regularity.
• Learn new skills. The United Kingdom-based NHS Services says research shows learning new skills can improve mental well-being by boosting self-esteem and self-confidence. It also helps identify a sense of purpose.
• Relax. People should schedule time for relaxation and stress management. Yoga, meditation, reading or spending time in nature are great ways to slow down, relax and recharge.
• Seek help. Anyone with a mental health concern should seek someone to talk to. For some, simply talking things through with a friend or family member may be enough to resolve issues. Others may find that talking to a therapist or counselor is the best course of action. There also are support groups where others who understand similar experiences can provide validation and support.
• Curtail harmful behaviors. Some people turn to drugs and alcohol to mitigate mental health issues. This self-medication is harmful and can exacerbate mental health conditions. Individuals should consult with medical professionals if they suspect they may need medication or additional help to treat mental health issues.
Efforts to safeguard mental health are essential. Anyone who has concerns about their mental health or the mental health of others should speak first to a primary care provider. He or she can then offer a referral to a qualified mental health professional.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS
- 1 Radiator sound
 - 5 Knockoffs
 - 10 Abbey area
 - 14 Related (to)
 - 15 It's handed down
 - 16 Film spool
 - 17 Senator, e.g.
 - 19 News tidbit
 - 20 Don Quixote's squire Panza
 - 21 Goes down
 - 23 Long-billed bird
 - 26 Brontë novel
 - 29 Picks up on
 - 32 False friends
 - 33 Flubbed
 - 35 Quilting party
 - 36 French islands
 - 37 "___ Johnny!"
 - 38 Steady
 - 39 Turo offering
 - 40 Musical Clay
 - 41 Bitter-tasting
 - 42 What a spoiler may spoil
 - 44 Fluid losses
 - 46 Truthful
 - 48 Plank producer
 - 50 Programming language
 - 54 Vicinity
 - 55 Devoid of emotion
 - 58 "Atlas Shrugged" character
 - 59 Emotions, slangily
 - 60 Cozumel coin
 - 61 Willing and ____
 - 62 Bert's pal
 - 63 Give and take?

- DOWN
- 1 Linden and Holbrook
 - 2 Big furniture retailer
 - 3 Highway sight
 - 4 Candy bar that really satisfies
 - 5 Arson, for instance
 - 6 Dentists' org.
 - 7 Carson of the Old West
 - 8 Dangerous strain
 - 9 Emphasizes
 - 10 Come to light
 - 11 Tampa neighbor, with "Saint"
 - 12 Caught in the act
 - 13 Classic street liners
 - 18 Backs (away)
 - 22 Place for a shovel
 - 24 Yogurt type
 - 25 "Elf" actor
 - 26 Steroids, slangily
 - 27 Narnia lion
 - 28 Worthless one
 - 30 Spine-tingling
 - 31 Watermelon waste
 - 34 1966 hit "Walk Away ____"

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61						62					63			

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- 37 Miller beer variety
- 38 Seafood selection
- 40 "Nay" sayer
- 41 Women's soccer star Michelle
- 43 Cell dweller
- 45 Opposed
- 47 Big name in bonding
- 48 "The Lord of the Rings," e.g.
- 49 Riyadh resident
- 51 Fresh way to start
- 52 Astronaut's insignia
- 53 Amorphous mass
- 56 Pilot product
- 57 Wallach or Whitney

Answers to Previous Crossword:

A	C	R	E		H	A	S	T	E		A	F	A	R
A	H	E	M		E	T	H	E	R		B	A	N	E
R	A	D	I	O	F	L	Y	E	R		S	I	T	E
P	R	O	R	A	T	A		T	O	W	E	R	E	D
				A	S	Y	N	C	H	R	O	N	Y	
A	B	A	T	E		T	E	E		O	C	T	A	L
M	O	L	E	S	K	I	N		C	L	E	A	R	Y
A	R	T			A	C	T	E	D				L	I
S	N	A	P	P	Y		R	A	T	T	L	E	O	N
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S	P	I	N	D	L	E		M	A	I	D	E	N	S
A	L	E	C			I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T	A
M	A	C	E			S	C	E	N	E		R	U	T
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Higher learning versus human education

By Betty Slade
PREVIEW Columnist

I've always admired and enjoyed those who have had the opportunity to pursue higher education. From formal university affiliations, they displayed their degrees on their office walls and took pride in their positions and titles.

I wanted that college education, even a seminary degree, for myself. That would give me credence. Others would believe and accept what I said as true and real in my teaching of the Bible.

I didn't receive a degree. I came through a different door, a door that would seem lesser — on my knees, pouring over the scriptures and begging God that I might know Him. Even though I craved God's wisdom, it didn't come to me through human establishments of higher education.

My knowledge came through devouring the Bible by faith. Through the Holy Spirit, I accepted God's words to be absolute — existing independently. Not from mega-churches, television preachers or prophets, where many gathered with itchy ears, but truth that resonated in me.

The Lord showed me early in my walk with Him that "There's no need for anyone to keep teaching you. His anointing teaches you all that you need to know, for it will lead you into truth ..." (1 John 2:27, TPT).

At the end of the road, there is much I wish I had known early in my walk. I know only what I know, what I gleaned from heaven. All else is human knowledge. As believers we need to be taught by spirit-filled leaders, but we also need to rely on the Holy Spirit, who abides in us and will take us to higher thinking. He will also put a check in our spirits when something isn't right.

In Isaiah 55:8-9 (NKJV) it states, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

I took it to heart and trusted Him to take my thoughts to a higher place, higher than traditional education. I purchased a book titled "Song of Songs: A Biblical-Theological, Allegorical, Christological interpretation." I wanted to do a fact check to make sure all my theological information was correct as I finish the final edit on my new book.

This book carried endorsements from great religious men with great swelling titles, positions — seminarians and pastors of churches — expounding that this book could be relied upon. As I read through it, I became aware of the legalism, the law, which kills, human knowledge about sexual things and how to save marriages. It lacked the beautiful

Artist's Lane

At the end of the road, there is much I wish I had known early in my walk. I know only what I gleaned from heaven. All else is human knowledge.

truth about God's heart and His church and the real reason for Song of Solomon to be in the pages of the Bible.

The author followed the law, but did not write it from the higher plane that the Lord talked about in Isaiah — those words that pour from the heart of God. He missed the sweetness of the book and the heart of this Song of Songs as he brought book learning to the readers.

His theology was correct, but his heart lacked the true relationship of the Lord. I threw the book across the kitchen floor. He had missed the person of Jesus and His love for His bride, the church.

I picked up the book and realized a misconception I clung to for years — those with a higher education had a corner on God which I didn't have. Wrong. With big words, puffed up knowledge and religion, this book with all these religious leaders' endorsements crucified the simple essence of the book, the love of God.

The Lord pressed on my heart to write a book on Song of Solomon from the full revelation God had given me in these later years. I didn't know why. Now, I know. There is a difference between human knowledge and God's revelation knowledge. I was carrying His absolute truth, not propped up by human thought, but higher thoughts from

the Divine.

Final brushstroke: God's wisdom comes from seeking God's heart on our knees. We can trust the Spirit of God, who lives in us. He doesn't lie.

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

Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of The SUN.

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33 Fawn Court
\$875,000

MLS #824532

This meticulously cared for log cabin, near Lake Forest, spans 2,732 square feet, featuring 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms. Covered deck, backyard patio, stunning mountain views. Open floor plan, modern kitchen. Primary bedroom/bathroom located on the main floor. 2-car garage connects through the laundry area. Upstairs has two bedrooms/full bathroom, while the lower level offers versatile space plus a fourth bedroom with a full bath nearby.

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



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

MLS #822945

2 Bed, 2 Bath, 2,073 sq foot house on 36.44 acres. Navajo River Ranch has 2 private entrances into the forest. This home has wonderful views of the San Juan Mountain Range and great decks. 2 tributaries come together to form a seasonal creek called Oil Well Creek on the property.

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

Own Your Own Colorado Land!

30 High Drive, MLS # 794628, \$55,900



1231 Ranchland Drive
\$290,000

MLS #829827

40 acres qualifying for Forest Service Ag, has had significant fire mitigation done and property taxes are under \$200 per year. Borders Ute Indian Reservation and has multiple build areas close to power. Single car garage, 3-room bunkhouse, 1200-gallon cistern, 2 wood burning stoves and 2 propane heaters. Solar panels power the bunkhouse functions, pump and lights. Garage accommodates a 22' RV- Pricing does not include the well on the property.

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



\$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>



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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 hairy woodpecker.

From sea level to high in the mountains, across North America this woodpecker is a resident bird in forests with large trees and is equally common in coniferous, deciduous and mixed forest types. With toes that can rotate to the front, back or side, and stiff tail feathers for a brace, they are well-adapted to cling to a tree trunk in an upright posture and spring upward with both feet.

Insects make up more than 75 percent of this woodpecker’s diet. With a taste for the adults and larvae of wood-boring and bark beetles, they consume large numbers of these forest pests. Hairys may appear in numbers in forests with bark beetle infestations and in burned forests where these insects move in. They can locate prey inside the tree by rapidly tapping on the wood to hear the difference in sound above an insect tunnel. They forage for insects by using a chisel-shaped bill to probe into wood, flake bark or excavate into dead wood.

In winter in Colorado, hairy woodpeckers feed extensively on the seeds of ponderosa pine. Seeds are wedged into the bark crevice and pecked open before they can be consumed. Hairys are common birds at suet and sunflower feeders, sometimes drink at sapsucker wells, and use their long tongues to lap nectar from hummingbird feeders in summer.

Hairy woodpeckers are robin-sized black and white birds named for the white patch on their backs formed by long, hair-like feathers. Their black wings are checkered with white, and two white stripes divide the head. Males have a patch of red feathers on the head, making the sexes easy to tell apart.

Around the world, many woodpecker species have a twin, with one type usually being larger, and this is true of the hairy woodpecker. It is considerably larger than the look-alike downy woodpecker, but this may not be obvious unless they are side by side. While the long bill of the hairy is about the length of its head, the smaller downy’s bill is much shorter. It is believed that looking like a larger, more aggressive bird may confer some protection to the smaller downy.

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

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3					5	7		
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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here’s How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

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The Pagosa SpringsSUN

Library expansion being funded by private donations, no new taxes

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

Did you know that the library's expansion is completely funded by private grants and donations?

The only government funds for the project came from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy Impact Fund, which requires oil, gas, and mining companies to pay impact fees that help the local communities where they do business. There has been no ballot issue to raise taxes for your library's capital projects, and there is no plan to do so.

This was a decision made several years ago when the capital campaign began. The Steering Committee, led by Jann Pitcher, wanted to make sure we all worked on together, whether we contributed money or expertise or helped move things or sold books at book sales. Just like the public library, this campaign is built for everyone. Contribute what you can, as you can.

Naturally, this means the fund-raising has taken a good while, and we still have a ways to go before we reach our final goal. So, if you love the idea of no new taxes and can spare a few dollars toward a lovely, expanded new library in Pagosa Springs, we would be most grateful for your contribution.

And if you're short on cash but have a strong back, we'll be calling for volunteers to assemble new tables, put together shelving and move the Hershey collection from the Zircon back into the building.

So, let's get behind this no-new-tax campaign and open a fresh public library that will make us proud. Thank you, Pagosa.

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.

Colorado Parks Passes for checkout

It may seem like the wrong time of year to visit Colorado state parks, but with our mild winter, why not get outside and enjoy the parks' off-season?

The Ruby Sisson Library has free Colorado Parks passes for checkout that include a backpack with nature guides, binoculars and fun activities. Reserve yours today.

New Tumblemath for kids

Ask AI if good readers are good at math, and here's the answer you get: "Yes, good readers are often good at math because reading skills like comprehension, vocabulary, and logical reasoning are crucial for understand-

Library News

ing word problems, mathematical language, and complex concepts, with strong early reading ability being a key predictor of later math success. Both subjects rely on creating mental images, using context, and persevering through challenges, and brain areas used for reading are also involved in math tasks like multiplication, showing a deep connection."

That's the idea behind the library's brand new online offering for kids, Tumblemath. Kids can learn math concepts through fun picture books that tell the story of why math works.

Concepts range from basic addition all the way through geometry for older readers. You can find Tumblemath in our digital library on the alphabetical list or in the homework section.

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](https://www.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.

■ See Library on page 17

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DOES BETTER SLEEP MEAN FEWER COLDS?

The immune system is your body's defense against colds and viruses. To compromise it is to compromise your health and resistance to colds and flu's.

The relationship between sleep and immunity is strong enough to require our attention.

The power of adequate sleep is underestimated. See today's article excerpt for more relating to this topic.

One way that sleep affects the immune system was recently noted: A test showed that when a person does not get enough rest, the immune system answers with an inflammatory response. This rise in inflammation can be harmful, especially when it is chronic.

Heart disease, for example, is known to have inflammation as a trigger. Scientists therefore wanted to isolate the reasons for this response due to a lack of sleep.

Another study examined the immune system's activity in a group of healthy individuals after a week of poor sleep. They then looked at those who had slept well for the week. What researchers found was that there was more immune system activity in those who did not have enough sleep.

This may sound like a good thing, but it really isn't: The activity triggered more allergies and asthma than in those with good amounts of sleep. Asthma is already known to be aggravated by lack of sleep and this study helped to explain why. Other immune activity that was seen was an increase in inflammation.

Sleep patterns have also been observed over longer periods of time. What was found was that not only does sleep affect the brain, but it affects our metabolism and immune systems as well. The longer a person goes without adequate sleep, the more at risk they are for other chronic diseases. Scientists and other medical professionals worry about some of these risks. Cardiac disease, particularly when it involves the blood vessels, is a major risk.

The immune system's inflammation response makes one vulnerable to this. Type 2 diabetes is another disorder that can be traced to chronic inflammation. Source: "Think Sleep Deprivation Won't Affect Your Immune System? Think Again." By Eric Cohen.

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

"Return to your rest, O my soul, For the LORD has dealt bountifully with you." Psalm 116:7

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PAGOSA SCENE . . .

PENGUIN PLUNGE

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce

Scene ... plunging into the icy San Juan River for a cause during Saturday's Penguin Plunge. The event — part of WinterFest — raised more than \$17,000 for nine different nonprofit organizations.



PAGOSA SCENE . . .

WINTERFEST HOT AIR BALLOON LAUNCH

PREVIEW photos/Randi Pierce

Scene ... color fills the skies during Sunday's WinterFest hot air balloon launch. While Saturday's wind halted the morning's ascension, more than a dozen hot air balloons flew over the west side of Pagosa Springs on Sunday morning.



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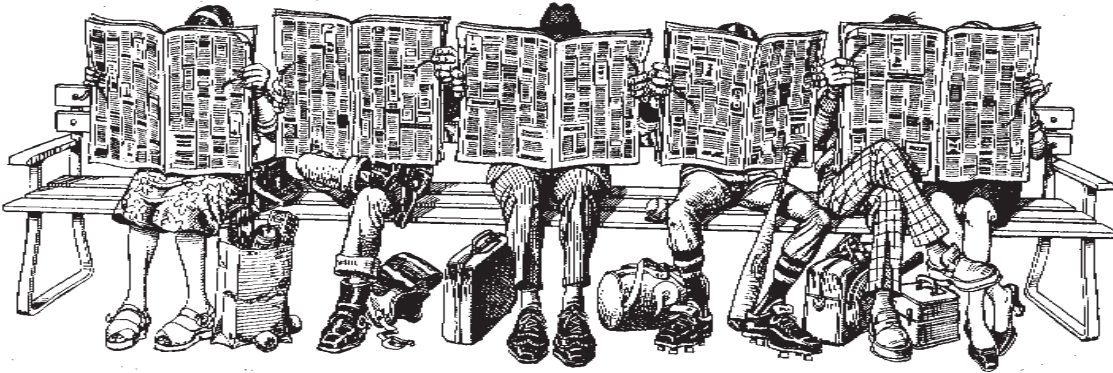
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Preview Calendar

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

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,

Library

■ continued from page 13

This free book club for adults is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is welcome 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, re-

sources 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.

sources 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.

Healthy Archuleta Growers and Producers Forum. 4-5:30, virtual. Representatives of Guidestone Colorado will speak. Email fs-fearchuleta@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

English as a Second Language.

■ See Calendar on next page



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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**

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

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

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>.

Mom's Night of Self-Care. 6-7:30 p.m., The Studios at Pagosa Community Initiative, 550B Hot Springs Blvd. Enjoy a kid-free evening of fun, food and friendship. Free child care provided. RSVP to (970) 585-6253 or randye@pagosacommunityinitiative.org. Please mention your child care needs when you RSVP.

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 givebutler.com/PagosaPuzzlePalooza26 or at the Senior Center.

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

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

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

Archuleta County Republican Open House. 2-5 p.m., Coyote Moon Lounge, 120 County Road 600.

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.

Tuesday, Jan. 27

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.

WHIPS (Women Helping in Pagosa Springs). 11:30 a.m., Black Bart's

Brunch. The cost is \$20. All women are welcome. An RSVP to (970) 946-1895 is required by Sunday, Jan. 25.

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

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

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

Men's Fellowship. 6 p.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.

Wednesday, Jan. 28

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

Family Storytime. 10-11 a.m., Sisson Library. Join us for an educational hour of reading, singing and free play while building early literacy skills together. For all ages. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information.

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

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

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

Elementary Tutoring. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary

■ **See Calendar on next page**

Zeke Rivera

01/23/2016-01/05/2026

Our beloved son, Zeke Rivera, was violently taken from us in front of our home by someone hitting him with their vehicle on Monday, 01/05/2026 between 8:15-8:35 p.m.

You have left your paw prints on our hearts and you gave us unconditional love and endless joy. If love could have kept you here, you would have lived forever.

Zeke joined this family over 9 years ago as a small puppy. He grew up knowing and greeted everyone who brought their vehicle over to be fixed by his dad. Even some of the people had dog treats that he and Nikko, his brother, would wait for by their car door. Every time the UPS or FedEx drivers dropped off packages, they would give both of them treats. One time Zeke got into

the FedEx truck and the driver dropped him off in the back of the shop.

When the school kids walked by going to Yamaguchi Park, he would go over and get loving attention from them. He was a loved friend in this neighborhood. He always had a lot to say. To some people, he was only a dog, but to us and other dog people, he was a member of our family. We lost our son today. We will miss you so much. Your wings were ready, but our hearts were not.



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Mental health: combating isolation and depression

By Ricardo Martinez
PREVIEW Columnist

Health experts warn that social isolation and depression are growing concerns among senior citizens, especially as many older adults face reduced mobility, limited social interaction and difficulty accessing community resources.

Mental health professionals note that loneliness is closely linked to heightened risks of anxiety, cognitive decline and physical health problems.

Despite the rising awareness, many cases of depression in older adults still go undiagnosed due to stigma, misconceptions about aging or lack of mental health services tailored to seniors.

Community organizations are stepping in to help, and the Pagosa Senior Center is among those working to combat isolation and support emotional well-being.

The center offers weekly social activities and programs designed to keep seniors active and connected.

Senior News

Staff members say that simple acts, like sharing a meal, attending a fitness class or joining a hobby group can make a significant impact on morale and mental health.

As policymakers and advocates call for more mental health resources for older adults, centers like Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI) continue to serve as vital community anchors, helping seniors stay engaged, supported, and resilient.

Pagosa Puzzle Palooza

The Pagosa Puzzle Palooza, a team jigsaw puzzle contest, has 12 teams competing. It benefits 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 Commu-

nity Center), 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Check in is at noon, competition is from 1 to 4 p.m., and awards are from 4 to 5 p.m.

While registration is sold out, you are welcome to come support a team and cheer them on.

Senior Conversations

■ See Senior on next page

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

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>.

Online Author Talk. 5 p.m., virtual. "Secrets and Second Chances" with Liz Moore. 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.

Thursday, Jan. 29

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. 30

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>.

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

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

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.



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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Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

Since ASI was closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Senior Conversations will be on Jan. 23 from 1:15 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Salmonsohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided. Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations. The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs

Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game

with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Emotional freedom

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

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

Mindful drawing

Mindful drawing is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing

■ See Senior on next page

Happy New Year!



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Requirements: A minimum of 2 half-page ads must run in February 5 through 26, 2026 editions.
Must be the same ad for both insertions, runs do not need to be consecutive. Business' main office must be located in Archuleta County.
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Senior

■ **continued from previous page**
structured patterns. Join our friendly instructor, Roberta Strickland.

Classes are every Wednesday at 1:15 p.m. in the Senior Center. There is no class on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

This activity is open to all ages. Help us create an intergenerational community. For those under 18 and/or with disabilities, you are welcome to join us, but we kindly ask you to please bring an adult chaperone with you.

Mexican train dominoes

Mexican train dominoes meets on Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Ruby's Writers Guild

The Ruby's Writers Guild now meets on Thursdays from 8:45 to 10:30 a.m. The Guild is an informal group that meets to support writers of all genres and experiences. It supports writers through friendly critique, resources, discussion, and literary and cultural activities. Bring your secret idea drafts or completed manuscripts. Come join the group.

Tai chi chih

Tai chi classes are on Thursdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Senior Center.

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 date of bingo in February will be announced in the next news article.

Participation is free, and all we ask is you bring yourself and a friend for an hour of joyful fellowship. We will provide prizes for all winners, and snacks will also be provided.

No RSVP is required; just show up.

All ages are welcome, but we ask those 18 and younger to come with an adult chaperone. Seats are first come, first served.

Scrapbooking and crafters club

The Pagosa Springs Scrapbooking and Crafters Club continues to hold monthly meetings the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., within the dining hall in the Senior Center.

This creative tradition has been happening since 2005, and we invite all creative individuals to come and share ideas, connect with new and old friends, learn/share creative techniques, share supplies and indulge in a potluck lunch together. Bring your scrapbooking projects — or any crafting project that you may want to work on with the group.

Help us create an intergenerational community. Those ages 18

and older are welcome. For those youth age 17 and younger, we kindly request an adult chaperone accompany them.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please send your request to copenhavercreative@gmail.com and you will receive notification each month of the upcoming meeting, along with handy tips and tricks for scrapbooking and more.

Share lunch Monday through Friday

Join local elders, their friends, family and community at the Community Cafe, also known as the Silver Fox's Den, in person for delicious meals Mondays through Fridays at the Community Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Grab 'N' Go pickup via our convenient portico is also available all week.

To reserve your meal for the day, please make your reservation via text or phone call to (970) 264-2167 by 8:45 a.m. weekdays. Please say whether it is dine-in or Grab 'N' Go.

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

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

Community Cafe menu

Call or text (970) 264-2167 before 8:45 a.m. Please note that occasionally the menu must be changed on

short notice.

Thursday, Jan. 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.

Monday, Jan. 26 — Salmon with dill sauce, roasted butternut squash, broccoli, garden salad, blackberry pie and milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 27 — Plum chicken, jasmine rice, snow peas, garden salad, fruit, cookies and milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 28 — Moroccan stew, spinach artichoke dip and pita chips, garden salad, fruit, chai pudding, and milk.

Thursday, Jan. 29 — Beef lasagna, wilted spinach, garlic bread, garden salad, fruit and milk.

Friday, Jan. 30 — Pork tenderloin with blackberry glaze, baked potatoes, lima beans, garden salad, fruit, cottage cheese 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

■ **See Senior on next page**

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Raining 2x4s: A surveyor’s tale from a missile site

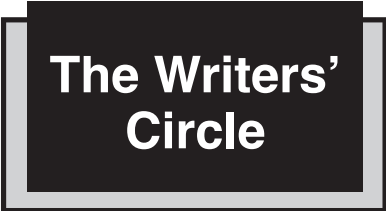
By James R. Van Liere
Special to The PREVIEW

While skipping college for a year, I got a job in January of 1960 working at the missile sites east of Denver. I was hired as a surveyor by the Morrison-Knudsen Company to work at Complex 1-C, located on the old Lowry Bombing Range.

Our first assignment that morning was to verify the position of some steel plates located in the walls of the antenna silos.

As instrumentman, it was my job to set up the transit over a nail located in the concrete floor at dead center of the silo. In addition, located dead center of the silo was a stack of shoring serving as a stair to the top of the silo. This shoring consisted of prefabricated steel frames made of pipe that could be assembled into a 4-foot-by-8-foot rectangle rising 65 feet to the surface of the silo. Inside this rectangle was a series of prefabricated portable stair pieces that made it possible to climb to the top of the silo. To stabilize the shoring, many pieces of 2-by-4 lumber were wedged between the shoring and the wall of the silo. The silo was 38 feet in diameter.

Unfortunately, when one climbed the stairs to the top of the shoring



there was no way to cross over to the wall of the silo; consequently, some carpenters were building a bridge from the wall of the silo to the shoring at the same time I was standing in the center of silo 67 feet below.

In attempting to push a 6-by-12-by-20-foot-long timber beam from the concrete wall of the silo to shoring in the center of the silo, they let it get away from them. Of course, when this happened, they yelled down the silo, “Look out below.”

About this time, I heard a lot of noise above me, so I poked my head out from the center of the shoring and all I could see was this big timber falling through the 2-by-4 braces and breaking them like match sticks, and the whole business was on its way down to where I was standing.

My first thought was to head for the tunnel between the two antenna silos, but then I would have scramble through the small steel bracing for

the shoring and get to the tunnel about 10 feet away.

My second thought was to stay inside the steel shoring rectangle and hope for the best. At least I would be somewhat protected by the steel frame surrounding me.

It turned out that this was the best solution, because in just a second or two, all of the broken 2-by-4 braces began piling up around the shoring, and that big 6-by-12 timber landed about 3 feet away, between the tunnel and me.

Staying where I was proved to be a wise decision, because I was not even scratched.

The remainder of the crew had had time to take shelter in the tunnel, so they were fine. Of course, after all of the excitement, they helped dig me out from behind the pile of lumber on the floor of the silo and were quite surprised to see that I was just fine.

I guess the moral of the story is not to panic and jump too soon; you might be safer to just stand pat.

Needless to say, there wasn’t anything we could do now until the mess was cleaned up and the bracing was replaced, so we just headed to another assignment.

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

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.

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.pssseniors.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.pssseniors.org/ (donation button).

Donation checks can be written to: Archuleta Seniors Inc.

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WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

How to take a pause from the daily grind

Special to The PREVIEW

Stress affects just about everyone. The American Institute of Stress estimates 80 percent of adults in the United States experience stress on a regular basis. Worldwide, the World Health Organization reports that more than 75 percent of adults experience stress at some point in their lives.

Health woes, employment, politics and negative news all can contribute to people feeling stressed. So can engaging in a daily routine that elicits the “Groundhog Day” effect, or when each day seems like a carbon copy of the one before. Finding ways to take a break from a daily routine can help individuals become happier and healthier.

Focus on self-care

People need to dedicate time for activities that help them unwind, such as meditation, yoga, reading or taking a walk outside. Just a few minutes of self-care each day can help. Individuals can incorporate some deep-breathing exercises into a lunch hour or use time after dinner to stroll the neighborhood with the dog or family to decompress.

Make time for hobbies

Individuals can treat hobbies and other interests just as they would personal or work obligations. Add time for hobbies to your daily calendar and assign them the same significance as work-related tasks.

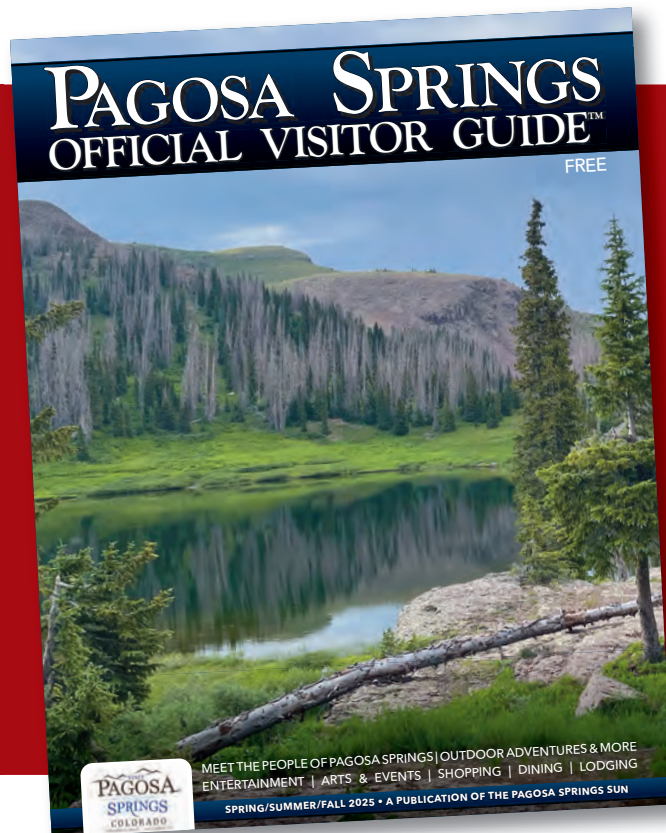
Prioritize exercise

The Mayo Clinic states exercise can alleviate stress and release endorphins, which can improve mood and reduce anxiety. Exercise also can clear the brain by helping a person focus on movements instead of worries. Make exercise a non-negotiable component of daily life. Taking the stairs, walking to work or school, parking farther away from stores in parking lots and doing little bursts of activity several times a day can ensure exercise becomes part of the routine.

Utilize personal and sick time

Many people are letting their vacation and other personal days go to waste. A 2023 survey released by the fintech lending firm Sorbet found that 62 percent of American workers with personal time off did not use it all. Plus, 5.5 percent did not take any time off the previous year. Fears of falling behind and pressures to appear dedicated are driving these behaviors.

According to the invoicing company Skynova, the average American takes 14 days off from work a year, while Europeans take 24 days. Using all personal time is definitely a way to take a break from the daily grind.



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Advertising Deadline: February 27, 2026

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The guide will be mailed in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN to subscribers.

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICES

SERVICES

SERVICES



Meet Kerouac! He is a 2 year old male looking for his forever home. He is very loving and playful. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.

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

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

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

LEAD. Is it in your drinking water? Wherever it comes from, use water test strips, then speak up.

PERSONALS

FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. HELP. 24-hour domestic violence and sexual assault helpline. (970) 264-9075.

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CHIMNEY CLEANING -dryer vent cleaning- 25+ years. Courteous reliable service. Free quotes. Arlie's Chimney Sweep. (970)731-2543.

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING. Reasonable prices. Linda Lerno, (970)731-0658 or (970)507-0176.

DUMP RUNS. Reclaim your attic and garage. Declutter your life. Start fresh this year. Free quotes. Reasonable prices. Reliable service. Arlie's Chimney Sweep, (970)731-2543.

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

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KITCHEN DEEP CLEANS now offered by Pagosa Sparkles. Group of high standard cleaners. Window cleaning also available. Text/ call KIM. (970)946-6446.

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HELP WANTED

BUILD PAGOSA, a local workforce development nonprofit, is hiring a full-time Project / Compliance Manager. This role oversees daily operations, projects, grants, reporting, and board coordination. Salary \$75–85K DOE. Ideal for an organized, detail -oriented self -starter committed to community impact. Strong project management, communication skills, and nonprofit or public -sector experience preferred. For more information or to send resume, email director@buildpagosa.org.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES. Front office administrative assistant or chair side procedural assistant positions available for immediate hire. Will train if necessary for these valuable positions. Flexible hours, full time or part time available. Great pay with room for advancement. Please send your resume today to pdimplants@yahoo.com.

COLORADO DREAM HOMES is expanding our crew. Hiring framing, concrete and general laborers. Paid holidays, end of the year bonuses, paid time off. 8 a.m. -5 p.m. schedule, year round work. Send resumes to coloradodreamhomesinc@gmail.com or swing by our office at 2283 Eagle Drive to fill out an application. Pay DOE. \$20+ per hour.

JAND J ENTERPRISES is looking for friendly and enthusiastic people who are eager to help customers navigate the wide world of cannabis. We offer paid sick leave, product sampling, employee discounts, sales bonuses and comprehensive on-site training! Must be 21 years of age. A Marijuana Enforcement Division badge is required to start work. E-mail your resume to employment@jandjinc.net or check us out on Indeed.com.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

HELP WANTED

ARCHULETA SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOW HIRING!

You belong on the Archuleta School District Team!



Archuleta School District
strives to achieve
"Success for Every Student —
Every Class — Every Day."

Currently accepting applications
for the following positions:

Bus Drivers/Transportation

Hourly Part-Time position with a starting hourly pay of \$26.60 up to \$32.36 for 169 days; training available.

Assistant Cook

Hourly Part-Time position with a starting hourly pay of \$20.84 up to \$23.72 for 169 days.

Evening Custodian

Time position with starting pay \$42,517 up to \$48,005 for 250 days paid over a 12-month period.

Benefits for all FULL-TIME positions include (but are not limited to) PERA State Retirement, Life Insurance, optional Health and Dental Insurance and paid Discretionary Days.



For more details and to apply for these positions click on "Job Postings" on the following web-site: www.mypagosaschools.com
EOE

LOOKING FOR PART -TIME TECHNICIAN.

15-20 hours per week. General maintenance, work orders, unit turns, grounds keeping and seasonal tasks. Great fit for someone with handyman experience looking for steady part -time hours. Email background and resume to hickoryridge@pagosacreek.com.

MOUNTAIN MAMA MASSAGE is looking for

dependable LMTs to join our team. Utilize your healing gifts. TOP PAY \$55/ hour plus tips. Email racheldevloo@gmail.com.

OWNERS, THERE IS A LONG TERM RENTAL SHORTAGE IN PAGOSA SPRINGS. We have a waiting list for approved tenants. Need all types of rentals. Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

PAGOSA BAKING COMPANY is hiring (1) part time dishwasher/kitchen prep, and (2) weekend barista. Positions can be combined into one full time position. Pick up an application at the bakery, or find on our website www.pagosabakingcompany.com.

PAGOSA LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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

Place your classified ad online!

Go to: PagosaSUN.com >> Shop Local

>> Place Your Classified Ad

All classified line ads appear on PagosaSUN.com Regular categories deadline: Tues., 10 a.m.

Holidays will have alternate deadlines.

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Classifieds

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

FOR SALE

OFFICE ASSOCIATE/
SALES ASSISTANT
(HYBRID ROLE)

Full-time, Monday to Friday

\$20-\$25/hour, depending on experience

Are you an organized, proactive multitasker who loves keeping operations running smoothly while supporting a fast-paced sales team? We're looking for a dynamic office associate/sales assistant to fill an important role at The Pagosa Springs SUN.

WHAT YOU'LL DO:

Office associate

- Oversee day-to-day front office operations and maintain a productive work environment
- Customer service — answering phones and taking care of walk-in customers
- Oversee distribution of the weekly newspapers
- Assist editorial staff, proofreading

Account management

- Assist the sales team with supporting and servicing local advertisers with scheduling ads, creative/design, collections and other responsibilities as needed
- Help generate leads and appointments for the sales team

What we're looking for

- Strong organization and communication skills
- A problem-solver with a positive can-do attitude
- Ability to balance multiple tasks and deadlines
- Strong grammar, spelling and typing skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office/Google Workspace
- Experience in administration or sales support is a plus (but not required if you learn quickly)

Why you'll love working with us

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

Send your email or letter of interest directly to
CEO Jim O'Rourke at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com

The Pagosa Springs

SUN

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PINE VALLEY RENTAL & SALES is now accepting applicants for a Front Desk Clerk. Looking to start training the beginning of February or mid February. Seeking either Part-time or Fulltime. Clerk duties included but not limited to: Answering phone calls, taking reservations, Checking customers in/out using our POR system, Taking credit card and cash payments etc. **MUST HAVE GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE AND STRONG PHONE SKILLS.** Knowledge of heavy equipment is a plus but not required. Email resume to: carissamcpeak@pinevalleyrental.com OR visit our website pinevalleyrental.com to fill out an application online, we also have our application on our Facebook page.

POSITION: FUNDRAISING AND EVENTS MANAGER, full time, exempt, local position with hybrid remote schedule. \$50,000 –\$60,000 per year, DOE with bonus potential. The Fundraising and Events Manager plays a key role in advancing our mission through donor engagement, fundraising events, and community outreach. This position helps lead fundraising and community events, develops direct mail appeals and other marketing efforts, participates in media outreach including radio interviews, and coordinates the work of marketing staff, social media specialists, volunteers, and vendors. Please see our website pagosahumane.org for detailed job descriptions prior to applying. Apply on the website or send your resume and a cover letter to hsjobs@pagosahumane.org.

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Hiring for the Ski Season:
November - April

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

- Lift Department
- Base Operations/Parking
- Ski School & Reservationist
- Food & Beverage Staff
- Baker - Barista
- Retail
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- Snow Reporter/Guest Services
- Snow Removal
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ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
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Send applications & resumes to:
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P.O. Box 2800
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147

Youth Soccer
Coaches Needed

The Pagosa Springs Rangers are looking for soccer coaches for all age groups and divisions for both the Fall and Spring seasons.

Positions are primarily volunteer with a small stipend. Coaching experience is helpful but not required—just a positive attitude and a desire to support youth soccer in our community.

Interested candidates should contact Peter, Director of Coaching: Email: DOC@pagosayouthsoccer.org
Text: 970-585-6559

Reach out to set up an interview.

Black Diamond Dental of Pagosa Springs is looking for **Dental Assistant** and **Dental Hygienist** to join our growing team.

*Competitive pay and bonuses.
Great schedule.*

Email resume to nylunddds@gmail.com

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/hour to start. (970)749-0830.

POSITION: IN -HOUSE BOOKKEEPER, 24 -30 hours per week, \$22 -\$25 per hour DOE. Looking for a detail-oriented and reliable in-house Bookkeeper to support the organization's day -to -day financial operations. This role is responsible for maintaining accurate financial records, accounts payable and receivable, ensuring sound accounting practices, and supporting the financial health of a mission -driven nonprofit organization. Proficiency with QuickBooks online and solid knowledge of general accounting practices are required. Please see our website pagosahumane.org for detailed job descriptions prior to applying. Apply on the website or send your resume and a cover letter to hsjobs@pagosahumane.org.

SEEKING PART -TIME HELP for winter season snow shoveling /snowplowing. Experience preferred. Call Eric, (970)946-2061.

TANGLES! SALON has an opening for a hairstylist, nail tech, or aesthetician Call Tanya (970)903-0928.

AUTOS

2011 HONDA (Civic size) Insight Hybrid, front wheel drive, 52 mpg, 88,000 miles, runs great, black paint faded, \$4,900. (954)497-9142.

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OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

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PagosaSUN.com

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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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.

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HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

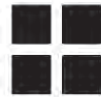
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PROFESSIONAL SUITES: 63, 112, 158, 186 sq. ft. shared reception, break room, and washer /dryer. Utilities included. Prime location. Just remodeled. (701)263-2410.

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.

UPTOWN OFFICE SPACE 15' X13', quiet, private entrance with easy parking outside storefront door. \$600 month including utilities. (720)272-4428.

WAREHOUSE, 1300 SQ. FT., 54'1 x24'w, 17' high ceiling, 12'x14' automatic garage door, radiant floor heat, high bay lighting, bathroom, paved parking lot. Great location. 140seminole@gmail.com.

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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.

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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.

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.

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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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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. \$3300 /month Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit the website teampagosa.com.

NICE UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM, 2 bath condo in uptown Pagosa Springs. \$1800 per month. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or view the unit at teampagosa.com.

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.

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 across the street from Lake Pagosa. Available around January 10th. \$1900 /month. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599. Photos coming soon.

UNFURNISHED SWEET 3 BEDROOM, 2 bath, 2 car garage home located in Pagosa Lakes. Just up the street from the Rec. Center and all up-town amenities. Sorry no pets. \$2,150 /month. Available now. Call Team Pagosa, (970)731-8599, or visit teampagosa.com to take a look.

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to submit your classified.
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