



PAGOSA SPRINGS, ARCHULETA COUNTY, COLORADO 81147 www.PagosaSUN.com VOLUME 118 — NO. 18, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

Town to ask voters to consider \$3 million loan for flood recovery efforts in river corridor

By Derek Kutzer
Staff Writer

On Jan. 20, the Pagosa Springs Town Council approved the first reading of an ordinance relating to asking voters if the town can take out a \$3 million loan from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to help pay for the town’s flood recovery efforts along the San Juan River stemming from the October 2025 floods.

If approved upon second reading, the question will appear on the town’s April 7 ballot.

The town, through the state, initially applied for \$5.7 million in grant money through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), but Colorado’s request was denied December 2025. The state has appealed the denial.

Development Director James Dickhoff explained that, in the wake of being denied the federal funding, the town sought and found other ways to pay for the recovery efforts,

most of which come from state programs, but explained that the town is “about \$3 million short” of its estimated cost to make the river “safe” ahead of the summer recreation season.

Dickhoff described the loan as a way to pay for what town staff identifies as “the unfunded portions of the river corridor recovery project,” adding that the intent is not to “re-construct the river corridor to what it was before the flooding,” but to focus on “public safety” for those wanting to recreate in the river this spring and summer.

“We want to make sure it’s as safe as possible. ... We are really focusing on public safety and [riverbank] stabilization,” he said.

The total project cost of river cleanup and restoration following the October 2025 flood event is estimated to be just shy of \$6 million, stated Town Manager David Harris in correspondence.

The CWCB loan would be for a 30-year period and comes with a zero

■ See Loan A7

County’s planning commission recommends changes to regs on RV living

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Archuleta County Planning Commission discussed and approved a recommendation of proposed changes to the Archuleta County Land Use Regulations (LUR) during its Jan. 22 meeting.

The recommendation of changes was approved by a split vote of 3-1.

The recommendation includes proposed changes to Section 3 of the LUR, regarding to temporary use of recreational vehicles (RVs) for long-term occupancy, and will go before the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) for final approval.

The Jan. 22 planning commission agenda explains that the changes are intended to address an expired resolution that was previously adopted by the BoCC “to support the affordable housing shortage in the county.”

Planning Manager Melissa Ryan presented proposed changes, explaining that a new subsection to the code was being proposed for RV temporary use permits (TUPs).

Ryan noted that long-term occupancy of an RV is permitted “only with an approved long-term RV occupancy permit,” subject to multiple conditions.

Ryan’s original proposed conditions included a 180-day RV TUP permit option that allows temporary occupancy of an RV for up to 180 consecutive days and is renewable every 180 days.

“Permits are intended for long-term housing and not for short-term or vacation stays,” Ryan noted.

Discussion amongst the planning commission brought up concerns about this permit being renewable without a limitation being set in place.

Other proposed requirements for the permit state that water must be hauled, delivered, from a well or sup-

■ See Regulations A9



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney, rendering courtesy Archuleta School District

Top: The Archuleta School District Board of Education holds a special meeting on Jan. 21 to determine where a proposed new school building would be located. Right: A rendering depicts how a school building and athletic facilities can be laid out at the Vista site.

School board chooses Vista site for new PK-8 campus

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During a Jan. 21 special meeting, the Archuleta School District (ASD) Board of Education (BoE) voted 4-1 to choose the uptown site for a proposed new building for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade (PK-8).

A press release from the district explains the uptown site is located on the corner of Vista Boulevard

and Park Avenue and “offers an expansive campus with multiple access points, ample open space, and opportunities for future walking and biking connections.”

The district considered building a new school at the Vista site or downtown on the high school campus property, and began its process in evaluating the two sites in the summer of 2025.

The press release explains that either site would feature a



140,000-square-foot PK-8 building with a two-story academic wing and a capacity of approximately 1,200 students, including a separate PK-K area and dedicated drop-off zone.

Process review

During the Jan. 21 special meeting, BoE president Bob Lynch explained that with it being a special meeting, there would be no public comment portion.

Superintendent Rick Holt provided an overview of the district’s process, noting that it first began in April 2024 when reviewing the district’s master plan.

He explained that the district engaged with three firms, ultimately choosing RTA Architects, who conducted a facilities review of all of the district’s buildings.

Meetings with staff and other community meetings were then

■ See Vista A8

State announces plan for wolverine restoration

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

At its Jan. 15 meeting, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission heard about the Colorado Wolverine Restoration Plan, with the state planning for the translocation of wolverines back into Colorado, including the San Juan Range, after a century-long absence.

Translocation efforts, however, are dependent on CPW securing a

10(j) rule through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Under section 10(j), a USFWS document explains, the USFWS “may designate a population of a listed species as experimental if it will be released into suitable natural habitat outside the species’ current range. An experimental population is a special designation for a group of plants or animals that will be reintroduced in an area that is geographically isolated

■ See Wolverine A7

County approves 2026 fee schedule

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

During its regular meeting held on Tuesday, Jan. 20, the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) unanimously approved Resolution 2026-09, amending fees for county services and information.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez presented the matter, explaining the BoCC discussed various changes being made to the fee schedule during a Jan. 13 BoCC work session.

Commissioner Veronica Medina motioned to adopt the resolution, ex-

cluding the planning and solid waste fees, with those fees tabled until further notice.

The proposed fee schedule can be viewed in its entirety online under the BoCC’s Jan. 20 meeting agenda documents at www.archuletacounty.gov/archuleta-county-co-official-website/agendas-and-minutes.

During the Jan. 13 work session, Public Works Director Mike Torres explained that he does not want to implement any new or increased fees at the landfill until the landfill project is completed.

■ See Schedule A13



Index

Opinion A2

Letters A3

Obituaries A5

Elizabeth Lou Rezac

Gilbert Velasquez

Business A5

County’s unemployment rate falls to 2.8 percent in December 2025

Education A6

Colorado faces funding freeze for child care, support programs

Sports A10

Lady Pirates log personal bests, break school record at Gunnison meet

Public Notices A14

Outdoors A15

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves Colorado’s 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan

PREVIEW

Live Performers 2

Preview Calendar 8

Crossword 10

Sudoku 12

Word Search 16

Classifieds 19

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SUN photo/
Randi Pierce

Colton Lucero, second from right, poses with David Lucero, Cameron Lucero and Dan Janowsky after logging his 100th high school win on Thursday, Jan. 22.

Opinion



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Date	High	Low	Precipitation		
			Moisture	Type	Depth
1/13	49	19	0.00	NA	NA
1/14	53	24	0.00	NA	NA
1/15	50	18	0.00	NA	NA
1/16	47	15	0.00	NA	NA
1/17	47	18	0.00	NA	NA
1/18	47	13	0.00	NA	NA
1/19	51	14	0.00	NA	NA
1/20	43	12	0.00	NA	NA
1/21	45	10	0.00	NA	NA
1/22	49	13	0.00	NA	NA
1/23	40	24	0.00	NA	NA
1/24	35	17	0.22	S	3.3
1/25	31	2	0.06	NA	NA
1/26	34	-4	0.00	NA	NA

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OUR VIEW

Stay grounded with facts

It's no secret that we're not big fans of the way artificial intelligence (AI) tools have rolled out so quickly, offering a lot of power without many regulations or, unfortunately, ethics.

It's also no secret that we like when people are well informed about what's going on in their community and nation, as well as in the world so they can form opinions based on fact.

Next week, Feb. 2-6, is National News Literacy Week and, in our opinion, the awareness effort couldn't come at a better time, with so many things in our country and world seemingly at fever pitch right now.

We also agree with this year's focus on AI and know there's a real need for more people to understand that not every photo and video they see is real. More and more commonly, we're seeing videos and photos generated that just make situations worse.

Take the case of the Renee Good shooting in Minneapolis earlier this month, for example. Already, folks with different viewpoints are offering varying takes on the course of events that led to the fatal shoot-

ing, with different videos and accounts being used to back the varying viewpoints.

Unfortunately, we've spotted at least one AI-generated video being used to back up a narrative and course of events some suggest took place, though the generated video is contradicted in multiple aspects by the real videos of the incident. While the ability to spot AI-generated content is becoming more widespread, the videos are clearly still fooling folks.

It seems all the generated video has done is drive hatred and division. We can only hope that as it's being pointed out as being AI more and more, those who were fooled by it will learn to verify before sharing.

As the News Literacy Project, which presents National News Literacy Week alongside The E.W. Scripps Company, USA TODAY and USA TODAY Network, states, "In the age of AI, it's not easy to know what to trust."

The News Literacy Project's website notes, "For teens growing up in a world where algorithms drive social media feeds, and a quick AI prompt can generate photos

or videos that look real, it's no surprise they question or doubt everything. Many teens also distrust the news media. Our latest study found that 84% of U.S. teens had negative feelings toward journalists and journalism."

While the awareness effort is primarily geared toward teens and educators, we encourage everyone to take part and work to learn how to tell if something is AI generated or real.

It's critical, especially now, that we are able to discern what sources are legitimate and can be trusted. Without those skills, there's little hope for calming down the rhetoric and the division that feels so heavy right now.

The website adds, "This National News Literacy Week, let's restore trust in standards-based news and embrace a healthy skepticism (not cynicism) by helping young people stay grounded with facts. News literacy education gives students the tools to more skillfully judge for themselves what information to trust, believe, share and base decisions on. We need it now more than ever."

Randi Pierce

LOOKING BACK



From the Jan. 29, 1970,
Pagosa SUN — DEEP
SNOW — One of the
more difficult runs at
Wolf Creek Pass Ski
Area features a very
steep grade and soft,
deep snow. This run is
not for beginners.

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LEGACIES

By Shari Pierce

100 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 29, 1926

A.W. Baker of Allison and some associates of that neighborhood and of Denver, have formed a corporation which will take over 1200 acres of land at Tiffany and expects to develop there the largest turkey ranch in the United States. The land acquired comprises the places known as the Thuringer place, the Linebarger place including the townsite of Tiffany, and 480 acres of the Tiffany place.

The name of the corporation is the San Juan Basin Turkey Ranch, Inc. Mr. Baker is president and manager of the company, and will devote his entire time and skill to the managing of said company, and the raising of turkeys. The intentions are to specialize in the growing of breeding stock, and neither time nor money will be spared in securing the best blood in the country.

In addition to A.W. Baker, P.G. Ingler and LeRoy Baker are listed as incorporators, and the capitalization is given as \$65,000. The seat of business will be at Tiffany.

75 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 2, 1951

Drizzling sleet and light snow that started early Sunday turned into a real snow storm and left the town covered with over a foot of the beautiful white stuff. From Sunday morning until Wednesday morning about six feet of new snow fell on Wolf Creek Pass and made driving over a hazardous job. The total depth on Wolf Creek Pass then was eight feet.

With skies beginning to clear Wednesday, the mercury dropped to frigid areas and it looks as if some real winter may be in store.

The new snow was exceptionally wet and the moisture content was high. This moisture and more is badly needed in this area and in practically all parts of the country.

The frosty 38 below Thursday morning is the coldest yet this winter that's been recorded.

The Square Dance Festival sponsored by the local Jeans and Calico Club, and held last Saturday night in the High School gym was well attended and voted a success by those present. In addition to the local square dance enthusiasts, there were representatives from clubs in the San Juan Basin and the San Luis Valley.

50 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
January 29, 1976

The board of School District 50 met Tuesday night of this week after the meeting had been postponed twice because of lack of a quorum. Items on the agenda dealt with suspended students, claims and accounts, board policies and delegations.

A number of parents who have children riding the bus from the Upper Piedra appeared before the board to object to the manner in which discipline and driving of the bus were conducted. After hearing the delegation the board took the matter under advisement and instructed the superintendent to investigate further.

Ralph Yamaguchi, representing La Plata Motors, appeared before the board to protest the manner in which bus bids were handled. The board had called for bus bids and La Plata's was the only bid submitted. The purchase of a bus was later negotiated with Johnson Chevrolet. Yamaguchi said that bids should not have been called for unless the lowest bid, or in this case the only bid, was accepted.

25 years ago

Taken from SUN files of
February 1, 2001

In an action apparently violating provisions of the Colorado Open Meetings Law, Archuleta County commissioners separated the county building inspection function from the county planning office during an executive session Jan. 16. At the same time the commissioners promoted Michael Crofts from building inspector to building official.

The action was apparently taken during an executive session labeled "Personnel" following the regular Jan. 16 commissioner meeting.

Timing of the action varies according to whose memory is being tested. The SUN did not learn of the action until Wednesday morning. A number of telephone calls and a face-to-face talk with Commissioner Bill Downey followed. Downey could not remember for certain when the action was taken, but thought it might have been during the Jan. 16 executive session. Downey said it was done by consensus.

County manager Dennis Hunt said the action was taken by consensus during the Jan. 16 executive session when he was directed by the commissioners to carry out the change.



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.

SNAP

Dear Editor:

According to the GAO there was \$93.7 billion paid to SNAP recipients in 2024, of which around 11% were improper payments amounting to \$10.5 billion. Outright fraud was pegged 1.6% or \$1.5 billion for all 50 states, DC, Guam and the Virgin Islands. A large portion of improper payments were not intentional fraud but, rather, errors in reporting, and inadvertent household errors in calculating eligibility for benefits. As reported by the USDA in 2024, Payment error rates varied widely from state to state, Alaska reported error rates of 24.66% and Minnesota rate of 8.98%. So, Mr Myers claim that Minnesota had over \$1 billion going to fraudsters just doesn't add up. And then he insinuated with no proof that Governor Walz was pocketing fraudulent monies. Typical right wing character assassination of well respected individuals and Democrats.

I would like to thank Mr Meyer for pointing out that those receiving SNAP benefits have doubled since 2002 with charitable contributions also increasing in Colorado. Good on Colorado! But the question, that FOX watchers never address is why, in the richest country in the world, are there so many citizens that need to rely on charity to have enough to eat and why that number is increasing. Consider that over that same time period the number of billionaires have increased 9 fold from 320 to over 2900 and their wealth has increased from \$1 trillion to over \$13.1 trillion. Could it be Republican tax cuts and other economic policies, i.e. Trickle Down Economics? The Republicans and their billionaire supporters have convinced people that it's immigrants and people relying on government assistance that are ripping them off, not the wealthy. If you've ever notice Republicans and conservative so called comedians, nearly always punch down with the butt of their criticisms or jokes being the poor or marginalized persons.

If Mr Myers is truly concerned about fraud he would be complaining about the current occupant of the White House, not immigrants and public servants. While in office Trump has increased his wealth by several \$billion, has a foreign and domestic policy of pay to play, uses cruelty as an incentive, accepts gifts from anyone willing to bend the knee, guides taxpayer funds to his family businesses and doesn't give one iota about rules, the law, the Constitution or the common man, including his voters. A grifter conman and felon! What an embarrassment for this country!

Dave Butcher
Albuquerque, N.M.

PAWSD waivers

Dear Editor:

Now the county commissioners want PAWSD's to waive the tap fees for employee housing. Who do they think is going to pay for that lost income? Those of us that use PAWSD including those of us that need to work. So, county commissioners, you want PAWSDs to be yet another reason why it's too expensive to live here? When those of us move because it's just too unaffordable, we will sell our homes at retail making our homes too expensive for new residents that need to work and need a home. You cannot have it both ways! If you drive us to move because of all the well-meaning employee housing taxes you have accomplished nothing. Take care of the workforce that is already here and do not create more taxes.

Beverly Compton

Irony and hypocrisy

Dear Editor:

"Irony": an event that seems deliberately at odds with what might be expected.

Use "irony" in a sentence:

It is a tragic irony that a U.S. President threatens military action against a foreign country, purportedly to protect peaceful protestors, while at the same time he dispatches a domestic paramilitary force to terrorize, maim, and kill peaceful protestors in American neighborhoods.

"Hypocrisy": behavior that contra-

Letters

dicts what one claims to believe or feel.

Give an example of "hypocrisy":

A Colorado driver with a "Respect Life" license plate defending Trump despite his immigration tactics and the gassing, bludgeoning, and killing of people who oppose them.

Candace Jones

Unsolicited mail

Dear Editor:

Dear Editor, Promoter and or Solicitor,

I have bathed my response to your unsolicited mail with much thought, prayer and patience. Via this letter I am asking you, pleading with you, please remove our names, Peter and or Rebekah Laue, from your mailing list. I have no idea how you found our names and address? I do know, though, that marketing mailing lists is "big business", very big business. Those who stuff the envelopes don't have a very rewarding job.

The writer of this letter is 92 and has very poor eyesight. It takes a strong illuminated magnifying glass for him to read anything. He walks with a cane. It takes nearly an hour for him to get his mail from a cluster mailbox. Most of the mail becomes ashes in his Earth Stove. It is unoped and or unread. He aches for the trees cut down to produce the necessary paper products you use.

His beautiful handmaiden, and gifted artist, is already dancing with the angels. I am including a wallet size copy of her last painting. I would love to direct you to the web site where you could see all of her art but scammers have been blocking it and are demanding a fee to remove the block. Just bearing my aching heart.

I realize that many people, many individuals and organizations both large and small are able to lure dollars from unsuspecting people and their pocketbooks. The elderly are often their favorite targets. We have been scammed and decided to close our credit card accounts and shut down all e-mail. Yes, we have been scammed. The scammers got away with a thousand dollars. They stole our address books and were able to scam some of our friends. Just bearing my heart once more! We are living in a very dark and sinister world.

Please take this letter to heart. I would appreciate a reply. Maybe you can and will do more than remove our names from your mailing list.

I may be 92 and have poor eyesight; but I am fully alive and motivated. I have purposed in my heart to leave footprints that cannot be erased. Hoping to hear back from you. Even a knock on our door would be welcomed. Put something in my letter box with a first-class stamp. I promise you that I will read it or have someone read it to me.

Peter Laue

Renee Good shooting

Dear Editor:

Anyone watching the video of the Renee Good shooting, should be stunned at what ICE did. The video clearly shows that her car was stopped when ICE agents approached her. Then, contrary to standard police procedures, the agent leaned into

her car. Then as she tried to drive away, her shot and killed her. Use of deadly force in this instance is totally uncalled for as any police officer will tell you. The murder of this young woman must be investigated immediately. If not, then we'll know this country is starting to act like Iran, where protesters are being killed because they protested. So, as a life-long Republican, Mr. president I call on you to start an immediate investigation into this shooting. In light of your support for the protesters in Iran, I trust you will provide the same support to protesters in this country. ICE certainly has a mission, but it is not to kill innocent people.

Charles Newton
Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Justice and change

Dear Editor:

Resistance.

"We the People" of Pagosa have been marching for justice and change for a year! Locally, we've been noticed by neighbors and travelers alike. We've received thumbs up, enthusiastic waves, honks, as well as thumbs down and middle finger salutes. But the growing support is undeniable.

Social equality, lawful justice, healing the climate, with genuine love - this is our banner. Purpose, integrity, and truth are our beacon. We, like the recent and ancient multitudes that have gone before us, will not be turned aside or forced back. Our purpose is just. Our hearts are true.

We shout from the mountain tops with our united voices, "Do what's right!" "Leaders, use this great collective wealth and power to unite, defend, and support lasting peace for all the earth and all creation - of which we are part."

Progress.

As a nation, we're not "there" yet, but we've made great progress, despite our failures. We try, with fits and starts, lurching forward and falling back. That's life, learning, and growth. A child can't master walking without first falling. Fall we will. Then we rise again.

People, whether free, oppressed, Indigenous, European, African, Asian, whatever descent, are America. We are never going back to the bald-faced lies of "white christian supremacy!" That's only the final

■ See Letters A4

U.S. 160 reconstruction information

Week of Feb. 2-6

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 planned to begin in the month of February and requires coordination amongst multiple utility providers. This work 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 during scheduled work.
- 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

Information provided by Colorado Department of Transportation

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.

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■ Continued from A3
dying gasp of the arrogant elite, attempting to keep power, money, and vast resources for themselves and their greedy offspring, while denying common decency and provision for “We the People.”

Despite past choices and horrendous injustices, “We The People” will press forward and march on. We are the vast majority! It’s said that when the resistance reaches about 3.5 % of the population, the cruel dictatorship begins to crumble. Trumpism seeks to frighten, intimidate, and suppress us. “We will overcome!”

Rebuild.
If Trump survives beyond his already failing health and declining cognition, he and all his co-conspirators must face the full, legitimate sentencing that our Constitutional Justice System prescribes.

Then, we must allow science and an educated public to work together to save the earth and rebuild our system. We rightly crave change. With ingenuity, we will move forward, building better!

Invitation.
Join us! No matter political differences or attempts seeking to divide us, let us look each other in the eye and see that we are the same. Our looks are different, we have unique backgrounds and beliefs, but we share the same DNA and are the same people.

This is a peaceful protest, so please exercise self-discipline and refrain from using vulgarity or aggression. We must be above reproach.

Peaceful protests, throughout history, have defeated dictatorships, sometimes in days, other times in decades. Willingness to endure abuse through training and practice, with focused determination to hold the line, without reaction, has made the difference. In the past, people ranging from friends and neighbors to police have changed their hearts and minds, as they witnessed the abuse of the regime against ordinary, peaceful citizens.

We can and will do this together. We must!

Mitch Nielsen

What will it take?

Dear Editor:

I am horrified by what is happening in a major city in the United States. I am embarrassed to be an American. I am ashamed to be an American. And I am afraid for all of us because if murder and mayhem can happen to one of us, it can happen to all of us.

ICE members have been given total power to do as they please. Now they can enter a home without having a warrant. They can arrest a man and seize his five-year-old child. They wear masks. Interestingly we have the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and National Guard and none of them wear masks!

Border patrol immigration agents repeatedly shot and murdered a man who was on the ground and being subdued/beaten by seven of them. When he was just trying to help a woman who they threw down. He puts up his hand against pepper spray. His other hand is clearly holding his cellphone. And then there are 10 shots. Ten shots!

There seems to be no accountability. DHS and the government defend what is happening before any facts are even known. Please watch the MANY videos of this shooting and decide for yourself what was done. If the videos are not on Newsmax, then look elsewhere.

I applaud the citizens of Pagosa Springs who meet every Saturday in the library parking lot to protest what is going on. We have participated in three protests in Pagosa. And we have encountered so many other Pagosa residents there who share our horror about what is happening. We’ve also met tourists who were in town, saw the protest, and chose to join us. All protests here have been peaceful. And as some signs have read, “This is what democracy looks like.”

What will it take for MAGA supporters to realize what is happening to our democracy, our government, our country? When will our president’s rambling and changing plans give them pause? The president who confuses Iceland with Greenland. Who had the audacity to say that he doesn’t have to pursue peace because he wasn’t given the Nobel Peace Prize! Who shifts from tariffs to no tariffs on practically a daily basis. (As an aside, how can business operate when the cost of goods varies constantly based upon changing tariffs?)

I am disappointed in those who voted this man in as president! And I feel disbelief for those who continue to support him. Did you not believe what he said he would do? Because he’s doing it.

Here’s a quote from Facebook by Seth Cutts: “You are allowed to say, at any point, I can’t support this. Even if you did. Even if you were unsure. You can say ‘this has gone too far.’ And while the best time to say that was earlier, the second-best time is now.”

Tozi Rubin

Federal support for preschools

Dear Editor:

On January 6 the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) received official notification from the Trump administration that funding for childcare in Colorado was suspended. This funding supports the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) and salaries for inspectors who enforce safety regulations set by CDEC. CCCAP enables approximately 27,000 children ages birth to five years to attend licensed childcare providers in Colorado.

Funding for CCCAP comes through a federal block grant from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), which has had strong and continuous bipartisan support for 30 years. The goal of this program is to assist low-income working families to access affordable, high-quality childcare. This service is essential for children’s healthy development, and it enables parents to work or further their education.

How does unfunding CCCAP affect Archuleta County? There are currently 39 children ages birth to 5 years who are receiving CCCAP funding and enrolled in licensed preschools in Archuleta County. Most of these children qualify for tuition assistance because they come from low-income families with working parents. Loss of CCCAP funding will likely require one parent in each family quitting their job and staying home to care for a child.

The most immediate result of parents leaving the workforce will be a substantial reduction in income for these families that are already struggling to survive in Pagosa Springs.

Unfunding the CCCAP program will also add to the number of unemployed workers in our community. Nearly all of our licensed preschools rely on CCCAP funding to help pay their teachers. Reduced enrollment will require reducing the teaching staff. Losing a teacher is expensive because each teacher has undergone extensive training required by CDEC. Although predicting the staff reduction due to loss of CCCAP support is complicated, it may be as high as 40%. That is, many of our preschool teachers may suddenly find themselves unemployed.

Providing affordable childcare is the fastest and least expensive way to expand our local workforce. We have parents who want to work but need quality childcare. A report from the Early Childhood Council of Archuleta County says that 90% of the residents surveyed reported leaving or pausing their careers to care for their children at home.

The CDEC is currently predicting that CCCAP payments will cease on February 28. Whether funding actually stops at this time depends in part on actions taken by the District Court of the Southern District of New York. This court has issued a Temporary Restraining Order on implementation of the federal order to suspend funding. A final decision is expected on February 6. Whether CCCAP payments to our preschools will continue after February 28 will depend on the court’s decision and how the Trump administration responds to this decision.

Oh yes! Our children. Quality preschool also prepares children for success in kindergarten and throughout life. The 39 children who will be losing CCCAP support on February 28 will be denied the benefits of quality preschool.

David Smith

Uniting against extremism

Dear Editor:

Some of us can agree in Pagosa that we value community, independence, and the simple right to live free from political turmoil. In a time when national politics seems overwhelmingly divided, it is vital to remember a powerful lesson from American history: the ability of rivals

to unite against a common threat to democracy itself.

In the pivotal Election of 1800, America’s first political parties—the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans—were locked in what was, arguably, the most acrimonious, partisan fight in our history. Yet, when the Federalist Party’s concentration of power and tactics (like the oppressive Alien and Sedition Acts) were seen as a threat to fundamental freedoms, a broad coalition united to defeat what they viewed as an existential threat to the Republic. Even Alexander Hamilton, the Federalist leader, famously put aside his intense rivalry with Thomas Jefferson to support him for the presidency, choosing principle over party.

This historical moment shows that unity isn’t about agreement; it’s about shared purpose—protecting the foundation of our constitutional liberty.

This spirit of vigilance is also reflected in the core American principle of civilian control—the idea, embodied later by the Posse Comitatus Act, that the power to enforce peace belongs not to a centralized federal army or now the current federal ICE, but to the local community, the citizen. Our democracy is strongest when the power rests with the people, not when a centralized authority uses military or political force against its own populace. The “Posse comitatus” is a Latin phrase meaning power of the county. It’s a legal term borrowed from British common law for a group of civilians mobilized by a sheriff to enforce the law. We’ve all Pledged, “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, under God, Indivisible with liberty and justice for all”.

Today, in 2026, the extremism threatening our nation is a disregard for constitutional limits, a willingness to suppress our 1st Amendment Rights, and a desire to divide citizens against each other.

It is time for traditional Republicans, Democrats, Independents and citizens in Archuleta County, and across the nation, to follow the example of 1800. We must unite on the high ground of constitutional accountability, civilian supremacy, and democratic balance. The true power against extremism is found when all Americans stand together to defend the integrity of our Republic and strengthen Democracy with what is promised, Liberty and Justice for all.

Sincerely,
Shawna Snarr

Letter to Hurd

Dear Editor:

A letter to Rep. Jeff Hurd:
Because Colorado has stood up to Trump for mail in-voting and not releasing Tina Peters from prison, Trump has made it clear that Colorado will be punished.

So far, Trump has or wants to:
- vetoed a bill that would have provided funding to complete a pipeline to carry clean water to communities in southeastern Colorado.
- denied disaster funding to help northwestern Colorado recover from wildfires and southwestern Colorado recover from flooding.

- moving the Space Command Center out of Colorado Springs to Alabama. A facility that has been a mainstay since 2019, employing more than 1,000 people and serving as a source of economic vitality.

- terminated \$109 million in transportation funding,
- ended \$615 million in U.S. Department of Energy funding,
- dismantled the National Center for Atmospheric Research, located in Boulder

- threatened SNAP funding.
Now the Trump administration has ordered a review of federal funding sent to more than a dozen

Democratic-led states, including Colorado.

Trump is busy running Venezuela, taking over Greenland, and telling Gaza how to create a master plan. Sending ICE agents killing U.S. Citizens. No talk about fixing healthcare, decreasing prices or fixing the U.S. Just pitting citizens against citizens and praising ICE.

House Republicans blocked a resolution in a tie vote to limit the executive’s war powers in Venezuela. Mr. Hurd, I did not see you supporting this resolution.

What happened to “America First”? How can you in good conscience continue to cave into Trump’s biddings when it is causing so much strife and misery in your own district? Mid-terms are just around the corner. Remember, Trump didn’t vote you into office, we the people did.

Jane Weitzel

Distraction

Dear Editor:

Watching the news lately feels less like staying informed and more like attending a magic show. Our attention is carefully directed to the waving hand, the colorful scarf, the dramatic flourish—while the actual trick happens somewhere else entirely.

Many of today’s governmental actions aren’t hidden. They’re not classified or buried in footnotes. They’re happening in plain view—like a loose board on the porch everyone keeps stepping around instead of fixing.

The role of the mainstream media doesn’t help. Instigation has replaced investigation. Outrage is often announced before facts are examined. Headlines race ahead while follow-up questions trail behind, occasionally stopping for a commercial break. We are told what to feel long before we are shown what actually happened.

This isn’t because citizens are incapable of paying attention. We do it every day—when backing up our cars, balancing checkbooks, or watching grandchildren near a swimming pool. We understand that ignoring obvious warning signs rarely ends well.

So here is the uncomfortable but necessary call to action—for all of us, regardless of politics or preference: slow down. Look directly at what is happening. Read past headlines. Compare sources. Ask questions before outsourcing judgment.

Then do something concrete. Get off the recliner and put a few nails in that porch board so no one else gets hurt. Make the small efforts that can make a difference. Contact your representatives. Ask questions that require real answers. Attend local meetings. Support journalism that investigates rather than inflames. None of this requires shouting. It only requires participation.

History is remarkably consistent on this point. When distraction replaces scrutiny, and noise replaces thinking, consequences don’t politely wait their turn.

They arrive on schedule.

Respectfully,
Russ Widener

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Matthew Hintzman, PA-C

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Business

County's unemployment rate falls to 2.8 percent in December 2025

By Randi Pierce
Staff Writer

Archuleta County's unemployment rate fell to 2.8 percent in December 2025, according to a Jan. 7 report from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE). That figured is down from 3.1 percent in November 2025.

Archuleta County's rate of 2.8 percent in December 2025 compares to 4.3 percent in December 2024.

Archuleta County's labor force totaled 6,818 in December 2025, according to the report, with 193 unemployed. That compares to a November labor force of 6,737 and 209 unemployed.

Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell from 3.9 percent in November 2025 to 3.8 percent in December 2025.

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 2,000 to 123,800 from November to December 2025.

"Colorado's labor force decreased by 3,300 in December to 3,259,400," states a press release from the CDLE.

"The share of Coloradans participating in the labor force was 66.9 percent in December, one-tenth of a percentage point lower than in November, this marks the lowest labor force participation rate since October 2020. The U.S. labor force participation rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 62.4 percent in December."

The national unemployment rate decreased to 4.4 percent from November to December 2025, it notes.

Costilla County again had the highest unemployment rate in the state in December 2025 at 7.1 percent, followed by Huerfano County at 5.7 percent.

The lowest unemployment rate in the state for December 2025 was Yuma County at 1.8 percent.

Regionally, the data shows La Plata County with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate in December 2025, San Juan County at 4.9 percent, Mineral County at 4.1 percent, Rio Grande County at 3.9 percent and Conejos County at 3.5 percent.

Job loss, growth

Employers in Colorado gained

1,200 nonfarm payroll jobs from November to December 2025 for a total of 3,000,100 jobs, according to the survey of business establishments. Private-sector payroll jobs increased by 300 and government gained 900 jobs.

The press release accompanying the report notes the November 2025 estimates "were revised down to 2,998,900, and the over the month change from October to November was an increase of 1,300 jobs rather than the originally estimated increase of 2,700 (monthly revisions are based on additional responses from businesses and government agencies since the last published estimates)."

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

The private-industry sector with significant over-the-month job gains in December 2025 were:

- Education and health services at about 2,800 jobs.
- Manufacturing at about 1,400.

The private-industry sectors with

significant over-the-month job losses were:

- Leisure and hospitality at about 2,300 jobs.
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 1,800.

Since December 2024, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 23,000, with the private sector increasing by 18,900 and government adding 4,100 jobs.

The largest private-sector job gains were:

- Financial activities by about 3,300.
- Construction by about 2,100.
- Trade, transportation and utilities at about 1,800.

"Colorado's rate of job growth over the past year is 0.8 percent, above the U.S. rate of 0.4 percent," the report notes.

It further notes that, over the year, the average workweek for all Colorado employees on private nonfarm payrolls decreased from 33.7 to 32.5 hours, while average hourly earnings grew from \$39.67 to \$40.65, \$3.63 more than the national average hourly earnings of \$37.02.

randi@pagosasun.com

Chamber of Commerce's annual gala planned for Feb. 6

By Sandy Douthey
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Pagosa Springs residents and local business owners are invited to celebrate the spirit of community, collaboration, and progress at the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce's annual gala, a cherished

tradition that brings together the heart of the Pagosa business community.

Set for an evening of elegance, entertainment and connection, this year's gala promises delicious dining, live music and the much-anticipated Community Awards Ceremony—honoring standout small businesses, organizations and individuals who

have made a lasting impact on Pagosa Springs.

The annual gala is more than just a party. It's our way of recognizing the growth, resilience and generosity that define our community. Each year we're inspired by the people who make Pagosa such a special place to live and do business.

Guests can look forward to a fes-

tive evening featuring a gourmet dinner, silent auction, and opportunities to network with leaders and neighbors from the Pagosa community. Attendees are encouraged to dress in their finest and come ready to celebrate the year's achievements while looking ahead to the exciting projects on the horizon for 2026.

Tickets are available now through the Chamber of Commerce's website, pagosachamber.com, or by visiting the Chamber office. Seating is limited, and early reservations are recommended.

Don't miss the opportunity to toast our local successes, strengthen community ties, and kick off another year of growth and opportunity.

Main Street Advisory Board receives grant for commemorative coloring book project

By Clayton Chaney
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs Main Street Advisory Board was recently awarded a grant for up to \$7,500 through the America 250 - Colorado 150 Commission's Community Grants Program.

Main Street Coordinator Kathleen McFadden explained during the board's meeting on Jan. 15 that the grant funds will be used for the Main Street Board's Heritage and Culture Committee's commemorative coloring book project.

McFadden noted that she had "received formal announcement" that the board's grant application made it through the first gate and was selected to receive a grant award.

According to McFadden's report shared during the meeting, the commemorative project will be "a 28-page illustrated coloring book

featuring historic buildings, cultural landmarks, local stories, and regional heritage elements with short, accessible captions for children and general audiences," called "Color Pagosa's Past: A Colorado 150 Commemorative Coloring Book."

"I am so thrilled," McFadden said, explaining that the funds could potentially cover the printing costs to produce the coloring books.

McFadden explains in an email to The SUN that the Main Street Advisory Board is planning to produce 5,000 free copies to be distributed in August through local schools, the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, Pagosa Springs History Museum, Visit Pagosa, community partners and participating downtown businesses.

She also notes that the coloring book project was selected by the grant program, "which was created to support smaller, community-based

projects that can be activated quickly and reflect the unique stories, histories, and creativity of communities across Colorado."

McFadden mentions that the goal of the project is to "celebrate Pagosa Springs' history in a format that's educational, engaging, and widely accessible, especially during the Colorado 150 and America 250 observances."

Artwork for the project will feature local and regional talent to make it a "community forward project" and a call for artists is being planned for the book's illustrations, McFadden explains.

Details for the contest are currently being finalized, though the first-place award will likely include a cash prize featuring the winning illustration in full color on the book's cover, according to McFadden.

clayton@pagosasun.com



Elizabeth Lou Rezac

Elizabeth (Betty Boop) Lou Rezac, 84, passed peacefully from this life to her eternal life on Jan. 17, 2026.

She was surrounded by her family and is now sitting at the feet of Jesus, worshipping her loving Savior in person. Betty was born Nov. 18, 1941, in Minnesota to Michael and Barbra Rezac. She lived in Fargo, N.D., as a child, then married Bernard Leintz and moved to Colorado in the '60s, where she raised four children: Barb, Randy, Sharon and Tami. She had six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Betty was a wonderful caregiver to all. She loved to shop, craft and color, collect dolls and anything Betty Boop. She loved dancing to Elvis and her life was full of joy and happiness.

She is survived by her brother, Bob Rezac; her daughters: Tamara Belender, Sharon Offen and Barbara Masias; her six grandchildren: Jason, Amber, Jamie, Zachary, Chantell and Kiana; and her six great-grandchildren: Taylor, Braxton, Reese, Austin, Zoey and Talia. All were a constant source of pride and joy to her.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, Michael and Barbra Rezac; her sisters, Rose Lindgren and Lorraine Anderson; her brother, Leonard

Rezac; and her son, Randy Leintz.

There will be no service at this time. Her children will transport her to Broomfield, Colo., for her last mountain trip. Surrounded in flowers and pine cones, she will be laid to rest beside her son Randy. There may be a small graveside service at that time. Notice will be given.

Gilbert Velasquez

A lifelong resident of Archuleta County, Gilbert Velasquez (82 years old) passed away on Jan. 20, 2026.

He was born on Feb. 3, 1943. He was the youngest sibling to Emma, Olivia and Sonny.

Gilbert was a true entertainer and a self-taught guitarist who carried his guitar with him everywhere, always ready to share his music with family and friends at any gathering or event. Music was his joy. For many years, he was a member of the popular local band Variety Express, where his talent and love for performing shined. Above all else, Gilbert was a loving father.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved sister, Emma Lujan. He is survived by his two sons, Gilbert Jr. and Martin; his siblings, Olivia (Henry) Trujillo and Sonny Martinez; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The family would like to give spe-

cial thanks to all of Gilbert's dedicated caregivers at Pine Ridge Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center.

Gilbert is now at peace without sickness and surrounded by his loved ones, especially his mother and sister Emma, and surrounded by the relatives who went before him. He now rests in the loving arms of Jesus.



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Colorado faces funding freeze for child care, support programs

By **Randi Pierce**
Staff Writer

Families and child care providers across Colorado could see changes in the availability of child care and other support programs in the coming weeks unless a coalition of state attorneys general obtains a preliminary injunction against the federal Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF’s) funding freeze on Colorado and several other states or the federal administration reverses its decision.

On Jan. 5 and 6, the administration sent letters to California, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota and New York announcing that the ACF is freezing funding for Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Social Services Block Grants (SSBG) due to potential fraud.

On Jan. 9, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser announced he had joined four other attorneys general in suing the Trump administration to stop the withholding of more than \$10 billion in what are considered critical funds to their states that help ensure low-income families can afford child care, housing, food and more.

Weiser and the coalition argue that freezing these funds will immediately jeopardize some of the most important anti-poverty programs in the states, putting vulnerable families at risk.

A press release from Weiser’s office explains, “The Child Care and Development Fund program provides \$2.4 billion in federal funding annually to support the plaintiff states’ programs that provide low-income families with

funding for childcare, so that those family members can work or go to school. In 2025, Colorado received \$140 million in federal funds from this program. TANF is a block grant program that provides more than \$7 billion in federal funds annually to the plaintiff states, which in turn provide cash assistance and non-cash benefits to low-income families with children. In 2023, Colorado received \$135 million in TANF funds.”

It adds, “If implemented, the funding freeze would be devastating for families in the coalition’s states. Families would lose access to reliable childcare, forcing parents and caregivers into an impossible choice of either missing work or leaving children in a potentially unsafe environment. Childcare providers would lose essential funding, and even children who do not receive ACF-funded care could lose access if facilities are forced to reduce staff or shut down. Employers would lose valuable workers, hurting states’ economies, and families would lose critical cash assistance to help them afford essentials like gas, groceries, and rent.”

The states are seeking a court order declaring the funding freeze illegal and preventing it from being implemented.

On Jan. 9, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York granted a temporary restraining order that pauses implementation of the Jan. 6 letter issued by the ACF, with that order lasting for 14 days — until Jan. 23.

On Friday, Jan. 23, another U.S. District Court judge extended the order by another 14 days, through Feb. 6, to allow for more time to consider the motion for preliminary injunction.

Prior to the extension, on Jan. 22, Colorado U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, and Colorado U.S. Reps. Brittany Pettersen, Jason Crow, Gabe Evans, Jeff Crank, Diana DeGette and Joe Neguse sent a bipartisan letter urging Department of Health and Human Services’ Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to work with Colorado to release over \$300 million in funding for the programs.

“These programs, CCDF, TANF, and SSBG, provide essential services to families most in need, and we are concerned they will be unfairly affected by this decision. We respectfully urge you to work with Colorado to ensure this funding gets to families and communities across the state in an expedient manner,” wrote the lawmakers.

In the letter, the lawmakers emphasize the importance of the funding to low-income families.

It notes CCDF funds the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP), which provides care for more than 27,000 children across the state. TANF funds support for more than 50,000 children, nearly half of whom are under the age of 6. SSBG provides funding for prevention and intervention services to around 14,400 kids, out-of-home placements for more than 6,000 children, and to Colorado’s Division of Child Welfare, where they conduct more than 30,000 child maltreatment investigations.

“In a state like Colorado, the fifth most expensive state for childcare, these dollars have a real effect. They help lower costs for families and support the broader economy. This is especially important as families have

faced rising costs over the past several years. While we support strengthening the integrity of these programs when needed, the Department states in its letter, without providing evidence, that Colorado has unlawfully diverted federal resources away from eligible families and asks the state to implement additional accountability requirements to improve compliance. Colorado has fiscal accountability systems and internal controls in place to prevent fraud and is willing to work with the Administration to determine if and where improvements are needed. We encourage the Department and Colorado to work together on a path forward to restore funding. Any lapse in funding from these programs would have serious consequences for many childcare centers operating in compliance with the updated guidance and the Colorado families depending on these programs,” conclude the lawmakers.

In a Jan. 23 fact sheet on federal child care funding obtained by The SUN, the Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC) estimates that if federal funding does not continue, the CCCAP funds will be exhausted by Feb. 28.

The fact sheet notes 2,517 total providers participate in CCCAP.

The update states, “Should the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) not reimburse Colorado for any remaining CCDF expenses this year, the potential shortfall could be approximately \$82 million over the remainder of this fiscal year, and would impact programs as soon as February 28, 2026.”

randi@pagosasun.com

Rotary scholarship applications now open for high school seniors

By **Meg Wempe**
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs

Attention, high school seniors: If you need help funding your education, the Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs offers scholarships that could help make your educational dreams a reality.

Each year, Rotary awards scholarships to deserving students, with funding to all winners typically exceeding \$20,000 annually. Since the program’s inception, we’ve awarded an impressive \$584,125 to 204 graduates — and we’re excited to continue this tradition in 2026.

These scholarships are not limited to Pagosa Springs High School students. They are available to seniors from GOAL Academy, San Juan Mountain School, home-schooled students and those who have earned or plan to earn their GED by spring.

Whether you’re heading to a four-year college, a university or a vocational school, there’s a scholarship opportunity for you. Separate applications are available for students pursuing traditional college paths and those focusing on vocational education.

Applications have been distributed to Pagosa Springs High School, San Juan Mountain School and GOAL Academy. For students

not attending these schools, applications can be emailed upon request. The submission deadline is 4 p.m. on March 17, so start now on your application.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on a range of criteria, including financial need, academic achievements, extracurricular involvement, personal interviews, letters of recommendation, a personal essay and the quality of their resume.

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs, established in 1979, now boasts 83 dedicated members. Our scholarships are funded through generous contributions from businesses, individual sponsors and community fundraising events, including our flagship fundraiser, the annual Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance.

Applications can be picked up at Pagosa Springs High School, San Juan Mountain School and GOAL Academy or requested via email to megwempe@hotmail.com. Completed applications can be submitted to your school or emailed to the same address with the subject line “Rotary Scholarship” to ensure proper handling.

We’re eager to review your applications and help support your educational journey. Don’t miss this opportunity; apply today.

Pagosa Springs Middle School releases second-quarter honor roll

By **Anjelica Gallegos**
Pagosa Springs Middle School

Pagosa Springs Middle School has released its honor roll for the second quarter.

The following fifth-grade students made the honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Camden Ash, Logan Candelaria, Annissha Chavez, Connor Coleman, Xavier Escalante, Owen Fitzgerald, Amarah Forrest, Jaymes Gonzales, Henley Heckman, Seton Hensle, Reed Hewitt, Kaleb Hudler, Wynter Kirby, Shiloh Kossler, Lillie Lemley, Keelan Lindahl, Sedona Lucero, Wilma Miller, Paloma Moreno, Addison Newsome, Everly Olliffe, Alexis Pack, Aspen Perez, Peyton Prestrige, Abigail Rohwer, Reyes Ruelas, Louie Seelan, Elliott Sheehan, Aubree Straway, Zaylynn Thomas, Alice Tuten, Anabella VanNess, Anthony Villareal, Colton Wattier and

Elias Zappone.

The following fifth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Logan Bristow, Everly Campbell, Morgan Cole, Liam Edwards Salmeron, Harper Flanagan and Lane Maestas.

The following sixth-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Ainsley Bracken, Henry Cesary, Peyton Dele, Steele Forrest, Rafe Halterman, Juniper Hertzke, Loretta Hinojosa, Beatrice Iverson, Paxton Kolhagen-Laramie, Xane Laursen, Ziva Logacz, Evelyn Mendoza, Zaen Mitchell, Chloe Morley, Tanner Mote, Jaxon Nielsen, Vanessa Parker, Sierra Rich, Paige Rogacki, Scarlett Roque, Eleanor Samu, Grant Saylor, Kimberly Taylor, Elise Tlachac, Max Witt and Sedona Zissman.

The following sixth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Sadie Matyniak, LeAnna Miller, Jeri Moeller, Penelope Peck, Darla Renner

and David Smith.

The following seventh-grade students made honor roll with a 3.5 to 3.99 cumulative GPA: Jacob Adams, Ariah Archuleta, Taylor Cole, Mayley Evans, Jose Granados-Gurule, Savannah Graves, Mia Gutierrez-Calvillo, Anya Hamby, Molly Hart, Russell Hudler, Cora Jackson, Jaxson Koopen, Felix Long, Christopher Martinez, Ashlynn Mathis, Hannah Richards, Rytley Ross, Samuel Sanchez, Riley Sanders, Tyson Sewell, Kaiden Srery, Lillyan Vega, Nova Wilson and Maheylya Witting.

The following seventh-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Brooke Anderson, Grant Bliss, Kiley Braun, Wyatt Buck, Chauncey Forster, Merick Halterman, Colle Looper, Dylan Luna, Sage Merrill-Exton, Chase Osborn, Kiara Patel, Delilah Powell, Damien Turk and Hazel West.

The following eighth-grade students made honor roll with 3.5 to 3.99 cu-

mulative GPA: Brody Baillio, Breland Bridges, Carlie Bridges, Zander Campbell, Adam Candelaria, Shiloh Degelman, Keaton Doughty, Gavino Dozal-Nevarez, Jacob Freeman, Adelaide Graham, Elijah Hanto, Miles Harris, Maddison Hunke, Mia Lucero, Xavier Lyman, Ari Martinez, Jazmine Martinez, Lucy Modern, Eloise Ridley, Jaxon Sherman, Journey Sparks, Trent Tator, Colten Ulibarri, Levi Velarde and Jackson Werby.

The following eighth-grade students made the A honor roll with a 4.0 GPA: Elias Becker-Sweden, Kiana Bennett, BayLee Bishop, Callie Carothers, Kyleah Coss, Miles Dempster, Olivia Diffe, Kadence Inez, Cooper Laner, Avitt Lee-Shaw, Eduardo Marinelarena, Oliver Mendoza, Finley Renner, Karlie Rose, Neitzey Shepherd, Asher Smith, Livia Souza, Harlee Taylor, Tuff Terrazas, Micah Tyler, Michael Wells, Francis Witting and Tevye Zissman.

Fall semester Safe2Tell data shows reporting shift while critical interventions continue

Colorado Attorney General’s Office

Safe2Tell saw a decline in fall semester reports compared with last year, even as the period included some of the highest reporting months in the program’s history, according to the monthly report released by the Colorado Attorney General’s Office.

The program received 14,229 reports during the fall 2025 semester, down from 15,340 reports during the fall 2024 semester, representing a 7.2 percent decrease year over year.

“Traditionally, Safe2Tell reporting has steadily increased since the program’s launch, with the only exception occurring during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Attorney General Phil Weiser. “We will closely monitor reporting volume as the school year progresses to better understand reporting patterns. The reports we continue to receive show that Safe2Tell remains a critical tool for identifying serious safety and mental health concerns and connecting Colorado students with help.”

Despite the overall decrease, reports submitted in December 2025 continued to result in safety and mental health interventions across Colorado schools.

In December 2025, a student was reported for making repeated comments about shooting teachers, peers and themselves. Law enforcement conducted a welfare check and notified the student’s parents. The

student stated the comments were intended as a joke and denied suicidal or homicidal thoughts. The student will remain out of school until a threat assessment is completed.

In another report, a concern was raised about a student engaging in self-harm at school. A school resource officer conducted a welfare check and contacted the parent, who arranged emergency care. The school completed a suicide risk assessment, and the student will receive ongoing mental health support from the school counselor.

Safe2Tell received 2,216 reports in December 2025, and false reports for the school year remained historically low at 1.5 percent.

The most frequently reported concerns in December involved school safety (17.2 percent), mental health (16.7 percent), bullying and harassment (14.3 percent), and substance use (10.8 percent). Duplicate reports accounted for 12 percent of all submissions, reflecting a healthy reporting culture in which multiple individuals are willing to speak up about the same concern.

“While overall report volume declined compared with last year, September, October and November 2025 were among the highest reporting months in Safe2Tell’s history,” said Safe2Tell Director Stacey Scardino. “That tells us people continue to trust the system and use it when serious concerns arise, even as reporting patterns evolve.”

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Disaster Mitigation

Wolverine

■ **Continued from front**
from other populations of the species. With the experimental population designation, the specified population is treated as threatened under the [Endangered Species Act], regardless of the species' designation elsewhere in its range. Treating the experimental population as threatened allows the [USFWS] the discretion to devise management programs and special regulations for that population."

Once secured, CPW has stated it plans to translocate up to 15 wolverines per winter for 3-plus years for a total of 45 translocated individuals.

Senate Bill 24-171, passed by the Colorado Legislature in 2024, calls for the restoration of the species, which CPW describes as "20- to 35-pound weasels that look like small bears with bushy tails and live in alpine areas near treeline."

"Colorado has great unoccupied wolverine habitat, and we have the opportunity to conserve a species that has been missing from our state," said Perry Will, who introduced the legislation while serving as a state senator. "Our legislation provides Coloradans with the ability to advance conservation while maintaining the management flexibility required to restore this species in a reasonable and efficient manner."

Will is a former CPW area wildlife manager who now serves as a Garfield County commissioner.

At the Jan. 15 CPW Commission meeting, CPW Wolverine Coordinator Dr. Robert Inman noted the plan is to "restore a piece of Colorado history," noting wolverines were native to Colorado, but there were 90 years of no records of the species in the state.

He noted that in 2009 one entered Colorado and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Steps before reintroduction

The plan, a CPW press release notes, is the first of four pieces to be completed.

It notes SB24-171 requires a CPW Commission rule be established regarding compensation for depredation of livestock by wolverines, with that rule presented to the commission on Jan. 15.

"Wolverine depredation on livestock is not anticipated to be significant given the history in states where wolverines have lived for the last five decades, their small size, and naturally low densities," the press release notes.

At the Jan. 15 CPW Commission meeting, Inman indicated he expects at some time depredation will occur with sheep, but stressed the extreme low density of the species and its small size, as well as that wolverines are not a significant source of mortality for livestock elsewhere.

CPW must also establish a com-

munications plan that describes "how the division will communicate to stakeholders and boards of county commissioners in general locations of proposed releases of wolverines."

The final piece is the designation of Colorado's wolverine population as a "nonessential experimental population" through a federal 10(j) rulemaking prior to initiating the reintroduction process.

Wolverines are currently listed as a federally protected threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, and the USFWS is in charge of establishing a 10(j) rule.

What's in the plan

CPW's plan provides a summary of wolverine ecology, justification for the restoration, analyses to determine how many wolverines Colorado might eventually hold and how many individuals should be reintroduced, a ranking of potential source areas where wolverines would be obtained, and details for how the actual translocations might unfold.

The plan also sets benchmarks for transitioning from the active reintroduction phase to the population expansion phase, and ultimately to the conclusion of the effort and the removal of wolverines from the list of state-endangered species.

"CPW has engaged numerous wolverine, wildlife translocation, and veterinary experts to help develop a plan that has the best chance of success," the press release notes. "However, there has never been an attempt to reintroduce a population of wolverines and the effort will require attention to detail, the ability to adapt and a commitment to success."

"A planned reintroduction under the management flexibility of a 10(j) rule would bring in about 45 wolverines with a broad genetic background. This will have a far greater chance of establishing a robust long-term population than a single male and female wandering into Colorado, finding each other, and producing enough young to establish a population," Inman said via the press release. "Colorado and the wolverine population will be better off with a planned reintroduction."

The Colorado Wolverine Restoration Plan calls for the translocation of up to 15 wolverines per season for 3-plus seasons for a total of 45 translocated individuals.

"The number of translocations in any year, or overall, will depend on capture success, continued participation by cooperators, and the degree to which relocated animals remain in Colorado and survive," the press release explains. "Therefore, annual translocations could vary, and reintroductions could be extended for additional years depending on the outcome of initial efforts."

Inman told the commission success

will depend on the ability to learn and adapt, adding later that it is a logistically difficult approach.

Translocated wolverines will be released into three release zones in high mountain areas described in the Colorado Wolverine Restoration Plan:

- North of I-70 (which includes Rocky Mountain National Park).
- The central portion of the state (Elk and West Elk Mountains between I-70 and Highway 50).
- The San Juan Range in southwest Colorado.

Suitable wolverine habitat occurs at about 10,000 feet elevation and above in Colorado, CPW explains in the press release. More than 94 percent of wolverine habitat is on public land, with nearly 70 percent occurring in federally designated wilderness, national park, wilderness study area, or U.S. Forest Service roadless area.

How many wolverines can live in Colorado?

CPW believes Colorado can hold about 100 wolverines once the population has been established.

"Wolverines naturally exist at very low densities wherever they are found. Fifty to 100 wolverines may not sound like a lot, but that is likely in the same ballpark as the historical capacity here in Colorado," Inman said via the press release. "It would also represent about a quarter of the population in the Lower 48 states. There never were thousands of wolverines in the Lower 48."

Inman told the commission that wolverines have an extremely large home range relative to their size, and the animals regularly patrol the range, versus moving through it seasonally.

Restoring wolverines to Colorado is considered a major step toward conserving the species in its native range in the Lower 48, according to the press release.

Next steps

The CPW Commission will again hear the proposed depredation compensation rule — which mimics the long-established rule governing mountain lion and black bear depredation of livestock — at a future meeting for final approval.

"Colorado's livestock producers are understandably anxious about another carnivore on public lands," the press release acknowledges. "However, the utilization of the 10(j) for management flexibility, and CPW's commitment to a fair depredation compensation program will hopefully reduce the impact of wolverine restoration on producers."

No public comment was offered on the matter at the January meeting.

CPW will also continue to work with the USFWS to establish a 10(j) rule to "provide increased management flexibility and relieve regulatory burden on established industries in the state

compared to what would otherwise occur if wolverines made it back on their own with full protection under the Endangered Species Act."

"Here in Colorado we have strong legislative support for restoring wolverines and the best staff for making this plan successful, but a 10(j) rule will be crucial to the fulfillment of the effort," said Acting CPW Director Laura Clellan via the press release. "We are asking the federal government to support our work by utilizing a focused and concise NEPA process to finalize a 10(j) designation so that the state can move forward. Once this is in place, we will be able to work collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in restoring wolverines back to Colorado as well as the future management of this native species."

The 10(j) was a key component of the legislative process for several stakeholder groups that are most likely to be affected by wolverine restoration, the press release notes.

"Colorado Ski Country USA engaged in the rigorous stakeholding process conducted by CPW for this wolverine reintroduction," said Melanie Mills, president and CEO of Colorado Ski Country USA. "We support the reintroduction of wolverine with the 10(j) rule and applaud CPW for its commitment to conservation of this remarkable species and doing so in a way that addresses our industry's concerns."

CPW notes it will provide updates on the public scoping/involvement for the NEPA process associated with the 10(j) designation as they become available.

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Loan

■ **Continued from front**
percent interest rate for the first three years, with about a 3.35 percent interest rate for the remaining 27 years of the loan period, an agenda document on the matter states.

This would amount to the town paying about \$170,000 a year once the interest kicks in during the 27-year period, Dickhoff explained.

Council member Madeline Bergon asked if the town could seek future grants to help pay down the debt early, with Dickhoff responding, "We'll be really looking for other opportunities, for sure," to help pay for the project.

Council member Brooks Lindner asked if the town would be leading a campaign to get the ballot measure passed with the voters.

"We will be looking at how to best address that so we're not breaking any rules when getting the word out," Dickhoff responded.

He added, "We just wanted to let voters know that this is moving forward, emphasizing the 3 years with no interest, and from the staff's perspective we are only going to use what we need out of this loan."

He noted that the town could use it "for other improvements" if the town doesn't use up the entire amount on the river recovery effort.

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

Mayor Shari Pierce clarified that "each individual project" that this money would fund would still need to come before the council for approval on a case-by-case basis.

Dickhoff noted that staff would "certainly be doing that."

Bergon emphasized, "I do think it's really important to recognize what an economic driver the river corridor

is, and protecting that resource that we have ... for not only recreation like floating and swimming, but for fishing and fish habitat, and making sure that we are setting a good example for those upstream and downstream of us."

When a motion was made to approve the first reading of the ordi-

nance, it was seconded and passed unanimously by the council.

For the ordinance to appear on the April 7 ballot, it also needs to pass a second reading by the council, scheduled for the next town council meeting, which is set for 5 p.m. on Feb. 3 at Town Hall.

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Vista

■ Continued from front

held before the Master Planning Advisory Committee (MPAC) was created.

The MPAC held its first meeting in January 2025.

Holt commented that the MPAC was used to share findings and get feedback “about what else [the district] should be looking into.”

The MPAC received the facilities assessments and began understanding “academic adequacy,” Holt noted, and invited a demographer to look at trends for Pagosa Springs over the next few years.

In February 2025, the MPAC began looking into school financing.

Holt explained that daily operations of schools are funded through property taxes, whereas capital projects are funded through bonds, “which are mills added to the property for a shorter period of time, not indefinite.”

Holt noted this is when the MPAC also began looking into the pros and cons of building a new building versus renovating existing buildings.

Initial assessments estimated that the repairs required would cost around \$85 million, Holt noted.

The MPAC also discussed the lifespan of school buildings during its March 2025 meeting, Holt mentioned, adding that the middle school buildings are over 100 years and 75 years old, and the elementary school is over 55 years old.

Holt explained that the MPAC did a building option activity and began looking at a PK-8 building option “because we were looking at two buildings that were in great need of repair.”

During the April 2025 MPAC meeting the group suggested to the BoE consider a PK-8 model, “rather than building two separate facilities, combine them into one facility,” Holt said, noting that would provide an estimated \$20 million in savings.

“It seemed like that was a fiscally responsible thing to do,” Holt said.

He also commented that PK-8 school models are “very efficient and effective,” and are a good way to deliver education.

“Any time you can eliminate a transition into one building into another, that helps students out,” he said.

Early site data was gathered in April 2025 and the MPAC then began looking into pursuing a Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant.

The district then conducted a community poll over the summer of 2025, working with Hansen Communications and New Bridge Strategies, “to see what people would tolerate in terms of bonds,” Holt explained.

He further explained that early estimates indicated that a new PK-8 building would cost around \$123 million, and at that time poll responses were “nominal,” with about 53 percent of respondents indicating they would support a bond, “even with the whole amount.”

Holt also indicated that, according to the poll responses, once informed about the possibility of a BEST grant funding up to 45 percent of the project, people were asked if they would support a bond, “and that number jumped up significantly.”

Holt explained that became critical and is why the BoE needed to pick a location, “so we can get after this BEST grant.”

The MPAC reconvened in August 2025, with the group reviewing the poll results and starting to look more in depth at site analysis of the two locations, looking at safety and security, as well as traffic concerns.

Holt explained that a professional presentation was given on safety and security of both locations and that what the district needs to be concerned with is “about traffic flow.”

“That’s where most accidents on campus happen, from car collisions,” Holt added.

Holt then explained that the district contracted with SGM Engineering to conduct further site analysis to look at things like soil composition, utilities, drainage and wildlife.

The BoE held two listening sessions in December 2025, one for community members and one for ASD staff.

Holt praised the work done by the MPAC, BoE and other community members who got involved with the process and provided input.

“It felt good to have people show up and express their concerns and their interests,” he said.

Holt also spoke about how choosing a site has been a difficult decision, but that his hope is that “everyone will be able to get behind what initially drove this, which is, our kids need high-quality places to learn and to be.”

BoE comments

Prior to voting on the matter, each BoE member commented on how they were basing their decision,

BoE member David Iverson was the first to comment, describing the process as being “kind of a roller-coaster,” but commended the transparency and community engagement that was involved.

Iverson noted the seven criteria in which the board developed to guide its decision as the driver of the whole process.

“Anything would be a big upgrade to what we have,” Iverson said, explaining that he had some security concerns with the high school site with teen drivers being around younger students.

Iverson noted that the Vista site offers more space to design drop-off and traffic patterns.

Iverson commented that those could potentially be mitigated at the high school site, but would still be a concern for him.

He also spoke about evacuation concerns at the high school site, noting that “isn’t really solvable.”

Iverson commented on the BoE’s criteria of being fiscally responsible with its decision, noting that at the Vista site the district would essentially end up with “more for less,” explaining the high school site “is more expensive.”

As for providing high-quality learning, Iverson noted that could be achieved at either location, but noted that feedback from district administrators almost unanimously favored the Vista site.

Iverson went on to mention that he leaned toward the Vista site in regard to the district’s flexibility for the future, “with the high school site being pretty much completely full.”

Iverson also commented that the project has “obviously gotta be supported by the community,” acknowledging the community sentiment around the schools being located downtown.

He explained that initially the high school site makes sense, but that after working through the trade-offs that would be caused, “then it starts to not be so clear anymore.”

When considering access to after-school activities, Iverson explained that the high school site offers more with its proximity to parks and other resources, but noted that the school would be more than a mile away from the downtown area if it were built on the high school property.

He suggested that the district could facilitate transportation with buses running downtown from the Vista site.

“I don’t think we’re gonna ... abandon the downtown,” he said.

BoE member Amanda Schick spoke next, prefacing her comments by stating, “ultimately my vote is for a school — unanimously for a school.”

Schick explained that the two sites prioritize different things and, based on conversations she had with community members, “the biggest risk is in the limitation of our collaboration.”

She further explained that when thinking about which site prioritizes the students, she leans heavily into the “community cohesion” of the downtown site.

Schick added that she believes schools are “civic anchors,” noting that building the high school campus downtown was intentional.

“My priorities align more with the ... downtown location,” she said.

BoE member Butch Mackey commented that the most important thing for the district is to provide safe, high-quality learning spaces for its students, along with being fiscally responsible as the second most important thing.

“And it does cost more to build downtown, and that’s a huge concern to me,” Mackey said.

He explained that the district has other needs as well, and the extra money spent to build a school at the downtown location would take away the district’s ability to address its other needs.

“And that’s a concern to me, huge concern,” Mackey reiterated.

Mackey also acknowledged the community sentiment of keeping the schools downtown and that it’s been expressed to him that Pagosa Springs is downtown, “but Pagosa Lakes is Pagosa Springs, too.”

He also mentioned either location would be controversial to someone, but encouraged everyone to “get on board with getting an appropriate facility for our students.”

Mackey commented that the existing buildings are no longer suitable for the district and that “it’s time to do something new.”

BoE member Tim Taylor noted that the high school location “is not truly downtown,” but rather at the southern edge of town limits, more than a mile away from the downtown area of Pagosa Springs and is “substantially” different from the current middle school location.

Taylor noted that because of this,

either site would have an “equivalent” effect on the downtown economy.

Taylor also mentioned that a positive attribution of the high school site is the support of the community for that location, noting there has been a “clear preference” for the high school site expressed by those who have spoken at meetings.

“We all know that proximity,” he added, in reference to parks, trails and other downtown amenities for students to utilize after school.

Taylor then expressed multiple “major concerns” with the high school site, with No. 1 being the “sheer population” of students and staff that would be placed on the high school site.

Taylor noted that the current high school has a population of roughly 600 and that adding the PK-8 school would make for a total of roughly 1,600 students and staff, adding that it would be “crowded from the start.”

The second major issue discussed by Taylor had to do with traffic congestion concerns, noting the school would “almost certainly overwhelm” the thoroughways of the downtown area.

Taylor commented that work-arounds could be considered and that he looked into this issue in-depth, “and I just didn’t find a very good solution.”

Another issue brought up by Taylor had to do with safety and security at the high school site, referencing concerns raised by Pagosa Springs Police Chief Bill Rockensock, calling it a “target-rich environment” with a greater risk of accidents simply with the higher number of people and cars in the area.

Taylor also commented on the loss of field space that would come with building at the high school site, noting the district would be immediately at capacity with its athletic fields.

Taylor then mentioned that a new wastewater treatment plant is being planned in the area, noting that is “certainly not an attribute.”

Taylor mentioned that potential conflicts between younger and older students was a concern raised by district staff.

“This concern was voiced by several of our district administrators,” he said.

Taylor also noted that with a two-year-long construction timeline, building at the high school site would disrupt more students.

He explained that he initially wanted the high school site to work.

“Although the high school site is attractive for several reasons, in my assessment, it’s not the most prudent option,” he said.

Taylor also provided his analysis of the Vista site, noting that he inferred from local law enforcement that they’ve expressed a clear preference for the uptown site.

Taylor commented on the uptown site being fiscally responsible, noting that it would provide approximately \$6.4 million, or 5 percent, in savings, and how those savings could be used for other needs the district has such as renovating the high school baseball field and expanding San Juan Mountain School.

Taylor also expressed that in his own accounts, he’s rarely seen elementary to middle school aged kids taking advantage of downtown parks after school.

He explained that if the district were to choose the uptown location, he felt it’d be incumbent upon the district to provide transportation downtown for after-school activities.

Taylor also referenced an email he received that states, “This process is challenging ... often the loudest voices represent only a small portion of the community” and that the district rarely hears from parents in the Hatcher, Vista and Trails neighborhoods where many families live, and that many kids do not participate in after-school activities and simply just go home after school.

“Broadening access and increasing participation is what truly serves kids, not simply making things more convenient for those already involved,” Taylor read.

Taylor also mentioned that all eight of the ASD’s administrators have expressed a strong preference for the uptown location, referencing a note from one administrator that said, “Please don’t pin us in,” in reference to the high school site.

Lynch was the last to provide comments on the matter, explaining that initially he wanted the new school to be built at the downtown high school location.

Lynch mentioned that he attended Pagosa schools and that his family has been deeply rooted in Pagosa Springs since the 1800s.

Lynch noted that he kept asking himself how the district could make the new PK-8 building work at the high school site.

“That’s what I wanted,” Lynch said.

He explained that after receiving data and site analysis, it got harder to “square the idea” of how much money the district would spend and what it would get out of the downtown location, and the secondary effects of that decision.

Lynch explained that he approached the decision by first considering the school itself, noting the building would be identical at either site and that the Vista location would be several million dollars cheaper.

He then considered what would be available right outside of the school building for student athletics and play spaces.

Lynch explained that if the district were to build at the high school it would not improve its field accessibility.

“We’re short on space now,” he said.

Lynch explained the third thing he considered were the “ancillaries” around the school, noting the high school location is “better” in that regard, but mentioned that the district could potentially compensate for that by offering bus services downtown from the Vista site.

“I think we can,” he said.

When working through the “trade-offs” of building at the downtown location, Lynch mentioned that he “started shifting” in his thinking, and that the Vista site would be better for students.

Lynch then spoke about how the Town of Pagosa Springs is planning on building a wastewater treatment plant at Yamaguchi Park South, explaining that it’d be hard for him to back that decision “knowing full well” about the town’s plans.

Lynch also noted that the district’s other needs, such as expanding the San Juan Mountain School and adding a gym at the high school, could be accomplished with money saved from building the new PK-8 campus uptown.

“All of us need to chip in, pay our fair share and have better facilities for our kids, then I hope we can come together around that,” Lynch said.

Taylor then motioned for the district to select the Vista site uptown for a new PK-8 building, which was seconded by Mackey.

Prior to voting on the matter, more discussion was held, with Schick explaining that she did not think younger students being near high school students was a legitimate concern.

“I do not think that that is a valid point to hold there,” she said.

Schick also acknowledged that the reasons for building at the Vista site hold merit, and that the site does present some strengths, though she noted the only polling the district did reflected the community was slightly in favor of the high school site.

The motion was then approved by a split vote of 4-1.

Next steps

According to ASD’s press release, the next district will apply for a BEST grant in March.

“If awarded, the grant would require a local match, typically around 50% of the total project cost. While school districts receive annual funding from the Colorado Department of Education to support general operating expenses such as staffing, classroom resources, transportation, and day-to-day maintenance, major facility construction and renovation projects require separate funding sources. Local match funding is typically generated through a voter-approved bond, a one-time property tax-based investment dedicated to capital improvements. ASD currently has no existing bond debt; the district’s last bond supported construction of the high school in 1996 and was fully paid off in December 2020,” the press release states.

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Joint committee to review tourism board agreement

By Derek Kutzer and Clayton Chaney
Staff Writers

At a joint meeting between the Pagosa Springs Town Council and the Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on Jan. 26, Commissioner John Ranson requested that both entities look at changing language in their agreement concerning the Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board so that the county is not potentially liable for how the tourism board spends its money.

Ranson suggested that “issues have arisen” since the agreement was amended in 2025, adding that “there just needs to be some clean up in the language” of the agreement.

Ranson explained that his concern about the agreement stemmed from what he interpreted as taking “away county oversight” of the tourism board, and that the county needs “to protect” itself by putting a “tighter review and control” over the board.

When pressed by the council and the other commissioners to offer specific examples of how the county might be legally liable for how the tourism board conducts its business under the current agreement, Ranson declined to offer specifics on the matter.

The tourism is an advisory committee to the town council and BoCC. “The purpose of the tourism board is to make specific recommendations relative to expenditures of the 4.9%

Lodging Tax in Town and the 2% Lodging Tax in the County,” explains the town’s website.

The website adds, “The Tourism Board shall ensure that all requests for funding from the Town’s Lodging Tax revenues meet the criteria established by Section 16.4.11 of the Town of Pagosa Springs Municipal Code. The board has nine members, five appointed by various boards and four at-large seats.”

At the joint meeting, Ranson proposed “to look at heading down a path to clean up” the language in the joint agreement with the tourism board, saying the county does “not need liability if we don’t have oversight” of the board.

Mayor Shari Pierce suggested that she thought the language was pretty clear in the agreement that the county’s funding contributions to the tourism board could only be spent on “marketing and advertising,” and that both the town and county had this “differentiated in their budgets.”

However, she stated that she’d be willing to “look more into” what Ranson’s concerns were about with the current agreement.

For its part, the town is allowed to fund tourism projects beyond marketing and advertising for tourism, whereas the county’s money can only be spent on these two things.

Commissioner Warren Brown said that he’d also be willing to look into the matter, adding, “I want to be able to have the answers when a constitu-

ent asks a reasonable question.”

Both entities, Brown added, should “make sure” that the agreement with the tourism board “is the best product” possible.

“I’m in need of more information,” Council member Brooks Lindner said, adding, “This is the first I’ve heard of any of this.”

Pierce suggested that a small committee made up of town and county staff and elected officials get together to consider Ranson’s concerns.

Commissioner Veronica Medina, noted “we had a committee already” when the agreement was amended.

Medina noted that the agreement was brought before both the council and BoCC for approval and that both entities approved the agreement the original committee drafted.

She suggested that if “any one of us” had problems with the language of the agreement, they should have stepped forward to address the issue before it was approved.

She asked, “If we already approved the document, what’s the problem? Did we not read it?”

Ultimately, it was decided that a joint committee, made up of town and county representatives, would get together to review Ranson’s concerns about the potential legal liabilities for the county under the current language of the agreement.

Other news

During the tourism board’s regular meeting on Jan. 14, Shane Prince was unanimously voted as the chair

of the board, with Amy Johnson being unanimously approved as vice chair and Austin Marchand unanimously approved as second vice chair.

After being voted as the board chair, Prince reviewed the conflict of interests section of the intergovernmental agreement between the town and county.

“If a board member has a financial or personal conflict of interest with a vote, they must state their conflict at the beginning of the meeting in advance of the discussion and they must recuse themselves ... both from the discussion and vote in the manner,” Prince said.

Prince also provided comments during his chair report, reminding the board that “we are merely an advisory board.”

He explained that, as an advisory board, “we don’t make a final decision,” and that is ultimately up to the BoCC and town council.

Prince also urged the tourism board that 2025 is “behind us” and that in 2026, “we need to get back to our core standards of understanding exactly what our torch is.”

He noted that, as an advisory board, the tourism board does not have a fiduciary responsibility with the budget.

“But I want us to all understand kind of the stance that this board is — we are here to make recommendations as experts within the field of tourism ... but the executive director is the one that reports directly to the town manager,” he added.

Regulations

■ Continued from front

plied by other lawful method, and that sanitation must comply with an approved waste disposal plan through a permitted septic, public sewer, composting toilet or approved bag-style system.

Ryan noted that properties must also be in compliance with zoning setbacks and standards, and be able to demonstrate legal access for emergency services.

The other RV permit discussed was the “five-year utility connected RV occupancy permit, which would allow long-term residential occupancy of an RV for up to five years when connected to approved permanent utilities,” according to Ryan’s proposed changes.

Discussion amongst the planning commissioners expressed that the five-year length for this permit may be too long, with planning commissioner Peter Beaudry suggesting that four years is adequate time for residents to make improvements to their property.

Ryan’s original proposed changes note that a renewal of the five-year permit would require reinspection of utility and continued compliance.

The proposed changes also include general provisions that either one TUP or one long-term RV permit may be issued for parcels less than three acres in size, with larger parcels having a maximum of any two RV permits.

“Those requirements are what we have in our checklists currently,” Ryan said, explaining that she mirrored the county’s current TUP checklist.

Multiple public comments were given on the matter prior to the planning commission making recommended changes to the proposed amendments and voting on a motion.

The first commenter asked if the five-year permit could be renewed indefinitely, suggesting there should be a requirement that a septic system be installed within a certain amount of time, claiming there are some residents who dump gray water directly into the ground.

He also commented on the regulation of the number of permitted RVs allowed on a property, stating, “That regulation has not been enforced at all.”

The commenter also mentioned how it is “unfair” for people to live in RVs indefinitely without proper permitting while others have to pay for permits.

“Seems like there’s just a double standard in this county,” he said.

Another commenter stated, “I am against this as it’s written today,” explaining that this is not a long-term solution and that the permits should have a timeframe “to keep things moving forward in the right direction for the community to hopefully have houses at some point.”

He also mentioned that “RVs aren’t meant to be lived in permanently.”

The next commenter mentioned the BoCC recently turned down a tiny home village project.

“I’m blown away that we’re gonna let people live in RVs for five years when our commissioners turned down a tiny home village,” he said, noting that people can’t put in mobile homes in groupings in “our vast county” for people to live in an actual structure, but the county will give permission to live in something “that is not suitable to live in.”

“It’s just wrong. We’re taking the wrong approach,” he added.

The commenter clarified that he is “all in favor” of people living in RVs and approving the proposed LUR amendments, but stated, “It’s wrong what we’re doing and what we need to do is allow mobile homes in our community,” along with allowing additional dwellings on parcels.

He then referenced a downtown property within town limits that is one-sixth of an acre in size and has four dwelling units on it.

“And we love it,” he said, “But the county has this mindset that, ‘Oh this millionaire has a big parcel here, so we can’t let mobile homes be over here,’ and that’s wrong; that’s totally wrong for our community.”

Ryan explained that the county also has recreational use in its LUR, and a temporary use permit for those living in an RV while building a house.

She also explained that allowing different types of waste disposal for the 180-day permit requires photos or receipts, proving the resident is “dumping legitimately.”

In response to a question from the planning commission, Ryan explained that two types of RV permits were being proposed: the 180 day and the five year.

Ryan further explained that the resolution initially allowing the 180-day RV permit was extended one time with an expiration on the actual resolution, which was last summer.

“It just was never renewed,” she said.

County Attorney Cathleen Giovannini explained that people were approaching the county for the 180-day RV permit but had a proper septic system and electrical system installed, adding that is where the suggestion of a more long-term solution like a five-year permit stemmed from.

County Manager Longinos Gonzalez commented that “everybody’s technically out of compliance because the extension had expired.”

Planning commissioner Mont McAllister indicated that “we need to have an end” for the number of times the 180-day and five-year permits could be issued.

Beaudry commented that the resolution was “just to be a temporary so-

lution,” noting he had a “big problem” with the five-year length permit.

Planning commissioner Peter Vecvangs commented, “I don’t see why you should be restricted on your choice of living,” noting there is nothing in the code that says residents have to build a house.

He explained that people live in all kinds of different structures and that if someone goes through the process of improving their land with proper septic and electrical systems, “then it’s your property.”

He added that there will always be people who push limits or ignore rules, but that does not mean the county should in turn limit other people.

McAllister noted that the goal is to get something in place to allow people who are currently living in RVs under the expired resolution to continue doing so.

Vecvangs then asked if adding this language and approving the proposed amendments is something the commission wants to do given that it might “all be thrown out the window” under new LURs, planning and building codes that the county is planning on revising.

The planning commissioners then discussed the possibility of recommending that the BoCC renew the expired resolution.

“Instead of adding in all this new verbiage and new terms for something that might not stick with the new community plan,” Vecvangs added.

Gonzalez commented that there are residents who have installed septic systems, and simply renewing the expired resolution would leave those folks in the same situation, noting that the BoCC expressed a desire to address that.

Giovannini commented that because the resolution is expired, there is no obligation for the county to inspect properties and that if the county were to wait until the new community plan is drafted, “likely” by the end of 2026, it leaves the situation without any supervision of waste disposal, which she described as “problematic.”

Beaudry suggested the planning commission recommend to the BoCC to renew the resolution and add in language that addresses those with

proper septic systems be required to renew their permit every 18 months or every two years.

Gonzalez explained that based on his discussion with the BoCC, its desire is to address the situation through the land use code rather than a resolution, as going through the code would be a “more formal proper way of doing it.”

Vecvangs expressed disagreement with the proposed change from the planning commission that the RV permits could not be renewed after a certain amount of time as his reason for not voting to approve the recommendation.

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MLS #829827

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Sports

SWIMMING

Lady Pirates log personal bests, break school record at Gunnison meet

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady Pirate swim team competed in

the Gunnison Cowboy Invite on Friday, Jan. 23, with the coach indicating the teams' work is paying off.

"We had an amazing meet in Gunnison," wrote coach Heather Miller in

an email to The SUN. "The little bit of sprint work we did last week really paid off with the majority of swims resulting in best times."

The girls competed in 11 events

over the course of the meet, with several swimmers swimming personal best times.

The first event of the meet was the 200-yard medley relay. The Lady Pirate team of Marlowe Hedgecock, Leah Blackman, Chloe Gantt and Gianna Shaeffer finished second with a time of two minutes, 22.83 seconds. The team of Grace Cram, Ruby Snell, Angela Gomez and Leilani Snell finished fourth with a time of 2:41.22. The team of Shantee Murphy, Avery Book, Kaillen Taylor and Isabela Forster finished fifth with a time of 3:25.33. Another Lady Pirate team was disqualified.

The 200-yard freestyle was the next event, and the Lady Pirates had three swimmers compete. Gantt took first place at the meet with a 2:24.87. Ruby Snell dropped more than 11 seconds and placed third with a time of 2:59.73. Leilani placed fourth with a time of 3:01.98.

Four swimmers competed in the next event, the 200-yard individual medley. Cram placed second, dropping more than four seconds for a personal best time of 3:18.35. Hedgecock was the next Lady Pirate to finish, placing third with a time of 3:20.60. Gomez dropped more than three seconds, swimming a personal best 3:27.76 and placing fourth. Lucia Rivera was disqualified.

The 50-yard freestyle was next, with 11 swimmers competing for the Lady Pirates.

Shaeffer dropped 0.04 seconds, swimming a personal best 31.86 and placing third. Blackman dropped 0.72 seconds, swimming a personal best 32.88 and placing fifth. Kailey Vincent dropped more than two seconds, swimming a personal best 34.42 and placing sixth. Cheyenne Trujillo dropped 1.03 seconds, swimming a personal best 35.39 and plac-

ing eighth. Brooklyn Trujillo swam a 36.59 and placed ninth. Murphy placed 11th, swimming a personal best 37.41 after dropping more than 4 seconds. Book swam a 38.18 and placed 12th. Angelique Buffum swam a 38.74 and placed 13th. Forster dropped 0.78 seconds, swimming a personal best 38.93 and placing 14th. Arya Patel dropped 0.22 seconds, swimming a 44.95 and placing 17th. Taylor swam a 1:03.43 and placed 20th.

Hedgecock was the only Lady Pirate to compete in the 100-yard butterfly. She dropped 3.32 seconds, swimming a personal best 1:36.74 and placing fourth overall at the meet.

Six swimmers swam the 100-yard freestyle. Murphy dropped more than 30 seconds and swam a personal best 1:22.42. She placed fourth at the meet. Cheyenne Trujillo dropped 0.07 seconds, swam a personal best 1:28.39 and placed sixth. Rivera placed seventh, swimming a 1:32.31. Patel dropped more than nine seconds, swimming her personal best time of 1:41.93 and placing ninth. Buffum placed 10th after swimming a 1:45.61. Taylor placed 11th after swimming a 2:24.86.

The 500-yard freestyle was swam by six Lady Pirates. Gantt dropped 5.61 seconds and swam a personal best 6:32.49. This time was good enough for not only a second place finish, but a Pagosa Springs High School record.

"There are numerous highlights of the meet but the biggest is having a 6 year old team record broken in the 500 Free by Chloe Gantt, she broke the record by over 2 seconds," wrote Miller.

Cram was the next Lady Pirate to finish, swimming a 7:25.37 and placing third at the meet. Gomez swam a 8:02.43 and placed fourth. Vincent

dropped more than 50 seconds, swimming a personal best 8:51.70 and placing sixth. Brooklyn Trujillo dropped 2.25 seconds, swam a personal best 8:53.85 and placed seventh. Book swam a 9:01.89 and placed eighth.

The Lady Pirates had two teams compete in the 200-yard free relay. The team of Leilani Snell, Ruby Snell, Blackman and Gomez placed second with a time of 2:17.06. The team of Rivera, Buffum, Patel and Murphy placed fourth with a time of 2:39.95.

Ruby Snell and Forster were the only two swimmers who competed in the 100-yard backstroke for the Lady Pirates. Ruby Snell placed fourth with a personal best time of 1:30.07 after dropping 2.24. Forster placed sixth with a personal best time of 2:02.97 after dropping more than 16 seconds.

Three Lady Pirates competed in the 100-yard breaststroke. Shaeffer placed second with a personal best time of 1:25.71, dropping 1.48 seconds. Blackman swam a 1:30.06 and placed third. Leilani Snell swam a 1:46.90 and placed fifth.

The final event of the night was the 400-yard freestyle relay. The Lady Pirate team of Hedgecock, Cram, Shaeffer and Gantt placed first with a time of 4:58.94. The team of Vincent, Brooklyn Trujillo, Cheyenne Trujillo and Book placed third with a time of 5:54.65.

The Lady Pirates have two meets this weekend, both in Durango. The first starts at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30. The second starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31.

"For the meets in Durango our main focus is working on speed and maintaining good stroke technique, we will also work on starts and turns this week," wrote Miller.

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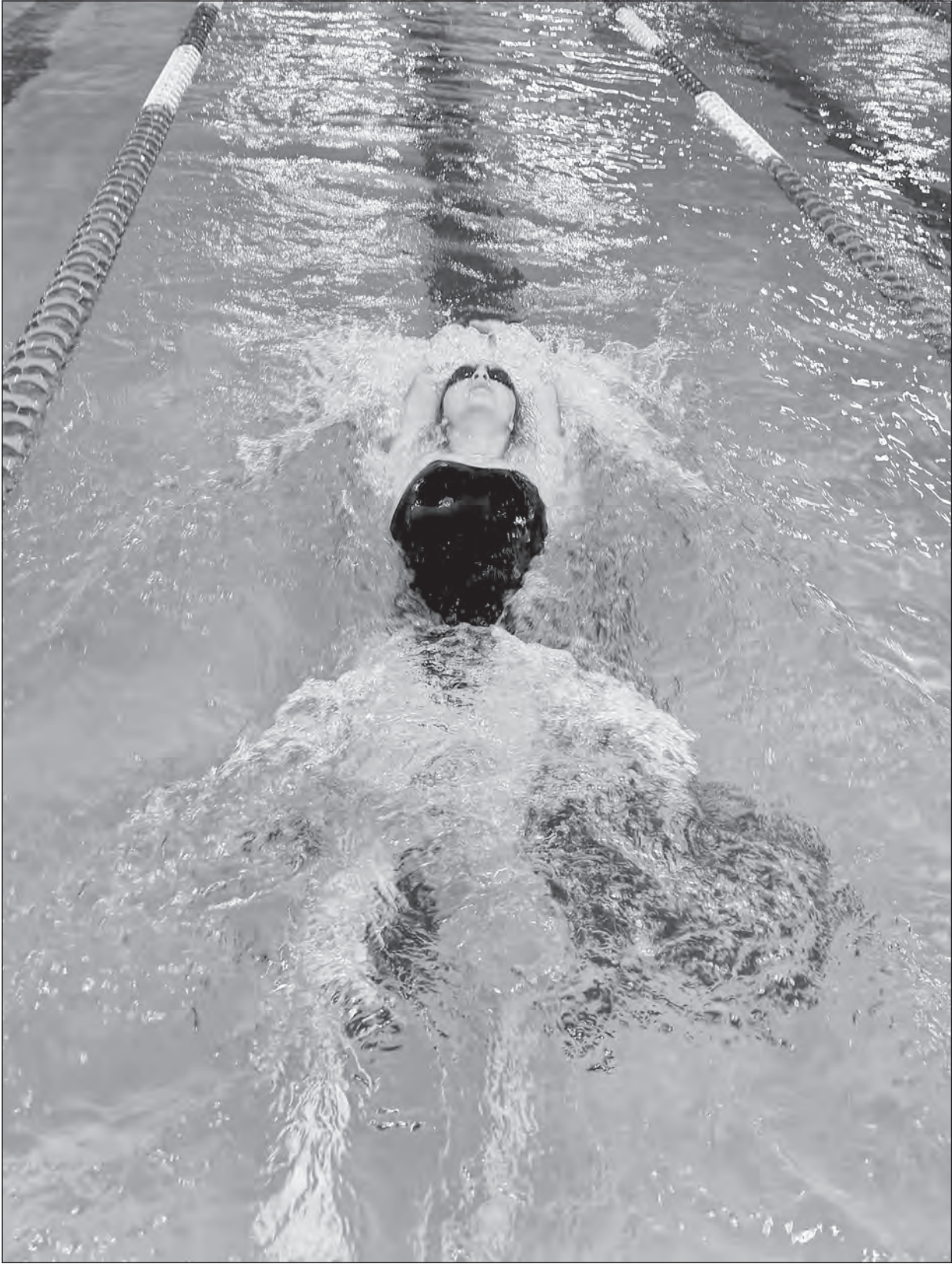


Photo courtesy Heather Miller

Isabela Forster swims the backstroke at the Gunnison Cowboy Invite on Jan. 23. Forster placed sixth with a personal best time of 2:02.97 after dropping more than 16 seconds in the 100-yard backstroke.

WRESTLING

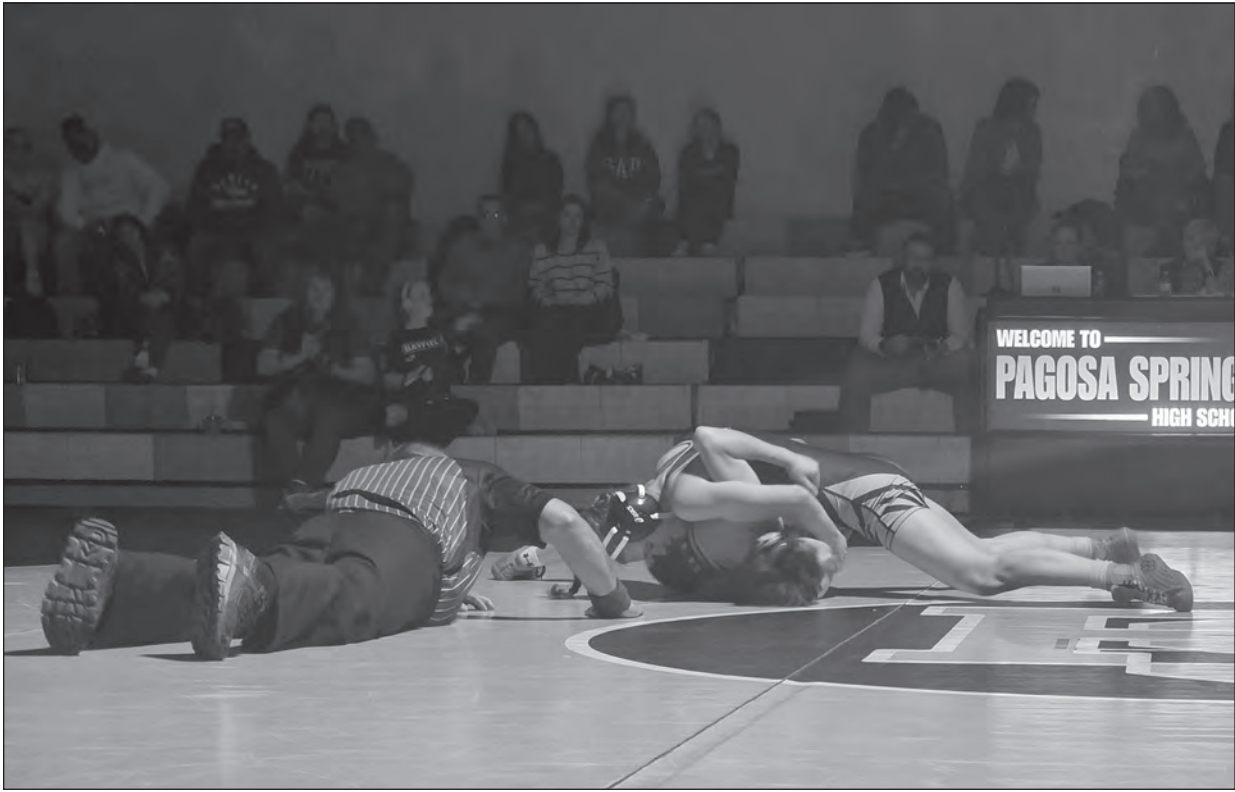


Photo courtesy Ashli Stretton

Lady Pirate Kyley Matyniak pins her opponent during the team's dual with Bayfield on Jan. 22.

Lady Pirates win home dual against Bayfield, place fourth in Ignacio

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs girls wrestling team had a busy week, first hosting Bayfield for a dual, then traveling to Ignacio for the Butch Melton Invitational, where Lady Pirate Laykyn Baxstrom received a special award.

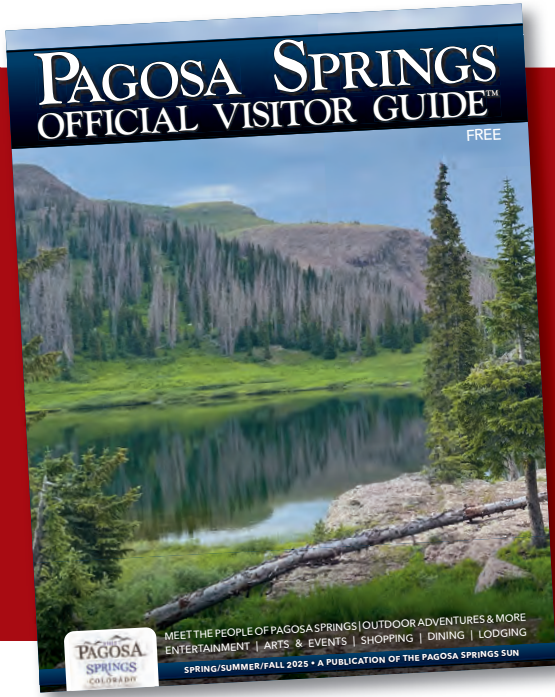
The Lady Pirates defeated the Wolverines 36-24 on Thursday, Jan. 22, in their home dual.

At 105 pounds, Bella Jackson won by forfeit. Madisen Stretton pinned her opponent after one minute and 59 seconds while wrestling at 110 pounds. At 115 pounds, Sarah Thomas won by forfeit. Kelsey Matyniak was pinned after 21 seconds at 120 pounds. Corrina Galabota won by forfeit at 125 pounds. Kyley Matyniak pinned her opponent after 1:26 at 130 pounds. Audrina Smith was pinned after 1:28 while wrestling

at 135 pounds. Laykyn Baxstrom won by forfeit while wrestling at 190 pounds.

"Pagosa Springs girls had another successful outing," coach Dan Janowsky highlights in an email to The SUN.

On Saturday, Jan. 24, the Lady Pirates traveled to Ignacio for the Butch Melton Invitational, where they placed fourth out of nine teams. ■ See Wrestling A11



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BASKETBALL

Pirates defeat Mean Moose, fall to Panthers

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Pirate basketball team went 1-1 over the last week, moving to 5-8 overall on the season and sitting as the No. 36 team in Colorado 4A boys' basketball.

The Pirates started the week off on the road against the Alamosa Mean Moose on Friday, Jan. 23, with the Pirates coming home with the 56-44 win.

"It was tough to play at Alamosa, but we really were able to kind of limit them using our press and create some turnovers, giving ourselves a chance to win," said coach Brandon Forster. "So, it was a good win for us."

The Pirates jumped out to a 15-6 lead after the first quarter. They bested Alamosa in the second quarter as well, extending their lead to 10 at half.

The Mean Moose came out of halftime and scored 16 in the third quarter and reclaimed some life in the game due to a lack of execution at times from the Pirates, explained Forster.

The Pirates were able to hold on, outscoring the Mean Moose 13-10 in the fourth quarter and winning by 12.

The Mean Moose, who are the No. 38 team, are now 6-8 on the season.

Creede Dozier led the team with 17 points, Jeremiah Jones had 14 and Ty Richey finished with 10. Jayton Ross added seven, Bode Hubbard had six and Duke Ketchum scored two points to round out the scoring.

The Pirates pulled down 27 total rebounds, led by Ketchum's eight. Richey logged seven, Jones tallied six, and the Pirates saw two each from Hubbard, Dozier and Jerry Dean.

As a team the Pirates shot 49 percent from the field, 11 percent from the 3-point line and 65 percent from the foul line. They assisted on 10 of their 19 made field goals, and finished with 27 rebounds, 10 steals and 18 turnovers.

"[We] kind of gave up some points and let them get some life," said Forster. "But, it was good for us in learning how to, when teams are coming back, keep the lead and what do we need to do in order to win?"

The Pirates returned home on Saturday, Jan. 24, for a matchup against Montezuma-Cortez.

The Pirates lost 76-48, but the Pirates were in the game for the first three quarters.

"We kind of hung with them and they hit a lot of shots for all four quarters and we just, that fourth quarter kind of ended up biting us," said Forster. "We just didn't make a lot of our shots."

At the end of the first, Cortez held a 17-15 lead. The Panthers outscored the Pirates 21-11 in the second to hold a 38-26 lead at halftime.

After outscoring the Panthers 18-12 in the third quarter, the Pirates were down only six heading into the fourth quarter.

The Panthers continued to hit their shots in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Pirates 26-4 in the final frame.

The Panthers, who sit as the No. 3 team, are 15-0 on the season.



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Jerry Dean maneuvers through a trio of Montezuma-Cortez Panther defenders on Saturday, Jan. 24. Despite being down by six going into the fourth quarter, the Pirates fell 76-48 to the undefeated Panthers.

Dozier once again led the Pirates in scoring, posting 11 points. Ketchum added nine; Jones scored seven; Dean, Hubbard and Richey each had six; and Kasen Limebrook had three to round out the scoring.

Jones led the team in rebounding with five, followed by three from Dean. Dozier, Ketchum and Limebrook pulled down two each, and Hubbard logged one. The team totaled 15 rebounds.

The Pirates shot 33 percent from the field, 38 percent on 3-pointers and 81 percent from the free-throw line. They assisted on seven of their 15 made field goals, and finished with eight steals and 17 turnovers.

"You can't have a comeback if you don't have a setback," said Forster. "I feel like these guys are ready to get back to work. They were intense yesterday during practice and we're not going to let one bad quarter hold

us down."

The Pirates have two games this weekend.

The first is a home matchup against the Bayfield Wolverines, who are 10-4 on the season and the No. 19 in Colorado 3A boys' basketball, on Friday, Jan. 30.

Action is set to begin at 7 p.m. Friday's matchup with Bayfield is a rivalry game that Forster noted he feels will be an interesting matchup.

The Wolverines have a lot of length, but the Pirates will have the home-court advantage and the student section has been awesome all year, added Forster.

The next day, Saturday, Jan. 31, the Pirates will travel to La Jara to take on the 3A Centauri Falcons.

The Falcons are 6-8 on the season and sit at No. 30. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m. jsellner@orourkemediagroup.com

Wrestling

■ Continued from A10

"Top finishers for Pagosa were Madi Stretton and Laykyn Baxstrom," wrote Janowsky, highlighting Baxstrom was also voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler for the upper weights.

Baxstrom took first place and scored 25.5 points for the Lady Pirates. She pinned her first opponent after 1:54, won on an 18-3 technical fall in her second match, pinned her third opponent after 1:05 and pinned her final opponent after 4:58.

Her 4-0 record at the tournament moved her season record to a perfect 17-0.

Stretton also took first place, scoring 25 points for the Lady Pirates.

She pinned her first opponent after 1:30, her second opponent after 2:47 and her third opponent after 56 seconds. She won her final match by a 10-2 major decision.

Stretton now has a 20-3 record after her undefeated performance.

At 100 pounds, Jackson placed second and scored 18.5 points. Jackson won her first match on an 18-1 technical fall, pinned her next opponent after 2:31, won via a medical forfeit in her third match and was pinned in her final match after 3:33. Jackson moved to 19-6 on the season after going 3-1.

Kyley Matyniak placed second and scored 19 points.

She pinned her first three opponents, the first after 1:32, the second after 49 seconds and the third after 44

seconds. In her final match she lost by a 8-2 decision.

She is now 18-7 on the year after going 3-1 at the tournament.

Galabota placed third, scoring 13

"Top finishers for Pagosa were Madi Stretton and Laykyn Baxstrom," wrote Janowsky, highlighting Baxstrom was also voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler for the upper weights.

points.

She won her first match, pinning her opponent after two minutes, but lost her second match after being pinned in 1:13. She came back and won her third match, pinning her opponent after 2:36, but lost her fourth match after being pinned in four minutes.

Galabota now has a 7-10 record after going 2-2 at the tournament.

At 115 pounds, Kelsey Matyniak placed fourth and scored seven points. She lost her first match after being pinned in 26 seconds, her second match after being pinned in

37 seconds and her third match via a 19-3 technical fall. She won her final match, pinning her opponent after 2:50.

Kelsey Matyniak's record is now 6-17 on the season after going 1-3 at the tournament.

Smith placed fifth and scored three points for the Lady Pirates. She lost her first three matches, the first by fall after 1:41, the second by 18-3 technical fall and the third by fall after 49 seconds. Smith won her fourth match via a medical forfeit and lost her final match after she was pinned in 3:10.

Smith now holds a 9-16 record after going 1-4 at the tournament.

The Lady Pirates will be back on the mats this evening, Thursday, Jan. 29, when they head to Montezuma-Cortez High School for a dual beginning at 5:30 p.m..

The Lady Pirates will then head to Cañon City for the Cañon City Classic on Friday, Jan. 30, beginning at 9 a.m.

The following day, the Lady Pirates will be in action in Del Norte for the Rio Grande Showdown, with action beginning at 9 a.m.

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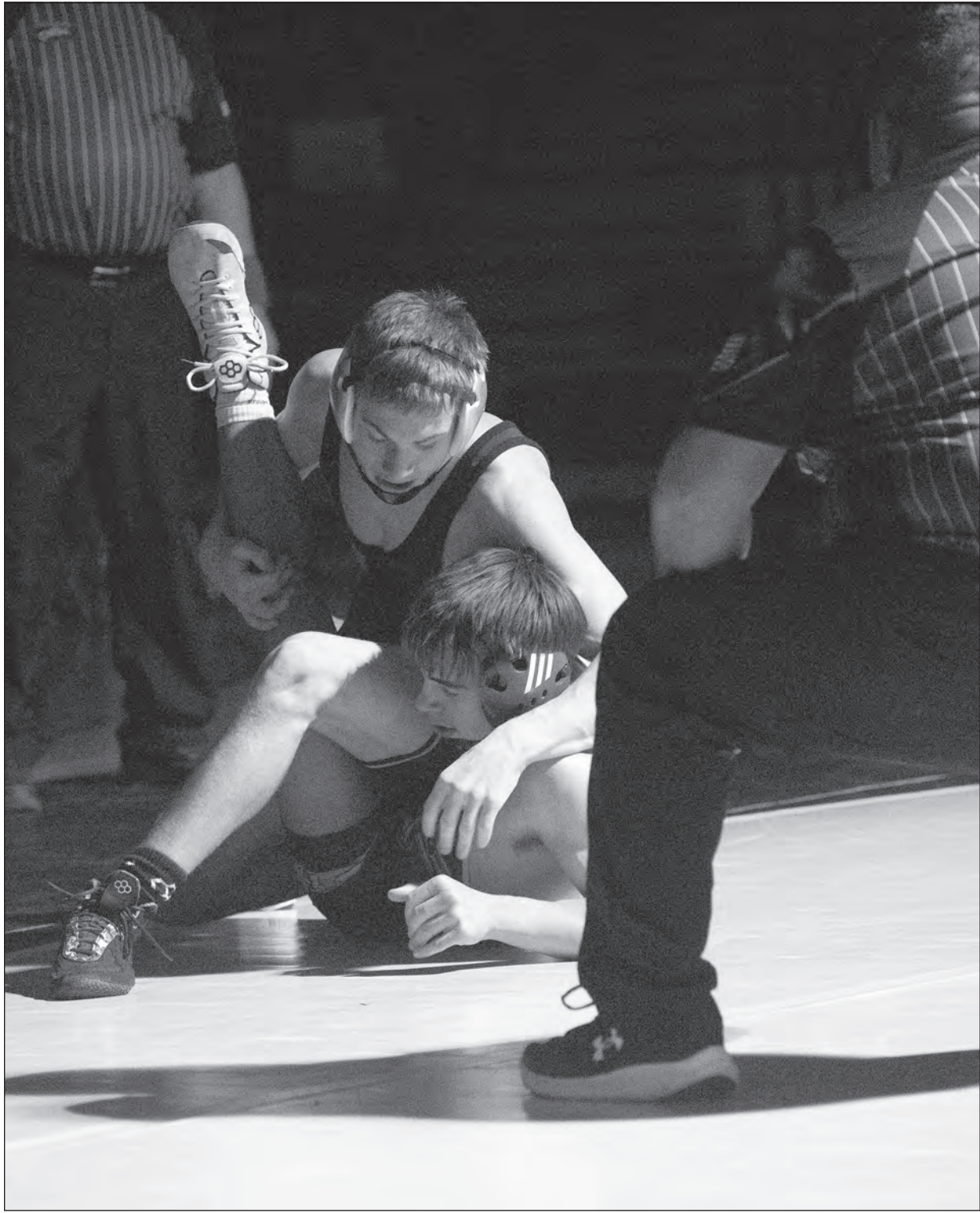
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WRESTLING



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Pirate Stetson Osborn takes his opponent down during the team’s dual against Bayfield on Jan. 22. Osborn came from behind in the match to win by pin.

Lucero logs 100th win, Pirates win five of six

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs boys wrestling team had a big week last week, celebrating their seniors and winning five out of the six duals they competed in.

The Pirates hosted the Bayfield Wolverines for a dual on Thursday, Jan. 22, winning 54-30. They also got to celebrate their seniors in what was their final home competition in a Pirate uniform.

Colton Lucero got a special celebration on Thursday when he was presented in front of the fans for winning 100 matches in a Pirate uniform. Lucero is currently at 128 wins total.

“It’s real tough to do, especially down here,” coach Dan Janowsky said of Lucero’s feat. “You’ve got to get started when you’re a freshman. Colton was an outstanding freshman and placed fourth at state and beat seniors that were state placers ahead of him to climb that ladder, and that’s just how he got started.”

Other seniors receiving recognition for their high school career were Truman Vasek, Johnny Baker, Gabe Ramirez and Samuel Kelly.

“The night was special as it featured Pagosa’s seniors’ last match at home,” Janowsky wrote in an email to The SUN.

Four Pirates won matches against Bayfield and five others added forfeit points.

Garrett Elliot pinned his opponent after two minutes and 27 seconds wrestling at 113 pounds. Baker was pinned after 5:33 while wrestling at 126 pounds. Eric Smith was pinned after 1:33 while wrestling at 132 pounds. Stetson Osborn pinned his opponent after 3:54 while wrestling at 134 pounds. Asher McKennie wrestled at 148 pounds and was pinned after 50 seconds. Hudson Mazur pinned his opponent after 5:35 while wrestling at 150 pounds. At 157 pounds, Alex Pacheco won by forfeit. Lucero pinned his opponent after 2:34 while wrestling at 165 pounds. Vasek was pinned after 1:10 while wrestling at 175 pounds. Ryker Hanson at 190 pounds, South Dozier at 215 pounds and Hunter Martinez at 285 pounds each won by forfeit.

The Pirates were back in action on Saturday, Jan. 24, when they traveled to La Jara for the Randy and Naomi Keys Duals hosted by Centauri.

The Pirates won four out of the five duals they competed in at the tournament.

Janowsky highlights that Lucero and Smith were undefeated on the day, with each picking up five wins.

The Pirates defeated Trinidad 42-34 in their first dual.

Elliot lost by a 18-1 technical fall. Smith pinned his opponent after 48 seconds. Osborn won by forfeit. McK-

ennie pinned his opponent after five minutes. Mazur pinned his opponent after 49 seconds. Lucero pinned his opponent after 5:55 at 157 pounds. Devin Gonzalez lost by a 15-0 technical fall while wrestling at 165 pounds. Vasek was pinned after 51 seconds. At 215 pounds, Jimmy Elledge pinned his opponent after 21 seconds. Martinez pinned his opponent after 5:15.

The Pirates defeated Antonito 60-12 in the second dual.

Elliot pinned his opponent after 2:30. Smith pinned his opponent after 1:21. Osborn, McKennie, Mazur, Lucero, Gonzalez, Vasek, Elledge and Martinez all won by forfeit.

The Pirates defeated Monte Vista 45-27 in their third dual.

Elliot lost by a 15-0 technical fall. Smith pinned his opponent after 2:24. Osborn lost by an 11-0 major decision. McKennie pinned his opponent after 39 seconds. Mazur won by a 2-0 decision. Lucero pinned his opponent after 27 seconds. Martinez pinned his opponent after 2:43. Gonzalez, Vasek and Elledge all won by forfeit.

The Pirates defeated Buena Vista

42-36 in their fourth dual.

Elliot was pinned after 1:46. Smith pinned his opponent after 1:06, and Osborn pinned his opponent after 1:07. McKennie pinned his opponent after 2:43. Lucero pinned his opponent after 4:47. Elledge was pinned after 44 seconds, and Martinez was pinned after a minute. Mazur, Gonzalez and Vasek won by forfeit.

In their final dual, the Pirates were defeated by Centauri 45-30.

Elliot was pinned after 3:32. Smith pinned his opponent after 2:39. Osborn lost on an 18-3 technical fall. McKennie lost by a 14-4 major decision. Mazur was pinned after 2:34. Vasek pinned his opponent after 42 seconds. Elledge was pinned after 4:20. Lucero, Gonzalez and Martinez won by forfeit.

The Pirates will make a stop at Montezuma-Cortez High School for a dual this evening, Thursday, Jan. 29, beginning at 6 p.m.

The team will then head to Center for the two-day Valley Classic on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 30 and 31. Action is set to begin at 10 a.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday.

BASKETBALL



SUN photo/Randi Pierce

Lady Pirate Adelyn Hittle rises above a trio of Montezuma-Cortez Panthers for a shot during the team’s 35-27 win on Saturday, Jan. 24. Hittle put up 11 points in the game.

Lady Pirates go 1-1 against Alamosa, Montezuma-Cortez

By Jack Sellner
Staff Writer

The Pagosa Springs High School Lady basketball team improved to 6-7 on the year after splitting their two games over the last week.

The Lady Pirates started the week’s action in Alamosa on Friday, Jan. 23, for a matchup with the Alamosa Mean Moose, the No. 8 team in Colorado 4A girls’ basketball.

The No. 19 Lady Pirates lost 37-33. Charity Domingo led the Lady Pirates with 13 points. Kaila Limebrook added eight, Ximena Garcia had five, Adelyn Hittle scored four, Amber Snarr had two and Lexi Campbell rounded out the scoring with

one point.

Hittle led the team in rebounding with seven. Limebrook and Garcia each had four rebounds. Snarr had three. Domingo, Campbell and Liana Vega each had two.

As a team, the Lady Pirates hauled down a total of 24 rebounds, assisted on eight of their 12 made field goals, finished with 10 steals, and turned the ball over 33 times. They made three of 10 free-throw attempts.

The Lady Pirates bounced back with a win over No. 30 Montezuma-Cortez at home on Saturday, Jan. 24.

The Lady Pirates held a 20-12 lead at halftime and outscored the Panthers by eight in the third quarter to take a 16-point lead.

The Panthers scored 13 points in the fourth quarter, but the Lady Pirates were able to hold on for the eight-point win, 35-27.

Hittle led the team in scoring on Saturday with 11 points. Domingo added nine of her own, Garcia had five, Vega and Snarr each had three, and Limebrook and Campbell each had two.

Hittle also led the team in rebounds with eight. Campbell wasn’t far behind, hauling down seven. Limebrook had five, Snarr had four, Garcia had three, and Domingo and Vega each had one.

As a team, the Lady Pirates had a total of 29 rebounds, assisted on six of

■ See Basketball A13

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Health insurance enrollment through Connect for Health Colorado dips slightly for plan year 2026

Connect for Health Colorado

After five consecutive years of record growth, enrollment in health coverage through the state's official health insurance marketplace for plan year 2026 dipped 2 percent, Connect for Health Colorado announced on Jan. 23.

Despite rising costs due to less federal financial assistance, 277,228 Coloradans enrolled in health insurance, with 69 percent of customers receiving financial help to lower the cost of their monthly premiums. Colorado Premium Assistance — a new program introduced by the Colorado General Assembly and the Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise for plan year 2026 — has helped reduce monthly costs for many Coloradans.

Still, a rise in insurance premiums following the expiration of federal enhanced Premium Tax Credits may have discouraged some residents from enrolling, stated Kevin Patterson, CEO of Connect for Health Colorado — and may also be driving an 83 percent increase in the number of people who are canceling their plans compared to this time last year.

"On one hand, it's encouraging to see enrollment remain relatively steady, with only a slight dip, and to see so many people receive meaningful financial assistance," Patterson said. "That is thanks in large part to the state's Colorado Premium Assistance program and to our statewide network

of certified assisters and insurance brokers, who helped customers find the most affordable plan to meet their needs. On the other hand, it's deeply troubling that a record number of people are canceling their plans because they simply can't afford their monthly payments, or are being forced to choose between health care and basic necessities like housing and food. Without federal enhanced Premium Tax Credits, this alarming trend is, sadly, emerging across the country."

Connect for Health Colorado also reported enrollment declines across several populations.

Enrollment among new customers dropped by approximately 24 percent compared to last year, while enrollments among customers ages 55 and older declined by 6 percent. Enrollment among customers in rural communities also decreased 5 percent.

Ahead of open enrollment, Connect for Health Colorado and other state health leaders anticipated that older adults and people living in rural communities would be among those most impacted by rising premiums and the expiration of enhanced Premium Tax Credits.

"For the past year, state health leaders and I have consistently emphasized the importance of extending federal enhanced Premium Tax Credits to maintain access to affordable health insurance — and that conversation doesn't end with open enrollment,"

Patterson said. "If federal lawmakers take action and vote to extend ePTCs, Connect for Health Colorado is ready to support our customers and allow them to shop, compare and select new affordable health insurance plans."

Year-round support

While open enrollment for plan year 2026 has ended, people can still buy health insurance or make changes to a current plan year-round if they experience certain life changes. A list of qualifying life changes is available on Connect for Health Colorado's website.

Connect for Health Colorado's network of certified enrollment assisters and insurance brokers are available to help year-round, are located throughout Colorado, and can provide free support in multiple languages.

Those who experience a qualifying life change are encouraged to learn more about their options at ConnectforHealthCO.com or by calling (855) 752-6749.

About Connect for Health Colorado

Connect for Health Colorado is the state's official health insurance marketplace. Its mission is to increase access, affordability and choice for individuals, families and small employers purchasing health insurance in Colorado. It is the only place where residents can qualify for and receive financial help for their health insurance.



Photo courtesy Colorado Department of Transportation
Construction crew members work on stormwater utilities along U.S. 160. The Colorado Department of Transportation notes stormwater utility work requires coordination with multiple utility agencies, such as electric, to mitigate potential conflicts.

State launches data dashboard for Multi-Sector Plan on Aging

State of Colorado

The state of Colorado has announced the launch of the Multi-Sector Plan on Aging Data Dashboard, a new, publicly accessible online resource designed to empower communities, service providers and policymakers with vital information on the state's aging population.

As the third fastest-aging state in the nation, Colorado is experiencing a significant and rapid demographic shift.

This new, centralized repository provides real-time metrics and insights into Colorado's population age 60 and older. Provided in a user-friendly format, the platform transforms complex data into accessible metrics and clear trends, designed explicitly to guide and empower evidence-based decision-making across all levels, from local governmental planning to nonprofit service.

The data is organized into eight crucial domains, providing comprehensive coverage of the challenges and opportunities facing older Coloradans:

- **Demographics:** Detailed population statistics and growth trends.
- **Housing:** Data related to affordability, stability and accessible living options.
- **Economic security:** Metrics on

income, poverty levels and employment.

- **Lifelong learning:** Information on educational attainment and participation in skill-building programs.
- **Home- and community-based services:** Data tracking access to in-home support and community resources.
- **Communication and information:** Metrics on digital literacy and connectivity.
- **Health care access:** Information regarding insurance coverage, proximity to care and quality of services.
- **Health and well-being:** Data on physical and mental health outcomes.

"Understanding the complexities and diverse needs of older Coloradans is the foundation of effective policy and service delivery," said Kristine Burrows, senior specialist on aging for the state of Colorado. "This dashboard transforms raw data into actionable insights, making it an invaluable tool for every county, every nonprofit and every resident committed to building truly age-friendly communities across the state. It will allow us to highlight disparities and identify exactly where targeted investments are needed most."

The dashboard is a key deliverable of the state's broader Multi-Sector Plan

on Aging initiative, which is dedicated to ensuring that all older adults can live well and thrive in their chosen communities.

The state encourages community organizations, researchers, local planners and residents to explore the dashboard and use its resources to advocate for and support the fastest-growing demographic in Colorado.

How to access the dashboard

The Multi-Sector Plan on Aging Data Dashboard is now available online at aging.colorado.gov/colorado-multi-sector-plan-on-aging-dashboard.

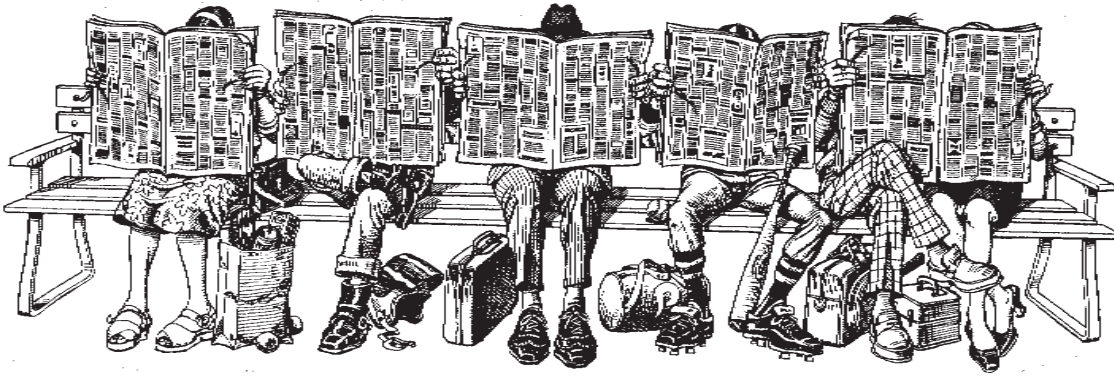
About the Colorado Multi-Sector Plan on Aging

The Multi-Sector Plan on Aging is a comprehensive, 10-year framework designed to align state government, community partners and local resources to enhance the quality of life for all older adults in Colorado.

The plan focuses on systemic changes necessary to make Colorado the best state in which to age.

Visit the Multi-Sector Plan on Aging website at aging.colorado.gov to learn more.

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Schedule

■ **Continued from front**

Gonzalez commented that the county needs to make sure it has an accurate fee schedule "that meets the needs of the community," but also meets the needs of the county.

Torres indicated that scale-use fees would be eliminated as the county will no longer be providing a scale for public use.

Changes included in the building department fees include a \$200 reduction of the permit reinstatement fee, removal of the temporary certificate of occupancy and the removal of inspections outside of normal business hours.

Multiple changes were made to the public health fees, with 11 new public services being added.

Those services include focused and complex STI screening, sports physicals, Department of Transportation physicals and blood work consults.

Basketball

■ **Continued from A12**

their 10 made field goals, and finished with 18 steals and 22 turnovers. The team made 12 of 15 shots from the charity stripe.

This weekend, the Lady Pirates will host the 41st-ranked 3A Bayfield Wolverines on Friday, Jan. 30.

The Wolverines are 3-10 on the season.

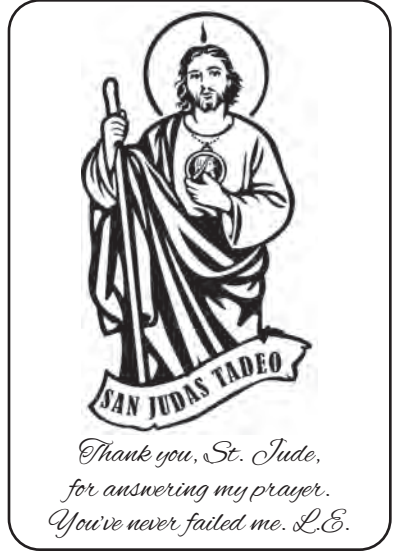
Action is set to begin at 5:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, the Lady Pirates will head to La Jara to take on the 3A Centauri Falcons, who sit at No. 5 and own a 10-3 record.

Tip-off is set for 2:30 p.m.

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

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Outdoors

Colorado Parks and Wildlife launches public engagement for new Firearms Safety Program ahead of Aug. 1 implementation

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is beginning statewide public engagement efforts to inform Coloradans about the new Firearms Safety Program required under Senate Bill 25-003 (SB25-003) and to gather public feedback ahead of the law's implementation on Aug. 1.

Signed into law on April 10, 2025, SB25-003 ensures that, beginning Aug. 1, individuals will complete a firearms safety course before purchasing or transferring certain specified semiautomatic firearms (SSFs), creating an educated and trained gun owner community, including in safety and storage.

CPW is responsible for implementing the training portions of the legislation; including developing course standards; maintaining eligibility records; and coordinating with county sheriffs, verified course instructors and licensed firearms dealers.

CPW has launched a dedicated webpage outlining legally required program requirements and timelines at cpw.state.co.us/specified-semiautomatic-firearms.

As the program is finalized, CPW will host a series of public and stakeholder meetings across the state through May. At these meetings, CPW staff will share information and address questions, and attendees will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

"These meetings are an important part of ensuring transparency and understanding as we implement

this new program," said CPW Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement Jim Hawkins. "We encourage members of the public and stakeholders to attend, ask questions and share input."

About the Firearms Safety Program

Starting Aug. 1, individuals seeking to purchase or transfer an SSF must successfully complete an in-person firearms safety course within five years before the transaction.

An SSF is defined as:

- A semiautomatic rifle or shotgun with a detachable magazine, or
- A gas-operated semiautomatic handgun with a detachable magazine.

The law does not affect individuals who already own an SSF, nor does it prohibit the use of these firearms in any way.

The requirement applies only to future purchases or transfers after the effective date. As outlined in SB25-003, the Department of Revenue, which permits firearms dealers in Colorado, will provide and maintain the list of SSFs. This list will be linked from CPW's website.

Most semiautomatic hunting shotguns and several other firearm types are exempt under the statute.

Individuals who have completed a CPW-certified hunter education course will be eligible for a shorter, four-hour basic course. Those without hunter education must complete a 12-hour extended course. All courses must be completed in person and will include a final exam requiring a minimum score of 90 percent.

CPW will not teach the courses, but will provide standardized course content to county-verified firearms instructors statewide.

Public and stakeholder meetings

CPW will host the following public meetings to share information and gather feedback:

- West Slope public meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 24 at the Cameo Shooting and Education Complex in Palisade.

- Southeast public meeting on March 11, with the time and location to be announced.

- Denver Metro public meeting in mid-April, with details to be announced.

- A virtual public meeting will be held at a date and time to be announced.

In addition, CPW will host targeted stakeholder meetings with county sheriffs, federal firearms licensed dealers and firearms safety instructors. A full schedule is available on CPW's website on the page listed above.

How to learn more

Members of the public can learn more about SB25-003, firearms safety course requirements and upcoming meetings by visiting CPW's website.

Questions about the Firearms Safety Program may be directed to dnr_cpw_firearmsafety@state.co.us.

Questions about public and stakeholder meetings may be directed to dnr_cpw_planning@state.co.us.

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By Josh Pike
Staff Writer

At a Jan. 12 meeting, the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD) Board of Directors approved a letter to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) in support of a request by the Town of Pagosa Springs for funding to stabilize banks and restore water features damaged by the October 2025 flooding.

The letter indicates that the funding will support stabilization of the banks downstream of the 6th Street pedestrian bridge, which were dam-

aged during the flooding, to prevent movement of the river channel and damage to nearby infrastructure.

It adds that the funding will also support excavation of sediment deposited during the flood in the "Donut hole" river feature near Pagosa Springs Town Hall, which will restore the feature's previous recreational and angling value and improve aquatic habitat and floodplain function.

Pagosa Springs is seeking Water Supply Reserve Funds from the CWCB, according to the application documents.

SJWCD president Candace Jones opened discussion of the letter by explaining the goals of the grant application to the board.

She added that the grant application, in her understanding, would have to be considered by the CWCB's Southwest Basin Roundtable prior to consideration by the CWCB.

The board then unanimously approved the letter of support with minor typographical changes suggested by SJWCD board member Rodney Proffitt.

The letter states, "The San Juan ■ See Grant A15

Public Notices



A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and particularly, to electors of the Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District of Archuleta County, State of Colorado.

Notice is hereby given that an election shall be conducted as a mail ballot election in accordance with all of the code. The Designated Election Official shall develop a Plan for conducting the mail ballot Election, which will be made available to the public. There shall be no election precinct or polling place. All mail ballots shall be returned to the designated Election Official's mailing address and be received no later than the 5th day of May 2026. At that time, 2 directors will be elected to serve 4-year terms. If an eligible elector of the Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District is interested in serving on the board of directors, a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form may be obtained on the districts website as follows:

AlphaRockridgeadistrict.com
The district Designated Election Official is Gary Lansdale. Self-nomination forms should be mailed to him at: P.O. Box 5673, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147. Telephone (505) 486-1437.
A Self-Nomination and Acceptance form that is not sufficient may be amended once at any time prior to Thursday, February 26, 2026. The deadline to submit a Self-Nomination and Acceptance form is Thursday, February 26, 2026. Affidavit of Intent to be a Write-In Candidate forms must be received in the mail of the designated election official by Thursday, February 26th, 2026. Alpha Rockridge Metropolitan District
Gary Lansdale, Designated Election Official
Published January 29, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (286256)

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS – TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2026

The Annual Member Meeting of RG BANK, a Savings and Loan Association (the "Bank") will be held Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at the **Monte Vista Chamber of Commerce**, 947 First Avenue, Monte Vista CO, 81144, at 4:00 p.m.
Business to come before the meeting: (i) Election of Directors for a 3-year term, (ii) Presentation of the Annual Report of the Bank, and (iii) Consideration of any other business that may come before the meeting.
The Bank's annual Disclosure Statements are available upon request by mail from RG BANK, P.O. Box 29, Monte Vista, CO or by telephone (719) 852-5933 directed to the Bank's President. The first copy of the annual disclosure statement shall be provided to a member at no charge.
Only Members of RG BANK, a Savings and Loan Association are permitted to attend the meeting. A notice of the meeting has been mailed to account holders.
The proxy committee for this meeting consists of Directors Danielle Anderson, Eric Kimberling, and James Clare, or their assigned appointees, should this become necessary.
/s/Shon R. Davis
President
RG BANK
Published January 29, 2026, *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (287018)

DISTRICT COURT, ARCHULETA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO CONSOLIDATED NOTICE
Case No.: 25DR53

In respect to the Child Custody of: Dawsyn Allen-Posiviata
Mark R Posiviata, Petitioner
and
Jennifer R Allen, Respondent
Action for Child Custody Alloc Parent Rsp
TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT: A copy of the petition and Summons may be obtained from the

Clerk of this Court during regular business hours. Default judgement may be entered against Respondent, if Respondent fails to appear or file a response within 35 days of publication or March 5, 2026
Clerk of the District Court
Archuleta County Courthouse
109 Harman Park Dr
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
Published January 29, February 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (287017)

FOR BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING ON FEBRUARY 17, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to CRS 30-28-116 that the Board of County Commissioners of Archuleta County, Colorado, will hold a public hearing to consider revising the County Land Use Regulations. The language proposed to be adopted is available for review at the County Development Services Department 970-264-1390 and on the County website.
The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the County Commissioner's Meeting Room at 398 Lewis Street, Pagosa Springs, Colorado and via Zoom Link, at which time all interested parties will be heard. Written comments may also be submitted to the Archuleta County Board of Commissioners, P.O. Box 1507, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, at or prior to said public hearing.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Subdivision: ASPEN SPRINGS SUB 6 Lot: 49 AS 6 Sec: 17 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W
Published January 29 and February 12, 2026, in *The Pagosa Springs SUN*. (287156)

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 in-

terests 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-PROP 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 HOLD-

ER 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: PAGOSA MEADOWS 4 Lot: 47 PM 4 Sec: 33 Twn: 35 Rng: 2W
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 337 ANTERO DRIVE, 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 rep-

resentative 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)

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)

PUBLIC NOTICES: YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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

Legal advertising Deadline: Friday noon*

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

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



SUN photo/Clayton Chaney

Looking down the backside of Step Bowl at Wolf Creek Ski Area, the Knife Ridge Outpost ski patrol building is seen in the foreground. Skiers and boarders enjoyed 13 inches of fresh snow from this last weekend's storm.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves Colorado's 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is pleased to announce that the 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) has been formally approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

With this approval, the plan will guide Colorado's efforts to conserve the state's most vulnerable species and the habitats they depend on for the next 10 years.

State wildlife action plans are required every 10 years to maintain

eligibility for federal funding through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. Approval of the 2025 SWAP ensures Colorado remains eligible for this critical funding while advancing a proactive, science-based framework for wildlife conservation statewide.

Developed by CPW in close collaboration with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program, partners and the public, the 2025 SWAP builds on previous plans by incorporating the latest data, conservation strategies

and stakeholder input.

The plan will be elevated across CPW programs and used as a "call to action" to support collective conservation efforts for species of greatest conservation need.

"The approval of Colorado's 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan is an important milestone for wildlife conservation in our state," said CPW Acting Director Laura Clellan. "This plan reflects years of scientific work, collaboration and public engagement, and it provides a clear roadmap for

protecting Colorado's biodiversity while helping ensure we remain eligible for vital federal conservation funding over the next decade."

"This approval represents the culmination of years of collaboration, science and public engagement," said SWAP Coordinator Kacie Miller. "The 2025 SWAP provides a clear, forward-looking framework that will help guide conservation decisions, leverage partnerships and track our progress over the next decade."

Core components of the 2025 SWAP, including species rankings, habitat information and supporting data, are publicly available through our new collection of digital resources found on CPW's State Wildlife Action Plan website, cpw.state.co.us/state-wildlife-action-plan.

Friends of Colorado Avalanche Information Center announces Observations Challenge

Friends of Colorado Avalanche Information Center

Friends of Colorado Avalanche Information Center has launched the annual Observations Challenge for the 2025-2026 winter season.

The community-based program encourages backcountry users across Colorado to submit avalanche, snowpack and weather observations to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC), helping CAIC forecasters to better understand avalanche conditions throughout the state. Participants are entered for a chance to win prizes throughout the season.

Across Colorado's mountains, CAIC forecasters publish daily avalanche reports covering approximately 28,000 square miles from November through May. However, forecasters can only cover a portion of that terrain each day, making public observations a critical piece of the forecasting process. Additional information from the field helps improve situational awareness as snowpack and weather conditions evolve.

"Public observations are essential

to our work," said Ethan Greene, director of the CAIC. "With just 30 field staff covering a massive and complex mountain environment, we depend on information from the backcountry community to help us see the full picture. We truly couldn't do this work without the support of our community."

Friends of CAIC, the 510(c)(3) nonprofit partner that supports CAIC's forecasting and education efforts, organizes the Observations Challenge to encourage public participation and awareness.

"Every backcountry day is a chance to learn something and build better habits," said Aaron Carlson, executive director of Friends of CAIC. "If you're paying attention to the snowpack and conditions and you submit a field report, you are doing two things: keeping yourself and your partners safer, and giving the rest of the backcountry community better information to make smarter decisions. This strengthens the avalanche forecasts and the entire backcountry community."

Community members do not need to be avalanche professionals or

experienced backcountry travelers to submit an observation. Simple, timely reports from the field can help inform forecasts, influence travel decisions and, in some cases, help prevent accidents.

The public is encouraged to watch for and submit observations related to:

- Avalanche activity.
- Cracking or collapsing of the snowpack.
- Snowpack structure and conditions.
- Heavy snowfall or rapid loading.
- Wind transport and drifting snow.
- Rapid warming.
- Red flags and changing conditions.
- Skiing or riding conditions.

Each month this season, one person who submits an observation will be selected to win gear and prizes. One grand prize winner will receive their choice of a pair of skis, a split-board, or a snowboard.

Learn more and submit observations at support.friendsofcaic.org/pages/observations.

Grant

■ Continued from A14

Water Conservancy District's mission to promote the beneficial use, conservation, and protection of water resources aligns closely

with the Town of Pagosa Springs' commitment to restoring the river corridor in a manner that supports both ecological health and community needs.

"We recognize the urgency of completing this work and view the proposed project as a critical component of a broader flood recovery and watershed resilience strategy."

Colorado Department of Transportation's updated 10-Year Plan available for public review

Colorado Department of Transportation

The Colorado Department of Transportation's (CDOT's) 10-Year Plan covering fiscal years 2027 to 2036 is now available for public review and comment.

This plan is CDOT's roadmap for prioritizing and investing in critical transportation projects across the state for the next decade.

Based on the long-term vision of

CDOT's 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan, this 10-Year Plan takes the long-range planning vision from the 2050 Statewide Transportation Plan and creates a strategic project pipeline that helps guide major infrastructure investments across the state with a clear, action-oriented investment strategy.

The projects listed in this 10-Year Plan were identified based on extensive public and stakeholder engage-

ment processes and are designed to help us meet CDOT's three policy directive goals to fix our roads, advance transportation safety and sustainably increase transportation choice.

The public comment period will run until Feb. 9. To review the draft of the 10-Year Plan and to provide comment, visit www.codot.gov/programs/yourtransportationpriorities/your-transportation-plan/10-year-vision.

Archuleta County Democrats hold film event

By Leslie Cole

Archuleta County Democratic Party

About 80 Pagosans crowded into the Liberty Theatre the afternoon of Jan. 19 to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

They watched a special matinee of the film "Selma" sponsored by the Archuleta County Democratic Party on the national holiday honoring the

civil rights icon.

The film, a 2015 Best Picture nominee, recounts the fight for voting rights in Alabama in 1965. The campaign there culminated in a march from Selma to Montgomery and prompted President Lyndon Johnson to push, and eventually sign, the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"Although that was more than 60 years ago, the message of those events

has never been more relevant," said Shawna Seed, chair of the Archuleta County Democrats. "Nonviolent resistance to injustice is powerful."

The Archuleta Democrats handed out several door prizes at the event, including gift cards to local businesses and a copy of the book "King: A Life," which won the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for biography. The book was signed by the author, Jonathan Eig.



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PREVIEW photo/Clayton Chaney

January 29, 2026

‘Why I love my library’ fundraiser to benefit library expansion

By Rob Hagberg
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library Foundation and Friends

February is the month when we celebrate the people and things that we love. Valentine’s Day is the pinnacle of that energy. This year our Ruby Sisson Library is leading the way with an opportunity for patrons and clients to express their love and support.

The library is encouraging users to express their feelings about the library by sharing them in the form of a heart with a typed or handwritten message telling “Why I love my library.”

Hearts are available for purchase by adults for \$5 for the 5-inch size, and \$4 for the 4-inch size. Children are

encouraged to participate for \$1 or for free if they certify that they have read five books during the month.

The hearts will be displayed on walls around the library during the month and, of course, the money will go toward the building fund, which is within striking distance of our end goal of \$5.1 million.

Participants can come to the library on Saturday to pay in person (cash or check) and create their heart(s) or visit <https://bit.ly/4bZKHmq> to purchase your heart and let us know what you want your heart to say.

This celebration of affection will run from Feb. 2 through Feb. 28.

Share the love and join us for this unique display of support for our Ruby Sisson Library.

Strengthening connection and trust: Healthy Archuleta to offer child-parent relationship therapy sessions

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta is committed to supporting families at every stage of life and building strong families through connection. Parenting young children can be deeply rewarding, but it can also bring moments of stress, uncertainty and overwhelm.

Big emotions, power struggles and challenges at home are common experiences for families, and Healthy Archuleta wants parents to know they are not alone.

Healthy Archuleta is offering virtual child-parent relationship therapy (CPRT), a supportive, play-based program designed for parents of young children, for ages 3 to 10. CPRT focuses on strengthening connection and trust between parents and children while helping parents learn practical, relationship-based skills to respond to challenging behavior with confidence and care.

Unlike traditional parenting pro-

grams that emphasize discipline or correction, CPRT centers on the parent-child relationship and uses play, a child’s natural language, as the foundation for understanding and connection.

Parents learn new skills in a small, judgment-free group led by trained, bilingual therapists, and practice those skills with their own child through guided “special playtime.” As parents build empathy and attunement, many families can experience reduced stress at home and stronger emotional bonds.

The CPRT group will meet for 10 weekly sessions, each lasting 90 minutes. Families will gather at a central location in Pagosa Springs and connect virtually via Zoom with bilingual therapists who facilitate the sessions, creating a supportive space for learning and reflection.

Child care will be available to help reduce barriers to participation.

Healthy Archuleta is currently gathering interest from families to

confirm scheduling and determine whether the first group will be offered in English or Spanish. Completing the interest form is not a commitment, but it is an important step in helping align family availability with therapist schedules so the program can begin as soon as possible.

Through programs like CPRT, Healthy Archuleta continues its work of strengthening families and fostering resilience across the community. By centering connection, understanding and support, the organization is helping families build relationships that last.

If you are interested, please complete the interest form at <https://forms.gle/BUDgr7J49nYY8GgV8>. For more information, please contact Healthy Archuleta at fsfearchuleta@gmail.com. Be sure to check out our website at <https://www.food-coalition4archuleta.org/> and follow us on social media for up-to-date information.

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Growers and Producers Forum highlights community-centered gardening models

Healthy Archuleta

Healthy Archuleta kicked off its 2026 Growers and Producers Forum with a virtual presentation from Guidestone Colorado, a Salida-based nonprofit that supports community farms and gardens through education, youth engagement and local food access.

Forum participants learned how Guidestone partners with schools, families and volunteers to create hands-on growing opportunities, from school gardens that supply cafeteria meals to summer programs, internships and community garden plots.

A key takeaway was the power of shared stewardship: families, students and residents actively care for garden spaces while gaining access to fresh food and practical growing skills.

Guidestone's experience operating community gardens on both public and private land highlighted strategies relevant to Archuleta County, including season extension through greenhouses and high tunnels, regenerative soil practices, and year-round adult education in food preservation and herbal remedies. Despite similar short growing seasons, its model shows how coordinated support and community participation can strengthen local food systems.

The discussion sparked ideas for advancing local efforts in Pagosa Springs, especially around community garden engagement, education

and long-term support structures that make growing food accessible and sustainable for more residents.

The Growers and Producers Forum meets bi-monthly from January through May, with sessions resuming in September. Upcoming topics and the April 2026 Food Summit are available at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

Healthy Archuleta thanks all who

attended and extends appreciation to Maytal Agasi of Guidestone Colorado for sharing practical insights and inspiration.

To learn more about Guidestone Colorado, visit guidestonecolorado.org.

Be sure to check our website for more information on upcoming gardening education events in 2026 at www.foodcoalition4archuleta.org.

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Mt. Allison Grange to host pancake supper and game night

By Larry Corman
Mt. Allison Grange

It's time for a cabin fever buster. Come join your neighbors on Friday, Feb. 6 for a pancake supper and game night at the Mt. Allison Grange Hall (2622 County Road 329, Ignacio).

Pancakes will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. and will also include eggs, sausage, and juice and coffee. Games will follow the dinner (or coincide a bit with the dinner).

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (6 to 10) and free for children under 6. Proceeds will go toward stabilizing the east side foundation of the Grange Hall.

For additional information, please contact Larry at (970) 749-8438 or Larry_Corman@hotmail.com.



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Ballantine Family Fund grant more than \$455,000 to nonprofits across Southwest Colorado in 2025

Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado

In 2025, the Ballantine Family Fund awarded \$455,110 — including six unsolicited Core Value grants — to 156 nonprofits in Southwest Colorado, which encompasses Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan counties.

Unsolicited Core Value grants went to nonprofits focusing on supporting Colorado 250/150 festivities as identified by the Ballantine Family Fund trustees. These grants included support for Animas Museum in Durango, Montezuma Heritage Museum in Cortez, Dolores County, Rico Historical Society, San Juan County Historical Society in Silverton, and San Juan Historical Society and Museum in Pagosa Springs as they commemorate our state’s milestone in 2026.

The average grant size for regular granting was \$2,917. Trustees award grants across a broad spectrum of sectors, including arts and culture, environment, animal protection, education, human services and youth.

“After nearly seven decades, our commitment to supporting the nonprofits of Southwest Colorado is unwavering,” said Richard Ballantine, of the Ballantine Family Fund’s board of trustees. “We appreciate our partnership with the Community Foundation which helps ensure our granting supports a healthy nonprofit sector for our whole region.”

Grants awarded by the Ballantine Family Fund in 2025 by sector include:

- Animal protection: \$16,000, representing 4 percent of giving totals.

Colorado DMV announces major digital upgrade

Colorado Department of Revenue

The Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is launching a major digital transformation in February, upgrading its driver’s license and motor vehicle technology system, including the public e-services platform, myDMV.

This initiative represents more than a system upgrade; it is a commitment to improving the customer experience. The upgrade will replace an outdated system with a modern platform designed to enhance how residents interact with the DMV regarding their driver and vehicle needs.

Once the new system is fully implemented, Colorado residents can expect a streamlined experience featuring more user-friendly online e-services and a secure, logged-in customer portal. This portal will allow residents to enroll in electronic communications, including courtesy vehicle renewal notifications, ensuring timely updates for important

deadlines.

- Arts and culture: \$101,900, representing 22 percent of giving totals.
- Education: \$85,710, representing 19 percent of giving totals.
- Environment: \$24,500, representing 5 percent of giving totals.
- Human services: \$149,000, representing 33 percent of giving totals.
- Youth: \$67,000, representing 15 percent of giving totals.
- Other: \$11,000, representing 2 percent of giving totals.

Trustees awarded grants across all five counties encompassing Southwest Colorado, as well as organizations that support the region and are located elsewhere.

Grants awarded by the Ballantine Family Fund in 2025 by county include:

- Archuleta: \$63,150, representing 14 percent of giving totals.
- Dolores: \$16,000, representing 3 percent of giving totals.
- La Plata: \$225,460, representing 50 percent of giving totals.
- Montezuma: \$97,000, representing 21 percent of giving totals.
- San Juan: \$18,500, representing 4 percent of giving totals.
- Other: \$35,000, representing 8 percent of giving totals.

“The Community Foundation is uniquely positioned to provide grant management services to the Ballantine Family Fund trustees,” said Briggren Wrinkle, grant manager for the Ballantine Family Fund and executive director of the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado. “Our work with nonprofits and boards as well as our grant making for

the region provide us with the expertise needed to be a trusted advisor.”

Trustees meet quarterly to review and award grants. A full listing of Ballantine Family Fund grant recipients can be found at BallantineFamilyFund.com. To apply for funding, nonprofits in Southwest Colorado may submit grant applications online at the same web address.

The Ballantine Family Fund was established in 1957 by Morley C. Ballantine and Arthur A. Ballantine Jr. for the purpose of providing financial assistance to nonprofit causes that benefit the human condition in Southwest Colorado. For more information, visit the fund’s website.

The Community Foundation acts as grant managers for the Ballantine Family Fund providing knowledge in nonprofit management and financial review. The Ballantine trustees make independent decisions in granting allocations and funding priorities.

In 2024, the Community Foundation facilitated \$5.2 million in grants to Southwest Colorado nonprofits. Learn more about the Community Foundation’s work at SWCommunityFoundation.org.

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Corrinne Johnson, PA-C



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Salvation Army reflects on 2025 holiday season

By Neil Umali
Salvation Army of Archuleta County

As we reflect on the 2025 holiday season, the Salvation Army of Archuleta County is filled with gratitude for the generosity, compassion and faithfulness of the Pagosa Springs community.

This year's bell ringing campaign was a powerful testimony of what happens when faith is lived out through love and service.

Throughout the season, the sound of bells rang outside City Market as volunteers stood faithfully, often

in the cold, offering hope, joy and kindness to all who passed by. Their presence reflected the heart of our community and the calling of scripture: "Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." — 1 John 3:18.

This campaign was never just about collecting donations. It was about being the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus Christ and caring for our neighbors in meaningful and practical ways.

How your generosity served Archuleta County

Ninety percent of all donations collected through bell ringing stayed directly in Pagosa Springs to support local individuals, families and partner organizations. The remaining 10 percent was invested through the Colorado Salvation Army district to support efforts that still directly affect Archuleta County, including human trafficking intervention and emergency assistance during wildfire

evacuations and disaster response. Because of this structure, 100 percent of every dollar given ultimately affected Archuleta County, either through direct local aid or through regional resources that serve our county in times of crisis.

Your generosity supported life-changing work through programs such as:

- Rotary Club's Feed the Children Backpack Program, helping ensure children have food on weekends and school breaks.
- Aspire's Diapers and Wipes Initiative, providing essential supplies for families with infants.
- Rise Above Violence, offering emergency housing and support for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.
- Pagosa Outreach Connection, assisting families with rent, utilities and transportation.
- Vets for Vets, supporting local veterans with emergency housing

■ See Holiday on next page

DMV

■ continued from previous page

offices after 3 p.m. All other DMV online services and CO MV Express kiosks transactions will be unavailable after 7 p.m.

• Feb. 16: The system upgrade is complete.

• Feb. 17: DMV online services and CO MV Express kiosk transactions re-launch. Scheduled appointments not available at state DMV offices.

This brief adjustment period is essential for the agency to roll out and verify that the new systems are functioning correctly.

Residents planning to visit a county location are encouraged to check their local county clerk and recorder websites, as each county will manage its own post-upgrade office availability schedule.

The DMV encourages customers to complete driver and vehicle transactions early to avoid delays. Residents are urged to handle outstanding tasks — such as renewing vehicle registrations or driver's licenses — online now at mydmv.colorado.gov.

For those requiring an in-person visit to a state driver's license office, appointments should be made via the DMV's appointment scheduler.

The DMV appreciates the community's patience during this brief transition as the agency prepares to deliver superior service for years to come.

To learn more about the upgrade, visit dmv.colorado.gov/mydmv.



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Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship announces February programming

Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

The Sunday services and programs at the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for February promise to bring people together to wonder, explore, learn and be inspired.

Our motto of “Make Friends, Do Good, Grow in Spirit” serves as a touchstone for what we aspire to.

We invite all to join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Along with the fellowship’s programming, we host a variety of community endeavors to build community and spiritual growth:

- Tara meditation group & dharma practice: Sundays at 4:30 to 6 p.m.
- Qi gong practice: Mondays at 1 p.m.
- Wise and Wakeful Circle: second and fourth Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Holiday

■ continued from previous page and fuel.

- Firewood Program, helping families stay warm during the winter.
- Pagosa Community Initiative, providing enriching after-school programs for local youth.
- Aspen House, supporting individuals with special needs through meals and training.

• Homelessness assistance, including hotel stays, shower vouchers, sleeping bags and transportation fuel. Each program represents real people and real stories — stories of hope restored, dignity protected and lives strengthened through compassion.

Salvation Army mission

The mission of the Salvation Army is rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We serve because He served us first, and we love because He loved us first. “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” — Mark 10:45.

Every bell rung and every dollar given was a reflection of this truth. Through your generosity, the love of Christ was shared not only in words, but through action, mercy and care for those in need.

Gratitude for volunteers and partners

This season would not have been possible without the faithful volunteers, churches, organizations, families and individuals who gave their time to ring the bell and serve with joy. Your commitment was a powerful testimony of faith in action.

We are deeply grateful to City Market for its continued partnership and support. Its cooperation allows this mission to reach the heart of our community year after year.

To every donor, whether you gave

You can find us at the Greenbriar Plaza, 301 N. Pagosa Blvd. Unit B-15, on the north side facing the Pagosa Peak. We also offer Zoom services the first and third Sundays of the month. Find our current newsletter at PagosaUU.org for the link to join on Zoom and further information.

The following is our February schedule of services:

- Feb. 1, 10:30 a.m.: Sunday service, “Honoring Imbolc.”

Imbolc is a pagan holiday that falls halfway between the winter solstice (yule) and the spring equinox (ostara). Celebrated on Feb. 1, it recognizes that the earth is awakening despite being the middle of winter. It also honors the Goddess Brigit and her many attributes. Imbolc celebrates pregnancy, birth, fertility and creative female energy. It is a time to plant our seeds of intentions for the

coming year. Join us as lay minister Michael Demchak reviews the history, traditions and spiritual meaning of this sabbat.

Demchak was raised with a Unitarian Universalist background for most of his childhood in Connecticut. After moving to Denver with his family in 1976, he attended the Mile High Church of Religious Science. In 2007, he became active in a pagan meetup group, which grew into the Living Earth Church through his leadership and where he co-created many circles as a pagan priest. Demchak now serves the Pagosa Unitarian Universalist Fellowship as chairperson of the Sunday Service Team, president of the Steering Committee and a lay minister.

- Feb 8, 10:30 a.m. to noon: Going Deeper Sharing Circle.

We continue our series from the ■ See Unitarian on next page

spare change, a generous gift or a word of encouragement, thank you. Your generosity mattered, and your giving made a real difference close to home.

Celebrating the heart of Pagosa Springs

The 2025 bell ringing season once again revealed the heart of Pagosa Springs, a community that responds with compassion, faith and unity. When needs arise, this town steps forward with love.

Your generosity did more than meet immediate needs. It shared

the hope of Christ, strengthened our county and reminded many that they are not alone.

Looking ahead with hope

As we celebrate this season, we look ahead with hope and gratitude. We invite you to continue partnering with us through prayer, service and generosity as we serve Archuleta County together.

Through faith in Jesus Christ and love for our neighbors, we will continue to stand in the gap for those in need.

We look forward to seeing you next holiday season at the red kettle.



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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, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m.

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 Living Center is a 501(c)(3). We are an all-inclusive community honoring all lifestyles, cultures and religious paths to the Divine. We are the "Good Vibe Tribe" who practices Science of Mind principles of positive thinking.

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.

San Juan Stargazers cancel February meeting

By Joan Mieritz

San Juan Stargazers

The San Juan Stargazers will not be meeting on Feb. 5 because of the

concerning statics relating to flu in Colorado and the U.S.

Stay home and read your favorite astronomy book. We'll try again on March 5.

Unitarian

■ continued from previous page

"On Being" podcast, and our teacher is the extraordinary Joy Harjo, a musician, a visual artist, a member of the Muscogee Creek Nation and former poet laureate of the United States. We gather in a place of reflection and sharing as we practice the art of listening with others as we explore a muscular hope, which is so needed these days.

- Feb 15, 10:30 a.m.: Sunday Service, "An Attitude of Gratitude" with a visiting minister, the Rev. Jenny Amstutz.

Gratitude is a life-giving practice that can help us sustain joy in difficult times. Join us as we explore the spiritual practice of giving thanks.

- Feb 22, 10:30 a.m.: Action Sunday.

Join us the fourth Sunday to continue the UUA Common Read Book — "Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection" by Deepa Iyer.

For more information about Common Read Book, visit www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/read/social-change-now.

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240 Glade Drive • \$1,055,000

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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://pspaxeltree.com/33-Fawn-Ct>



1001 Soaring Eagle Court
\$899,000

MLS #822945

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

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

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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://pspaxeltree.com/1231-Ranchland-Dr>



\$20,000 in Buyer Concessions

Price Reduced

109 Carol's Curves
\$230,000

MLS #824583

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

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

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Preview Calendar

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

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.** 4-6 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.
- 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.

Happy New Year!

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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.

Monday, Feb. 2

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

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

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, Feb. 3
- Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County.** 9 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.
- 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.
- Bridge.** 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
- English as a Second Language.** 3-5 p.m., St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. Your library offers English as a second language classes. These classes
- See Calendar on next page

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March 7, 2026

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email: secretary@archuletarepublicans.org
call: 970-403-5105

Paid for by Archuleta County Republican Central Committee

Caucus Info Here:

Preview Calendar

■ continued from previous page

are free. Call (970) 264-2209 or email for more information.

Tween Baddie Buddies Book Club.

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

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' Basketball.

5:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Del Norte.

Men's Fellowship.

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

Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball.

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Del Norte.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

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 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>.

Thursday, Feb. 5

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. 4-6 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.

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, Feb. 6

Good News Club. 1:15-3:15 p.m.,
■ See Calendar on next page

Pray for snow!



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Preview Calendar

■ **continued from previous page**
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>.
Paws to Read. 2-3 p.m., Sisson Library. Read to Maple, the therapy dog who loves stories.

Saturday, Feb. 7
LEGO Play. 11 a.m.-noon, Sisson Library. For kids 6-11 years old. Bring your own or use the library's LEGOs to free build. Contact the library at (970) 264-2209 for further information.

Pagosa Springs Varsity Girls' Basketball. 2:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.
Pagosa Springs Varsity Boys' Basketball. 4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Pagosa versus Ignacio.

Monday, Feb. 9
Women's Fellowship. 9-11 a.m., Pope John Paul II Catholic Church classrooms, 353 S. Pagosa Blvd.
Line Dancing. 9:30-11 a.m., PLPOA Clubhouse, 230 Port Ave. Beginners meet at 9:30 a.m. and the advance group meets at 10:15 a.m. If you haven't attended before, please call Beverly at (970) 264-2064 for more information.
English as a Second Language. 10 a.m.-noon, 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.
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, Feb. 10
Coffee and Kiddos Playgroup. 10-11 a.m., Aspire Medical Services and Education, 602 S. 8th St. For those with kids ages birth to 3 years old.
Pagosa Springs Stitchers. 10 a.m.-noon, Community United Methodist Church, 434 Lewis St. Bring your current stitching project and a snack/drink if you wish, and enjoy the fellowship of other stitchers. All are welcome.
Veterans for Veterans of Archuleta County. 10 a.m., Pagosa Bible Church, 209 Harman Park Drive. Veterans and family members are invited to share experiences with vets of all ages. Find out about the latest in vets benefits, vets news and community-focused events. Contact (970) 880-8387 for more details.
Bridge. 1:15 p.m., Senior Center.
Ruby's Book Club. 2-3 p.m., Archuleta
■ **See Calendar on next page**

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

- ACROSS**
- 1 Comedy routine
 - 5 Grouchy Muppet
 - 10 Greenish-blue
 - 14 Colombian crop
 - 15 Woodworking tool
 - 16 Stare flirtatiously
 - 17 Out of the blue
 - 19 Romances
 - 20 Jon Hamm series
 - 21 Adds to, in a way
 - 23 Rush order?
 - 25 Far from wordy
 - 26 Crude dwellings
 - 30 FBI folks
 - 33 Young billy
 - 34 Branch of dentistry
 - 36 One to worship
 - 38 Ewe's mate
 - 39 Smoker's puff
 - 40 Dependability
 - 45 One of the Gershwins
 - 46 Stereo knob
 - 47 Ancient Italian
 - 49 Bird feeder fill
 - 51 Turbaned Punjabi
 - 52 In bad shape
 - 55 Band tour toter
 - 59 What comes to mind
 - 60 Breathing aid
 - 62 Let off steam
 - 63 Pull strings?
 - 64 Sea eagle
 - 65 A chip, maybe
 - 66 That and that
 - 67 Places for props

- DOWN**
- 1 Pond crud
 - 2 Hawaiian coffee
 - 3 Tended to a sprain
 - 4 IRS worker
 - 5 Alfresco
 - 6 Utah airport initials
 - 7 "Black Bag" actress
 - 8 With regard to
 - 9 Lucille Ball, e.g.
 - 10 Charlie ____ of "Charlie's Angels"
 - 11 Self-absorbed
 - 12 Tissue additive
 - 13 More or ____
 - 18 Marinara alternative
 - 22 Jason's ship
 - 24 Dish in a lab
 - 26 Hula or hoop follower
 - 27 Playground quarry
 - 28 Young person
 - 29 Kind of oil
 - 31 Bejeweled headwear
 - 32 "Cosmos" creator

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20							21			22				
				23			24		25					
26	27	28					29		30				31	32
33				34				35						
36			37			38					39			
40				41	42				43	44		45		
46							47				48			
		49				50		51						
52	53						54		55			56	57	58
59					60			61						
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

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- 35 Strikes
- 37 Set free
- 41 Downwind
- 42 Canopy support
- 43 Ancient Greek ship
- 44 Territory of NW Canada
- 48 Humiliates
- 50 Extra sense
- 52 Prima donna
- 53 Tree of life locale
- 54 Newbie
- 56 Child's challenge
- 57 Say it ____ so
- 58 Barely gets by
- 61 Director Van Sant

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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



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Preview Calendar

- **continued from previous page**
- eta County Transit Center, 83 Harman Park Drive. Join to discuss “East of Eden” by John Steinbeck.
- English as a Second Language.** 3-5 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.
- 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, Feb. 11**
- 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.
- Legal Clinic.** 2-3:40 p.m., Sisson Library. Meet with a volunteer civil attorney via 20-minute phone appointments. Registration opens Feb. 2 and space is limited. Registration is required. Call (970) 264-2209. Space is limited.
- Elementary Tutoring.** 3:30-4:30 p.m., Pagosa Springs Elementary School, 141 S. 10th St. For grades 1-3. Elementary school children are tutored in reading and math. Registration required. Call (970) 264-2209 for more information. A Sisson Library program.
- Junior Youth Challenge.** 3:30-4:45 p.m., Pagosa Springs Middle School music room. A weekly club for kids in fifth and sixth grade where the Bible is taught with songs, stories, object lessons, games and more. To register, visit <https://cef-colorado-431831.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1006150>.
- Order of the Eastern Star Peace and Harmony Chapter #158.** 7 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 277 Lewis St. Call

Donna at (970) 946-8201 for more information.

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



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Veronica Medina

Running for Re-Election

Archuleta County Commissioner – District 3



A proven record of leadership.
A commitment to community.

Veronica Medina has built a strong record of community leadership and collaboration, staying actively involved at the local, regional and state levels to ensure Archuleta County has a voice where it matters most.

Her dedication to public service, conservative values, and community engagement has earned her recognition as Republican Woman of the Year 2025, by the Colorado Federation of Republican Women.

Veronica Medina is focused on:
Building strong community partnerships
Representing Archuleta County with integrity
Delivering experienced, principled leadership

Experience. Integrity. Community.

Re-Elect Veronica Medina
County Commissioner, District 3

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Paid for by Veronica Medina for Archuleta County Commissioner Committee

Local control. Low rates. Strong community.

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- ⚡ Stable rates
- ⚡ Stable leadership

This year, LPEA delivered **no rate increase** for our members. And my fellow **Board Directors**, representing every district, and political background, unanimously chose me as Board President to guide LPEA through this critical transition.

Together, we control our energy future.



Ballot mailed April 20 | Vote by May 19

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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 Woodhouse's scrub-jay.

This is one of the birds that adds a splash of blue to our compliment of winter birds. Its rounded, crestless head quickly distinguishes it from the black-crested Steller's jay, our other common blue-colored jay. The Woodhouse's is light blue and gray above, and has a whitish throat and gray belly. It has a long body and tail and a white strip above the eyes. Its gray and white markings separate it from the all-blue pinyon jay.

Of the four species of scrub-jays, the Woodhouse's is the one found in the interior western part of North America, occupying parts of Nevada, Utah, the western halves of Colorado and New Mexico and down into Mexico. They primarily inhabit pinyon-juniper and oak-pinyon forests like those found in the southern parts of Archuleta County, but they also venture into our higher pine-oak woodlands and yards.

Like other members of the Corvid family of birds, this scrub-jay is described as vocal, inquisitive and assertive. In summer it eats mostly insects and fruits, but switches to a vegetarian diet in fall and winter, which includes pine nuts, juniper berries and grass seeds. Its fairly thin, pointed bill is designed to extract seeds from the cones of ponderosa and pinyon pines.

To carry it through the winter months, a scrub-jay caches food in hundreds of hiding places within its territory by poking shallow holes in the ground and covering the seed with dirt and leaves. One bird may store up to 6,000 pinyon seeds in a season. The jay is secretive when hiding food, first looking around to see if anyone is watching and moving its store to another spot if it is observed.

At seed feeders, scrub-jays toss anything but sunflower seeds in good condition to the ground. Turkeys come running to grab what is discarded when a scrub jay lands to stuff its mouth full of food to bury.

These birds are important agents of seed dispersal for trees whose seeds are too heavy to be carried by the wind.

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

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EQUAL HOUSING
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

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

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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The Pagosa SpringsSUN

Humble beginnings for the Ruby Sisson Library

By Barbara Brattin
PREVIEW Columnist

Have you ever wondered why your public library is called the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library? Our legal name is actually Upper San Juan Library District, and we are an independent special district library that serves all of Archuleta County. So, what is this Ruby Sisson name all about?

The library is named for Ruby Murel Cales Sisson — an educator, philanthropist and rancher who, through her will, donated trust funds to the library and Methodist Church.

Sisson taught school locally from 1929-1978, with the exception of one year during World War II. From 1936-1948 she alternated between teaching at the Blanco Basin school, a one-room schoolhouse where she taught all eight grades, and Pagosa Springs High School, where she taught math. The first school in Blanco Basin was held in a chicken coop at the Sisson ranch in 1905.

Sisson's trust funds helped build the current public library in Pagosa Springs, and also provided for high school scholarships.

The collections for that first library came from an attorney, Frank Spickard, who made his personal library available to the members of a young ladies' literary club, and a wealthy benefactor in New York whose estate donated 48 books. The library opened in February of 1907 in the basement of the Methodist Church.

Initially volunteers ran the library.

Library News

The Pagosa Springs Civic Club took over operations in February of 1910, when the collection numbered 202 books. Between 1910 and 1960, the library resided in a church, a log cabin and the old town hall.

In 1960, the library moved into two small rooms in the new town hall that had been built at the corner of U.S. 160 and Lewis Street (now the location of Bell Tower Park). When Archuleta County took over the library in 1966, it became possible to hire a full-time librarian. The Upper San Juan Library District was formed in 1985 to give the library a stable funding base.

The library opened in its current location at U.S. 160 and 8th Street in February of 1989 after the Pagosa Springs Women's Civic Club and the Friends of the Library raised more than \$700,000 for a permanent building. Since then, the library has been expanded twice.

A 2026 expansion adds a large community room, a new children's room with adjoining garden, and a dedicated teen room and maker-space.

For more history, don't miss this short video from Bob and Livia Lynch with expertise from Spence Scott about Ruby Sisson and the library's

■ See Library on next page

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Library

■ **continued from previous page**
humble beginnings: www.pagosalibrary.org/our-history.

Library to be closed Feb. 5 for training

The library will be closed Feb. 5 for an all-staff training day.

GED by appointment only

As we gear up for the grand opening of our new library space, we're taking a break from regular GED hours. If you are working toward your general education degree or a high school equivalency exam, or if you could use a tutoring session to help you with your educational goals, give the library a call at (970) 264-2209 and we'll connect you with our instructor.

Construction update

Electrical, plumbing and mechanical elements of the building are roughed in and exterior window installation is underway. You'll see exterior doors by the first week in February and drywall will begin right after the insulation is completed. 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 understanding 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, 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.

■ **See Library on next page**



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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.
Offer not available for color ads or political ads. Limited to the first 10 advertisers.

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Archuleta Seniors Inc. holds inaugural Pagosa Puzzle Palooza

By Crystal Gillich
PREVIEW Columnist

Our inaugural Pagosa Puzzle Palooza was a high-energy, community-spirited fundraising event that brought together friends, families and neighbors, some all the way from Durango, in support of Archuleta Seniors Inc. (ASI).

Teams competed to complete a timed jigsaw puzzle challenge while also raising funds through team sponsorships, proving that teamwork and generosity go hand in hand.

Twelve teams consisting of a total of 46 competitors were welcomed with pizza, and a table full of award

Senior News

puzzles stood waiting for the winners of this competition.

Competition to complete identical 500-piece puzzles in under three hours was fierce and fun.

First place was claimed by team Thinking Outside the Box, finishing with an incredible time of 47 minutes and 20 seconds. In true small-town fashion, this team came together

when two separate two-person teams were paired, only to discover they had met before. You've got to love a small town.

Second place went to team Puz-

■ See Senior on page 17



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Library

■ continued from previous page

For details and to register, go to <https://library.org/pagosalibrary/upcoming>.

Conversational Spanish

The Conversational Spanish group continues on Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m. at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church at 225 S. Pagosa Blvd. This is a great opportunity to practice your Spanish in a free, friendly group setting. No minimum skill level is needed.

Ruby's Book Club

Join us for Ruby's Book Club from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, as we discuss "East of Eden" by John Steinbeck. Copies are available at your library.

This free book club for adults is held the second Tuesday of each month, alternating between fiction and nonfiction titles. Anyone is 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, resources and camaraderie with other writers at this free gathering.

During construction the group will meet at the Pagosa Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Enter through the left side of the building.

Tech Time

Free in-person slots are available from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Taylor helps with basic questions relating to computers, smartphones and tablets and also provides assistance in accessing the library's online resources. No appointment is needed, but please bring your device's charger and passwords with you.

English as a second language classes expand

Free in-person classes happen on Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and Thursdays, from 4 to 6 p.m. for students of all levels at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 225 S. Pagosa Street. Please help us pass the word about these classes.

New and notable

- Jamie Oliver's "Eat Yourself Healthy."
- "The Love Language That Matters Most" by Gary Chapman.
- "Mahjong for Dummies."
- "Design Thinking: A Guide to Innovation" by Fred Estes.
- "The Cortisol Reset Plan: The Complete Guide to Balancing Your Hormones, Reversing Weight Gain, and Restoring Nervous System Health."
- "Mayo Clinic Guide to Arthritis: Managing Joint Pain for an Active Life."
- "Wilderness Knits for the Great Outdoors."
- "Wild Basketry: Making Baskets and Natural Cordage From Foraged Plants."
- "The Anthropology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained."

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

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

WORDS

- ASSIST
- BACKBOARD
- BASELINE
- CLOCK
- COURT
- CROSSOVER
- DEFENSE
- DRIBBLE
- DUNK
- FOUL
- FREE THROW
- JUMP SHOT
- LAY-UP
- OFFENSE
- PIVOT
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- SUBSTITUTION
- THREE-POINTER
- TIMEOUT
- TIPOFF
- TRAVELING
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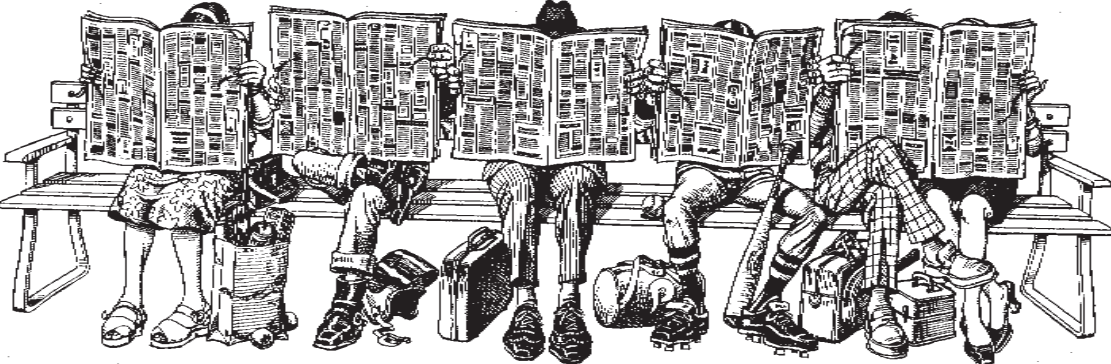
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Senior

■ continued from page 15

zled and Confused, who were anything but, completing their puzzle in 1 hour, six minutes and 45 seconds.

After a minor setback and a strong comeback, third place was awarded to team Edges First, finishing with a time of 1 hour, 10 minutes and 26 seconds.

Holiday closures

ASI will be closed Feb. 16 for Presidents Day. No meals or programs will be offered that day.

Senior Conversations

The very popular Senior Conversations with local Bill Salmansohn takes place on Mondays from 1:30 to 2:20 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The exception in February is the rescheduling of the gathering from Feb. 16 to Feb. 20, still at 1:15 p.m., due to the holiday.

Salmonsohn brings to the conversations a variety of topics designed to stimulate discussions within a safe and comfortable environment as we explore our well-being and shared experiences.

This is a unique opportunity to connect with others in the Archuleta community, fostering sharing and friendships.

Snacks will be provided.

Afterward, hosted by Robin Williams, stay for a get-together created for those who wish to continue the conversation. This opportunity is typically from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., following Senior Conversations. The group occasionally reconvenes as an informal gathering at various local restaurants.

Stretching and mobility weekly class

Community members are invited to attend free weekly classes every Tuesday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd., in the back of the Ross Aragon Community Center.

The stretching and mobility classes for adults age 55 or better are designed to help build balance in the body through functional exercises that aim to improve mobility and flexibility.

Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of techniques that can help enhance overall movement efficiency.

Though not necessary, a mat is recommended for this class.

The program is instructed by local ballet dance instructor Dee Pitchon, who will provide modifications to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the exercises.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a 19th century Chinese tile-based game that is commonly played with four players. Each player receives 13 tiles with a goal to make matching sets and pairs (like poker). To win, a player must form four sets and one pair.

Come to the Senior Center to learn or play every Tuesday at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge

The game of bridge is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:15 p.m.

Bridge is a four-player card game with partners sitting opposite each other around a table. It is a trick-taking card game using a standard 52-card deck. Come alone or bring a partner.

Hand and foot card game

Whether you are new to hand and foot or interested in learning, please join us most Tuesdays at 1:15 p.m. at the Senior Center.

This card game involves four rounds, with the final round reached sometime between two and three hours later. Plan to stay and meet some new friends or catch up with those you have missed.

No experience is necessary, so come willing to learn.

Emotional freedom

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

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

Mindful drawing

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

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

Join us for bingo on Feb. 13 and Feb. 27.

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.

■ See Senior on next page



Happy New Year!

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

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HOW TO SLEEP BETTER AND WAKE UP REFRESHED

Let's face it, there is very little difference between a sleep deprived adult and a sleep deprived baby: they are both cranky and miserable.

Sleep loss due to poor sleeping habits can be easily eradicated.

Sleep is natural, but some of us may have lost our instinct due to our artificial lifestyles and tendencies to overwork.

Today's research excerpt may help. A 2001 German study found that a medium-firm pillow significantly improved sleep (the firmest was of no advantage). Bottom line: A pillow should support your head, not bury it.

Pillows also frequently contribute to allergies that impair breathing. The source of allergens can be the filling (down allergies are common) or dust mites.

I highly recommend getting a non-allergenic foam pillow and a dust-mite-blocking protector. You should toss your pillow into the dryer every few months to kill dust mites and replace it every couple of years.

If you're in the market for a mattress, Consumer Reports found that people who spent 15 minutes testing a bed in the store—spending at least five minutes on each side, especially in their preferred sleeping position—were as satisfied as those who were allowed to take the beds home for a test sleep.

By exposing sleep-deprived people to specially designed full-spectrum lights (10,000 lux fluorescent bulbs) for 30 minutes in the early morning, scientists have helped them get to sleep earlier and stay asleep longer.

One theory is that regular exposure to such light in the morning triggers a more advantageous nighttime release of melatonin, the hormone that keeps your body clock on a regular schedule, ensuring that you feel sleepy in the evening and stay asleep through the night.

Source: "How to Sleep Better and Have More Energy." By Woodson Merrell.

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

"For I will satisfy the weary soul, and every languishing soul I will replenish." Jeremiah 31:25

A public service from your Adventist friends & neighbors at Pagosa Springs Seventh Day Adventist Church.
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Photo courtesy Archuleta Seniors Inc.
Team Thinking Outside the Box wins the inaugural Pagosa Puzzle Palooza. The team logged a time of 47 minutes and 20 seconds.

Senior

■ continued from previous page

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.

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.

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. 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.

Monday, Feb. 2 — Honey garlic shrimp, vegetable fried rice, sauteed snow peas, garden salad, fruit, yogurt and milk.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 — Mushroom and spinach Alfredo spaghetti, focaccia bread, garden salad, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 — BBQ country pork ribs, baked potatoes, macaroni salad, garden salad, apple crisp and milk.

Thursday, Feb. 5 — Chicken potato-leek soup, focaccia bread, roasted beet salad with walnuts and goat cheese, cookies, and milk.

Friday, Feb. 6 — Beef curry with rice, roasted cauliflower, garden salad, fruit, chai pudding and milk.

Text reservations

Don’t forget that we offer a convenient texting service for you to communicate with us. Text us at (970) 264-2167. When texting, please include your name, phone number and the days you want a meal. If you are canceling a reservation, please include your name, phone number and the days you want to cancel.

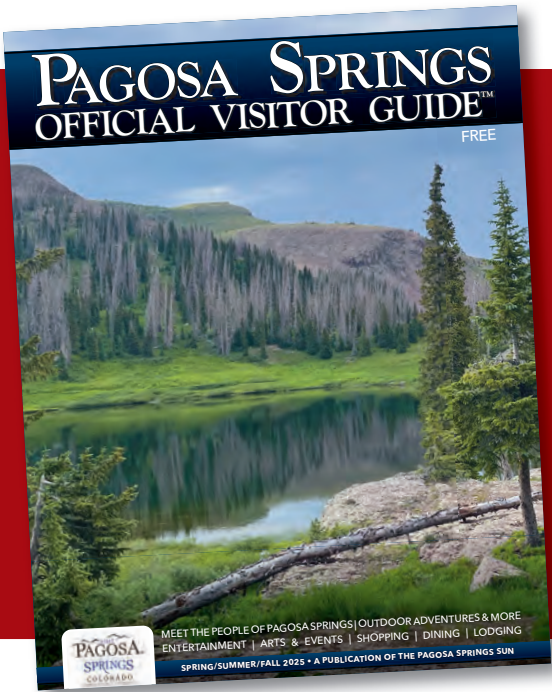
Mountain Express Transit senior paratransit services

Seniors over the age of 60 can be verified to receive services through discounted paratransit services, free bus rides and pick up at your home to bring you to the Senior Center for lunch. To become eligible, there is a form to complete.

Older adults needing a ride to a local food pantry can contact the Mountain Express Transit (MET) to schedule a ride with its paratransit service.

Call the Archuleta County MET at (970) 264-2250 for information.

■ See Senior on next page



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The guide will be mailed in one edition of The Pagosa Springs SUN to subscribers.

A digitally enhanced version of the guide will be online at PagosaSUN.com and ExplorePagosa.com. The Pagosa Area Tourism Board will provide a link to this guide on visitpagosasprings.com.

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You are not alone. 988 for help.

Senior

■ continued from previous page

Medicare assistance by appointment

For anyone who needs help enrolling and navigating Medicare plans, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging helps with parts A, B and D. They can also help you with fraud concerns and troubleshooting any billing issues you may be having. By appointment only. Please call the Medicare line at (970) 403-6759 for an appointment and where to meet.

Board vacancies

The ASI Board of Directors has positions open. Terms are three years with an option to renew for an additional term.

Potential candidates should be at least 21 years of age or older and must have a passion for adult and aging services.

Please stop by our offices at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. to pick up an application or call (970) 264-2167 for more information.

For more information about ASI, please visit www.psseniors.org.

Support the Senior Center

New, starting in 2026, small donations can be deducted without

itemizing your tax return. It is the Permanent Universal Charitable Deduction.

Here's what this means: For tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2025, those who do not itemize can deduct up to \$1,000 for individual tax filing and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly.

The goal of this provision is to

recognize and encourage charitable giving across all income levels, potentially boosting donations from middle-income households who may not itemize their deductions.

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

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Meet Diva! She is a 1 year old black cat full of love and playfulness! She's very friendly and loves people! Diva is good with other cats. Call the Humane Society at (970) 731-4771.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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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NEED HELP DECLUTTERING OR ORGANIZING? Help moving in, moving out, whatever's on your list. Marlene, (719)850-3055.

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(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

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Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

SERVICES

TANKLESS/ON DEMAND WATER HEATERS. Largest inventory in the area, including replacement parts. Same day Installation and service in most cases. We are the only certified company that extends the parts & labor warranty from 1 year to 5 years. VAIL WATER HEATERS & BOILERS, (760)835-1041.

WEST CO, CONSTRUCTION AND SERVICES. Services include but not limited to: siding, roofing, decks, fencing, windows, interior/ exterior renovation, custom mill work. Call (970)698-1362 to make your next idea a reality.

WINDOW CLEANING —RESIDENTIAL Bonded and insured. 25 yrs. experience **REFLECTIONS** Window Cleaning. (480)892-1999 -FREE estimates.

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HAPPY LIFE IV THERAPY hiring RNs, Paramedics. Mobile IV AND in -office. PRN flexible shifts. Competitive pay. Call /text (970)501-5051.

HOT SPRINGS HEALERS. Sessions in the hot springs, bodywork, massage, Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy — supports brain /nervous system, Qi gong, somatics — resolves trauma. (970)903-5309. (970)844-0645.

HELP WANTED

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE — We're looking for a reliable Dishwasher. Reliable, hard-working person wanted for dishwashing and basic kitchen help. Friendly, supportive team, steady hours, and a positive work environment. Please apply in person at 214 Pagosa St. Tuesday -Thursday, 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

ALLEY HOUSE GRILLE — We're looking for a skilled, reliable Line Cook to join our kitchen team. Candidates must be passionate about food, have the ability to stay calm and focused under pressure in a fast-paced kitchen environment. The ideal candidate must have a positive attitude, reliability, and willingness to learn. If this sounds like you, please apply in person at 214 Pagosa St. Tuesday -Thursday, 2 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

ARCHULETA SENIORS INC. is now accepting applicants for Sous Chef. Applicants must have prior food production experience, strong communication skills, and an ability to manage staff during food production. Position is full-time Monday -Friday, 7a.m. -3p.m. with Paid Time Off. Holiday pay and a health stipend after 90 days.

Email us at
classads@pagosasun.com
to submit your classified.
PagosaSUN.com

HELP WANTED

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**
an O'Rourke Media Group company

BAKER WANTED —ROOT HOUSE COFFEE + SHOP. Root House Coffee + Shop is looking for a baker to join our community-focused team. This role starts early mornings baking from scratch, filling the shop with the smell of fresh cinnamon rolls and stocking our pastry case with a selection of house-made treats. You'll have a hand in shaping what our guests enjoy each day while working in a supportive environment centered around great coffee, good food, and genuine connection. With tips, pay averages over \$20 per hour. Morning -shifts leave your afternoons free, and employees enjoy discounts on food, beverages, and retail. As a bonus, breaks can include a peaceful walk along the San Juan River, right in the heart of downtown Pagosa. If you love baking, early mornings, and being part of a close -knot team, we'd love to hear from you. Email resume to howdy@roothouseco.com and tell us a little about yourself.

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.

HELP WANTED



Hiring caregivers

Beehive Homes in Pagosa Springs is hiring caregivers for evenings 3pm-9pm Mon-Friday and 11am-7pm Sat & Sun. Starting wage \$16 per hour. Please call 970-731-3340.



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Bank of the San Juans is currently seeking a friendly and dependable **Teller / New Account Representative** to provide outstanding service to our customers while supporting a range of financial services.

Apply Today and join our team to be part of a trusted local institution that values both its employees and its community!

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DENTAL ASSISTANT wanted. We will train you. We work hard and make a great living serving our patients. We are blessed to have weekends and holidays off, beautiful facility, modern equipment, excellent pay, 401k, Get the satisfaction of helping people. E-mail resume to office@pagosasmiles.com.

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.



NOW HIRING DENTAL HYGIENE ASSISTANT

Pagosa Peak Family Dentistry is seeking a friendly, reliable Dental Hygiene Assistant. **Experience not required; willing to train the right candidate.** Competitive pay in a fun, supportive work environment.

Submit your resume—and your favorite ice cream—to [Hello@PagosaPeakFamilyDentistry.com](mailto>Hello@PagosaPeakFamilyDentistry.com) or stop by with your resume.

KITCHEN ASSISTANT. Entry level food preparation and packaging. Hours 8a.m. to 3p.m., part-time, no evenings or weekends. Paid Time Off and a Health Stipend after 90 days. Pick up an application in person at the Pagosa Springs Senior Center, 451 Hot Springs Blvd., 1p.m. -3p.m. weekdays. Or send your resume to cynthia@psseniors.org.

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.

NORTH PAGOSA MARATHON is hiring a full-time cashier nights and weekends. Competitive wages. Please apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

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 LIQUOR IS HIRING a full-time cashier. Please come and apply in person at 30 N. Pagosa Blvd.

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

PETS

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November - April

Full & Part-Time/Holiday Positions:

- Lift Department
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- Retail
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ALL POSITIONS OFFER SKIING PRIVILEGES
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Applications at
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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.
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Email resume to nylunddds@gmail.com

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You belong on the Archuleta School District Team!



Archuleta School District

strives to achieve
"Success for Every Student —
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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

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.

THE TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS is seeking to hire a **Court Clerk** in our Municipal Court Department. The individual selected for this position performs a variety of **complex clerical duties** designed to expedite the functions, actions, judgments, processes, and procedures associated with the Municipal Court. This is a full-time position with benefits. For more information on the position and to apply, go to the Town's website at www.pagosaprinings.co.gov and select Employment.

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.

ROOF LABORER NEEDED with some construction experience. Will train. \$20-\$25/ hour to start. (970)749-0830.

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.

GUARANTEED CREDIT APPROVAL! 4X4 Auto Sales, 21698 Hwy. 160 West, Durango. (970)385-7940.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS IN 2025! Four year-old profitable Side-by-Side rental business with extremely high reviews on Google. 1 to 8 Polaris Rzrs, LLC, website, reservation site, customer list, insured, bonded, licensed, maintenance and safety gear included. Better location than any of our competition. Operates May- Nov. Call or text Ryan (970)946-2409.

SMALL CRANE BUSINESS FOR SALE. National Crane truck, business, client list, and all attachments come with business. Inquire at (970)903-2381.

FOR SALE

DO YOU BURN FIREWOOD? I've got a Pine/Fir mix, split and delivered for \$300. Get a HUGE dump truck load for \$575. Contact FIRE&ICE at (970)582-0006.

DRY FIREWOOD- PINE. Pick up \$255 a cord. Delivery available. Call for prices. Bayfield. Gabe (970)403-2784.

FIREWOOD FOR SALE. Pine. Cut about 16" long, split. Delivered by longbed truckload. Call (970)946-4450.

FOR SALE. Kenmore gas cook stove, very clean; Kenmore upright freezer; Cabrio washer. Call (970)403-6356.

GUITAR: SANTA CRUZ D Pre-War Model. Excellent condition. Passive bridge -plate feather transducer installed by Bruce Allsop. \$4,800. Merry Christmas. (970)731-3117.

SELL OR TRADE YOUR GUNS. We buy for cash or trade it. No hassle. Licensed, bonded, insured. San Juan Trading Post, 635 San Juan St. (970)731-PAWN (7296).

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

TIMOTHY GRASS HAY. Barn stored, \$10 per bale. (970)903-3405.

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ESTATE SALE. Bundle up and come on out for a fabulous estate sale Saturday, January 31 -Sunday, February 1 from 10a.m. to 3p.m. So many treasures. 58 Island Place. See you there.

COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS FOR LEASE. 1501 W. Hwy 160 #1 and #2. (970)398-5290.

DOWNTOWN OFFICE Upstairs, \$325/ month including utilities, Internet and shared kitchen. No smokers. No pets. (970)946-2728.

LARGE COMMERCIAL -INDUSTRIAL LOTS in Cloman Park- 1.12 and 1.27 acre lots zoned industrial. Ideal for contractors, storage, etc. Utilities located in the street. Tenant to verify end use with Archuleta County. Call Team Pagosa (970)731-8599.

PAGOSA VALLEY PROPERTIES: Offering "Aspen Plaza ProSuites" These are Professional Office Suites available for Long Term rental from 135 SF to 205 SF, priced from \$465-\$669/ month. Also, Large Conference/ Event Room Available. Call (970)889-2022 for more information.

PRIME RETAIL SPACE available January 31. 620 sq. ft. \$1,325 per mo. 1st and last month plus \$1,000 deposit. Must pass background check, no smoking, no pets. 190 Talisman Dr. C-1 Call (970)903-3942.

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.

PagosaSUN.com

(970) 264-2100

Classifieds

(970) 264-2100

Office Hours: Monday — Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. - noon

Classified Deadline: Tuesday 10 a.m.

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

"We owned a condominium in the Pagosa Springs area which was a rental property. For many years the firm provided property management services for us and we always found them to be very professional and responsive. If you are in need of a competent, professional property management firm or realtor, we would strongly recommend them."

Michael Gamba



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Largest Local Property Management Co.



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Property Owners Served
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FULL LT TENANT SCREENING
NATIONWIDE ADVERTISING
ON CALL 24 HR 7 DAYS



COMMERCIAL FOR RENT

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.

VACATION RENTALS

OWNERS, WE ARE BOOKED UP AND NEED MORE VACATION RENTAL PROPERTIES! Call us today for lowest commission and highest customer service. All you have to do is wait for your rent check to come in. We do the rest! Rocky Mountain Realty & Rentals (970)507-1192.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

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.

3 BEDROOM, 1-1/2 BATH renovated double-wide mobile home. 1,440 sq. ft. covered porch, no smoking, will consider pets. Washer /dryer, covered parking for 2 vehicles, storage, quiet country setting 10 minutes from town. Newly finished office space with Internet available. \$1,400 per month, deposit, available mid February. (970)264-6779. Please leave a message.

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.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

DOWNTOWN UNITS FOR RENT. New 3 bedroom, 2 bath unit. Granite countertops, all appliances and utilities included. Porch and patio. \$2000/ month. (318)347-6100.

EXCELLENT DOWNTOWN LOCATION, 1 bedroom /1 bath, 1,138 sq. ft., loft and separate building. See photos and complete description on Zillow.com 220 Hermosa St. (970)507-0791.

GREAT VIEWS OF CHIMNEY ROCK NATIONAL MONUMENT. Any large mobile home with all hookups for long-term lease. \$780 per month plus utilities, (970)883-2600.

LONG TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE. 2 bedroom, 2-1/4 bath plus loft, with large unfenced backyard. Bright and sunny. Max 2 pets allowed with non-refundable pet deposits. Must have good references and provide proof of steady income plus copy of good credit report. Close to rec center. \$2,250 per month plus utilities. Call (970)946-0930.

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.

ON BEAUTIFUL PAGOSA LAKE: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished upstairs unit. No garage. \$1,600 per month, plus utilities and deposit. No pets and no smoking. Available February 5. Long term lease. (817)565-7656.

RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

SHERPA REAL ESTATE is now managing long-term rentals. Clear communication from a name you already trust. Ready to rent your home? Call now to get started (970)444-2570. Visit our website <https://www.sherparealestate.com/rentals> or stop by one of our two locations.

UNFURNISHED 2 BEDROOM 2 bath and loft area condo 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.

COMMERCIAL

DO NOT SETTLE For A Dream. Live reality today! South Fork-cabins, lodge, & RV resort. 4 parcels -4.29 acres. City sewer, 2 wells. Highway 160 & 149 exposure. Wolf Creek Ski convenience. 17 cabins, 33 RV spaces, 10 single level rooms motel, 4 apartments, leased 1,200 square feet retail building, recreation building (kitchen and 2 restrooms), Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

HOMES FOR SALE

NEED HELP FINDING AND BUYING A HOME? Explore your options. Call Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Local financing manufactured homes: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths \$200s. 2 baths, 2 bedrooms \$100s. On and off grid cabins on 1+ acres with water and septic \$100s. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

HOMES FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Buying or Selling?



Call Marcie Lewis
(970) 759-8672



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LAND/ BUILDING SITES

BARGAIN GET-AWAY PARCELS. NO HOA. OFF GRID RVing parcels: 2.5+ acres (Waynes) \$30s. 1+ acres (Rock Point) 30s. 3.94 acres (Crooked) \$29,000. Seller finance 6+ acres, 4 parcels, build tiny homes (Crooked) - \$70s. Electric available: 1 -acre, storage tack-barn (Hurt) \$60,000. 1.43 -acres, backs ranch, mountain views (Alcazar) \$50s. 2 -acres, 2 lots, backs creek (Highway 160) \$50s. Wen Saunders, Land Specialist (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

BUY NOW —BEFORE PRICES INCREASE.

1/4 acre city water /sewer, electric, and rec center available: (Paradise), (Fireside) (\$40s), lake (\$30s), (Caddy) on golf course (\$50s). National Forest access, city water: 3.63 wooded acres (Monterosa) (\$200s), +1/2 acre with guest house use (Clint) (\$80,000) Interested in selling your land? Call Wen Saunders (970)903-0038. Keller Williams Realty Southwest Associates.

MOUNTAIN VIEWS, MEADOWS. Unique high elevation and complete privacy. 5.6 acres bordering national forest, (970)769-3588 blancoretreat@gmail.com. \$450K.

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