PAGOSA SPRINGS OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

DINING & LODGING DIRECTORIES

MEET THE PEOPLE

OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

THE ARTS & EVENTS

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES & MORE!















Diane

Brent

Juli Lindy

LIVE THE PAGOSA LIFESTYLE





erhaps you are looking for a ranch property, a hunting cabin, ski retreat or townhome on the river. Or maybe you'd just like to gather some information about SW Colorado.

That's where we come in. The area's leading team of brokers since 2006, we know this region. We live here, we play here - and we are dedicated to working with you every step of the way.



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Based on PSAAR MLS Data Of Total Volume Sold From January, 2006 - March, 2013. In Cooperation With Other Brokers.

A TASTE OF OUR FEATURED LISTINGS



LUXURY MOUNTAIN ESTATE

Bordering Ntl. Forest, this exquisite hand hewn full round log home offers magnificent finishes with a separate log Guest Home and Shop and extensive landscaping. Too many amenities to list here - a MUST-SEE. \$2,750,000. (678711)



THE MCNULTY RANCH

This 158.54 acre Ranch borders National Forest with a 2,805 sf full round log home, 1,319 sf caretakers home, 2 ponds, 4,440 sf 9-stall barn, riding arena, cross-fencing, 6.875 shares of water rights! Magnificent Views. \$2,650,000. (686003)



MAJESTIC TIMBER RIDGE

Exquisite 5,962 sf home on 3 acres with floor-to-ceiling windows, magnificent views, gourmet kitchen, massive ledgestone fire-place, outdoor entertainment area and much more. Desirable Timber Ridge area close to town. \$1,690,000. (679749)



PERFECT HORSE PROPERTY

This one has it all! Situated on 36+ acres and bordering Ntl. Forest, this custom log home offers big mountain views, a Creek, Pond, water rights and a separate garage/apartment. Partially fenced for horses. \$895,000, (687074)



35-ACRE MOUNTAIN RETREAT

REDUCED \$100,000! A tremendous value, this gorgeous home with views and 1/2 mile bordering Ntl. Forest offers 4300 sf of beautiful interiors with 4 Bedrooms, 3.75 Bath and 1500 sf heated 3 car garage. \$879,000. (676120)



SAWMILL CIRCLE JEWEL

Nestled on 4.5 acres, this custom home has incredible mountain views. With 5 bedrooms, the home offers a a spacious mother-in-law Suite above the oversized garage with Kitchen & Bath and a detached workshop. \$650,000. (686588)



RANCH COMMUNITY ESTATE

Set on 1.5 acres overlooking mountain, lake and Golf Course views, this custom 5 bedroom home offers an open floor plan, beautiful amenities and an 800 sf finished Garage. Community offers 160 acres of Open Space. \$599,000, (682231)



NAVAJO RIVER RANCH HOME

Custom full round log home on 37.54 acres with exquisite mountain views from every window! Gated commuity with private fishing access. National Forest access across the street for unlimited outdoor activities. REDUCED! \$779,000. (664914)



LOG HOME ON 5 ACRES

With breathtaking mountain views of Pagosa Peak and the Continental Divide, this 3,473 sf home with 5 Bedrooms & 3 Baths was built by Whisper Creek Log Homes. Fenced and cross-fenced for horses. \$570,000. (689527)



HILLTOP ESCAPE

Beautiful 2,230 sf home nestled on the hill with lots of light and gorgeous views of Navajo Peak and surrounding mountains. 1,200 sf detached shop with (2) 10' overhead doors. Gated community, private Hot Springs access. \$375,000. (682849)



GREAT WEST HIDEAWAY

2,154 sf 3 bedroom home on 3 acres with nice mountain views, spacious floor plan with nicely sized Kitchen and Dining. This home features plenty of natural light and a walk-in closet in the Master Bedroom. \$249,000, (683346)

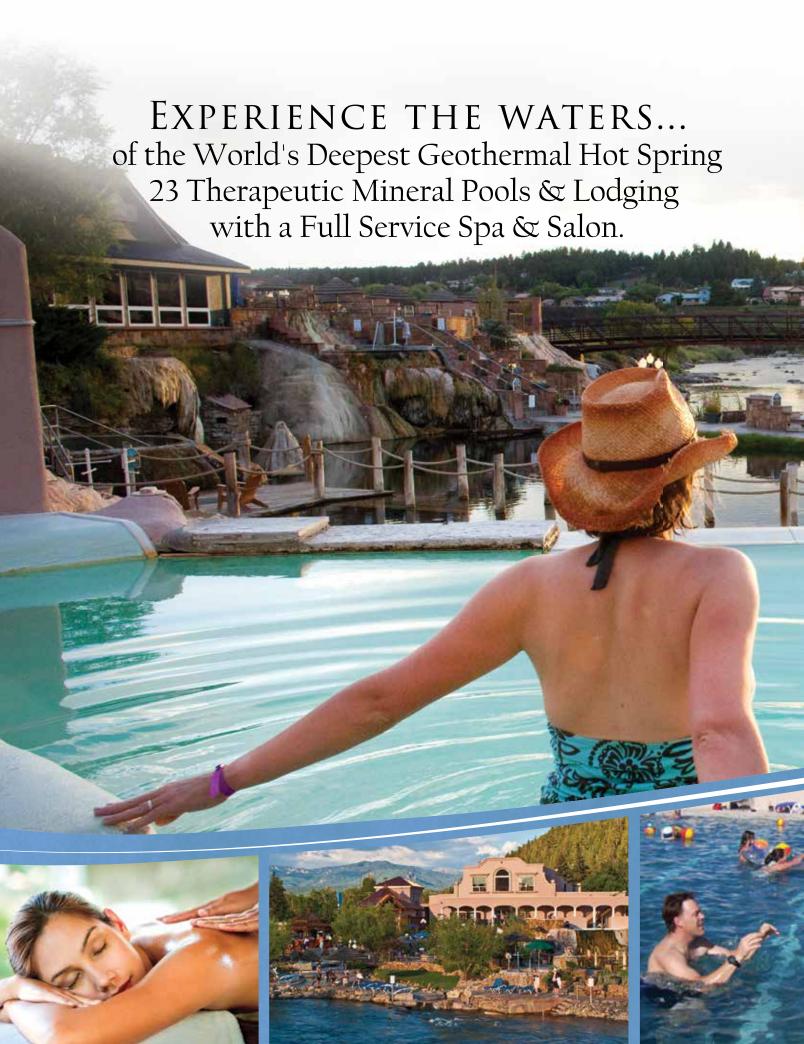


LAKE HATCHER TOWNHOME

Completely remodeled 3 bed/2 bath town home overlooking Lake Hatcher. Slate floors, tile counters, designer paint. Extra windows and privacy. Very close to National Forest hiking, bike trails, snowmobiling and fishing. \$127,900. (689549)

















Meet Pagosa's People

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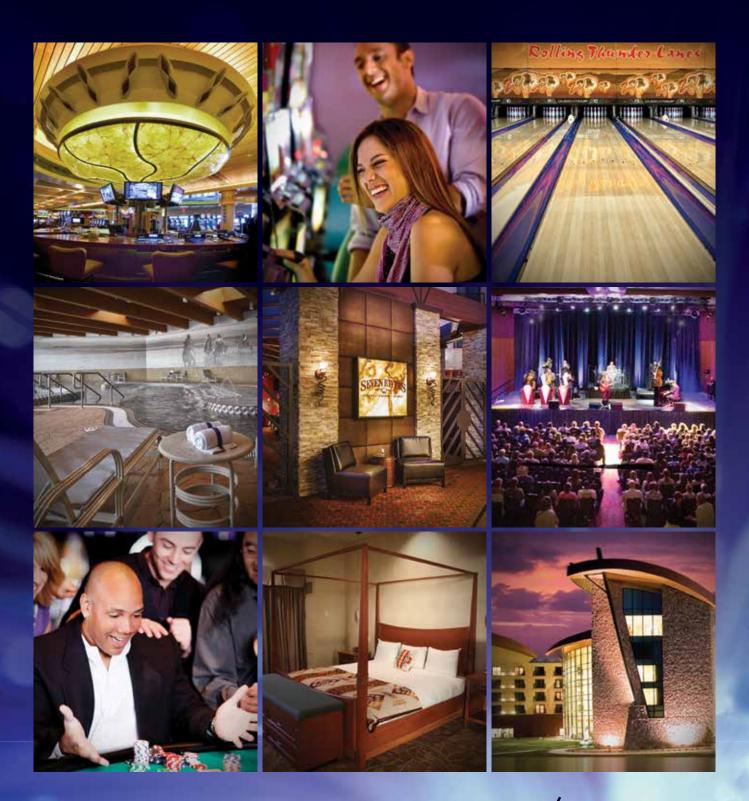
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NEVER A DULL MOMENT 24/7



Owned & operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe



360 degree views, a view from every room of this 4200+sf home on 35 acres. Very private hilltop location yet only minutes from downtown Pagosa Springs. 3 fireplaces, huge game room, court-yard off master suite, implement barn, huge decks and patios, stunning, stunning views. \$1,950,000



7800+ sf, 5 bedroom, 3.5 baths on 40 acres just minutes from town. Huge views, access to Echo Canyon Reservoir. Two master suites, extremely private, great for large gatherings. Gated private community with limited availability. \$995,000



Located along the San Juan River, walking distance to the Pagosa Hot Springs and all downtown restaurants and shops. Balconies, views, hand-hewn timbers and fireplaces. 1-3 bdrm units. Priced from \$219,000



Stunning 360° views, top of the knoll location, 8,278 square foot log home, 47+ acres, 23x40 master suite w/ fireplace, guest apartment, barn & workshop, home theater, \$181/sf, best value in Pagosa Springs. \$1,499,000



Five acres with large ponderosa pines, close access to the San Juan National Forest, views of the Continental Divide, custom home with plenty of extra features and finishes, hardwood floors, lots of windows, main floor master bedroom, loft, very private location. \$495,000



We currently represent more than 50% of the commercial properties available for sale in Pagosa Springs. We have fully equipped office condos from \$39k and larger tracts and commercial parcels around the new Walmart site west of downtown. For details contact us or see PagosaCommercial.com

Prime Acreage on the San Juan River

- 4,500 feet of San Juan River frontage
- 10 acre private lake
- 88 acres of exceptionally irrigated ranch land
- Platted into 3 parcels
- **Central Water**
- Full of Elk, Deer, Turkey Water fowl
- Close to downtown Pagosa Springs

Call Mike Heraty at 970-264-7000 for more information



Canadian full round log, 5100 sf w/wrap-around covered decks, 35 nicely forested acres, game room, huge steam sauna, 1000+ sf guest house, priced at 65% of replacement cost. \$1,250,000





Historic residence in town, lovingly improved and updated while maintaining much of its original charm. Big views, walk to the Hot Springs and San Juan River. \$335,000



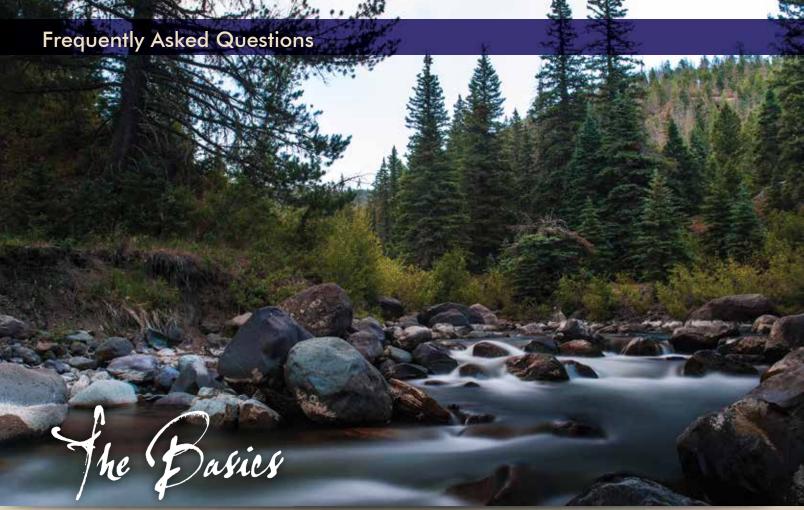
Your Source Team: Harold Kelley, Broker Associate, Mike Heraty, Managing Broker, Lauri Heraty, Broker Associate, Michael Heraty, Office Manager, Robin Curvey, Contract Manager and Sammy, Office Mascot.



PagosaSource.com PagosaCommercial.com

286 Pagosa Street, Pagosa Springs

Mike Heraty 970.264.7000 Heraty@frontier.net



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Where is Pagosa Springs?

Pagosa Springs sits at 7,000 feet in southwest Colorado at the base of the Continental Divide. Featuring rushing rivers and streams, lakes galore, hiking and biking trails, spectacular fall colors, ancient ruins, deep powder in the winter at nearby Wolf Creek Ski Area, incredible hunting, amazing wildlife, clean air and 3 million acres of National Forest surrounding the area, Pagosa Springs offers plenty of opportunities for our valued visitors, any time of year.

Who can I contact for info?

The Town of Pagosa Springs Tourism website at www.visitpagosasprings.com will link you to the Visitor Center and Chamber of Commerce, or call their vacation line at (866) 438-4917. Visitor information can also be found at www. ExplorePagosa.com.

Keep up on the news and events with The Pagosa Springs SUN, the community's weekly newspaper, with daily updates online at www. PagosaSUN.com.

What is it like at that altitude?

Regardless of physical fitness, Acute Mountain Sickness can strike anyone not acclimated to Pagosa's 7,000-foot elevation. To guard against suffering from altitude sickness:

- Drink three to four quarts of water per day.
- Avoid overexertion, while keeping caffeine and alcohol intake moderate for the first few days.
- Seek medical attention if persistent headache, fatigue, poor coordination or shortness of

breath occur.

What is the weather like?

Archuleta County is located in the "Colorado Sunbelt," just north of the New Mexico border and along the Western slope of the Continental Divide. This combination of high desert plateau and dramatic Rocky Mountains to the north and east creates an unusually mild climate compared with much of the surrounding Southwest. We are favored with some 300 days of sun each year, as well as four distinct seasons. With low wind and warm sunshine, residents can enjoy a variety of year-round recreational activities.

Average Days of Sunshine: 300 per year Annual Precipitation: 20.97 inches/year Annual Snowfall: 104 inches/year

Average Temperatures and Precipitation:

Month	High	Low	Precipitation
Jan.	37°F	1.4°F	1.48
Feb.	43°F	7°F	1.52
Mar.	49°F	15.9°F	1.63
Apr.	59°F	23.9°F	1.64
May	68°F	30.2°F	1.15
Jun.	78°F	36.3°F	.88
Jul.	83°F	45.2°F	1.81
Aug.	80°F	44.6°F	2.77
Sep.	74°F	36.6°F	2.26
Oct.	64°F	26.3°F	2.26
Nov.	50°F	15.4°F	1.87
Dec.	40°F	5°F	1.7

Is there a medical facility?

Pagosa Springs Medical Center includes a critical access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. The Pagosa Mountain Clinic is at the same location.

The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phone (970) 731-3700. Dial 911 for emergency services.

Important phone numbers: EMERGENCIES DIAL "911" (Ambulance, EMT, Fire, Police) LAW ENFORCEMENT

For non-emergency ambulance, fire, EMT, Victim's Assistance or Law Enforcement, Dial 731-2160

GENERAL	
mergency Medical Services	731-5811
agosa Springs Police Dept264-415	1, Ext. 228
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office	264-8430
Pagosa Fire Protection District	731-4191
JSFS Pagosa District Ranger	264-2268
agosa Springs Town Hall	264-4151
Archuleta County Commissioners	264-8300
he Pagosa Springs SUN	264-2100
Pagosa Springs Post Office	
enior Citizens Center	
Ruby Sisson Library	264-2208
Archuleta School District 50 Joint	264-2228
Navajo Lake State Park	883-2208
outhern Ute Indian Tribe	563-0100
itevens Field Airport, manager	731-3060
Airport Flight Base Operations	731-2127
agosa Area Water and Sanitation	731-2691
ourceGas(800)	563-0012
a Plata Electric Association	247-5786



JEFF LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

If you are planning your first visit, rest assured you will enjoy an incredible environment — one full of outdoor recreational opportunities the likes of which are rarely duplicated; one where our unique amenities in this paradise of geothermal waters, flowing mountain streams and alpine delights will satisfy your every need.

If you are returning to Pagosa Country, everything you enjoyed during previous visits remains, and there is even more to sample when you arrive.

In all cases, this will not be your last trip here.

If you are considering a visit, read this guide and get an idea of what awaits when you decide to travel here. You will not be disappointed when you do. You will find yourself in one of the most beautiful places imaginable.

When you are in Pagosa Country, you are in magnificent surroundings. Your task is to determine what you will do once you are here.

Pagosans are eager to help you. The friendly residents of Pagosa Country are ready to help you find great accommodations and, once you are settled in, to provide whatever you need.

We are ready to give you tips on the myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation. If there is anything Pagosa Country provides, it is access to fun in the high country during the summer season. Fishing, hiking, boating, rafting, floating, biking — it's all here, in spades. And our local businesses can outfit you for any and all of these pursuits. Don't miss the chance to indulge your passion for outdoor recreation; you are at the heart of it all. Of the best of it all.

We're here to feed you, and feed you well. It doesn't matter where your tastes lead you, chances are you can find the food and drink you desire. Our local establishments give the discerning diner a full range of cuisines and prices.

We're here to entertain you. We boast a vintage movie house in the downtown area, indoor and outdoor games at a variety of venues, one of the Southwest's premier theater companies and facilities, a number of art galleries, including one with a national and international reputation.

Give yourself a treat and indulge the great pleasure of soaking in our geothermally heated waters. The giant spring in town issues forth from a mighty aquifer, providing Pagosa Country with some of the most relaxing and restorative waters anywhere in the world.

Finally, shop for the mementoes that will remind you of your visit here, and that will remind you that you will return. Pagosa's shopkeepers can provide you with whatever you need.

Welcome to Pagosa Country.



PHOTO COURTESY TESSIE GARCIA

'We are teachers, yes, but we are also artists, and to be able to pass that on to children is absolutely incredible.'

For 21 years, children in Pagosa Springs have had the chance to spend their summer vacations creating, learning, and building self-confidence through the Hands-On Arts Camp.

And while creating and learning, camp participants are encouraged to do three things key to any good summer vacation: experiment, play and express themselves freely.

The camp, designed for youngsters entering grades one through six, can be attended for anywhere from one day to four weeks and delves into a wide variety of artistic media, including music, clay, eco art using recyclables, fiber arts, alternative uses of crayons, pin hole photography and more.

And, because of the natural art provided in the landscape, the camp includes a nature-themed portion that includes sketches, learning how to identify species, drawings, sun prints, gardening, games and more — because "'earth' without 'art' is 'eh'."

Though taught by experienced art educators, local artists are invited to take part in the camp to share their talents with the kids.

"Teaching is more than creating a nice

picture; it's about working with a child, to guide them and have them feel the success of creating something incredible," says Lisa Brown, one of the camp's instructors.

The program that came to be known as Hands-On Arts Camp was created in 1993 by Tessie Garcia, art teacher at Pagosa Springs Elementary School, along with another local, Bill Hudson. Eighteen years ago, Brown, a Pagosa Springs resident who teaches art in Ignacio, Colo., became involved.

Over the years, the camp expanded to include music and garnered a sponsorship from nonprofit FolkWest, which puts on two large music festivals atop Reservoir Hill each year.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Garcia was born and raised in Pagosa Springs, earning her degree in art education at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo.

"When I was small ... I always thought that when I grew up, I wanted to make a difference and create something unique and original for children," Garcia says of becoming an art teacher. "I especially wanted to do a summer program because there was not anything to do in the summer and I wanted to give children that opportunity."

Brown has lived in Pagosa Springs for 19 years, originally hailing from East Aurora, N.Y. She earned a degree in art education from Buffalo State University.

"I was the kid in the neighborhood who played 'teacher' with all the neighborhood kids. It was not until I asked myself what did I want to do as a profession that the idea of teaching art came to be," Brown says. "I have taught art for 23 years and I still pinch myself that I get paid to do what I love."

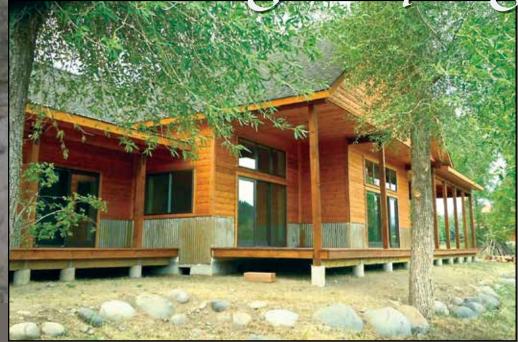
This year's camps take place Monday thru Thursday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for the weeks of June 9-12, 16-19, 23-26 and July 7-10.

"We are teachers, yes, but we are also artists, and to be able to pass that on to children is absolutely incredible," Garcia says.

While the camp does charge tuition, discounts are available for families and scholarships are available thanks to the fundraising efforts of local artists and donors.

For more information on the camp, visit www.hands-on-artscamp.com.

Live the Pagosa Springs Lifestyle!





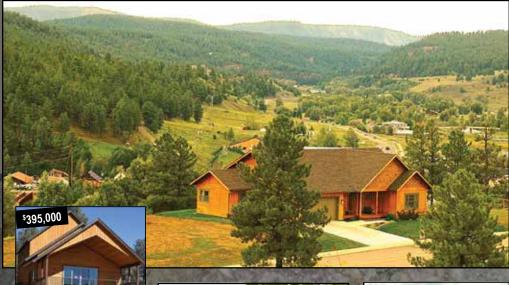




Find yourself in the paradise of Pagosa Springs, which offers plenty of outdoor activities from fishing, rafting and hiking to skiing and snowmobiling. Indoor activities abound, too, from theater and art shows to exercise classes and clubs. Find your niche and your new lifestyle!

Imagine yourself living in the Cobblestone Riverfront Townhomes. These new townhomes feature single-level living right on the banks of the San Juan River as it flows through historic downtown Pagosa Springs. Call Jerry Jackson to view these homes.

16 Townhomes Build to Suit Units Available www.cobblestonepagosa.com



Now available, first of many homes to be built and sold in Mesa Heights! Great views, can include entertainment room!





Mesa Heights West

Overlooking Historic Downtown with Beautiful Mountain Views Custom Home — Construction Available 11 Vacant Lots "Views, Views, Views" www.mesaheightspagosa.com

Jerry Jackson Independent Broker

970-946-4755 pagosasprings@ hotmail.com



May

All events are correct as of press time. Please check with event organizers for updates before making travel plans.

May 3

Pagosa Rotary Club's Annual Kentucky Derby Gala Keyah Grande, (970) 264-0661

May 14

Chimney Rock Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

May 15

Opening Day, Chimney Rock National Monument

www.chimneyrockco.org

May 16-18

The Car Show at Pagosa

Downtown, (800) 252-2204, www.pagosaspringschamber.com

Pagosa Springs Community Choir's Spring Concert

Pagosa Springs High School

May 19-Sept. 19

San Juan Historical Museum open with special patriotic quilt display

1st Street and U.S. 160 www.pagosamuseum.org

May 23

Chimney Rock Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

June

June 6-8

Folk 'N Bluegrass Festival

Reservoir Hill (877) 472-4672, www.folkwest.com

June 7

XTERRA Turkey Track Trail Run

(marathon, 1/2 marathon, 10 & 5k) GECKO, www.joingecko.org

June 11-13

Rural Philanthropy Days

Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce www.southwestrpd.org

June 12

Chimney Rock Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

June 13-15

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Car Show at Pagosa

Pagosa's summer season arrives with screaming engines for the sixth annual Car Show at Pagosa Springs on May 16-18.

The event features antique vehicles, model category cars, 4x4s, trucks and motorcycles — all displaying plenty of classic style. New in 2014 will be cash awards for class winners, as well as a \$1,000 cash prize for the Best in Show.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 16, in Town Park, with the Cruise & Blues event, including car registration, a welcome barbecue and concert for the participants and spectators. This is a great time to get a sneak preview of the cars that will be on display on Saturday.

On Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., vehicles will be parked on the 400 block of Lewis Street. Saturday's "Show and Shine" event gives spectators a chance to admire antique and custom cars. Music, displays, activities for the children and food and car-related vendors will be on hand to add to the festivities.

On Sunday morning, the car owners have an opportunity to gather one more time at a brunch and "cruise" to a beautiful location near Pagosa Springs.

Car registration is only \$25, with the first 100 registrants receiving a collectable Car Show T-shirt, dash plaque and goodie bag.

For more information on the Car Show at Pagosa or to register for the event, visit the events section at www.pagosachamber.com or call the Chamber at (800) 252-2204.

June 20

Chimney Rock Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

June 20-22

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

June 20-21

Pagosa Springs Relay for Life

Pagosa Springs High School (970) 264-0216 June 21

Chimney Rock Summer Solstice Sunrise Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

June 25-26

Bicycle Tour of Colorado

www.bicycletourcolorado.com

June 26

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

June 27-29

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

Pagosa Springs High School www.pagosamusicboosters.org

June 28-29

EPIC Mountain Festival

4-stage run/ride format GECKO, www.joingecko.org

June 29

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July

July 2, 3, 5

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

Pagosa Springs High School www.pagosamusicboosters.org

July 2

Celebrate America

Ross Aragon Community Center, 6-10 p.m. (970) 264-4152

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 3

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 3-6

Park-2-Park Arts and Crafts Festival

Downtown, (800) 252-2204 www.pagosaspringschamber.com

Carnival

Town Park, (970) 264-4151 www.townofpagosasprings.com

July 4-6

Red Ryder Rodeo

Western Heritage Arena at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds (970) 264-5931

July 4

Fourth of July Parade

Downtown, (800) 252-2204 www.pagosaspringschamber.com

Fireworks

Pagosa Springs High School, (970) 264-4151 www.townofpagosasprings.com

July 5

"Les Miserables"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 6

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org



RANDI PIERCE

Cruise-A-Thong

You've got your big-time mountain marathons and you've got your highly competitive triathlons. The Type-A athletes who compete in these events strive to cross the finish line in first place, to win the award for being fastest, strongest, toughest.

But, what about the Average Joe? What about the person whose idea of competition in-

volves showing up and having a good time?

If you are one of these people, don't despair: Pagosa offers this kind of "racer" a perfect event: the Cruise-A-Thong, scheduled this year for Saturday and Sunday, July 19 and 20 in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The whole point of the Cruise-A-Thong (besides supporting improvement and maintenance of the San Juan River in Pagosa, with the event sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of the Upper San Juan River) ... is to relax, have some fun, and spend some time outdoors.

On Saturday, break out the flipflops for a leisurely stroll, the bike or other human-powered transport for a pleasurable peddle, and whatever floatie you can locate for a slow trip down the San Juan River at the Race for the Average Joe. Historically, the average for the course is 2.13 hours. Aside from prizes for the most average time and the median time, a bevy of random awards are handed out for things like being an overachiever, having the best costume, pets, best flotation, best mode of transport and more.

Sunday, the action moves to the disc golf course for the Hair of the Dog tournament. The tournament has a variety of divisions to cater to your skill level — Average Joe, Open, Advanced and Recreational, with cash and prizes awarded in all divisions.

For more information, visit www.cruiseathong.com/pagosa-springs-cruise-a-thong/.

Mountain Chile Cha Cha

There are few better ways to spend an autumn day than getting some exercise, then kicking back for a day of food, music and fun in beautiful Town Park at the Mountain Chile Cha Cha.

The Cha Cha is a celebration of Pagosa Country's Hispanic heritage that spotlights the love of green chile, and provides a cultural and culinary treat for locals and visitors alike, as well as an endurance event that benefits GECKO (Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors).

This year, the Cha Cha will take place Sept. 27, in Town Park, in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The day begins with burning muscles, thanks to a 5k, 10k (with a 700-foot climb in elevation) and half marathon beginning at 8 a.m., as well as a kids' run at 7:30 a.m. The run takes place entirely off-road, using trails over Reservoir Hill and the Reservoir River Ranch.

After the races, the burn moves to the taste buds, at the seventh annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic — a green chile cookoff and tasting (the public tasting beginning at 12:30 p.m. after judges have made their rounds). The Classic offers those in attendance the opportunity to sample dozens of delicious homemade green chiles, many made using recipes passed down through generations of local residents.

The event continues with a beer garden, fresh roasted green chile on site all day, and fun activities for the kids. In the afternoon and evening, enjoy live dance music, with performers to be announced. Winners of the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic will be announced between performances, with \$600 in prize monies, trophies, medals and bragging rights handed out to winners.

Arts, Entertainment, Events

July 9

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 10-11

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 12

"Les Miserables"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 12

Pagosa Duathlon, "Do the Du"

(970) 264-9075, www.acvap.org

Chimney Rock Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

July 13 & 16

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 17-18

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 18

Chimney Rock Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

July 18-21

Renaissance and Pirate Festival

Located at San Juan Motel & Cabins (800) 252-2204 www.pagosaspringschamber.com

July 19

GECKO 8-hr Ride & Run

GECKO, www.joingecko.org

Cruise-A-Thong (tentative)

Town Park, 946-3663, www.cruiseathong.com

"Les Miserables"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 20

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 23

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 24-25

"A Chorus Line"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 26

Pagosa Springs High School Booster Club Mud Run

(970) 903-1390

July 26-27

Life at Chimney Rock — A Festival of Crafts and Culture

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

"Les Miserables"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 27 & July 30

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Šprings Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 3

"A Chorus Line"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

August

July 31-Aug. 3

Archuleta County Fair

Archuleta County Fairgrounds, (970) 264-5931 www.archuletacountyfair.com

Aua

"A Chorus Line"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 2

XTERRA Pagosa Springs
Off-Road Triathlon

GECKO, www.joingecko.org

"Les Miserables"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 3 & Aug. 6

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug.

"A Chorus Line"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 8

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug.

Knights of Columbus Duck Race

Town Park, (970) 731-5744

Pagosa Peak Cowboy Poetry Gathering

"Celebrating & Preserving Our Western Heritage"

Vista Clubhouse, (970) 731-2700

"Les Miserables"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 10

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Chimney Rock Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 13

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 14

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 15

"A Chorus Line"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug 16

Shamrock Festival

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church (970) 731-5801

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 17 & Aug. 20

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 21-22

"A Chorus Line"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Διια 22

Humane Society Auction for the Animals

Community Center, (970) 264-5549, www.humanesocietyofpagosasprings.org

Chimney Rock Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument
www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 23

Devil Mountain Ultra (50k & 50 mile run) & **Demons of Dust** (5 & 10k & 1/2 marathon) GECKO, www.joingecko.org

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 24

"Beauty & the Beast"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 29-31

Four Corners Folk Festival

Reservoir Hill, (877) 472-4672 www.folkwest.com

Sept. 8

Chimney Rock Full Moon Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 13

Fall Rummage Sale

Ross Aragon Community Center (970) 264-4152

Sept. 18-21

ColorFest Activities

Town Park, (800) 252-2204, www.pagosachamber.com

Sept. 19

Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival

Town Park, (800) 252-2204 www.pagosaspringschamber.com

Chimney Rock Night Sky Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 20-21

Reach for the Peaks Hot Air Balloon Rally

(800) 252-2204 www.pagosarally.com

Sept. 20

Bands, Brews, Etc.

Town Park, (800) 252-2204 www.pagosaspringschamber.com

ColorFest Color 5k Fun Run/Walk

Archuleta Co. Victim's Assistance www.acvap.org

Sept. 23

Chimney Rock

Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Program

Chimney Rock National Monument www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 27

Mountain Chile Cha-Cha Festival

5 &10k & 1/2 marathon, free concert, green chile cook-off GECKO, www.joingecko.org

Oct. 11-12

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www.pagosaacp.org



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pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Rodeo Fun

Pagosa Country's history is filled with activities that typify the American West — mining, ranching, hunting and fishing — but when it comes to a recreational activity thrilling for both spectators and participants, nothing typifies the West more than a rodeo.

Rodeo has been a part of life in Pagosa Country since ranchers first settled in the area in the late 19th century. Events were held at a variety of locations in the early years, and a permanent rodeo ground was built more than a half-century ago just south of the intersection of U.S. 84 and 160.

Today, the local rodeo arena located at the fairgrounds just off U.S. 84, a half mile south of U.S. 160, hosts numerous events during the summer that visitors are invited to attend and enjoy.

Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo

The annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, named after the famed comic strip character created by noted artist Fred Harman, is the big event of the summer.

A full complement of traditional rodeo events including bareback and saddle bronc riding, bull riding, roping events and steer wrestling, barrel racing, daring rodeo clowns, novelty acts and more take place at the Red Ryder Roundup each year over the Fourth of July holiday. The event is entertaining for local and visiting rodeo fans alike. Always popular, kids' Mutton Bustin' also takes place at the Roundup.

The rodeo will begin on Friday, July 4. Activities will continue through the weekend, ending on Sunday, July 6.

For more information, please visit pagosarodeo.com or call Lisa Scott at (970) 264-2730.

Fun Day Rodeos

The summer rodeo season also offers opportunities for competitors of all ages to take to the arena during the Fun Day Rodeo series.

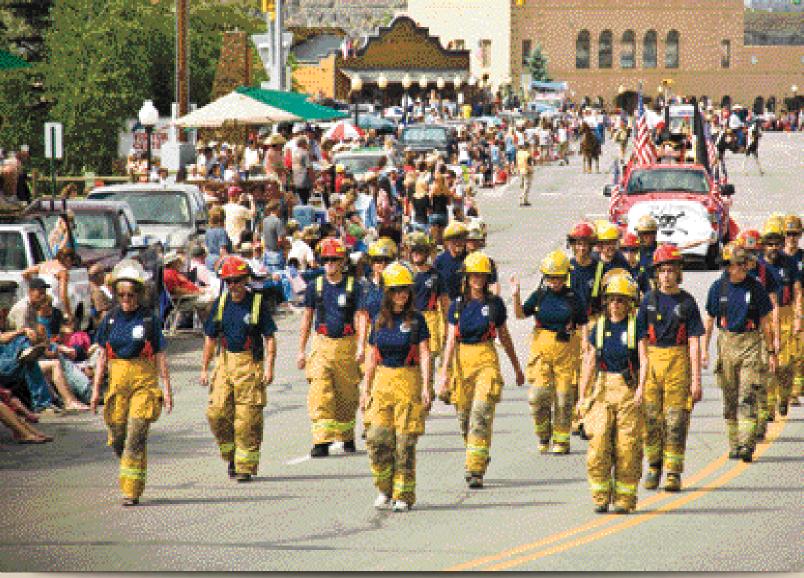
Any and all youngsters are welcome to participate in the rodeos, and can compete in a variety of age categories: 5 years of age and younger; 6 to 8 years old; 9 to 11 years old; 12 to 14 years old; and 15 and up. Events include barrel racing, pole bending, a flag race, goat tying, goat tagging and roping events.

A contestant's age as of the first rodeo in the series determines his or her age group for the entire series.

It costs \$5 to participate in individual events or \$15 to participate in up to five events during the day. Spectators are welcome, free of charge.

Prizes are awarded for competition in each age group at the end of the rodeo series and competitors must participate in three of the four rodeos held throughout the summer.

Everyone is invited to enjoy watching event veterans and youngsters acting like grown up cowboys and cowgirls. Check The Pagosa Springs SUN for updated rodeo dates and times or call Rochelle Shahan at (970) 264-9512.



JEFF LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

Celebrating America in a small-town, big way

The Pagosa Springs area is one of the busiest places in the Southwest during the Fourth of July holiday and Pagosa will be in full swing this year.

The annual Arts and Crafts Fair will kick into gear on Thursday, July 3, and will run until Sunday, July 6. There will be over 80 vendors at the festival with some regular favorites returning and new talent arriving on the scene. You'll find artwork, jewelry, woodcarving, glasswork, weaving, specialty foods and so much more at the fair. The location is conducive to shopping as you stroll through Town Park, along the Riverwalk and into Centennial Park enjoying the crafts and tasty food items. The fair opens every day at 10 a.m. and runs until 6 p.m. While downtown, don't miss out on the unique local shops located in the historic downtown area.

The "biggest small town parade" in the country, hosted by the Pagosa Springs Rotary Club, will be held Friday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Everyone loves a parade and Pagosa's is one of the very best. With a special theme announced, businesses, families and groups vie for prizes and the chance to march down the main street in town as part of this community classic. Arrive early for a seat along the route.

The Fourth of July fireworks program will be held Friday night, July 4. The fireworks festivities will take place on the fields adjacent to

Pagosa Springs High School, on South 8th Street in the downtown area. To best view the fireworks, you can enjoy seating at the Pagosa Springs High School or at Yamaguchi Park, located on South 5th Street. Gather family and friends, bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the stellar display. The fireworks display typically begins at dark — around 9:15 p.m.

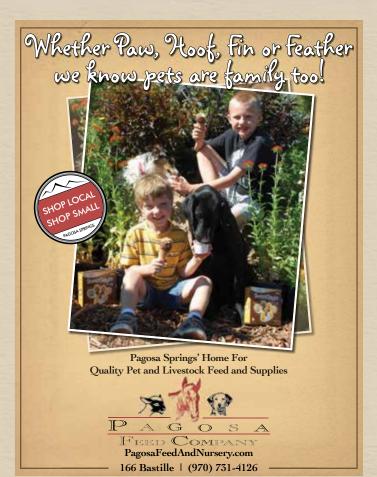
The Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, a legendary Fourth of July festivity, will be held 3 days starting July 4 and running through Sunday, July 6. The rodeo will begin on Friday afternoon, July 4, at 2 p.m. The rough-and-tumble rodeo, with regional cowboys and cowgirls, will feature performances at 7 p.m. on July 5 and at 2 p.m. on July 6. The Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo arena is just south of the intersection of U.S. 160 and 84.

Head down to the carnival at the athletic field at Town Park, July 1-6, for some thrills and chills and, don't worry, there are some sedate rides for the wee ones.

There is still time between all these activities to enjoy a barbecue, a hike or a bike ride away from the bustle of town — or to partake in any of the other fun experiences available in the Pagosa area. For more information about these events, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (800) 252-2204 or visit the website, www.pagosaspringschamber.com.



IFFE LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY



A longtime tradition, the 63rd annual Archuleta County Fair will take place July 31-Aug. 3, and it's always a party, so dust off those boots, break out your western wear and get ready to have a great time.

Fair days are full of fun in the sun with entertainers, games, exhibits and demonstrations. Gates open at 9 a.m. daily, closing around midnight on Friday and Saturday to ensure that you have the time to enjoy the festivities. The fair closes at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

4-H members will show their animals including horses, dogs, rabbits, goats, sheep, steers, chickens, pigs, turkeys and more during many livestock shows — the Market Swine show will take place Thursday and the Market Beef show will take place Friday.

The Horseshoe Tournament and Western Heritage Event Center Ranch Rodeo will keep fair goers busy on Saturday. After working up an appetite, head to the 4-H Chuck Wagon Dinner and then to the Livestock Tent. The Junior Livestock Sale is the culmination of the hard work of 4-H members. The sale exhibits the long standing livestock traditions and ranching roots of Archuleta County and supports 4-H youngsters who have dedicated themselves to their projects throughout the year. 4-H members display and have their work judged at the county fair and may even get the opportunity to go to the Colorado State Fair. After a full day, two step on over to hear some live country western music performed by the High Rollers under the Activity Tent or take a wild ride at the carnival.

The festivities continue into Sunday. A pancake breakfast and gospel singing will be held in the morning under the activity tent, while the Kids' Rodeo and Junkyard Jamboree will vie for your time that afternoon.

The cowboy fast draw state competition will be held, and the public will be given the chance to shoot as well. A petting farm for kids to enjoy will also be available each day. During the fair, the exhibit hall will be filled with different projects done by county residents including quilts, photographs, paintings, vegetables, flowers and baked goods. Vendors will also sell delicious fair food throughout the weekend.

The fair is held at the fairgrounds just south of town on U.S. 84. Everyone is invited. The full schedule of events will be published prior to the fair in The Pagosa Springs SUN. For more information, visit www.Archuleta-CountyFair.com, or call the Extension Office at (970) 264-2388.

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Arts, Entertainment, Events



DOUG CHAPIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Music and Theater

After a day of playing in the river, hiking a local peak, angling for that wall-worthy brown trout or stirring up some mud with the fat tires of a mountain bike, take advantage of the numerous opportunities in Pagosa for the musically-minded and the theater lover.

The summer season opens up restaurant patios and beer gardens for local, regional and national talent, while area nightclubs host bands almost every night during the summer, doors open wide to allow a refreshing blast of cool air for patrons and a taste of the excitement indoors for those strolling by. More than that, area stages come alive with comedies, dramas and musicals, making Pagosa Springs a premier destination for theater in the American Southwest.

Get your groove on

While nationally-renowned music festivals (listed in other pages in this guide) rightfully grab most of the glory, a quick glance at events listed inside the front page of The PREVIEW section (published each week in The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper) will show that the local music scene ranges from acoustic performances to Zydeco — and everything in between. Two stepping? Techno freestyle? Reggae? Good old Rock n' Roll? Area clubs, restaurants and bars offer excitement for everyone in the late-night crowd, while early evening usually offers more low-key performances under the stars.

Check out the "Food & Drink" section of this guide for phone numbers and addresses of establishments to find out what's being offered on any given night.

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Now in its fourth year, the Thingamajig Theatre Company in residence at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts has achieved a reputation for featuring Broadway quality productions, earning the distinction as one of the Southwest's premiere venues for professional theater.

Located midway between the downtown and uptown centers of Pagosa Springs (at 2313 Eagle Drive, just north of U.S. 160), the PSCA offers a broad array of entertainment for all ages, while hosting various arts and music events throughout the season.

Finally, Whatchamawhozits, an educational performing arts program for youth, is offered three times a year by Thingamajig and PSCA, with youth performances staged at the end of each program's term.

For event and theater information or to purchase tickets, check out the PSCA website at www.pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469). All Sunday performances are matinees with a start time of 2 p.m., with a 7 p.m. start time for all other performances.

Curtains Up! Pagosa

Pagosa's community theater group provides musical theater entertainment with a summer offering.

This summer, the holiday production from Curtains Up! will be "Jesus Christ Superstar." Performances are set for June 27, 28 and 29, July 2, 3 and 5, evenings at 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee only on June 29. Shows take place at the Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. The

school is located on South 8th Street in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Tickets will be available at the Chamber of Commerce after June 15, or at the door. For more information, go to www.pagosamusic-boosters.org.

Pagosa Springs Community Band

The Pagosa Springs Community Band formed in 2011, originally within the Curtains Up! organization, but later struck out on their own. The band includes talented community musicians and can be seen throughout the year. This summer, the band plans to put on a Fourth of July concert, as well as their annual fall and spring concerts. The spring concert, called Band-O-Rama, is special as it is a joint concert that features our middle school and high school bands in addition to the Community Band. Check The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper for concert information.

Park to Park Arts and Crafts Festival

The annual Park to Park Arts and Crafts Festival commemorates a long tradition of being a part of the best Fourth of July celebration in the Four Corners region. 2014 marks the 36th year of the festival, which will take place July 3-6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. adjacent to the San Juan River in downtown Pagosa Springs.

A new configuration of the festival will have the vendors in Town Park and the Mary Fisher Park off of San Juan St., which is close to public parking and an easy walk across the pedestrian bridge from Town Park.

As many as 80 vendors at the festival offer clothing, paintings, photography, pottery, jewelry, unique handcrafted wares, gourmet food products, scrumptious food and more.

While here, you'll also be able to enjoy Pagosa Springs' other Fourth of July events, including the Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, parade, carnival, concert and fireworks display.

Pagosa is definitely the place to be for Fourth of July festivities, and the Park to Park Arts and Crafts Festival is one event that makes this yearly celebration truly special.

For more information on the annual Park to Park Arts and Crafts Festival or to receive a vendor application, contact the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce at (970) 264-2360 or (800) 252-2204 or download the application from the website, www.pagosasprings-chamber.com.

Renaissance and Pirate Festival

day, so weekend passes are available.

Dust off your medieval garb, polish your scabbard, perfect that brogue dialect and prepare your family to step back into days gone by at the Renaissance and Pirate Festival July 18-21.

This unique event, held at the San Juan Motel and Cabins in downtown Pagosa Springs, features plays, musical performances, royal courts, village peddlers and tons of children's activities, including plate spinning and stilt walking, crafts and delectable medieval edibles. There will also be jugglers, escape artists and period re-enactments.

Let the youngsters experience the festival through the excitement and education of the Children's Quest where at the finish they are awarded a prize. They can interact with vendors, period actors and performers as they gain clues, collect treasures and complete the quest.

The Renaissance Festival, now in its sixth year, adds more fun and excitement to the show every season. Children will be able to make period products such as swords and shields, while learning about swordsmanship, practicing archery, and avoiding capture by rogue pirates ready to collect a ransom. There are new projects and entertainment varies each

New in 2014 is the opportunity to test your strength with the experts from The Aztec Highland Games as they perform feats of strength and accuracy by tossing heavy poles and hammers and all in traditional garb.

There will be live music in Town Park, adding to the weekend's festivities. Your pass to the festival also entitles you to attend the concert.

This faire is a fun-filled family event with great interaction and handson experience. Spruce up your best medieval dress or pirate eye patch and blend in with the village crowd — costuming on this weekend is encouraged.

For more information, visit www.pagosaspringschamber.com or call (800) 252-2204 for tickets.

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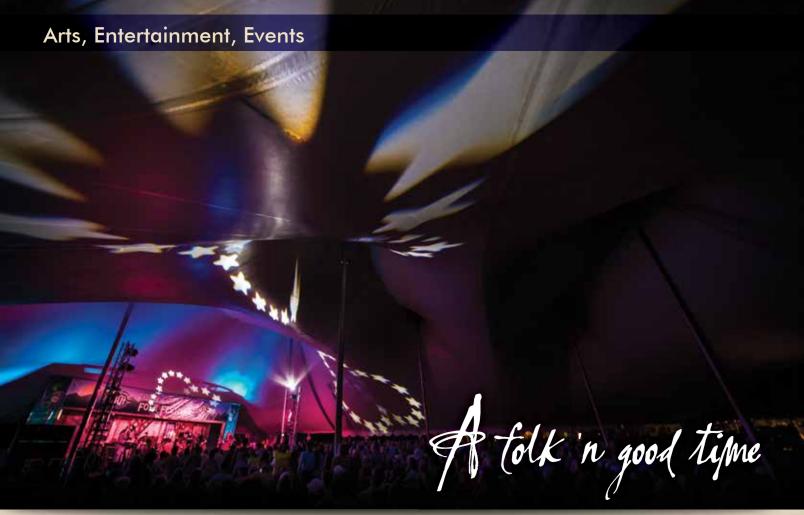
Les Misérables

BEAUTY AND THE Sessor A DUS

"Thingamajig Theatre is the best thing that has happened in Pagosa Springs in years!" Bob & Carole Howard, Pagosa Springs THINGAMAJIC

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION CALL 970-731-SHOW OR VISIT US AT PAGOSACENTER.ORG

"Seeing a show at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts was the highlight of our family's trip to Pagosa!" The Wyatt Family, Washington D.C.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass June 6-8

Music lovers of all ages will not want to miss the seventh annual Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass taking place June 6-8 on Reservoir Hill in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The music kicks off on the afternoon of June 6 at 4 p.m. and continues throughout the weekend — including performances on the late night stage on Reservoir Hill on Friday and Saturday nights. The stellar lineup for the weekend includes the Claire Lynch Band, Peter Rowan's Groove an' Twang, the John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band, the Tony Furtado Trio, MilkDrive, Cahalen Morrison & Eli West, SHEL, The Steel Wheels, Finnders and Youngberg, Pierce Pettis with Grace Pettis, The Shook Twins, The Railsplitters and the Jon Stickley Trio, with more to be announced.

This incredibly fun outdoor music festival is famous for its beautiful on-site camping and ubiquitous campfire pickin' circles, plus music workshops, a free children's program with arts and crafts and entertainment, and microbrew beer, food and crafts vendors. A large tent shelters the stage and provides covered seating for some 400 people, with lots more space on the open festival meadow to set up tarps and low chairs. All seating is general admission and the festival is a rain or shine event.

Admission is free for children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult.

Tickets and full festival information, including performer bios and links to songs and video, are available online at www.folkwest.com, or by calling (877) 472-4672. You can also "like" the festival's Facebook page at facebook.com/pagosafolknbluegrass and follow the latest festival news on Twitter, @ folknbluegrass.

Four Corners Folk Festival Aug. 29-31

This Labor Day Weekend will bring the 19th annual Four Corners Folk Festival to beautiful Reservoir Hill in Pagosa Springs.

Thousands of people of all ages will once again converge from all around the country for three days of live performances, workshops, campfire jams and children's programs that provide the backbone of the popular, music-filled weekend. Nationally- and internationally-acclaimed performers slated for 2014 include Grammy-nominees Tim O'Brien & Darrell Scott, Paper Bird, Marley's Ghost, Baskery, Caravan of Thieves, the Shook Twins and many more to be announced.

The stellar music featured on the festival stages (most commonly labeled Americana) includes a variety of influences — bluegrass, jazz, newgrass, folk rock, rockabilly, blues and everything in between. Rising above downtown from its prime central location, Reservoir Hill Park provides outstanding campsites located in the 140-acre ponderosa pine forest, just a short walk from the main venue. Many festival-

goers choose to stay at one of Pagosa's many lodging establishments, taking advantage of the free shuttle service up and down Reservoir Hill during the show.

Campfire jam sessions are a regular feature and a highlight for many attendees of the festival, and go on all day and well into the night. Other activities include late-night performances on Friday and Saturday, music workshops, a food court, microbrew beer garden and vendor expo. The large performance tent provides shelter for the stage and seating for more than 1,200 people, plus there is ample room in the meadow outside the tent to set up tarps and low chairs. All seating is general admission, except for Festival Patron tickets, which include food and beverage service and a special seating area under the tent.

The Four Corners Folk Festival is an extremely family-friendly event, offering free admission to children 12 and under (must be accompanied by an adult), as well as a free children's program with arts and crafts, magic shows, special musical performances and workshops for aspiring young musicians and their families.

Tickets and additional information are available online at www.folkwest.com, or by calling (877) 472-4672. Up-to-the-minute updates and information can also be found on the festival's Facebook page: facebook. com/fourcornersfolkfestival and you can follow the festival on Twitter, @4cornersfolk.











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Arts, Entertainment, Events



Runners and bicyclists of all stripes — from the most dedicated competitor to the casual harrier or cruiser — have ample opportunity to test themselves with several races and events scheduled this summer that emphasize fun as much as endurance, and support great causes, to boot. Endurance races throughout Archuleta County are consistently drawing more elite, amateur and casual athletes to the area to train and race at more than 7,000 feet in altitude.

One of the primary drivers for endurance events in the area is GECKO (Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors), a Pagosa Springs nonprofit that aims to inspire kids to unplug themselves and take to the great outdoors (website: www.joingecko.org). Other annual events are put on to benefit the Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program, which seeks to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault (website: www.acvap.org).

But, no matter who the beneficiary might be, all the races offer a unique way to experience Pagosa Country, making you a beneficiary, as well.

Additional events have a tendency to pop up throughout the year, so keep an eye on the local Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper for more information.

XTERRA Turkey Track Trail Run

The XTERRA Turkey Track Trail Run kicks off the season with an awesome, early season trail marathon and half marathon on June 7.

There is plenty of scenic single track, rolling hills and mellow climbs through aspens, ponderosa pines and open forest in this classic mountain trail run. The killer trail system follows the edges of dynamic canyons with incredible vistas and spring blooms. Plus, you'll experience your share of roots, rocks, turkeys and, perhaps, a little bit of mud. This course is the perfect transition from a "road" to a "trail" race and serves as an ideal primer for the area's summer races. Oh, and there's an after party at Pagosa Brewing Co., too.

This race, as with all GECKO races, is iPod friendly, chip-timed, features awards handmade by local students and artists, swag bags, and includes a free event for kids 10 and under.

To get to the start/finish location, take Piedra Road north from U.S. 160 for about six miles; stay on the road until the pavement turns to dirt. Continue about 1/4 mile and turn left on Turkey Springs Road. Go two miles on the left, and you're there. If you've run Devil Mountain, you know the spot.

Epic Mountain Festival

The EPIC Mountain Challenge is like nothing you've ever done before: EPIC=Mountain[Run+Ride]².

Over two EPIC days — June 28 and 29 competitors will compete in four stages, combining cross country and time trial mountain biking with trail and road running. Success in this race will come from consistently strong performance in all four disciplines. An impressive prize purse will again ensure a high level of competitors and fierce competition in Solo Men, Solo Women, Duo Men and Duo Women categories.

In addition to the epic competition, the event features an expo open to athletes and spectators alike.

Star Spangled Shuffle

3k & 5k Fun Run/Walk on July 4.

Start the Fourth of July with a bang at the Star Spangled Shuffle.

The Star Spangled Shuffle, a 3k and 5k Fun Run/Walk, will start and finish in the Ross Aragon Community Center parking lot. Finish and get your Star Spangled Finisher's medal in time to watch the parade at 10 a.m. All ages and abilities welcome; bring your dogs, strollers and the whole family! Wear red, white and blue — and stars if you can! Prizes for the best dressed.

Pagosa Duathlon 'Do-the-Du'

The eighth Pagosa Duathlon — "Do-the-Du" — kicks off at 7:45 a.m. Saturday, July 12.

This popular event combines beginner and intermediate levels of single-track trails, dirt and gravel roads, through stands of pine, aspen groves, verdant meadows — with new trails this year, all within the majestic San Juan National Forest in the Brockover Mesa area.

Competitors begin with a six-mile run, followed by a 14-mile mountain bike ride, on a fast course that tests competitors' endurance, speed and ability.

For those intimidated by the 18-mile course, there's the Half-Du, a three-mile run and eight-mile ride.

Both adult races begin at 8:30 a.m.

For those still intimidated by the course lengths, you can 'du' the course as a two-member team, or push yourself to take it on solo.

A kids' race, the Mini-Du Kids Fun Race, consists of a mile run and a two-mile ride starting at 7:45 a.m.

Registration details can be found online at www.pagosaduathlon. com. Proceeds from the event benefit the Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program.

8-HOUR Mountain Bike and Trail Run

"Get high" with this brand new midsummer race on July 19.

This inaugural event will appeal to athletes looking for quality miles at altitude in time for key high-elevation mountain bike and trail ultras later in the summer. A short, looped course for each discipline and eight hours to lap as many as you can, this event conveniently allows you to return frequently to your aid station to replenish or to compete as a relay team. This is a run circuit format for all levels of ability, shared by spectators, runners and mountain bikers.

XTERRA Pagosa Springs

A 1.4k (1,500m) swim, 18.5-mile bike, 6.9-mile trail run Aug. 2.

Set at the base of the majestic San Juan Mountains, you'll start with a wetsuit swim in the crystal clear Lake Pagosa. From there, you'll traverse the edges of some of the best local trails for the bike and run legs through Martinez Canyon.

It's mostly fast-flowing single track, but you'll need to be on your game, as there are a couple of technical sections. The winding trail system works you through spectacular ponderosa and aspen forests, which makes it rooty and rocky underfoot — you'll earn your rest at the finishing party!

PLOW Swim Challenge

Half-mile and 1-mile open water swim in Lake Pagosa on Aug. 3.

Set in the authentic mountain town of Pagosa Springs, at the base of the majestic San Juan Mountains, come and challenge yourself to a safe and fun half-mile or 1-mile PLOW — Pagosa Lakes open-water swim challenge. This inaugural event is one of the rare opportunities to swim in the lakes of Pagosa Springs.

Mountain Chile Cha Cha

A 5k, 10k and half marathon event on Aug. 24.

The Mountain Chile Cha Cha celebrates trail running, combining our incredible in-town trails with the famous Pagosa Springs music

and chili festival (the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic). Celebrate the series, the season, trail running and getting kids outside on Pagosa's killer downtown trail course. It's beautiful, challenging and remote, and it's all right downtown.

Devil Mountain Ultra 50mile/50k

The Devil Mountain 50-mile and 50k Ultra on Sept. 28 is "one hell of a run!"

This epic event has moved to the finest time of the year. The leaves will be totally tuned up and changing, the weather will be cool and the trails will be in prime condition. Organizers have kept big climbs, high elevations and a lot of single track through some of the region's old-growth forests. Beautiful, remote and the perfect way to wrap up the Ultra Season (more than 6,500 feet of climbing on epic mountain trail).

Color Run

In the spirit of ColorFest comes the Color Run.

For the second year, runners of all abilities will be able to take part in the Color Run.

Runners will be much more colorful upon finishing the race's downtown course than when they begin, thanks to color stations set up for the purpose of covering runners with powdered paint.

Registration and event details will be released as ColorFest weekend nears and will be available in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Proceeds from the event benefit the Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program.

Art, Dance, & Music

2014 SUMMER PROGRAMS

DAY CAMP

Weekly Themes 9:00 - Noon &

1:00 - 4:00 ½ or Full Day Art, Dance, Music

Ages 6 & up

CLASSES

Weekly Dance Classes

Ballet, Lyrical, Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop Acrobatics, Combo

4:00 - 7:00 pm

WORKSHOPS

Weekend Workshops

Flamingo, Ballroom, Latin, Country Western

Guest Artists



Glorifying God in the Arts

PRIVATE MUSIC CLASSES AVAILABLE

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Book your birthday party or special event here!

Arts, Entertainment, Events





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

ColorFest weekend rings in the fall season accompanied by a blaze of gold and red hues, complemented by the bright colors of hot air balloons.

ColorFest weekend also celebrates the harvest season with the Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival and the Bands, Brews, Etc. Blowout paying tribute to numerous local and regional foods, microbreweries and music.

Add the splash of color of the hot air balloons and crisp and glorious Colorado autumn weather, and you have a weekend of fun, friends and unparalleled beauty Sept. 18-21.

The weekend kicks off on Thursday, Sept. 18, with the growing trend of Wine Dinners, located at various restaurants around Pagosa. Pair some specialty wines with fantastic food from some of Pagosa's best restaurants.

On Friday, Sept. 19, the popular "Passport to Pagosa: Wine and Food Festival" fills the tent in Town Park. Different countries from around the world are chosen every year and their delicious wines are highlighted. Paired with the wine is the scrumptious food provided by many of Pagosa's superb restaurants and caterers. This event is certainly an epicurean delight.

On Saturday, prior to the Bands, Brews, Etc. microbrewery event, join the fun of the ColorFest Color Run/Walk sponsored by Archuleta County Victim Assistance Program. Enjoy a 5K fun run/walk downtown, then get "colored" from head to toe. This colorful event will engage the whole family to see who can get "colored" the most!

Enjoy the magic of hot air balloons as they ascend around 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. A mass ascension on Saturday, Sept. 20, will take place in the downtown area with the beautiful San Juan River in the foreground and the San Juan Mountains as a backdrop. Various locations on the west side of town will host the balloon ascension on Sunday morning, Sept. 21. The Saturday evening Balloon Glow will return to the downtown area. Bands, Brews, Etc. attendees will be able to continue their party while watching the

silhouettes of glowing balloons as the evening grows dark.

All balloon-related activities are weather contingent and could be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

For more information about ColorFest, call the Chamber of Commerce at (800) 252-2204 or for balloon pilots interested in flying, download the pilot application at www.pagosarally.com.

Bands, Brews, Etc.

Celebrating the area's penchant for a well-crafted quaff and its commitment to good music, Pagosa Springs brings the seventh annual Bands, Brews, Etc. festival to Town Park on Saturday, Sept. 20.

In conjunction with the weekend's ColorFest activities, Bands, Brews, Etc. is another opportunity to spend a fun time in Pagosa Springs while celebrating some of the state's best beers and breweries.

Bands, Brews, Etc. is a chance for residents and visitors alike to raise some suds in a toast to the approach of autumn. Participants can enjoy samples from almost 20 regional, state and local craft breweries and loosen up and dance to a variety of sounds from celebrated musical talent. This year's headliner is the popular Dix Hat Band from Lubbock, Texas, with their contagious western/rock/dancing music.

While adults sample beers from the numerous breweries or wine that is also available, the kids (or teetotalers) can enjoy non-alcoholic beverages. With bounce houses, games, face painting, a food court and more offered to keep the attendees occupied, Bands, Brews, Etc. is not just a celebration of the end of summer, good music and great beer, it is a family-friendly event in the tradition of small-town America.

The music and tasting begins after the ColorFest Color Fun Run and continues until dusk when the ColorFest Hot Air Balloon Glow lights up Town Park adjacent to the event tent.

This is a magical way to end the day's energizing events.

More information about the weekend's festivities and a listing of the musical talent may be viewed at www.pagosaspringschamber.com and tickets for the event can be purchased online or at the gate.



JAMES FERRARI

The first Pagosa MAKERS Expo & Tour featured more than 90 local MAKERS who produce everything from growing domes and television programs to jewelry, soap, beer, bread, art, furniture, sculpture, ceramics, clothing, collage, guitars, hats, scarves, paintings and more. If it's made by hand and made in Pagosa, then you can find it at the Pagosa MAKERS Expo & Tour over Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 11-12.

The expo takes place at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts and SHY RABBIT Contemporary Arts and the tour happens at studios, homes, workshops and businesses in and around Pagosa Springs. Look for a third venue in 2014 and up to 135 MAKERS.

Visit www.pagosamakers.org for more information on the MAK-ERS Expo & Tour. Follow on Facebook/pages/Pagosa-Arts-Culture-Project and read The Pagosa Springs SUN for updated details about the 2014 event.

Museum



We invite you to stop in and enjoy our quilt display.

Admission is FREE!

San Juan Historical Society Museum
96 Pagosa Street • (970) 264-4424

96 Pagosa Street • (970) 264-4424 Open mid-May to mid-September





Location

Archuleta County is located in southwest Colorado, situated at the junction of U.S. 160 and 84 at an elevation of 7,079 feet. The county seat, Pagosa Springs, is located 30 miles north of the New Mexico border, and 60 miles east of Durango. It is also near the Four Corners region where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet.

Physical Description

Archuleta County is comprised of 872,960 acres. Only 34 percent of lands in Archuleta County are in private ownership. Tribal lands comprise 14.4 percent of the county. Most of the northern and eastern portions of the county (51.6 percent) are within the San Juan National Forest. There is a total of approximately 2.8 million acres of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management surrounding Archuleta

Population Archuleta County

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts 2012 estimate — 12,070

Housing and Income

Median value of owner-occupied housing — \$303,800 Households — 3,951 Persons per household — 3.05 Per capita money income — \$29,361 Median household income — \$60,170 Persons below poverty — 7.7 percent

Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350 Persons per square mile — 8.9

Taxes

Sales and User Tax: 2.9 percent state, 4 percent county. County sales tax revenue is divided between county and town.

Lodger's Tax: A 3 percent tax is collected from the lodging industry and used for tourism promotion.

Primary Source of Town & County Revenue: Retail sales taxes, property taxes and charges for services.

Government

Town Government: www.townofpagosasprings.com Home Rule Municipality

Town Council with elected Mayor and six trustees elected for alternating four-year terms, Town Administrator is appointed. Date of Incorporation: 1891.

County Government: www.archuletacounty.org Three county commissioners elected for alternating four-year terms.

Media

Newspaper: The Pagosa Springs SUN www.pagosasun.com (970) 264-2100 Radio Stations: KWUF AM-1400, FM-106.3

www.kwuf.com, (970) 264-5983

Television: Cable/Satellite available in certain areas.

Education

District 50 Joint Office (970) 264-2228 www.mypagosaschools.com High School (970) 264-2231 Middle School, 5th-6th grades (970) 264-2256 Middle School, 7th-8th grades (970) 264-2794 Elementary (970) 264-2229 The Training Advantage (970) 264-5627 GOAL Academy (877) PRO-GOAL

Utilities

Electricity La Plata Electric Association (970) 247-5786, www.lpea.coop

Gas/Natural SourceGas

(800) 563-0012

Telephone CenturyLink

(970) 264-0012, www.centurylink.com Water Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation

(970) 731-2691, www.pawsd.org Sanitation Pagosa Lakes Area, (970) 731-2691

Sanitation Town of Pagosa Springs (970) 264-4151

www.pagosasprings.co.gov Trash

At Your Disposal (970) 731-4892 Waste Management (970) 264-5622

County Transfer Station (970) 264-5660

Tourism & Business Development

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp. www.pagosaspringscdc.org (970) 946-1133

Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce www.pagosaspringschamber.com (970) 264-2360, (800) 252-2204

Town Tourism Committee

www.visitpagosasprings.com www.explorepagosa.com

Region 9 Economic Development District (970) 247-9621, www.scan.org

Fort Lewis College Small Business Development

(970) 247-7009 http://sbdcfortlewis.org/

Related Web Site Links & Info

Association of Realtors, www.pagosaspringsrealtors.com Pagosa Lodging Association, www.visitpagosasprings. com

U.S. Postal Service, Hot Springs Boulevard, (970) 264-5440

U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office, (970) 264-2268, www.fs.fed.us

Colorado State University Extension Office,

(970) 264-5931, www.archuleta.colostate.edu Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, (970) 264-2209,

pagosa.colibraries.org

Stevens Field Airport, (970) 731-3060,

www.stevensfield.com

AWOS frequency 127.17, (970) 731-0365

FBO (970) 731-2127

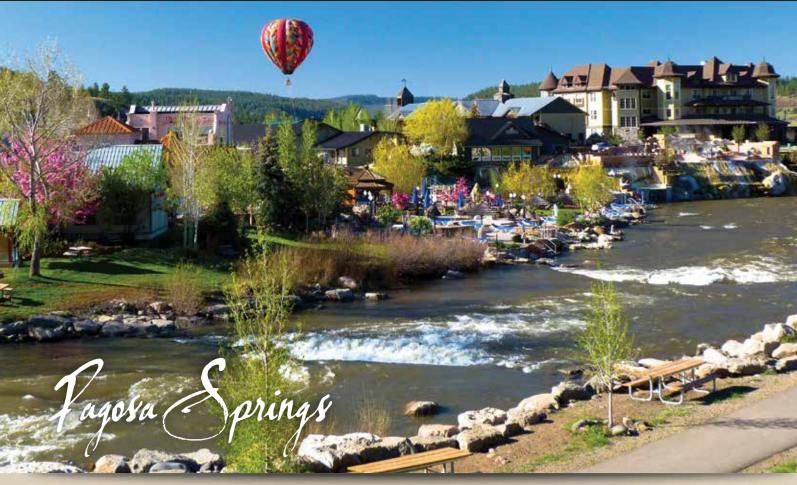
Durango-La Plata County Airport, www.flydurango.com

Road Conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation, (303) 639-1111, www.cotrip.org Archuleta County Sheriff's Office Road Report,

(970) 264-5555

New Mexico Road Report, (800) 432-4269, www.nmroads.com



BETH TOLLEESEN

When John Denver sang "thank God I'm a country boy," it's hard to imagine he was talking about what you'll find along the I-70 corridor today, but get away from the hustle and bustle and noise surrounding the bigger metropolitan centers, come down to the Four Corners area of southwestern Colorado, and you'll find the kind of small town charm people used to sing about.

There's plenty to fall in love with: warm sunshine, pristine rivers, abundant wildlife, stately stands of pine and aspen groves, verdant valleys and breathtaking vistas. It's impossible to describe what it feels like to be sitting around a campfire at night, to look up through the pines at a clear night sky so full of stars it makes your heart race. It's just something you need to experience for yourself.

Pagosa Springs still represents the idyllic vision of what Colorado was always meant to be. While many resort towns have become so overrun by the glitz, glamour and flash of Hollywood that real people can't afford to go there anymore, Pagosa Country has retained its Old West charm while still offering the amenities of the 21st century.

So small but so much!

With an excellent public library, numerous art galleries, churches (including the Tara Mandala Buddhist retreat center), specialty shops and a classic movie theater, Pagosa Springs provides more than enough to inspire the mind and spirit, while offering everything

to either heal or exercise the body.

If you need directions or information for any of these (or other) amenities, stop by the Pagosa Springs Area Visitor Center, which is now operated by the Town Tourism Committee and offers a wealth of information on everything from Wolf Creek to Chimney Rock and beyond.

Like no other place on Earth!

Backpackers, campers, hikers, mountain bikers and other adventuresome souls will want to visit the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office located at 2nd and Pagosa streets, just two blocks east of Hot Springs Boulevard on U.S. 160. The staff there can provide a wealth of information about hiking and biking trails, campsites, fishing spots and horseback riding, as well as various tours of the area including the ancestral Puebloan ruins at Chimney Rock.

Water, water everywhere ...

A short walk south from the Visitor Center will take you to "The Great Pagosah — the Largest, Hottest Spring in the World."

If you're a swimmer, the Healing Waters Resort and Spa at the corner of San Juan Street and Hot Springs Boulevard offers an outdoor pool and indoor mineral baths. The Springs Resort also offers an outdoor pool and outdoor geothermal hot tubs located next to the river. The Overlook Spa on Pagosa Street offers an opulent Victorian experience

for soaking.

Nevertheless, and nearer still, Pagosa Springs provides ample opportunity to splash and smile. Late summer finds bathers and tubers alike taking to the river, to enjoy a tame — and refreshing — float down the San Juan River.

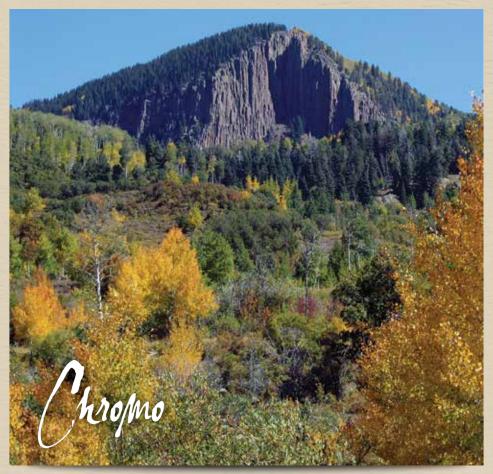
Pagosa ROCKS!

Needless to say, there is plenty of rock climbing around Pagosa Springs, but once you rappel down, there's plenty of music to greet you. The Pagosa Folk and Bluegrass Festival happens in June, while the Four Corners Folk Festival plays out on Labor Day weekend.

More to do than I have time for

Ballooning? There are several points where you can launch your balloon — or get a ride from professionals — if you want an eagle'seye view of the area. Windsurfing? Navajo Lake awaits you. Golf? Tennis? It's all here, under the clearest blue sky you've ever seen.

For the earliest native inhabitants of the area, Pagosa was considered a land of healing waters. For today's vacationers, Pagosa is a land of invigorating experiences. If this is your first time to Pagosa Country, make yourself at home in the midst of the most beautiful scenery and friendliest people in Colorado. If you've been here before, welcome back. If you've never been, come find out why so many have said, "The first time I came here, I fell in love with the place."



DIANE BIGLEY

Part-time residents and fifth generation natives. Mountain peaks and foothills. Cattle ranches, chicken farms and cougar territory.

Pagosa Country is a land of variety and contrasts — geographic and cultural.

And the little town of Chromo is a microcosm of the binary observances this land holds.

Chromo is not a far drive from Pagosa Springs; just take U.S. 84 south for 24 miles. And the drive, though short, is full of fun destinations and picturesque viewpoints.

About three miles south of town, you'll see Echo Lake on your right hand side with its exciting cold- and warm-water fishery. Drive only a couple of miles more, and look to your right. There will be a large sign for the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park, home to an array of live animals typical of local wildlife, including black bears, a grizzly bear, mountain lions, wolves, coyote, foxes, bobcats, elk and deer. Don't be scared; pull over and take the time to gander at the wondrous creatures that call Pagosa Country home.

After leaving the wildlife park, if you continue south you will pass the entrances to several side roads — all of them dead-end, but all offering an opportunity for more spectacular Pagosa Country mountain vistas.

The turnoff for Forest Service Road 657 leading to the Upper Blanco River Basin is about seven miles south of town, and about 10 miles south of town is Forest Service Road 652 leading to the Lower Blanco River Basin.

If you continue south along U.S. 84, you'll enjoy the winding drive through Halfway Canyon and on to wide-open Coyote Park. Much of this portion of the road retraces the pioneer stagecoach route into town. If you look closely, you'll see the bed of a narrow gauge railroad track long since abandoned. You could turn right at Coyote Park onto CR 392. This will take you to the historic rail hub of Edith. If you continue on, you'll make it to Lumberton in New Mexico, the old stagecoach destination.

After leaving Coyote Park, you cross a small mountain range. At the top of the range is another dead-end road leading east to Buckles and Harris lakes. Finally, after driving past some awesome green horse pastures, you cross the Navajo River and find yourself in

While in Chromo, drive a few miles up County Road 382 for a close look at Navajo Peaks, one of the most highly acclaimed camera points in Archuleta County.

Chromo is one of the best places in Pagosa Country for gaining access to the South San Juan Wilderness Area. During spring and fall, when elk and deer are migrating to and from the high country, a number of migration routes cross the road. Stay alert for elk or deer on the road, but also keep an eye out to the side to catch a majestic sight of the elk or deer running with their herd. If you get a chance while in Pagosa Country, visit Chromo. Allow plenty of time, because there is plenty to see.

Things we love ...

"I love the way the air smells after a thunderstorm!" — Lisa Hartley

"My favorite thing about Pagosa Country summers is that they're not Pagosa Country winters." - Karl Isberg

"I love Pagosa weather. Regardless of what my sons and I plan to do, the weather is great. Never too hot, never too cold and very few bugs, it's easy to be outside 24/7.

— Annette DeGraaf

"I love the summers down here because there is so much to do and the weather is perfect. It is never too hot or too cold like it is in other areas of the state. A person can go fishing in the river or the numerous lakes, hiking, climbing, tubing in the river and finish the day at the hot springs. There are many activities that Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County offer in the summer time: rodeos, music festivals and other festivals. - Tonya McCann

"I love being outside in the summer! Whether it is camping, hiking or rafting, Pagosa is stunning! The surrounding area has so much to offer - there are getaways in every direction where you can immerse yourself in fresh air, sunshine and amazing views." — Shanti Johnson

"In my opinion, Pagosa Country summers define paradise. You can't beat the area's natural beauty and outdoor playground. I spend as much of my summer as I can hiking, running and horseback riding the many trails in this area. Relaxing in the sun while reading a book in the downtown park or tubing down the river with friends is an ideal way to spend an afternoon. Going camping in the high country with my family is always a summer favorite!" — Jamilyn Harms

"Let me see — I love the fishing, camping and hiking. Fishing because we've got the best quality waters and camping because you can camp just about any place you can find and run into no other people. The hiking is great because there are so many trails that you can walk forever and see the pristine areas you wish to see — nothing looks the same; it's easy to get lost in it." — Dino Pacheco



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Pagosa Country is the place for fans of water fun. Navajo Lake is a summer recreation paradise for boating, camping, fishing, hiking, water skiing and wind surfing. The lake is less than an hour's drive from Pagosa Springs and extends 20 miles into New Mexico, with 15,000 surface acres of water.

Fed by the Piedra, San Juan and Pine rivers, Navajo Lake is a wonderful getaway for locals and visitors alike. Getting there is easy, via a relatively short and scenic drive through tall ponderosas and pinon pine country. From Pagosa Springs, travel west on U.S. 160 approximately 17 miles, until you see the spires of Chimney Rock, the site of ancestral Puebloan ruins, and turn south on Colo. 151. From that point on, enjoy the scenery as the 20-minute trip winds through the lower Piedra River Valley to the friendly town of Arboles and on to Navajo State Park. When you reach Arboles, turn left (southeast) on County Road 982, and it's a quick two miles to the park's Visitor

Navajo Lake Marina has almost everything for boating and water skiing enthusiasts. The maring has boat slips and mooring buovs for rent as well as a restroom on the dock. A 200-foot breakwater protects one of the longest boat ramps in the state. Boat rentals are also available. For information and reservations, contact the marina at (970) 883-BOAT (2628).

While campsite reservations are not required, campgrounds can fill up during busy summer weekends and holidays, so a reservation is never a bad idea. Campground reservations can be made no more than six months in advance on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website at cpw.state.co.us or by calling (800) 678-2267 toll-free.

A valid Colorado State Parks Pass is required for all motor vehicles entering the park and for travel in all park grounds surrounding Navajo Lake. Daily permits cost \$7 per vehicle. An annual pass is \$70 and Colorado seniors 64 and older can purchase an Aspen Leaf annual pass for \$60.

Whether you're camping, boating, fishing or just spending a sunny day by the water, be sure to visit the "Watchable Wildlife" observation deck, located where Colo. 151 crosses the Piedra River. From the deck, visitors may see mule deer, elk, foxes, coyotes, brown and black bears, rare river otters, bald eagles, waterfowl and migratory birds.

The lake itself contains a variety of cold- and warm-water game fish. Prized brown trout, rainbow trout and kokanee salmon thrive in the cold waters. Navajo has also become well known to bass fishermen throughout the southwest, since its warm surface waters harbor largemouth and smallmouth bass. Crappie, bluegill and catfish are also plentiful.

Trotlines are allowed at the lake, but they must conform to Colorado fishing regulations.

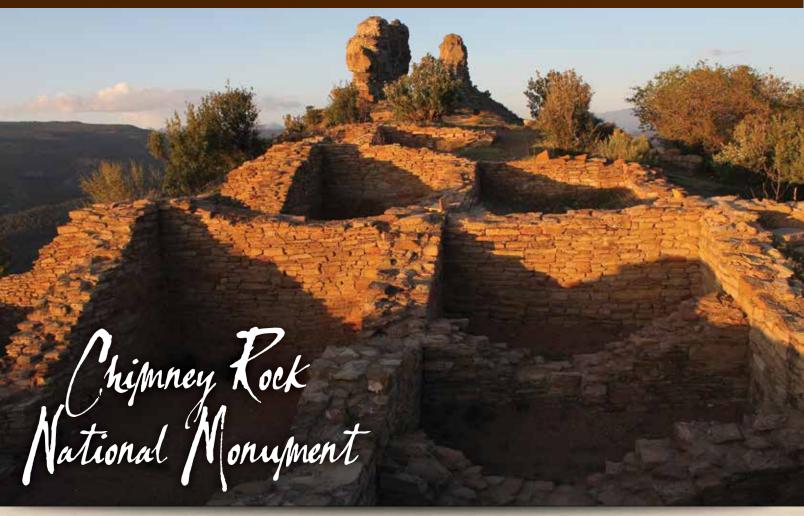
The northern part of Navajo Lake lies in Colorado where valid Colorado fishing licenses are required for anglers. Colorado licenses are available at the Visitor Center. If anglers cross south into New Mexico, they need to have a valid New Mexico state fishing license. which can also be purchased at the Visitor Center. Anglers without a boat can access excellent fishing spots on the rivers feeding the lake. Ample parking is located within walking distance of many fishing spots. A fully accessible fishing area is located on the Piedra River just west of Colo. 151.

As a gateway to one of southwest Colorado's finest recreational waters, Arboles has a gas station, cafe, convenience store, motel and post office in addition to boat storage and RV parks.

Check The Pagosa Springs SUN for details about upcoming events and activities.

For additional information and updates on park improvements, call the Navajo State Park office at (970) 883-2208 or visit cpw.state. co.us.

Our Communities



MARK D. ROPER

The Chimney Rock National Monument, a 4,726-acre archaeological site, houses artifacts left by the Ancestral Puebloan People. The Ancestral Puebloans were a prehistoric culture that inhabited and traveled across areas of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado, and Chimney Rock is the northeastern gateway to their past world.

The Ancestral Puebloan people occupied the Chimney Rock area and Piedra River valley approximately 1,000 years ago, from 900 A.D. to 1150 A.D., primarily during the Pueblo II period. Ancestral Puebloan farmers lived in villages and on dispersed homesteads. An impressive testament to this life and community is the Great House Pueblo situated at an elevation of 7,600 feet, just below the Chimney Rock pinnacles. While impressive, the Great House Pueblo is only one of 91 structures found at Chimney Rock thus far by researchers. Although an important link to an ancient culture, several Native American groups, notably the Pueblo Indians, still have a special spiritual and traditional affinity for Chimney Rock.

The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) sponsors programs at the National Monument in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Pagosa Ranger District. Current details on all listed programs and possible additions are available at www.chimneyrockco.org or by calling (970) 883-5359 between 9 a.m. and 4:30

p.m. daily from May 15 to Sept. 30 or (970) 731-7133 from Oct. 1 to May 14.

CRIA officially opens its 2014 program season at Chimney Rock National Monument on May 15. Visit the National Monument located 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs and three miles south on Colo. 151. Walking tours are available during the visitor season May 15 through Sept. 30. Two-hour and one-hour guided walking tours are offered daily. Please visit www. chimneyrockco.org for up to an up-to-date tour schedule. Self-guided walking tours can be done from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and do not include access to the Great House Pueblo Trail, although they can be combined with the shorter guided tour. All walking tours meet at the visitor center where fees are collected — \$12 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-16 and free for children under 5.

CRIA also hosts monthly programs that can be booked online at www.chimneyrockco.org or by calling (877) 444-6777. These monthly programs include the following:

- Visions of Chimney Rock: This is a kid friendly, hands-on program that focuses on how the Ancient Ones lived at Chimney Rock National Monument.
- Full Moon: During this program, guests will learn about Ancestral Puebloan ties to astronomy, Puebloan Culture, area geology and more while watching the full moon rise from atop

Chimney Rock Mesa.

- Moon View Plus: This program offers an excellent opportunity for guests to view the surface of the moon and other celestial objects with telescopes.
- Night Sky Archaeoastronomy: This educational program includes a one-hour astronomy demonstration at the visitor center where guests learn about naked-eye astronomy of the Ancestral Puebloans as well as about current astronomy topics, techniques and tools. After the demonstration, the program continues on the upper mesa where guests participate in approximately 90 minutes of night sky viewing through telescopes.

CRIA also hosts annual programs including:

- Summer Solstice and Fall Equinox Sunrise: Saturday, June 21, and Tuesday, Sept. 23 Watch the sun rise from the Sun Tower and Stone Circle sites while a volunteer talks about how the ancients may have lived and why celestial alignments with site geology may have been important to them.
- Life at Chimney Rock Festival: This festival includes interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the Ancestral Puebloan People in addition to a Native American arts and crafts market.
- Native American Cultural Gathering:
 Modern Native Americans share traditional
 music, songs, stories and dances with visitors in
 the Great Kiva.



SCC PHOTO

'There are tons of families there all summer long because the park accommodates all skill levels. A lot of kids have fun down there'

Construction of a new skateboard park downtown in 2011 has made Pagosa a great place for new skaters to get acquainted with skateboarding and for more seasoned riders to practice tricks and improve their skills. Constructed in an area with access to the San Juan River, a play structure, gazebos and sports fields, the skate park is one more amenity that affords residents and visitors alike the opportunity to enjoy beautiful Yamaguchi Park.

Recognizing the need for a new skate park in town, the Pagosa Skaters Coalition for Concrete (SCC) was formed as a community-based nonprofit group of skateboarding supporters determined to raise funds to build a nice facility for skaters of all ages and ability levels to enjoy.

"Skateboarding has grown a lot and become commonplace in our culture," says SCC member Mike Musgrove, explaining the importance of having a high-quality facility accessible to all.

The current skate park, located at 684 South 5th St. in beautiful Yamaguchi Park, was built on land allocated by the town with funds raised from private donors, the Pagosa Springs Town Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Designed by Brad Seidlecki of Pillar Designs, the park has a 3,400-foot bowl and other terrain features perfect for use by beginner and intermediate skaters. The SCC also plans to expand the park further to include another bowl feature to accommodate more advanced skaters and help those developing skills push their

abilities. The next phase of the park will be built just north of the existing facility as fundraising permits.

"Completion of phase two of the park will help us appeal to a more broad user group and allow skaters to push their ability and get better," says Musarove.

The current skate park structure is utilized all summer long by Pagosa locals and visitors of all ages. Families visiting and using the excellent outdoor facilities at Yamaguchi Park can enjoy a picnic on the fields or by the river, get a group together to play a game of soccer or Frisbee, or just sit back and enjoy the sunshine while inclined youngsters practice their skills at the skate park.

"The current park gets a lot of use — it's a new, clean, safe facility for kids and families to use and play on. There are tons of families there all summer long because the park accommodates all skill levels. A lot of kids have fun down there," says SCC member and skater Jon King.

The SCC will hold its eighth annual skate competition at the park this summer. Skaters of all ages and ability levels are welcome to join in the fun for a cost of \$5 and all will have the opportunity to win exciting prizes. Check the SCC website at www.skaterscoalitionforconcrete. com, call Jon King at (970) 946-5643 or look in The Pagosa Springs SUN for up-to-date information and details about upcoming skate park events.

Family Fun



CHUCK MCGUIRE

The employees of the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department take great personal pride in their stewardship of the town's facilities and amenities, and are always willing to take the time to bend your ear when it comes to bragging about what they have to offer to tourists and residents alike.

Jim Miller, the town's superintendent of parks, says he thinks of each tree, bush and flower as one of his own children, having lovingly planted, protected and nurtured most of them himself. He also keeps a watchful eye on every picnic table, park bench and public restroom to make sure they are clean, safe and ready to use.

The parks of Pagosa Springs run the gamut from the wild and natural pine forest on Reservoir Hill to the well manicured fields of Yamaguchi Park. What follows is a list of each park and a description of what it has to offer.

Reservoir Hill

The most prominent physical feature of the downtown area, Reservoir Hill towers over the south bank of the San Juan River and is distinguished by the large green water tank visible from U.S. 160.

The park is accessible from three trailheads — located across the highway from the River Center, behind the Healing Waters Spa, and next to the U.S. Post Office — and offers miles of hiking and biking trails ranging from gentle and peaceful to steep and technical.

A large meadow right next to the water tank is the home to two of Pagosa's largest musical events: The Folk 'N Bluegrass event takes place in early June and the Four Corners Folk Festival over Labor Day weekend. A generous local benefactor recently donated a gazebo to the town, which will be installed in the festival meadow and will be available to rent for special occasions such as weddings or reunions.

Reservoir Hill is also home to one of the best disc golf courses in the region, featuring 18 baskets, 18 regular tee boxes, and 18 alternative tee boxes for those experts looking for a bit more challenging game.

Keep in mind, however, there are no restrooms or drinking fountains on Reservoir Hill, so you will need to plan accordingly.

Yamaquchi Park

Located on South 5th Street between Pagosa Springs High School and the river, Yamaguchi Park is home to the recently completed skate park. The 4,500 square-foot Pagosa Skate Park is a concrete facility that resulted from a decade's worth of tireless collaboration between the local Skaters Coalition for Concrete, Town of Pagosa Springs, Archuleta County and numerous local merchants and volunteers.

The park was designed to appeal to skaters of all ability levels and includes several plaza elements and a bowl feature. Adjacent land has been set aside to allow for further expansion (a larger, deeper bowl), and local fund-raising and planning efforts are ongoing. Look for the second phase of the park coming soon.

The park is open from dawn to dusk throughout the year, provided the skating surface is free of ice and snow in the winter months. To learn more about the skate park, or to find out when the annual skater competition and fundraiser will take place, visit www.skaterscoalitonforconcrete. com.

Another amenity of Yamaguchi Park is the kayak/raft launching facility and two recently completed whitewater features, complemented by the paved Riverwalk to facilitate viewing activities on the river.

A heated year-round restroom, drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills and picnic shelter allow for family gatherings, while a state-of-the-art playground and beautiful soccer and softball fields give plenty of room for the kids to play. A special events and performance venue with electrical service is also available.

South Pagosa Park

A true neighborhood park located on the south side of town on Apache Street between 7th and 8th streets, South Pagosa Park has bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a picnic shelter, a playground and a basketball court. The park is well used by local families.

Centennial Park

The future home of three geodesic domes that will house the Geothermal Greenhouse Project, Centennial Park stretches along the river behind the Archuleta County courthouse, and includes a section of the Riverwalk, a gazebo and several tables for enjoying a nice family picnic while watching the activities in the river and the hot springs beyond.

Town Park

On the southeast corner of the U.S. 160/ Hot Springs Boulevard intersection, Town Park connects to Centennial Park via the Riverwalk and contains bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a playground, two special event 200-amp electrical services, a performance space and stage and a white water feature in the adjacent river. The park hosts several events throughout the year on the athletic field across Hermosa Street, including the Pirate/ Renaissance Fair, the Fourth of July Arts and Crafts Fair, ColorFest and the Mountain Chile Cha Cha.

Mary Fisher Park

Along the south bank of the San Juan River directly across from Town Park, and connected to it by a pedestrian bridge, Mary Fisher Park contains several picnic tables, as well as a changing screen for kayakers and inner tubers to use before hitting another one of the new whitewater river features.

River Center Park

Nestled behind the River Center shops on the east end of town (from U.S. 160 go behind the River Center buildings), the River Center Park contains two small fishing ponds with a handicapped-accessible pier and access to the river for launching rafts and kayaks.

Limitless opportunities for fun and recreation

Raising a family in Pagosa Country, or even just bringing kids here for the family vacation, is like taking a step back to a time when life was a little more simple, pure and wholesome. The area isn't famous for having a bunch of flashing neon lights, slot machines, roller coasters or Ferris wheels. In fact, it's just the opposite.

Recent studies have found that the people of Colorado rank as the healthiest, most physically fit, active people in the United States, and a quick glance around Pagosa Country will make it clear why. With so many family activities at your fingertips, who has time to sit around the house watching TV or playing video games?

The skate park in Yamaguchi Park, fishing on the San Juan River, hiking, camping, mountain biking, rock climbing, backpacking, golfing (with clubs or discs) or swimming ... the list goes on and on. It's all here. It's all fun and exciting. It's all pretty good for you, too.

Throughout the summer, the Pagosa Springs Youth Center (adjacent to Town Park) provides a day camp for children ages 5-12 and offers a variety of indoor and outdoor activities. From fishing, horseback riding and swim lessons (as well as a bicycle and skateboarding clinic) to cooking lessons and crafts, the camp's curriculum changes



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- Horse Sleigh Rides & Cabin Dinners
- Horseback Riding
- Back Country Scenic Wildlife Tours
- River Rafting Hiking 4x4
- Cross Country Ski & Snowshoeing
- Ski Shuttle Snowmobiling
- Discounted Lift Tickets
- Guided Fly Fishing Mountain Climbs
- Mountain Bike Gravity Tour
- Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park
- Cliff Dwelling & Indian Ruin Tours
- Creede Mining Tour

Photo courtesy Pagosa Photography



Stop in for information on your Colorado adventure! 305 Village Drive • (970) 731-8060 www.wyndhampagosa.net/activities.htm

Family Fun

from day to day and week to week, keeping things fresh and exciting. Drop-ins are welcome and parents can sign up their children by the day, week or for the entire summer. The camp runs Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and immunization records are requested for enrollment. The camp is \$75 per week. Contact Joanne Irons at (970) 946-7545 for additional information and reservations.

Not a day camp, but a day trip, the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park gives visitors a chance to see local wildlife in their natural habitats. Located five miles south of Pagosa Springs off U.S. 84, tours are conducted at feeding time. Featuring raptors and other birds of

Museum



We invite you to stop in and enjoy our quilt display. Admission is FREE!

San Juan Historical Society Museum 96 Pagosa Street • (970) 264-4424 Open mid-May to mid-September

prey, wild cats, bears and all types of local wild animals, the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park is a nature preserve that will inspire awe in all family members. Call (970) 264-5546 or visit www.rmwildlifepark. org for more information on tours or other excursions.

Pagosa Country may be blessed with over 300 days of sunshine a year, there still are plenty of indoor activities to keep the kids entertained that offer different kinds of enrichment, adventure and exploration. Early in the summer, the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library offers a summer reading program for everyone in the family. Yearly themes ensure the ability for all ages to participate, and programs integrate literature, music, stories and crafts to provide an enriching experience for all ages. The Ruby Sisson Library cooperates with other regional libraries in summer reading programs, so visitors who began a reading program in another community may be able to "transfer credit" from that program. Contact Christine at the Ruby Sisson Library, (970) 264-2209, for program details and times.

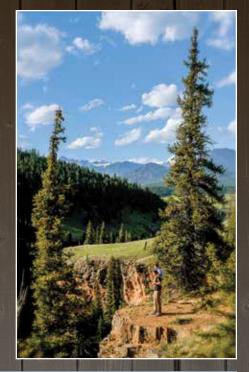
There's no doubt that your vacation in Pagosa Country will be memorable: in a recent survey, over 70 percent of our visitors said they had been here before. We hope you and your children, and their children in years to come, will seek to come back, year after year, to experience some of the most beautiful landscape anywhere, the ambience of a small, western town and an endless array of activities.













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SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By John M. Motter

"Bold and brash" best describes Archuleta County history, a saga of the Old West prescribed by rugged mountain remoteness and the distinctive characteristics of three proud cultures.

At least three national flags have symbolized ownership of Pagosa Country — claims not always recognized by the indigenous Native Americans who hunted and fished here long before Columbus crossed the Atlantic.

Those flags belonged to Spain, Mexico and the United States, and an argument could be made that France also claimed the area for a period

Evidence of prehistoric human occupation in the San Juan Mountains, including Archuleta County, is fairly abundant. Later, but before white men followed Indian trails into the area, the ancestral Puebloans pursued a sedentary lifestyle near Chimney Rock and along the Piedra and San Juan rivers in the southwestern part of the county.

More recently, perhaps about the same time Hispanics arrived in New Mexico, Southern Ute, Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Indians found the fertile mountain valleys surrounding the Great Pagosa Hot Spring to their liking. They enjoyed, even worshiped, the medicinal benefits of the mineralized hot spring waters.

Hispanics wandered into Nuevo Mexico in the 16th century, hoping to fill their packs with gold. Even though they didn't uncover fabulous golden riches, they stayed and, in order to survive, traded with the Indians. As a result, a trading party led by Juan Maria Rivera visited Pagosa Country in 1765. Not much later, in 1776, the priests Francisco Dominguez and Silvestre Escalante entered Archuleta County near present-day Carracas, intent on finding a path linking Spain's New Mexico colonies with those in California. After reaching the central valley of Utah, the intrepid explorers turned back. Nevertheless, for years, Pagosa Country hills echoed to the clip clop of mule trains trotting back and forth between California and

New Mexico, along paths opened by these men.

By 1820, Pagosa Country acquired a new, if still foreign, ruling government. That is the year Mexico threw off the yoke of Spain and began administering her own affairs. Mexico's greater tolerance for Anglos encouraged a steady stream of fur traders to set their traps in the San Juan watershed.

By 1846, trapping was largely a thing of the past and even bigger changes loomed on the horizon. The United States went to war with Mexico. Following the war, the United States owned about half of Mexico's territory, including Pagosa Country.

Anxious to explore their new domain and to find a railroad route to California, the U.S. Army sent an expedition through Pagosa Country in 1859, headed by Capt. John Macomb. Macomb's party included a number of scientists who mapped the route and rendered an exquisite line drawing of the Great Pagosa Hot Spring and Chimney Rock. Macomb's report is the first written description in English we have of Pagosa Country.

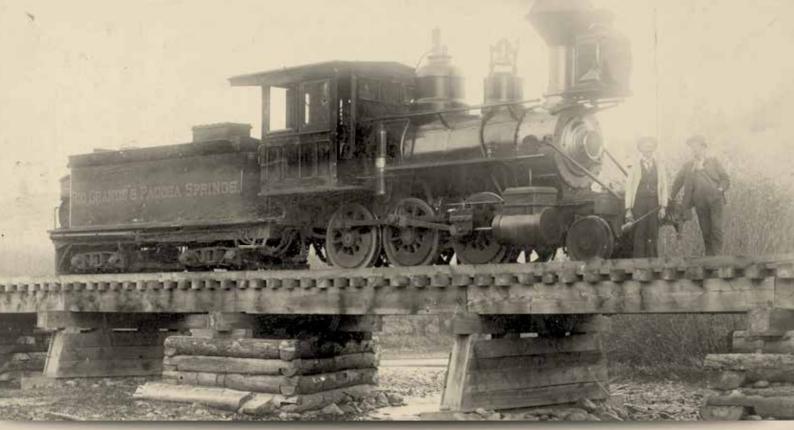
Soon after Macomb's visit, in 1860, gold was discovered in the San Juan Mountains. For the next 30 years, a steady stream of prospectors and their supporters flowed through Pagosa Country. The growing number of settlers agitated the proud Southern Ute tribes, forcing the U.S. government to respond by sending troops into the area.

The San Juan River adjacent to the great Pagosa Hot Springs was chosen as a good point for locating troops. In 1878, Fort Lewis blossomed on one bank of the river, the town of Pagosa Springs on the other bank. Cattle ranchers chased their four-legged charges through the surrounding foothills.

Pagosa Country assumed all of the attributes of the Old West, with cavalry troops, cowboys and Indians, gunfights and barroom brawls, sheepmen and cattlemen, stagecoach holdups, all of the cherished traditions from which western movies are made.

Then, as suddenly as it had arrived, the Old West disappeared. Filling

History & Heritage



SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

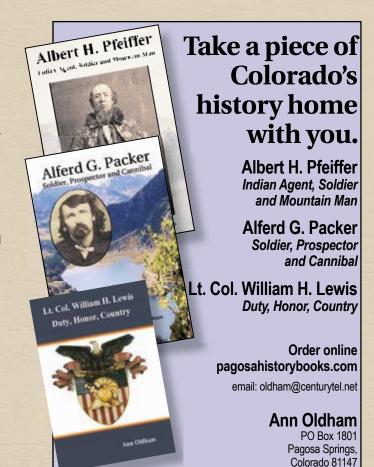
the void were railroads, lumber mills and loggers. Pagosa had its own narrow gauge railroad complete with a downtown depot. Nothing lasts forever and, after denuding much of the countryside, the railroad and logging industry moved out.

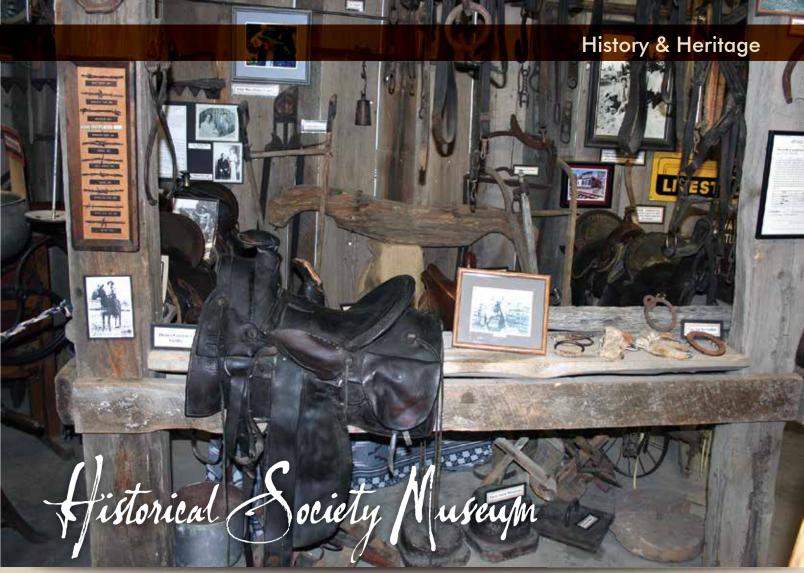
Colorado built a relatively modern highway over Wolf Creek Pass in 1916; trucks began to move most of the freight and telephones, electricity and central water came to town. Local folks were caught between the new and the old. Cattlemen continued to raise beef for the market. Small lumber mills hacked away at the remaining trees. Then came the Great Depression and World War II. Many of the rural people eking out a scarcely adequate living moved to town, or further away to work in defense plants. The war ended, but few of those who had abandoned Pagosa Country returned. Pagosa had no payrolls.

Along about 1970, a number of land developers' ears tuned to the insistent jingle of change in affluent America's pockets, began to subdivide and sell Pagosa Country land. Buyers responded enthusiastically, infatuated with the mountain panoramas, gurgling streams, seemingly endless ranks of mountain forests, and maybe with the idea that a little of the Old West lived on in Pagosa Country.

Since 1970, the population of Pagosa Country has increased dramatically. Shops have sprung up to meet the needs of new arrivals. Farsighted investors have developed the Great Pagosa Hot Springs and other natural attractions. But, even with change, Pagosa Country has remained unique — a beautiful, off-the-beaten-path refuge for resident and visitor alike.

The history of Pagosa Country, new and old, is etched in her people's dynamic response to change. Even though the Old West is gone, the Old West background of soaring mountains, strident streams and abundant wildlife continue to dominate life here. As it has been from the beginning, Pagosa Country, dominated by God-given natural resources, remains bold and brash.





SHARI PIERCE

For more than three decades, the San Juan Historical Society Museum has offered visitors and locals alike a glimpse back into the history of Pagosa Country, at the same time preserving history and displaying precious artifacts from the past.

A few of the exhibits available to viewers at the museum include welded art, a general store, country schoolroom, ranching and textiles, as well as logging and railroad exhibits.

In addition to the museum's permanent textile exhibits, the museum will include a special display of quilts this season. Following in the footsteps of the past few seasons' popular quilt shows, this summer's show will feature antique and vintage patriotic quilts displayed throughout the museum, loaned from local crafters and collectors.

The museum is located a short walk from downtown Pagosa Springs at the corner of U.S. 160 and First Street. It is partially housed in the old waterworks building constructed by the WPA in 1938. In the 1970s, the historical society added a metal building from the old

Job Corps site to the front of the waterworks to provide additional display area.

While visiting the museum, guests are encouraged to browse the gift shop, where historical society members provide carefully selected items, which may be of particular interest to visitors of Pagosa Country. Also available are handmade items from local crafters, making the perfect memento or gifts for friends back home from your visit to Pagosa.

The book series "Remembrances," celebrating the people, places and history of Pagosa Springs and the surrounding area, continues. The most recent addition to the series is Volume 13, titled "Unlucky Days." This volume features stories drawn from area history, including tales of deep snow, influenza, government problems and the year the river ran dry. The series is compiled and published by the San Juan Historical Society, a nonprofit organization that also manages the museum.

The museum opens for the season on May 19, and will be open seven days a week,

from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through Sept. 19. Admission is free. The museum will have a donation box available and any donations to offset the operating expenses are greatly appreciated. The museum relies on private funding and grants to operate.



History & Heritage



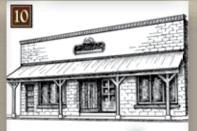
















Downtown Historic Halking Your

1. 402 Pagosa Street Goodman's Department Store

Following the departure of soldiers from
Fort Lewis in 1880, pioneer David Lowenstein opened a clothing store at this location,
conducting some of his business with Jicarilla
Apache Indians. Through marriage, the Goodman family became associated with the business
and eventually remodeled the structure in 1929
by completely enclosing the existing structure
and then removing the old store from the inside
without closing for a day. In 2000, Goodman's
Department Store celebrated its 100th year in
the building, continuing its legacy as the longest
operating department store in Pagosa Springs.

2. 418 & 422 Pagosa Street Metropolitan Hotel & Liberty Theatre

Pagosa Lumber Company founder A.T. Sullenberger purchased the two-story brick building at this location in 1918, which was previously occupied by Archuleta Mercantile and built by J.M. Archuleta Jr. in the early 1900s. After a fire destroyed the structure in 1919, Sullenberger constructed the Metropolitan Hotel, which featured modern rooms, hot baths for guests and a motion picture theatre.

3. 426 Pagosa Street Sparks Hardware

Constructed in 1919, this structure was originally occupied by Sparks Hardware. Archuleta Motors opened a garage in the building several decades later. After fire damaged the building in 1943, Ben Lynch Sr. moved Jackisch Drug to this location, where it was operated by the Lynch family until 2004.

4. 452 Pagosa Street The Hersch Building

Built by Alice Phillips in 1898 and owned by the Hatcher Brothers from 1905 to 1921, this building was purchased in 1921 and became Hersch Mercantile. The building operated as Hersch Mercantile until the 1970s and has held numerous social and business functions, as well as the law offices of former Colorado Attorney General Alonzo Hubbard.

5. 456 Pagosa Street La Cantina

Clock Dry Goods Company operated at this location beginning in 1903. The building was briefly known as the Colorado Tavern from 1937 to 1941. The building was purchased in 1941 and renamed La Cantina by the L.M. Archuleta family. The Archuleta family operated La Cantina into the late 1990s until the building was purchased; renovations followed shortly thereafter, in 2001.

6. 468 Pagosa Street Hatcher Hardware

Beginning in 1905, Hatcher Hardware operated at this location for several decades, often sharing ownership of the building with Citizens Bank. In 1943, a fire almost completely destroyed the building. The existing building was constructed following the fire. At the rear of the property is the town's second geothermal well, which was drilled in 1920. The wellhead has the ability to pump approximately 675 gallons per minute and was previously used to heat the building.

7. 474 Pagosa Street Citizens Bank

Citizens Bank operated at this corner location for more than 70 years. Fred Catchpole opened the bank following the closure of First National Bank in 1908. The original building, constructed in 1910, was a two-story structure. The structure was remodeled into a one-story building after a fire damaged the second floor in 1943. Catchpole served as county commissioner and county treasurer and was also influential in the construction of the Wolf Creek Pass road. The original bank vault and Wells Fargo safe still remain inside.

8. 449 San Juan Street Archuleta County Courthouse

In 1927, Jay Catchpole approached the Archuleta County Commission and suggested the county purchase the old First National Bank building, along with the adjoining lot to construct a courthouse. The property was purchased for \$5,000 and in 1929, the county moved into its new offices. This building has operated as the Archuleta County Courthouse since 1929 and utilizes a geothermal well behind the building. The original bank vault still exists within the courthouse.

9. 480 San Juan Street Moorehead Garage

This building originally functioned as a service station and auto garage and was constructed sometime between 1935 and 1937. A fire in 1943 destroyed a large portion of the structure. Numerous renovations have been completed since the fire, including significant restoration in 2005.

10. 468 Lewis Street San Juan Supply

Ralph Morgan constructed this building in 1918 and opened the Electric Garage. The property was purchased by C.O. Dunagan in 1925 and later sold to the Schoonover family. In the 1930s, Paul and Virginia Decker became partners with the Schoonover family and operated San Juan Supply into the mid 1980s. The building has served a variety of commercial enterprises since the closure of San Juan Supply.

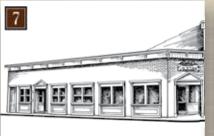
11. 444 Lewis Street Sparks Residence

This ornamental concrete block building was constructed by Ethel Sparks in 1910. The home was purchased by Bryce and Julia Patterson in 1912. The Pattersons moved to town in 1904 and operated the Arlington Hotel and Bath

www.PagosaSUN.com

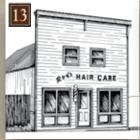


















House, which was across the street from the residence, until 1936.

12. 451 Lewis Street **Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church**

This building was constructed in 1948 to accommodate an increased congregation at the existing Saint Edwards Catholic Church. The church was dedicated as the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on May 22, 1949. The original stained glass windows were imported from Spain. Saint Edwards Catholic Church was destroyed by fire in the 1950s.

13. 409 Lewis Street Ray's Hair Care

Located where the old Fort Lewis military paymaster's office may have stood, this building was constructed in 1902 by either Joseph Clarke or William Kester. The building has housed a number of businesses throughout the years, with Ray's Hair Care operating at this location since 1976.

14. 380 Lewis Street **County Jail & Medical Office**

County records show the jail may have been located on this property prior to 1936. The existing residence was built in the mid-1930s for a local medical doctor. The residence's architecture exemplifies the use of local stone materials.

15. 338 Pagosa Street

Pagosa Springs' school was completely destroyed by fire in 1924. For a year, students

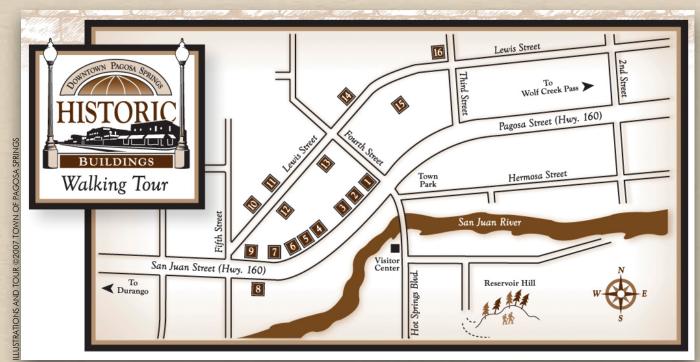
Pagosa Springs Intermediate School attended school in churches, businesses and the Odd Fellows Lodge until this building, the new

school, was finished in 1925. The building was

constructed to be totally fireproof, with ramps instead of stairs, which was thought to be safer. The school originally housed all grade levels; however, today the school accommodates only fifth- and sixth-grade students.

16. 302 Lewis Street **Catchpole Residence**

This residence was constructed as a Queen Anne-style home by Fred and Mabel Catchpole in 1910. From 1996 to 2002, the home experienced extensive remodeling, including siding, shingles, doors, windows and roof. The Catchpoles were active community members, with Fred serving terms as county commissioner and county treasurer, and Mabel serving terms on the school board and Methodist Church board. The residence is no longer owned by the Catchpole family.



Fred Harman Art Museum

Last winter did you catch a re-run of the holiday classic "A Christmas Story" about the little boy who only wants a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas?

Fred Harman gamered worldwide distinction with his Red Ryder and Little Beaver comic strip, which, from 1938 until 1964, notched 45 million devoted followers in more than 750 newspapers on three continents. The comic was also turned into numerous movies and commercial products, furthering the Red Ryder fame.

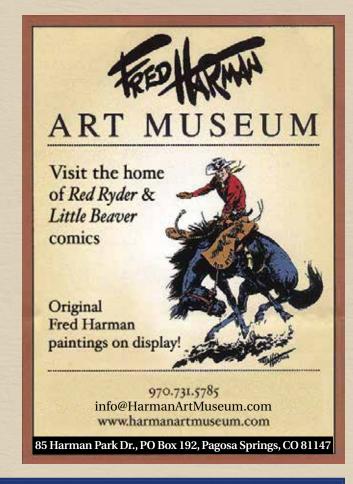
Just a short jaunt west from downtown Pagosa Springs, tucked back in the trees, is a place sure to please fans of comics and cowboys, connoisseurs of drawing and painting, and anyone wanting a unique look at a special Pagosan—the Fred Harman Art Museum.

The museum, located just south of the intersection of U.S. 160 and Piedra Road (on the aptly named Harman Park Drive), is also the former home of the famed artist and cartoonist, who used his early experience as a cowboy growing up on his father's homestead to create his original art and famous comic strip.

Pagosa Springs is also home to the annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo. Harman was honored with inclusion in The Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Cowboy Artists of America Association and, in 1958, he was presented with Sertoma's "American Way of Life" award as Colorado's outstanding citizen.

The museum features a wide-ranging display of Harman's paintings, drawings, a collection of memorabilia from his long and eventful life, as well as rodeo, movie and western memorabilia. Outside the museum is a collection of aged buildings from the area's past, further making you feel like you've stepped into the time of Harman, himself, and, if you're lucky, you may run into Fred Harman III.

For more information, visit www.harmanartmuseum.com.











Take a walk back in time.

featuring a special exhibit: **Star Spangled Quilts** showcasing antique and patriotic quilts

2014 Season Dates: May 26-September 20

open daily from 9 am to 5 pm no admission charge • donations appreciated

Housed in our town's old water works, the museum displays exhibits of early-day life in Pagosa Springs including railroad, business and household artifacts.

San Juan Historical Society Museum

96 Pagosa Street • Pagosa Springs, Colorado • (970) 264-4424 • pagosahistory.org



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Stevens Field Airport

Archuleta County's Stevens Field, located just three miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs, is one of the most scenic airports around.

In addition to beauty, the airport boasts a fully lit asphalt runway that is 100 feet wide and 8,100 feet long. That runway has aircraft weight capacities of 70,000 pounds for dual-wheel gear and 59,000 pounds for single-wheel gear. Flight safety at the high-altitude, general aviation airport is reinforced with a Precision Approach Path Indicator system.

The airport has seen a great deal of improvement over the last several years. In 2006, workers widened and resurfaced Runway 10/19 and built a new, fixed-base operations building at midfield to provide fuel and services to local and visiting aircraft. In 2008, a new 3,000-foot parallel taxiway was completed, increasing the efficiency of aircraft movement and increasing safety. During a 2009 project, all airport pavement received a seal coating to protect the runway, taxiways and aircraft parking ramps from the elements. In 2013, Archuleta County acquired additional snow removal equipment solely to be used at the airport. Alongside the other improvements, new hangars have appeared, an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) has been installed, and the airport identifier became KPSO.

In keeping with its commitment to Archuleta County and Stevens Field, the Federal Aviation Administration completed and published a GPS instrument approach for pilot use during nighttime and low-visibility landings. The FAA has funded 90 to 95 percent of the various improvement projects over the past several years, while the Colorado Department of Transportation-Aeronautics Division and the county each contributed 2.5 to 5 percent.

Those improvements have not only increased the safety of the airport, but have also helped solidify its status as an economic driver for the community. According to an Economic Impact Study completed by the Archuleta County Airport Advisory Committee, for every dollar Archuleta County invests in the Stevens Field airport, the county receives a return of \$10.86.

The airport facility also boasts a private, onsite maintenance shop in one of the hangars.

For more information on the airport, visit www.archuletacounty.org or www.stevensfield. com. For specific airport management questions or concerns, call the airport manager at (970) 731-3060. The AWOS system is available on frequency 127.17, or by phone at (970) 731-0365.

Fixed Base Operator

For aviation services or to visit Avjet Corporation, the fixed base operator, travel three miles west of town, then approximately one mile northwest on Piedra Road (CR 600). Turn right (northeast) on Cloman Boulevard and proceed to 61 Aviation Court.

Pilot supplies, a flight service telephone, restrooms, vending machines, catering service, coffee, lounge area, heated hangar and more are provided at the FBO.

Avjet also provides fuel, Avgas and Jet-A rated fuel.

For more information about these and other airport services, call Avjet at (970) 731-2127.

La Plata County Airport

The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers daily service with American Airlines, Frontier Airlines, United Express and US Airways. The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers a full range of convenient services within the terminal to make your visit comfortable, including food, car rental agencies, retail, wireless internet/WiFi and services for persons with disabilities. The airport has short- and long-term parking, full rental car services and shuttle/taxis.

The airport is located 60 miles from Pagosa Springs at the intersection of Airport Road and County Road 309A, approximately one mile from County Road 309. For more information about flights and ancillary services, you can view their website at www.flydurango.com.

Mileage from Pagosa

3	
Durango, Colo.	61 miles
Cortez, Colo.	104 miles
Denver, Colo.	277 miles
Colorado Springs, Colo.	242 miles
Farmington, N.M.	101 miles
Santa Fe, N.M.	160 miles
Albuquerque, N.M.	212 miles
Phoenix, Ariz.	514 miles
Oklahoma City, Okla.	699 miles
Dallas, Texas	813 miles

Rest & Relaxation



SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Do people soak in the summer?

After a hard day of skiing or snowboarding, nothing beats the feeling of slowly lowering the body into a tub full of hot water. The muscles relax, the eyes close, a sigh of relief escapes the lips, and especially when the air is really cold, a thick veil of steam rises off the water to block out the rest of the world. If it happens to be storming, you will need to dunk all the way under every so often to melt the snow from the top of your head. This is paradise!

But what about in the summertime?

A poorly kept local secret: soaking in the healing waters is just as nice, if not better, in the summer as it is in the winter.

Imagine getting up early, throwing on your hiking gear, filling a small backpack with a lunch and some water, grabbing your camera, and driving to downtown Pagosa Springs, where you turn from U.S. 160 onto Lewis Street and immediately onto Fifth Street, which turns into County Road 400 and then into Forest Road 645. Seven miles north of town you take a right at the junction and then four miles after that you reach a trailhead.

After a three-mile hike, you find the most amazing 300-foot waterfall. You eat lunch. You take pictures. You revel in the peace

and solitude. You marvel at the glory and the beauty that is Colorado. Reluctantly, you repack all your stuff and head back to the car. As you drive back to town you start to notice a satisfying tightness in your leg muscles. Your shoulders start to ache where the straps of your backpack dug in.

What should you do?

The answer hits you and out comes the cell phone (of course, you pull over to the side of the road before you start dialing because driving while distracted is illegal in Colorado). You call up your significant other and say, "Hey! We should go soak."

With three bathing facilities in downtown Pagosa Springs offering either indoor or outdoor pools (or both), and temperatures varying between hot and very hot, soakers have more than enough choices of where to relax and stretch out those sore muscles.

Three choices for relaxation

Each of Pagosa's three bathing facilities offers its own unique take on the traditional soaking experience, and the savvy soaker does well to switch things up, experiencing how differently each place relaxes the spirit and heals the body.

Located on the main street of Pagosa Springs at 432 Pagosa St., the Overlook Hot Springs Spa offers soaking and massage services housed within old-world Victorian opulence. With four indoor pools, the Overlook provides bathers an opportunity to soak while escaping the elements.

However, it is the three pools located on the building's roof (and additional steam room) that give the Overlook its name and notoriety. With a panoramic view of historic downtown and beyond, the pools are a favorite with locals and visitors alike. All pools are temperature controlled, and bathers can request water between 90 and 112 degrees.

Inside, the Overlook also offers two private pools that can be rented by the hour by bathers who prefer to soak in a more intimate setting; one of the two private pools also offers an attached private couple's massage room. Reservations are required for booking private pools and the massage room and the Overlook staff recommends at least 24 hours of lead time.

Additionally, the Overlook features three massage rooms, changing rooms with regular shower stalls, as well as steam showers (for wilting away the aroma of the mineral baths). Snacks and drinks (including beer, wine and champagne) are available for purchase to completely sate the appetites of soakers who prefer to ease aching muscles with a tasty

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beverage and absent a grumbling tummy

Just around the corner on the east side of Hot Springs Boulevard is the Healing Waters Resort and Spa, offering a large outdoor swimming pool, both indoor and outdoor tubs, 17 living units and pull-through RV spaces with full hookups. The ambiance here is down home, Old West and friendly. Through long years of service, the hosts have learned to satisfy the needs of the most discriminating guest.

Indoor tubs and steam rooms are segregated at the Healing Waters Resort and Spa as they offer clothingoptional bathing.

Across the street, The Springs Resort offers more than 79 living units and 23 tubs (two of which are jetted) to accommodate 300 visitors at a time. A 6,000-square-foot bathhouse, featuring a pleasing Mediterraneanstyle architecture, provides complete locker room and changing room facilities.

Small, party-size pools with temperatures ranging from 90 to 114

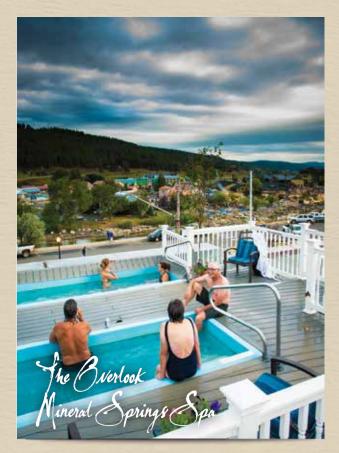
degrees extend from the bathhouse down to the edge of the San Juan River. Bathers enjoy a satisfying aura of adventure as they move from pool to pool, seeking the temperature of choice with the sound of the river in the background. There is an L-shaped swimming pool of geothermal water with temperature in the high 80s to low 90s. Other amenities include a full-service spa and salon as well as a gazebo that offers snacks and drinks, including beer and wine.

For relaxation purposes, five pools are designated as Adults Only. However, there are 18 soaking pools and a fresh-water Jacuzzi for the entire family to enjoy. Swim attire is mandatory in all pools.

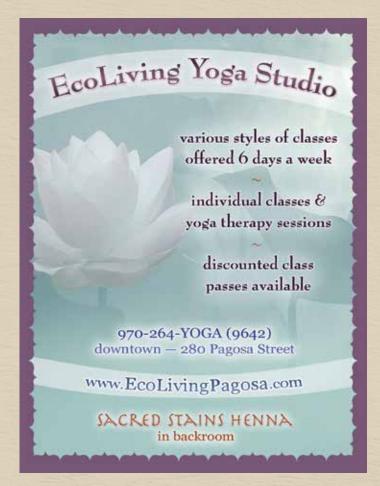
While the Great Pagosa's water remains at a natural temperature of 144 degrees and is far too hot for a relaxing soak, all three facilities cool the water for bathing and recreational purposes.

History and myth

After visitors to the area comment



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY





on the friendliness and laid-back demeanor of Pagosans, the next observation they offer is that the locals seem so healthy and vibrant. If you surmised that the reason for that vitality and mellow groove is due to the healing powers of our spring, give yourself a soak; you've arrived at the best answer that we have.

In fact, it's a story that has deep roots in the area's legends. Local spin has it that the Ute phrase "Pagosa" describes the mystical qualities of the legendary Great Pagosa Hot Spring, repeating the apocryphal tale that the phrase translates as "Healing Waters." Historian John Motter writes, "According to the dictionary prepared under the auspices of and with the help of Southern Utes in Ignacio, 'pagosa' comes from two Ute words meaning 'stinking water.'" However, locals almost unanimously prefer the following myth to this likely truth.

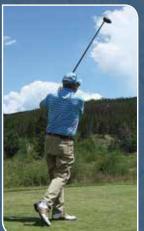
According to legend, earlier Native American visitors were certain the Great Spirit had endowed the geothermally heated waters with superhuman virtues, and they came to Pagosa Springs to not just soothe sore bodies, but to replenish their souls. The hot springs, it is told, arose after a plague began devastating the tribes. With the disease confounding the potions and power of tribal medicine men, the people gathered on the banks of the San Juan River to offer a plea to the gods. There, they built a huge fire around which they prayed and danced, eventually falling asleep with complete exhaustion. They awoke the next morning to a pool of boiling water bubbling from beneath the coals of the ceremonial fire. Seeing this as a sign from the gods, the afflicted bathed in the soothing water and were, at once, cured. From then on, the great spring became known as "Pag-Osah," a place of peace and healing.

Needless to say, reverence for the "healing waters" has not abated





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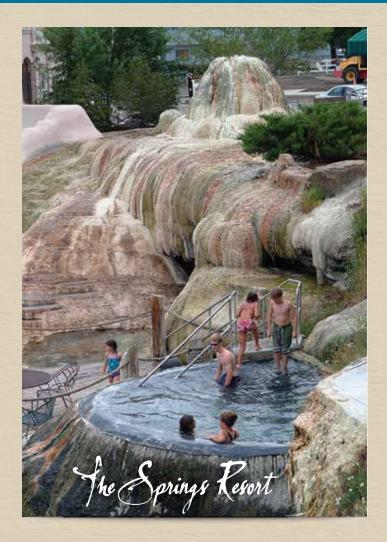
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with the passage of time; in recent years, The Great Pagosa Hot Spring has attracted more visitors than ever before. And while Motter's account of the spring's history is probably closer to the truth, a growing number of visitors come to Pagosa Springs for the same reasons that color the myth.

Science and trivia

Last year was pivotal for Pagosa Springs, with several scientific studies conducted to determine the extent and potential of the area's geothermal resources. Although use of the geothermal water has been limited to heating a number of businesses and residences in the downtown core (as well as the obvious application for soaking), recent studies have suggested that enough water is available to greatly expand those uses.

These include commercial applications such as agriculture and aquaculture, with implications for heating the entire town, as well as deep drilling for potential clean energy generation. Last year, a study by the Colorado School of Mines cleared up many questions regarding the geological characteristics of the geothermal aquifer and provided some idea of the extent of its volume. Those studies confirmed that the resource is much larger

and hotter than previously suspected, so Pagosa Springs could be on the verge of becoming the greenest, most self-sustaining community in the U.S.

Putting aside legends and myth, the "healing waters" that emerge from the Earth's surface in Pagosa Springs are the product of geological processes, hundreds of millions of years in the making, that put the area in a unique (and many say, "blessed") situation.

The process essentially begins as water percolates through the Earth's surface in its endless cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. Eventually, water descends through superheated rock and magma, gaining a three- to five-degree increase for every 300 feet of depth. Under pressure, the heated water begins to rise, following cracks and fissures in the rock, eventually making its way to the surface. On the way, it picks up a host of minerals, such as sulfur, silica, calcium, potassium, etc., and, if the water retains heat, emerges in the form of hot springs.

While this year's research has yet to determine the exact size and characteristic of the hot spring, recent measurements put the Great Pagosa into the pages of the Guinness Book of World Records as the deepest hot spring in the world. In August 2011, when a 1,002-foot long plumb line was dropped into the "mother spring," it didn't hit the bottom; instead, the plumb line ran out. So, while the official measurement is now 1,002 feet, the true depth remains unknown. In fact, a previous attempt at measurement using a 2,500-foot plumb line culminated in results similar to those from Guinness: before the plumb line reached the bottom of the spring, the line ran out.

The Zen of here and now

While, for the time being, the mystery of the aquifer's ultimate depth remains unsolved, it is the mystery of our water's ability to soothe, heal and relax even the most harried soul that appears to take center stage. Indeed, it is the mythopoeia, the unknown, that is half the fun.

And what is known — that the birth of The Great Pagosa Hot Spring begins well above our heads, forms well beneath our feet, and then realizes itself to the benefit of tired muscles and spent spirits — seems hardly worth a thought. Especially when, after it all comes together, a simple sigh is all that needs to be said.





RANDI PIERCE

'After living in big cities for most of our lives ... this is a godsend to be able to live here every day, driving to town and seeing the mountains.'

Whether you're looking for a hotel, motel, cabin, timeshare, house, campground, bed and breakfast or other form of lodging for your stay in Pagosa Country, you're likely to find it. In fact, you might be surprised at what you find — from downtown hotels to cabins secluded in the woods.

And all of the above can be found at a variety of prices from the super affordable to nothing but luxury, and everything in between.

Once you've found your lodging of choice in our neck of the woods, your next question is likely, "What now?"

Many visitors to our area find themselves asking that question and take a trip to the local visitor center and talk to local volunteers, for years known as diplomats, to figure out what they should do first.

Pagosa Country has had a bevy of diplomats over the years, but two women who recently retired put in a combined 61 years of volunteering at the center, pointing people in the direction of whatever they may be looking for.

Those two — Barbara Palmer and Joan Cortright — both began working as diplomats in the 1980s and retired at the end of 2013 after countless hours of sharing their love for Pagosa with anyone and everyone.

"I just love advertising Pagosa Springs," Cortright says.

Palmer began as a diplomat in 1981 shortly after moving to town, as a way to get to know the area a little better and to meet new people.

"I think it was meeting so many interesting people from all over not only our country, but the world," Palmer says of her choice to become a diplomat.

Cortright has done volunteer work throughout the country and world, including in Tulsa, Okla., Washington, D.C., New York City and Paris, France.

Upon moving to Pagosa, Cortright shifted her volunteer efforts

Places to Stay

to the visitor center beginning in 1984, taking the opportunity to meet people and be out and about in town, and to share her warm views of the area.

"After living in big cities for most of our lives ... this is a godsend to be able to live here every day, driving to town and seeing the mountains," Cortright says, calling it a blessing she loves sharing with others.

In sharing their views of the area and helping guests of the area find activities to enjoy, both Palmer and Cortright note they enjoyed learning about the people that walked in the doors and say the personal touch offered has been one of the best parts of the visitor center over the years.

But, in the 61 combined years Cortright and Palmer have served those looking for that perfect vacation, they note a few questions have been asked more times than others. Among them:

"What is winter like? Does the town shut down?" Cortright loves to point out that, once the snow is done falling and the roads are plowed, the sun comes out, revealing beauty all around and is one of the better times of the year (though she says it's hard to pick the best).

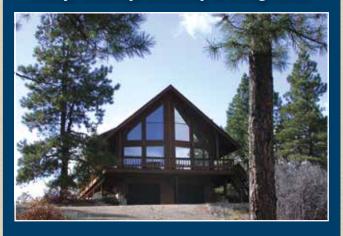
"Where should I go? What should I do?" Diplomats will likely strike up a conversation with you to discern what your hobbies are, both women say. Are you the shopping type? Are you looking to relax? How about hiking or fishing?





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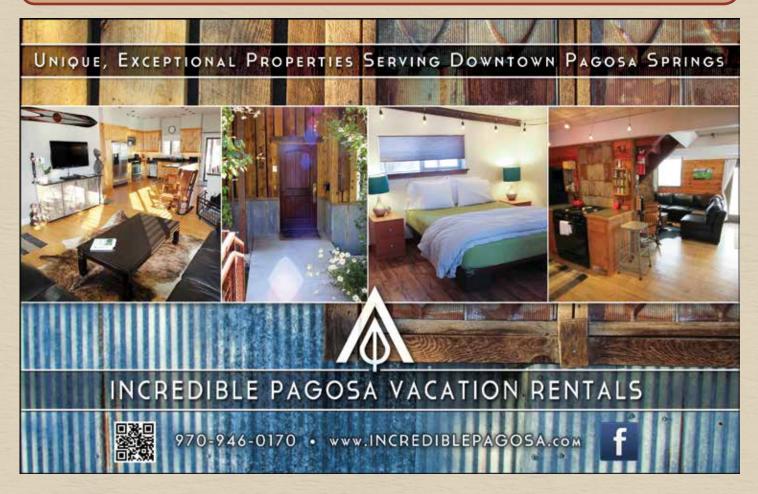




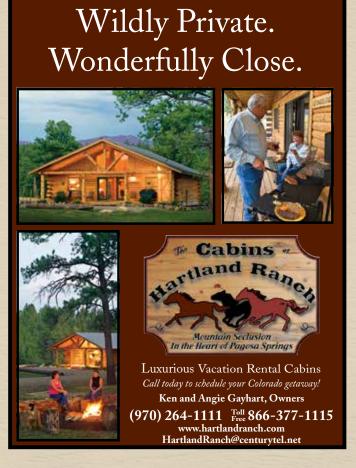
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Elktrace Bed & Breakfast www.elktracebedandbreakfast.com 970-731-5868	6		•		•	•		•			\$99-\$149
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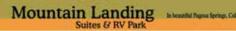
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RANDI PIERCE

'If it's made locally, you'll find it at the market.'

Just in town for the weekend? Making your stay in Pagosa Country an extended trip? Stop by the Farmers Market and pick up some local products to enjoy during your stay or take home with you as a unique token of Pagosa.

Realizing the importance of providing Pagosans with local, sustainable products, the Southwest Organization for Sustainability (SOS) started the market seven years ago. The Pagosa Farmers Market offers locally produced and grown meats, baked goods, produce, fibers and specialty products including candles and skin products. One of the bakeries in attendance even sells gluten-free breads and pastries. Many vendors at the market also have prepared foods available for purchase just in case market-goers get hungry doing their grocery shopping.

Many locally grown vegetables are produced in heated biodomes by farmers striving to provide local food to residents and visitors outside of the normally short 90- to 95-day growing season in Pagosa Country. In addition to this produce, seasonal items are available. When visiting the market early in the summer, patrons will find a wide variety of leafy greens in addition to spices, herbs, live sprouts and starter plants to take home. Later in the season, root vegetables become more available. Locally made soy candles, skin products, fibers and other goods are for sale during the whole market season.

Fibers available at the market come from local animals. Wool and fiber products available include alpaca wool and Angora

rabbit and mohair fiber. Most fiber vendors have raw wools and fibers for sale in addition to yarn and handcrafted products such as gloves, hats, scarves and socks. The soy candles available for sale are locally made in repurposed containers.

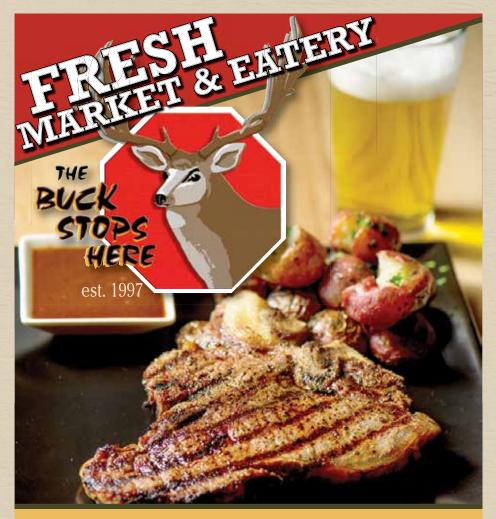
"If it's made locally, you'll find it at the market," says market founder Abby Linzie.

Local products include those made in Pagosa with some raw materials from elsewhere given the limited availability of some resources in the area. As such, the market supports both immediately local producers as well as regional sellers of raw products. The market is also a great place to meet people and learn about the agricultural livelihood of many local residents.

Other unique aspects of the market include the small growers booth where expert gardeners can bring their produce to sell and share with the community and a weekly nonprofit booth featuring a different area organization each week.

The market is definitely a fun, colorful place to hang out on a Saturday as it brings local producers and community members together and is a relaxed place to socialize, get errands done and even enjoy live music played by area musicians.

The market is generally open on Saturdays, July through September. Please check the SOS website at www.sospagosa.org or The Pagosa Springs SUN for specific market times and locations. In addition to accepting cash or credit cards, market vendors accept SNAP benefits for purchase of market food products.



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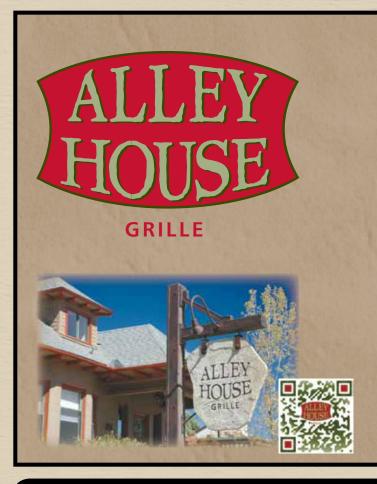
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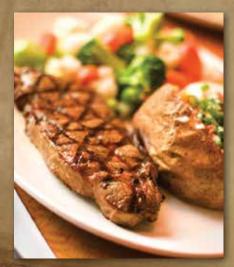


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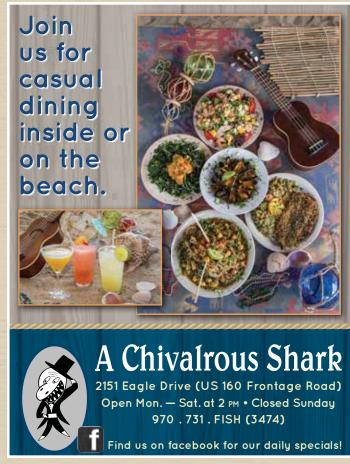
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RANDI PIERCE

'There's a wide variety to choose from, all the way from the east end to the west end of town.'

From the east end of town to the west end of town, Pagosa Springs has no shortage of shopping opportunities — from classic souvenirs to candy, baked goods, local coffee, housewares, clothes, handcrafted jewelry, antiques and more.

In fact, there's probably more variety available than most locals even realize, and there's certainly more available than first meets the eye.

"There's a wide variety to choose from, all the way from the east end to the west end of town," says Jan Santopietro, membership coordinator at the Chamber of Commerce.

"Don't just window shop, go in and look," says Mary Jo Coulehan, former executive director of the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce. "There're so many unique things in the stores. I don't think you can always tell from the window what treasures are inside."

For example, galleries may sell more than just paintings. They might sell pottery, items highlighting aspects of Pagosa Springs, or even handcrafted accessories.

A jewelry store might also feature photography and paintings by local artists.

What looks like a decorative or housewares store could also carry accessories, clothing and jewelry.

And then there's the variety of antiques and second-hand stores with mysterious gems waiting to be found.

"I think it's an unexplored treasure, I really do," says Stacy Kirby, the Chamber's events coordinator, admitting, "I've lived

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here ten years and if I didn't work for the Chamber, I probably wouldn't walk in every store like I do."

But beyond the diversity of items available, what makes shopping in Pagosa truly great?

There are a few things, according to the Chamber's staff.

"I think it's the shop owners," Santopietro says, noting that some of the most successful businesses are also the friendliest, with shop owners often working with, and striking up conversations with guests of the business.

"The businesses that really get it about customer service are successful," says Coulehan, adding that many retailers in Pagosa seek to know what they carry and what other stores carry in attempts to avoid duplication of products, and how to best help the customers, even if it means pointing them toward another retail outlet to find what they're after. "There is competition, but there's also collaboration that makes the retail sector successful. It's truly customer service through and through."

And beyond people who are just plain nice to be around, many stores offer a variety of special touches like free samples and gift wrapping year-round.

And shopping isn't just for visitors.

"On a personal level, we frequent and shop local," Santopi-

Coulehan says she loves to give the gift of Pagosa throughout the year, from clothing to birdhouses, and constantly scopes out what's new as she visits businesses during her workday. Santopietro notes that the variety, localized flare and food are all fantastic, making it easy to find gifts, and Kirby lists eclectic, funky jewelry as her favorite thing to shop for.

"Walk into a store and surprise yourself," Kirby says.



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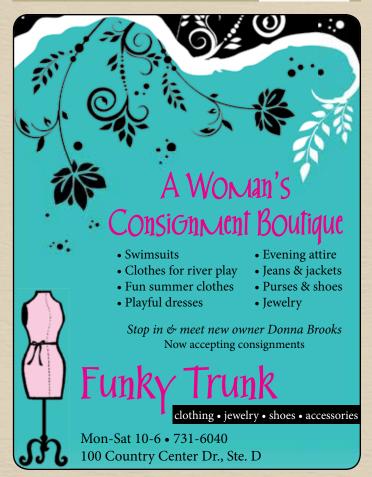
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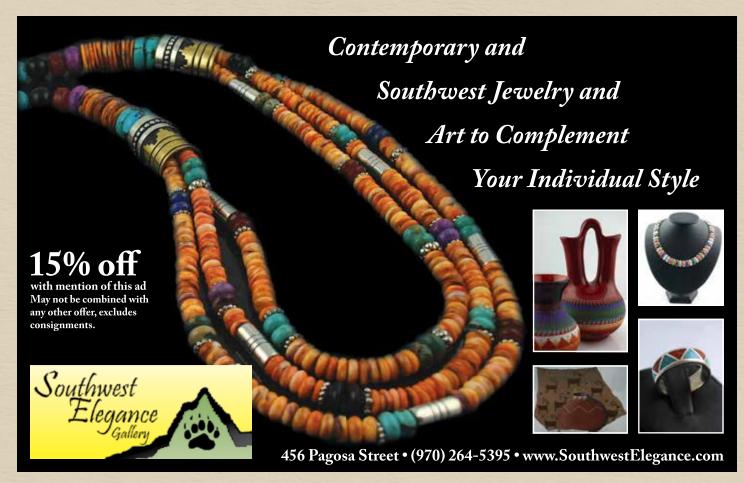
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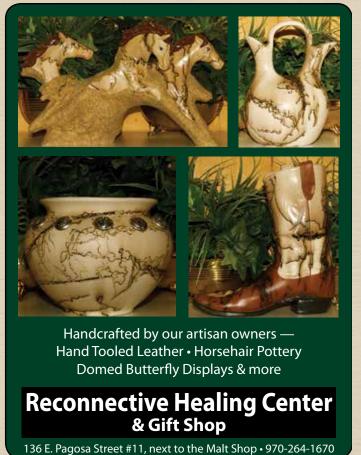
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Weddings, Reunions & Events

From a simple, backyard affair to a lavish party for hundreds, Pagosa Springs and the surrounding area might be just what you're looking for to make your wedding or reunion something special.

Pagosa Country is a wonderful background for special events with the majestic Pagosa Peak, sparkling mountain lakes, bubbling brooks, aspen stands, clear blue skies, colorful and dramatic sunsets and more. Or, if you're more of the indoor type, a number of venues can be rented for special events and decorated to fit your style.

In addition to Mother Nature providing her decorating expertise free of charge for your event (neutrals, rustic themes, backyard weddings, gardens, backyards and high drama all 2014 wedding trends), Pagosa Springs offers the amenities to help put together all the details for your picture-perfect wedding, reunion, conference or other special event

Photographers, florists, caterers and jewelers, all complete with Pagosa flair, are at the ready, while hotels, cabins, lodges and bed and breakfasts offer a variety of unique lodging options for every budget and desire. Area rental businesses can help outfit your events for sound and seating.

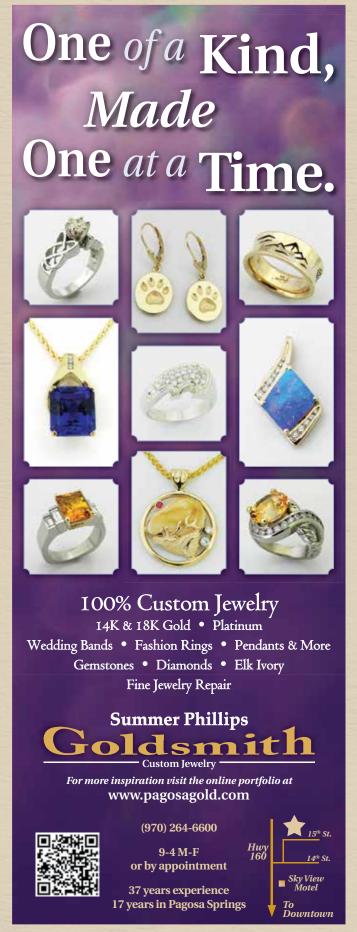
Marriage licenses can be obtained downtown at the Archuleta County Courthouse, located at 449 San Juan St. (on the main street in downtown Pagosa Springs), between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Licenses can be secured for \$30. Both the bride and groom are required to be present with photo ID to sign the document, which will be issued immediately and is valid for 30 days. No blood test is required in the state of Colorado. Additional requirements exist if either or both parties are divorced.

Beyond weddings, Pagosa Country can be the perfect host for family reunions and other special events. More than just being chalk-full of photo-worthy views, Pagosa Country provides experiences.

It won't be a problem keeping family and friends occupied. A plethora of memorable indoor and outdoor activities cater to every age, skill level and area of interest — shopping, hiking, biking, fishing, ATVing, swimming, golfing and more — all of which can be topped off with a soak in any of the area's mineral pools or a relaxing massage.

And don't be too quick to jet off after your big event — lakeside and mountain hikes, sunset soaks and the adventure of the area make for the ultimate honeymoon or family vacation.





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

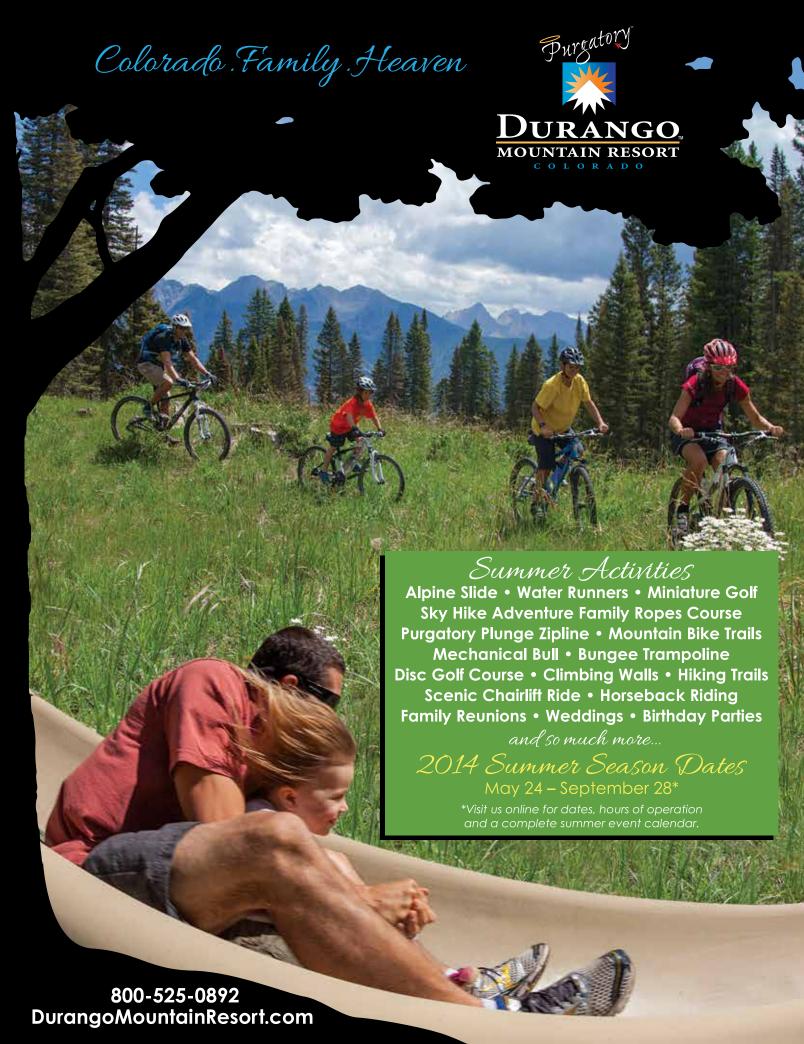
As the organization continues to grow, Murri hopes to continue to host high-quality outdoor events of all kinds.

Pagosa Country has a lot to offer to outdoor sportsmen. From high mountain hiking trails to rushing rivers for water sports, rugged mountain bike trails to lakes and reservoirs great for fishing, it's all here. Attracting outdoor enthusiasts and athletes of all levels and ages to beautiful Pagosa Country is one of the goals of a local nonprofit, GECKO (Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors).

Started by world class athlete Morgan Murri in 2008, GECKO uses proceeds from athletic events to fund scholarships that help kids participate in NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) programs, providing opportunities for them to learn technical outdoor skills as well as develop leadership ability and knowl-

edge of environmental ethics during wilderness expeditions. Since its inception in 2008, GECKO has raised over \$60,000 to allow students to participate in NOLS programs and encourage more kids to participate in outdoor activities. All funding comes from event proceeds and donations.

Murri decided to start GECKO after coming up with the idea for the organization while running the Marathon de Sables, a seven-day unsupported running race across the Sahara Desert. Murri also met Mike Le Roux, GECKO event and coaching director at this event. Murri ran the organization largely by himself with volunteer help until just last year when he welcomed Le Roux and his wife Kirsten to his team. Last year, Le Roux created Athletes@



Outdoor Adventures

Altitude, a new part of GECKO focused on athletic training. Mike was the 2010 World Ultraman Champion and holds the record time for completion of the 2011 Glasshouse 100 mile trail ultra in Australia. His experience as an athlete, motivational presenter and ultra endurance and distance coach make him the perfect person to run the Athletes@Altitude program at GECKO.

The first annual Mountain Chili Cha Cha in 2008 was the first race hosted by GECKO in Pagosa. Combined with the existing chili festival, the event was a success. Since 2008, GECKO has grown and now hosts a variety of events in Pagosa including the Turkey Track Trail Run, a scenic single track run with offered 5K, 10K, half and full marathon components. The organization also hosts an annual triathlon, the Devil Mountain Ultra 50/50 and the Epic Mountain Challenge, a two-day, four-stage running and bicycling event. As the organization continues to grow, Murri hopes to continue to host high-quality outdoor events of all kinds.

"I see the opportunity to make our events a big attractor to the community. It's an incredible venue and a largely untapped resource in that respect," says Murri.

A combination of ideal training altitude between 6,500 and 7,500 here in town, in addition to important amenities like hotels, spas, restaurants and entertainment, make Pagosa an excellent venue for outdoor competition.

Murri says that planning for all GECKO events takes into consideration how the organization can most positively impact the Pagosa Springs community. Using his and Mike's expertise and experience, Murri seeks to hold GECKO events that are unique, compelling, exciting, and draw competitors from around the country and the globe.

"The thought and experience that Morgan and Mike put behind the events make them very high quality," says Kirsten. "They are two people that have competed in all kinds of races all over the world and are inclined to pay attention to small details that will make our races great."

For more information about upcoming events, or to sign up to participate, visit the GECKO website at www.joingecko.org or check for event information in The Pagosa Springs SUN.



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If the mountains surrounding the town weren't hint enough, be assured, there are plenty of places to go mountain biking in Pagosa Country. Many years ago, the Pagosa Springs area was heavily logged, resulting in a multitude of Forest Service roads and trails. Now, 80 years later, those trails mean virtually limitless opportunities for mountain bikers. With a wide variety of routes and terrain, Pagosa Springs is an ideal mountain biking destination for riders of all skill levels. Be forewarned, however, that most area rides begin above 7,000 feet. Therefore, flatlanders should factor in time to acclimate before setting out on longer and more demanding rides.

When mountain biking, please observe a few precautions:

- 1. Wear a helmet.
- 2. Mountain weather changes rapidly wear or bring clothing for capricious weather condi-
- 3. Bring plenty of water.
- 4. Carry bike repair tools, including a spare tire, tire pump and tube patch kit.
- 5. Ride in control and with a friend.
- 6. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- 7. A few of the trails are hours away from outside help — plan accordingly.
- 8. Plan to return to your car before dark.

- 9. Remember to stay off private land and out of wilderness areas.
- 10. Wear blaze orange in the fall during hunting season.
- 11. Yield to horses. They are easily spooked. Please pay heed to the International Mountain Biking Association Rules of the Trail:
- 1. Ride on open trails only.
- 2. Leave no trace.
- 3. Control your bicycle.
- 4. Always yield to hikers.
- 5. Never spook animals.
- 6. Plan ahead.

Listed below are several of the many rides to be found in the Pagosa Springs area. For more trails information, visit www.wolfcreekwheelclub.

There are many mountain bike rides in and near the Pagosa Springs area. Most of the rides described are loop trails. Many start from downtown Pagosa Springs. Changes can occur on roads and terrain during the winter and early spring. For this reason, bikers need to be alert to their surrounding area at all times and, of course, carry the appropriate maps.

Rideable trails in the **Town of Pagosa Springs Reservoir Hill Mountain Park**

Difficulty: Beginner to advanced Mileage: 1.4 to 4 miles

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Route: Out and back, or loop Trails: Dirt, single and double track Elevation range: 7,280 to 8,000 feet Maps: Available at each trailhead, at local bike shops and the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center.

It is extremely lucky to have this little loop in the center of town. Though quite challenging and secluded, the trail is easily accessible. Wildlife to watch for includes squirrels, deer, turkey, elk

Trailheads — Two trailheads access Reservoir Hill: Spa (above the Healing Waters Resort and Spa on Hot Springs Boulevard) and San Juan (behind the San Juan Motel, on U.S. 160). Both trailheads have maps and suggested rides. Reservoir Hill trails are color-coded for your convenience: green is easy; blue is intermediate; red is advanced. There is one looped ride in each difficulty range, but they are by no means the only trails available.

Green: Start at the Spa Trailhead and go up Trail 2 for .6 miles. Halfway up the seven switchbacks at .3 miles, you can opt to join Trail 7, which goes to the top of the hill, but is much steeper and more difficult.

Trail 2 continues up to the water tower and a meadow. Take a right at that point on Trail 7. At .8 miles, the trail crosses a road and heads downhill. At 1.1 miles, the trail joins up with the road. Take a left and go downhill to the gate at

Outdoor Adventures

1.3 miles and you are back at the trailhead. 1.4 miles, 13 minutes.

Blue: Start at the Spa Trailhead and go up the road behind the post office, around the gate and right on Trail 8 for .3 miles. Turn left at the fireplug then right on Trail 8 at .4 miles. Follow the trail through Trail 13 switchbacks for .5 miles, then cross a road (Trail 11) and proceed to the next road (Trail 2) at the one-mile mark. Turn left on Trail 2 and follow it down through the meadow next to the water tank and down the switchbacks to the trailhead. 1.7 miles, 17 minutes

Red: Start at either the Spa or San Juan Trailhead. The route described is from the Spa Trailhead. Go right up the road behind the post office, around the gate, and take a right on to Trail 13 at .3 miles. Follow Trail 13 through the trees and up the switchbacks where Trail 8 crosses at .5 miles. At .8 miles, the trail tops out at the radio towers and crosses a road where it starts downhill. Follow Trail 13 along the fence line, crossing Trail 2 at 1.2 miles. Then go uphill again to the San Juan Overlook at 1.4 miles. At this point, you can choose to go back down on Trail 2 for a distance of 1 mile to the Spa Trailhead, or go down Trail 14 for one mile to the San Juan Trailhead. From the San Juan Trailhead, it is 1.5 miles back to the Spa Trailhead via the San Juan Riverwalk, 3.9 miles, 35 minutes.

Hot Springs Boulevard

Class: Beginner Mileage: 6 miles This is an easy six-mile ride that begins and ends in Pagosa Springs Town Park. To begin, exit Town Park on Hermosa Street, go south on Hot Springs Blvd. across the bridge and follow until the road turns east. Continue until you reach U.S. 84, where you will turn left to return to town. There is a nice view of the Continental Divide to your east as you ride. This route has no steep sections and is good for beginners. Be sure to stay far to the right as you ride on the highway.

Ridable trails near town Eightmile Mesa

Difficulty: Intermediate; long mileage with one steep four-mile hill Mileage: 14.4 miles

Route: Out and back

Trails: Graded and primitive roads Elevation Range: 7,200 to 8,040 feet Maps: San Juan National Forest, Serviceberry Mountain USGS Topo Map

Eightmile Mesa provides an interesting contrast to other rides surrounding Pagosa Springs. After a steep and relentless two-mile climb, you reach the top of the mesa, then your route becomes a pleasant, rolling journey through pine/oak woodlands interspersed with grassy meadows. Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 at the east end of town, drive five

woodlands interspersed with grassy meadows. Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 at the east end of town, drive five miles south on U.S. 84 to Eightmile Mesa Road, identified by a brown Forest Service sign on the right. After traveling up Eightmile Mesa Road a little over a mile and passing the entrance to

the Loma Linda subdivision, you will reach the Forest Service gate. Park here.

0.0 — Starting at the parking area, and after making two short climbs, you reach an open meadow area at 0.9 miles.

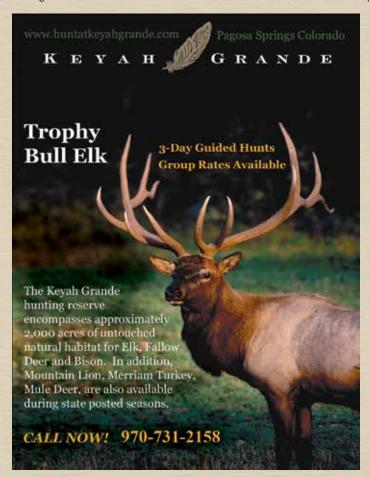
1.1 — The road, Forest Road 651, bends westward and begins a steady climb.

2.0 — A final steep climb begins at the two-mile mark.

2.3 —The climb tapers off and the route rolls along the top of the mesa, passing through oak, pine and grassy meadows.

3.7 — The Forest Road 651 forks, giving riders a variety of options.

Ride Option 1: The fork to your right leads to the Eightmile Mesa lookout tower in 0.6 miles. This tower, positioned directly above the Eightmile Mesa "clamshell" affords spectacular views of Pagosa Springs and the surrounding mesa, as well as the San Juan Mountains. The tower also provides a convenient turn around point. Ride Option 2: Continue straight ahead at the fork to stay on Forest Road 651, the main route, which turns into a primitive unmaintained road. At mile 3.8, Forest Road 651B forks to your left. This doubletrack road rolls gently through wildflower meadows and woodlands for one mile to an overlook of the Blanco River Basin and the San Juan Mountains to the east. Ride Option 3: Continue past the fork on the main road to mile 5.1, where Forest Road 651C junctions to your left. Follow Forest Road 651C southward for 2.3 miles, passing an old abandoned sawmill site on the way.





Ride Option 4: Stay on the Forest Road 651, which is deeply tracked or sandy in places, but otherwise smooth. Passing one more side road (Forest Road 651D) on your way, pass through large open meadows at mile 5.9. Wildflowers abound in late spring and early summer. The route ends at mile 7.2, overlooking the Blanco

and San Juan river basins. Snowball Road (CR 200) and Jackson Mountain Loop (FS 037)

Difficulty: Beginning skills with intermediate fitness level, two river crossings

Mileage: 22 miles Route: Loop

Trails: Graveled county road, dirt road, double track dirt trail, highway with good shoulders Elevation Range: 7,200 to 8,200 feet Maps: San Juan National Forest, Jackson

Mountain USGS Topo Map

Taking the entire loop from town is a great workout, however, if you shuttle, the ride can be divided up so one skips the highway or county road portion. There are about three gates on this ride. Remember to leave them either open or closed as you found them. This ride has two river crossings. Obviously, take precautions in the spring or early summer when the water level is up.

Getting there: The loop starts and ends in downtown Pagosa Springs.

0.0 — Starting from the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge in downtown Pagosa Springs, ride east on Pagosa Street (U.S. 160) toward Wolf Creek Pass. Turn left at the Forest Service building on Second Street. This street turns into Snowball Road, and eventually the pavement ends. Continue on this graveled county road for 4.3 miles. 4.3 — This is the entrance to Fourmile Ranch. Ranch owners have agreed to allow access to the Forest Service road through the ranch, by proceeding through the ranch entrance and staying on the road. You will pass the ranch manager's house on the right. Looking to the north, one can begin to see Pagosa Peak. 5.3 — At this point, there is a Y in the road. The road to the left goes to the house and the iron gate to the right gains access to the national forest. Proceed through the gate on the right (FR 646), leaving the gate as you found it. The next three miles are on a pleasant dirt road along Snowball Creek. You will often see and hear hawks on the last part of this trail.

6.3 —At this point you will ford Fourmile Creek. 8.5 — A driveway passes through a gate onto private property. Follow the road, which curves to the right to a ford of Snowball Creek.

9.6 —Proceed through the gate, go forward and curve to the right joining a more pronounced trail. Next, stay left for a mile, ignoring the roads that exit to the right.

10.7 — Proceed through the gate. The next .1 mile down to Jackson Mountain Road (FS 037) is very steep.

10.8 — Jackson Mountain Road. Turn right onto the road and proceed for 3 miles to U.S.

13.7 — U.S. 160. Turn right onto the highway and continue for about 8 miles to Pagosa Springs. It is very easy to eliminate this highway



Outdoor Adventures

ride by leaving a shuttle here. The sign on U.S. 160 calls this the Jackson Mountain Road. 22 — Downtown Pagosa Springs.

Turkey Springs Double Loop

Difficulty: Beginner to intermediate

Mileage: 14.1 miles.

Route: Loop

Trails: Graded and primitive roads, double and

singletrack
Elevation Range: 7,600 to 8,100 feet
Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated
Pagosa Springs-Bayfield (map #145).
The Turkey Springs double loop is a local

The Turkey Springs double loop is a local favorite. Following a "figure eight" configuration with joined north and south loops, the route rolls through gentle terrain at mid-level altitudes. Riding surfaces vary from graveled roads to singletrack. Much of the time is spent on primitive, unmaintained roads, while passing through pine/oak forests and meadows dotted with stands of aspen.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and Piedra Road (CR 600), go north on Piedra Road (CR 600) for 6.4 miles. Turn left on the graded Turkey Springs Road (FR 629), which intersects Piedra Road (CR 600) shortly after you leave the pavement and pass over a cattleguard. Drive 1.2 miles on FR 629 to Newt Jack Road (FR 923) on your left. Park here and start your ride.

0.0 — Begin your ride continuing west on Turkey Springs Road (FR 629).

2.7 — Turn left onto Brockover Road (FR 919). 3.0 — Look for a faint doubletrack on your left. Take this fun doubletrack as it makes an eastward descent, rolling over waterbars along the way.

4.1 — The doubletrack ends at the bottom of the maintained portion of Newt Jack Road (FR 923). To continue the double loop route, turn right onto the unmaintained extension of Newt Jack Road. After a rocky section, with a couple of sharp drops, the road mellows.

5.3 — The road arrives at a marshy pond and a trail forking to your right. Take this trail, leaving Newt Jack Road. The trail alternates between single and doubletrack heading south through a shallow draw. The trail courses through a small meadow which is sometimes wet; if so, dismount and walk around the wet and muddy area rather than damage the meadow. After crossing a rocky creek bed, the trail climbs out of the draw to a meadow 6.3 — The trail now becomes an old doubletrack and heads up through the meadow, swinging to the left, then right, over a small hill. The doubletrack opens into another meadow, passing under an east-west running powerline. Here the route intersects a primitive road. 7.0 — At the primitive road (Brockover Road, FR 919) turn right. Follow FR 919 as it heads west, paralleling the powerline. For the first mile the road is rocky and rutted in places and climbs two steep pitches. Bending north and leaving the powerline, the road mellows while steadily climbing back to the graveled, maintained section of Brockover Road you entered at mile 2.7. Soon after passing through a fence and green gate, the road becomes graded.

Look carefully for the doubletrack, on your right. 10.3 — Take the doubletrack downhill to Newt Jack Road (FR 923), which is intersected at mile 11.4 You have now completed the lower loop of this ride. To complete the upper loop, turn left onto the graded portion of Newt Jack Road, returning to your car at mile 14.1.

Left Hand Canyon to the Rito Blanco

Difficulty: Intermediate Mileage: 18 miles. Route: Out and back

Trails: Graded and primitive roads, doubletrack (there is not an open ATV trail at this location) Elevation Range: 7,400 to 8,400 feet Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated South San Juan-Del Norte (map #142) Beginning in the pine/oak valleys of Blanco Basin, this route climbs steadily into aspen/fir forest along Porcupine Road, ending at the tumbling Rito Blanco Creek. The first half of the ride travels along a mostly smooth, unmaintained primitive dirt road. At the end of this road, a steep and somewhat rocky doubletrack leads you to the top of Lefthand Canyon and onto the graded, maintained Porcupine Creek Road. From here, a moderate climb and descent ends at the Rito Blanco Creek, an excellent spot for a picnic lunch. Your return will be rewarded with an exhilarating descent back to the trailhead. (Note: This trip can be done as a one-way, mostly downhill shuttle — see below.) Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, drive south on for 8.2 miles to Blanco Basin Road. Make a left and drive 3.3 miles up Blanco Basin Road to its junction with Lefthand Canyon Road (FR 011), on your left. Park and start here.

0.0 — Follow the steadily ascending Lefthand Canyon Road as it meanders north through rolling hills of pine, oak and meadow. You will climb about 600 feet to a fork in the road.

1.0 — Take the right fork. The road becomes primitive and less used while winding along a densely vegetated north-facing slope. To the left is Lefthand Canyon, mostly obscured by vegetation and topography. The canyon drains the lower reaches of the Rito Blanco. Look carefully for a doubletrack ascending a hillside meadow on your right.

3.4 — Follow the doubletrack to the top of the meadow. From here a rough doubletrack continues upward, in a northeasterly direction. Take this trail as it climbs over rocks and gullies for almost three-quarters of a mile.

4.4 — The trail ends, exiting onto the southern end of the graded and graveled Porcupine Road (FR 024). The rest of your ride to the Rito Blanco will be on this road. Continue on Porcupine Road as you ascend into the cooler forests of fir and aspen. Reach the high point of the ride at mile 5.8, which also marks a good turn-around spot for tired riders. A cool shady respite awaits those who continue the descent to the banks of the Rito Blanco at mile 9.0.

Ride option: This ride may be done as a shuttle by leaving a car at the junction of Blanco Basin Road and U.S. 84. If you choose to do so, your trailhead then becomes the northern end of Porcupine Road. To get there, you must drive back to Mill Creek Road (CR 302, which becomes FR 662) located on U.S. 84 one quarter mile south of the U.S. 160/U.S. 84 junction. Drive up Mill Creek Road about nine miles, then take FR 665 which branches to the right. Porcupine Road (FR 024) intersects FR 665 in a little over two miles. Park here and ride. The Rito Blanco is about one mile downhill from here. The ride back to the shuttle car is mostly downhill.

Continental Divide Trail Alberta Peak Loop

Difficulty: Difficult Mileage: 8.6 miles.

Route: Loop

Trails: Singletrack, dirt road, pavement Elevation Range: 10,800 to 12,000 feet Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated Weminuche Wilderness (map #140) Follow the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) south from Wolf Creek Pass as it circles behind the ski area and around the south face of Alberta Peak. This route has it all: smooth, technical, single-track, challenging ascents and descents, and "top of the world" riding as one emerges from the subalpine forest into the alpine meadows and talus slopes surrounding Alberta Peak. This is a memorable ride for experienced mountain bikers.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, drive north on U.S. 160 for 22 miles to Wolf Creek Pass. Park in the large parking area on the south side of the highway. The ride starts behind the kiosk on the Continental Divide Trail.

0.0 — From the parking area, follow the CDT across the meadow, crossing a headwater tributary of Wolf Creek on a wooden bridge before entering the forest. Then you will begin a tough and somewhat technical climb. Stay left after crossing the bridge, ignoring hiker-created trails on your right.

0.4 — The trail switchbacks to the right (a trail on your left climbs to the ski area). Continue following the trail which switchbacks and climbs, often steeply, up the ridge.

1.1— Switchback up a technical, rocky outcrop leading to a view over a "rock garden" below and to the west. The trail merges into a short section of ski area service road and arrives at the Bonanza Run lift tower.

1.7 — From the lift tower, head west 20 or 30 yards — here the trail continues into the forest along the top of the ridge, heading south then east. Emerge from the forest into subalpine meadows (look for a CDT trail post) at the edge of the ski area, mile 2.5.

2.5 — Climbing southeast, the trail tops out then makes a gentle descent to a log drift fence at mile 3.0. Beyond the drift fence, the trail circumvents the south face of Alberta Peak. Here it is narrow with exposure to steep dropoffs. Drop down and around the peak, with a last steep descent to a ski patrol hut.

3.4 — From here, the trail continues eastward along the lip of the Knife Ridge and its north facing ski chutes. The first 0.2 miles beyond the hut are technical and exposed, but soon

the route eases as the trail wanders over alpine

4.0 to 4.2 — The trail veers left through a meadow (the trail disappears briefly, look for CDT trail posts) and back into the forest.

4.3 — Begin a steep drop, passing under the Horseshoe Bowl.

4.4 — Continue your steep descent, passing a narrow saddle with easterly views at mile 4.8.

4.8 — You now enter a clear-cut area (heading northeast). Look carefully for a CDT trail post and grown-over doubletrack coming into the trail at a sharp angle on your left.

5.2 — Take this doubletrack down to a jeep road and go right. The road soon bends west and takes you through the ski area and the ski area parking lots leading to the highway.

7.4 — Route arrives at U.S. 160. Turn left onto the highway and return to your car at mile 8.6.

Willow Draw

Class: Intermediate Mileage: 16 miles

This is a scenic loop from U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 junction. Road conditions range from highway to double-track. From downtown Pagosa, ride east on U.S. 160 to the junction of U.S. 84. Turn right onto U.S. 84, then left onto Mill Creek Road. Go four miles. You will cross three cattle guards. Immediately after the third cattle guard, look for a double-track dirt road on your left. If you cross over the bridge at Mill Creek, you have gone too far. Once on the doubletrack, you will cross Mill Creek, which may need to be forded on foot. Follow this dirt road generally north for the next six miles through Willow Draw and Dry Gulch to Fawn Gulch. Pass through two gates, which are usually closed. When you reach Fawn Gulch Road, turn left for a downhill to U.S. 160. Turn left onto U.S. 160. It is four miles back to town.

East Fork

Class: Beginner Mileage: 8 miles

This is an easy route for beginners as it is fairly flat. Road follows the East Fork of the San Juan River through beautiful canyons into the pristine East Fork Valley (private property for two miles), before terminating at Silver Falls guard station. Silver Falls can be seen cascading down the mountainside directly behind the guard station. The road is a gravel road from U.S. 160 to the forest boundary (.25 mile). The rest is dirt, which can be very slick when wet. Watch for high water across the road in the springtime.

Piedra Falls

Class: Beginner/Intermediate Mileage: 7.5-11 miles, depending on starting

Drive 17.8 miles north on Piedra Road (County Road 600/FS 631). Turn on Middle Fork Road (FS 636) to the left of Sportsman's Supply and Campground. Find parking along Middle Fork Road beyond the private property. From Piedra Road, it is two miles to the junction with East Toner Road (FS 637). Ride East Toner Road about 7.5 miles to its end. There is a single track trail that continues to Piedra Falls. The trail to the falls (about a 15-minute hike) may not be suitable for bicycles.





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Fishing for sport or as a leisure activity can be learned and practiced by just about anyone. Whether you like to just sit back with a line in the water and have a nice picnic lunch or more actively pursue fly fishing, wading into the water and practicing different casting techniques, fishing is the perfect activity to help wash the worries of the day away.

For some, fishing is a way to pass time alone or with friends; for others, it's a sport. Whatever type of fishing you enjoy, Pagosa Country has what you're looking for — from pristine mountain rivers best for fly fishing to lakes and reservoirs perfect for sitting along the shore or fishing from a boat, Pagosa Country has it all.

Warm, lower-elevation waters in the area are stocked with catfish, bass, perch and pan fish, while higher cold-water lakes, creeks and ponds teem with Kokanee salmon and numerous species of trout.

There are several waters in or near town easily accessible to fisherman, but many other fishing spots lie deep in the extensive wilderness and backcountry surrounding Pagosa. Though access requires greater effort, remote locations to the north, northwest and east of town afford those willing to travel by foot or horseback true tranquility, seclusion and excellent fishing.

Listed below are some of the more popular fishing sites in and near town. Anglers should note that a Colorado fishing license is required when fishing in any of these areas, including designated wilderness areas. Licenses, lures, bait and spinning tackle are available at area sporting goods stores, supermarkets and hardware stores. One-day, five-day and annual licenses are available. One-day licenses are \$9 for both residents and non-residents with a \$5 charge for additional days. Five-day licenses cost \$21 and annual licenses cost \$56 for nonresidents. Annual licenses are \$26 for residents aged 16-63, \$1 for residents over 64 and free for residents under 16 years of age. Annual licenses, good for 12 months, go on sale April 1, 2014, and are valid through March 31, 2015.

Local fly shops offer equipment, flies, sport fishing clothing and guide services, and most retailers will readily provide directions and up-to-date information about numerous fishing destinations.

When choosing bait, keep in mind that state regulations prohibit the use of live minnows as bait anywhere in the region except for at Navajo Lake. For more information and special, water specific regulations, please reference area fishing rules and regulations. Make sure

to pick up a Colorado fishing brochure or visit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) website to view fishing regulations and restrictions on waters where you're planning to fish — anglers are responsible for knowing the regulations where they are fishing.

Fishing in the San Juan River in the heart of Pagosa Springs can be as good as it gets. Years ago, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Parks and Wildlife) used a Fishing is Fun grant to reconstruct fish habitat and holding waters in sections of the river on both sides of the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge. Several rock "drop" structures that span the width of the river were installed as part of this improvement project. Additional work has further enhanced the fishery near the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge and in areas west towards Sixth Street.

The Pagosa Quality Fishing Project also began receiving annual contributions from local merchants to purchase hundreds of large, catchable rainbow and brown trout for placement in the river. As a result, anglers of all ages catch fish weighing up to 10 pounds each summer — right in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The Town of Pagosa Springs also stocks ponds located just off the river near the east end of town. A ramp to one of the ponds allows

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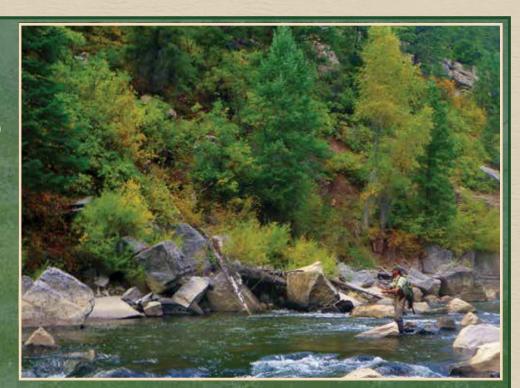












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easy access to disabled anglers, and a gazebo beckons to those who packed picnic lunches. Youngsters particularly enjoy fishing the town ponds. Bag and possession limit for in town fishing is two fish per angler.

East Fork of the San Juan

The lower stretch of the East Fork offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout, while its pristine upper reaches are more akin to brook trout and native cutthroat trout.

The East Fork Road turnoff is approximately 10 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. This well-traveled gravel road parallels the river for several miles, a portion of which passes through posted private property.

West Fork of the San Juan

In addition to good rainbow and cutthroat trout fishing, the West Fork offers quality camping in a nearby campground. A left turn from U.S. 160 on to FS road 648 about 13.5 miles east of Pagosa Springs affords easy access to West Fork waters via public and private lands. The best fishing is in the forest beyond the trailhead at the end of the road.

Echo Canyon Reservoir

Echo Canyon Reservoir and State Wildlife Area is a cool-water fishery located approximately four miles south of U.S. 160 on U.S. 84. It contains rainbow trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, green sunfish and channel catfish. Trout are best caught with lures, flies or natural bait, while bass are taken with top-surface lures, crank-baits, pork frogs or rubber worms. Perch and sunfish are most easily taken with worms or a fly and catfish seem to prefer cut baits such as suckers or commercial stink baits. There is good early fishing at the reservoir from mid April to mid June. During this time, bank fishing is adequate, but thickening of aquatic vegetation later in the season makes a canoe, float-tube or a small boat and trolling motor useful. Remember, live bait is not allowed in Colorado on any water west of the Divide.

Lake Capote Recreation Area

Lake Capote Recreation Area is owned and

operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Properly permitted anglers can catch stocked rainbow trout, largemouth bass and channel catfish in the shadow of Chimney Rock. No state fishing license is required, but anglers must obtain a valid license from the Southern Ute Tribe. The 45-acre lake is open to daytime bank fishers, non-motorized boaters and bellyboaters using bait, spinning tackle or flies.

To get to Lake Capote, travel approximately 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. The well-marked entrance is on the left.

Navajo Reservoir

Navajo Reservoir and Navajo State Park are Colorado's version of Lake Powell. The park offers a full-service marina with visitor center and conference room, rental cabins, ample tent and RV camping, picnicking areas and nature trails in addition to great fishing.

Large catfish, trout, bass, pike, crappie, perch and Kokanee salmon inhabit this 15,000 surface-acre lake. About a third of Navajo Reservoir is located in Colorado, while two-thirds lie in New Mexico. Anglers wishing to fish both in Colorado and New Mexico waters must have both valid Colorado and New Mexico fishing licenses

Anglers can use live bait at Navajo, but only live bait purchased from an authorized vendor at the reservoir. Anglers cannot bring their own live bait. Live minnows may be used as bait in both Colorado and New Mexico waters within Navajo State Park.

To access the park from Pagosa Springs, travel approximately 17 miles west on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. Drive another 18 miles to Arboles, then turn left onto County Road 982 and proceed another two miles to the park.

Williams Creek Reservoir

This 508-acre mountain lake affords fine fishing for rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, brook trout and kokanee salmon. Surrounded by lush forest and towering peaks, anglers will find that

all standard forms of fishing prove productive at Williams Creek, though salmon are best taken with artificial lures and worms. In the morning and evening hours, bank fishing, a float tube or canoe provides sufficient access to surface-feeding fish. A sturdy motorboat will provide superior safety and access to fish during breezy afternoons. Keep in mind that whitewater wakes are not allowed.

Four Forest Service campgrounds are in the vicinity of Williams Creek Reservoir. To access the reservoir, drive two miles west from downtown Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn north onto Piedra Road. Continue north for approximately 24 miles following signs to Williams Creek.

Wilderness

Some of the finest fishing in Pagosa Country is found in remote waters in designated wilderness areas. At higher elevations, the chance of anglers finding native cutthroat trout in streams and lakes protected by special regulations increases. In these pristine areas, solitude is the rule.

As in all federal wilderness areas, mechanized travel is prohibited in the Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas — anglers must travel by foot or horseback only. Bicycles and carts are not allowed. Because travel distances can be great in these areas, visitors should be in shape, acclimated to the higher altitudes of the area, and plan well for treks into the backcountry.

Weather is unpredictable and high-country travelers should pack accordingly. Layered clothing, relevant forest and topographic maps, a compass or GPS, adequate shelter, food, water, matches and a headlamp or flashlight are essential. Anglers should also inform a responsible party about where they intend to fish and when they plan to return.

Up-to-date information about backcountry fishing is available from the Pagosa Ranger District office located at 180 Pagosa St. You can call the office at (970) 264-2268.

Geocaching in Pagosa Country Thousands of caches are out there!

Treasure is the stuff of legends, and hunts for treasure the stuff of adventure and discovery. In Pagosa Country, there is the legend of Treasure Mountain — millions in gold buried by 300 Frenchmen under the rocks of the San Juan Mountains. Only one man allegedly made it back to France, with a tale and a map. To this day, no one has found that treasure.

These days, treasure hunting has taken on a decidedly more modern flare, in the form of geocaching, and makes treasure hunting a possibility even without the luck of finding a map from days gone by.



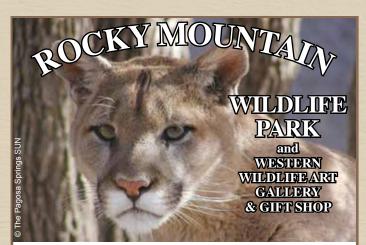
DAVID HAMILTON

Geocaching is a form of hi-tech treasure hunting friendly to all ages, where the treasure is in the form of a cache — some kind of trinket, treasure, landmark, bit of history or otherwise. Sometimes, it is simply a paper on which you write your name, your reward being one of the few to find the cache. Others will have tiny treasures, from key chains to DVDs. Typically, the harder the cache is to find, the bigger the treasure inside is. When you find the cache, you may take what is hidden inside, but geocaching etiquette suggests that you replace it with something else. One popular type of cache includes a "travel bug" — an item that moves from cache to cache, often traveling tens or hundreds of thousands of miles as geocachers move it from site to site. Each time the travel bug is found, it is logged into the geocache tracking website (www.geocaching.com), keeping the originator and others appraised of the bug's whereabouts and miles traveled, then deposited into another cache for the next treasure.

With a handheld GPS or smart phone apps, and a compass, anyone and everyone can get in on the hunt for a cache.

To start the search, hunters log on to the geocaching website, www.geocaching.com, and type in a location on the home page. For Pagosa Springs, nearly 3,000 caches appear. The site will give you coordinates, and you're on your way.

From caches hidden in the mountains around Wolf Creek to small caches that will take you around the downtown area, geocaching not only helps you learn your way around and find hidden treasure, but may even lead to the discovery of a beautiful site or view that may have been otherwise overlooked.



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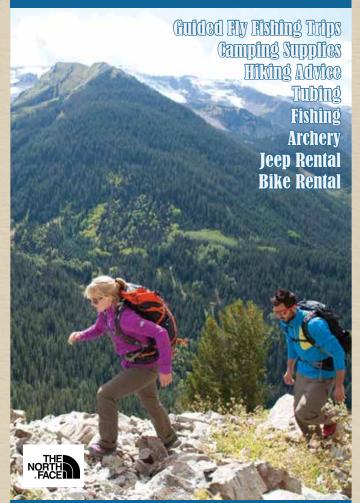
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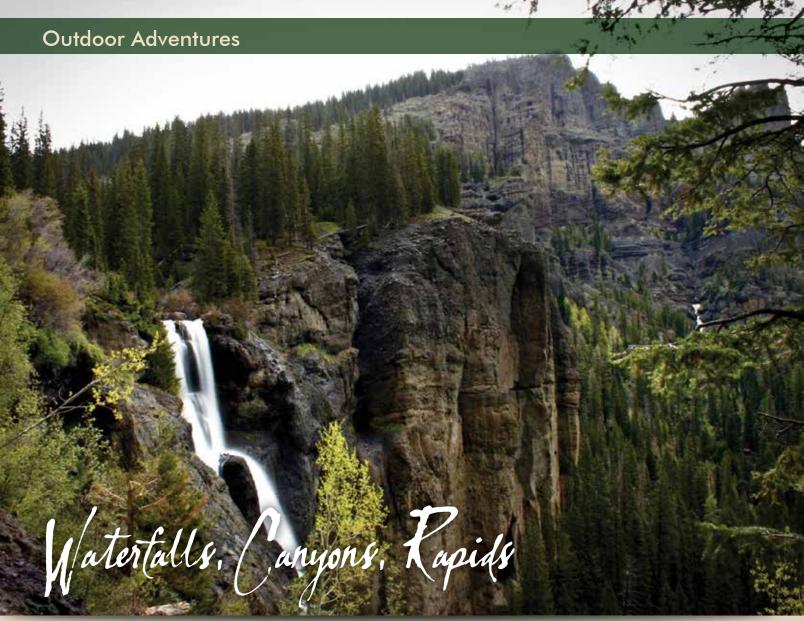
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Past noon on a clear winter day, cup your hand full of snow and hold it to the sun.

If you are patient, you will see the snow begin to melt and start dripping, drop by drop, through your fingertips.

Now, imagine this is what happens to all the snow capping the mountains surrounding Pagosa Springs. As the seasons change, and the rugged land begins once more to be warm, the water, at first as a drip, begins to roll from the mountain peaks. Before long, the drip turns into a rush, and the mountainsides are filled with waterfalls, streams and rivers.

Many water wonders await the hiker and backcountry mountain runner, horseback rider and biker. Find one of the area's waterfalls and take time to sit and enjoy the calming and beautiful spectacle.

Treasure Falls

Treasure Falls is named for Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of a large buried treasure. Most accounts suggest that a treasure chest full of gold was buried in the area after a group of Frenchmen were "waylaid" by either Spanish explorers or Native Americans. Whatever the circumstances, Treasure Falls offers visitors a breathtaking fortune in scenery.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160, approximately 15 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa Springs. As you approach the base of Wolf Creek Pass, turn right into a large parking area, with a well-maintained interpretive trail leading to the base of the falls.

While the falls and accompanying trail are visible from the highway, the appropriate footpath begins to the left of the stream. Many visitors photo-

graph the falls and surrounding vistas from the parking area and nearby Overlook Bridge at the base of the falls.

Silver Falls

Day travelers can easily view or visit Silver Falls near the old historic Silver Falls Forest Service Guard Station. Following a scenic drive on a maintained gravel road into the backcountry, a trail to the falls is short, but fairly steep.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160, approximately 10 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa Springs. Just after crossing the West Fork of the San Juan River, turn right (east) on East Fork Road (FR #667) leading to the East Fork River and campground. Follow the road and river approximately eight miles where, on the north side (left), you'll see the falls, an old guard station and primitive parking area beyond.

A word of caution — in early spring, there are two vehicle stream crossings that are often hazardous during high water. Also, the last two miles of road crosses private land where visitors must respect private property rights and remain in the roadway.

To reach the base of the falls, follow the footpath through a gate and hike about an eighth of a mile.

Elwood Creek Cascades

The route to Elwood Pass and the Elwood Creek Cascades turns to a four-wheel-drive road best suited to high-clearance vehicles with a short wheelbase. Late summer or early autumn, when the aspens are shimmer-

ing gold, may be the ideal time to negotiate this rather precarious course. Because travelers must ford the East Fork of the San Juan River near where it begins at the confluence of Elwood and Crater creeks, spring high water season is not the time to go.

To view these cascades, proceed up the East Fork Road as you would to Silver Falls. About a mile past the old guard station and parking area, East Fork Road branches left from Quartz Meadow Road to the right. From there on, this narrow and primitive course offers many steep grades and seemingly bottomless mud holes. Beyond the river crossing, the road climbs abruptly out of the canyon. From high on the mountainside, Elwood Cascades is visible.

Another word of caution — because the road to Elwood Pass is challenging even when dry, only experienced drivers should attempt its

Fourmile Falls

The first of two spectacular falls is a tall "bridal veil" fall on aptlynamed Fall Creek, but viewing its splendor requires a three-mile hike (one way) into the Weminuche Wilderness north of Pagosa Springs. A bit further along Fourmile Trail (on the right), the more voluminous Fourmile Falls tumbles hundreds of feet over a sheer precipice of dark volcanic rock.

The route to these popular summertime destinations begins in town at U.S. 160 and Lewis Street. Turn north on Lewis, then an immediate left on Fifth Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Follow Fourmile Road (CR 400/FR 645) roughly 13 miles to the trailhead at road's end. Keep in mind, with Fourmile Falls being one of the more popular points of interest in the Pagosa Ranger District, the trail in can be quite crowded on pleasant summer days.

Piedra Falls

Piedra Falls is one of the most popular in the Pagosa Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest. Located at the end of a gentle, quartermile-long trail, where the East Fork of the Piedra River meets the Weminuche Wilderness boundary, it cascades over two large steps among sheer volcanic cliffs.

To reach Piedra Falls, drive two miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 to Piedra Road (CR 600). Turn right and proceed beyond a cattle guard (at approximately six miles) where the road turns to gravel and becomes FR 631. Travel roughly 11.8 miles more, to the Middle Fork Road (FR 636). Veer right from FR 631 onto FR 636 (left side of a country store, campground and cabins). Continue on FR 636 approximately two miles, then turn right on East Toner Road (FR 637). Follow East Toner Road about eight miles, where it ends at a primitive parking area near an irrigation diversion. Park there and follow a footpath upstream to the base of the falls.

Another word of caution — East Toner Road is not graveled and, during inclement weather, can be slick in several areas.

Safety and Precautions

Backcountry travelers should always prepare for unforeseen emergencies before venturing far past civilization. Even relatively minor injuries in a remote area can turn serious, particularly if the victim faces spending a night (or more) in the woods. Sliding off road or getting stuck will almost certainly result in very expensive assistance.

Before setting out, hikers and motorists should review maps and weather reports, determine intended routes and travel times, and inform at least two close friends or family members of their planned destination and when they expect to return. Wilderness trail users should register their entry and departure times at all Forest Service trailheads.

Adventurers ought never travel alone, should dress appropriately for current and forecast conditions, should carry a first aid kit and know how to use it. If serious injury does occur, tend to the victim's immediate needs, then get to a landline or within cell phone range and dial 911. For less serious matters where help is still required, call the Archuleta County Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.



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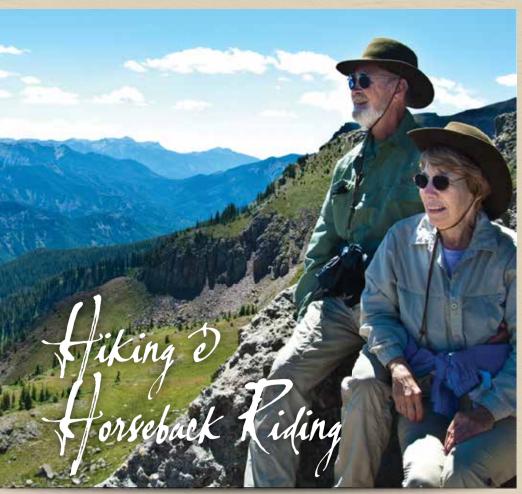
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Service land by permit.



JEFF LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

Bright blue sky, a sky as big as the ocean. Wildflowers and their brilliant colors. A new spring cascading down the mountain's jagged rock. A still lake tucked high near a summit.

This is Pagosa Country.

To look upon these sights is breathtaking, and to see these sights ... that's the reason many people come back time and again for the experience.

Leave the roads behind, kiss the asphalt goodbye. The San Juan National Forest is all around you. Pull off the side of the road. Park by a trailhead. Lace up your boots and saddle your horse. Strike out into nature and tread where few have gone.

Accessing the backcountry is easy, whether for a hike or a horseback ride "back in."

For those who want to get out of the car and off the beaten track, backcountry excursions offer visitors an opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the San Juan National Forest firsthand. Many trails are easily accessible and within relative proximity to downtown Pagosa Springs.

Use your car to reach one of the convenient starting points listed below, then leave it behind to wander trails winding beneath towering pines or along clear mountain streams.

The trails described here cover a variety of terrain and skill levels. U.S. Forest Service trail numbers are in parentheses next to the trail name.

Hiking and riding tips

- Set easy-to-achieve objectives. Unless you are backpacking, plan to return well before dark.
- Stay on the trail. Shortcutting causes erosion and is hazardous to your safety, as well as to the safety of hikers below you.
- Think safety. Carry a map, water, snacks and clothing to keep you warm and dry. Weather conditions change rapidly in the mountains and it may rain or snow at any time. Always travel with a friend and always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Pack out your trash. Help keep the forest clean and pack out trash someone else left behind.
- Share the trails. The trails listed are shared by many visitors, some using horses, and in some areas, bicycles or ATVs. For the safety of all involved, give horse riders the right-of-way by moving well off the trail on the downhill side, when it is safe to do so. To avoid startling the horses, say "hello" so they know you are a person, not a predator.
- Trail signs are usually found at trailheads and major junctions of maintained trails. Take a moment to read the information posted at trailheads. Not all junctions or cross-country routes are signed.
- A Pagosa Country map is available to direct you to the various trailheads. It is also a good

idea to pick up a national forest map that clearly shows all access roads, trails and special area boundaries. Maps and current information about trail conditions are available at the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center, located at 402 San Juan Street, and the Pagosa Ranger District office at U.S. 160 and Second Street.

The hikes described here begin at altitudes above 8,000 feet and several top out at 12,000 feet. Each hike is classified as "easy" to "difficult." Only those in good physical condition should attempt the difficult hikes. Remember, when you go downhill you will have to climb back up when you return.

Fourmile Falls (569)

Length: 7.6 miles Difficulty: Moderate

From U.S. 160, turn north onto Lewis Street and take an immediate left onto Fifth Street. Stay right on Fourmile Road (County Road 400 — this becomes Forest Road 645). Drive north seven miles from Pagosa Springs. Turn right at the junction, then travel four more miles to the trailhead. The trail follows Fourmile Creek with Eagle Mountain to the east. The trail is bordered by stands of aspen and spruce. At mile three you will reach the waterfall, which drops 300 feet from the cliff above.

Opal Lake (564)

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Length: 1 mile

Drive south on U.S. 84 from Pagosa Springs approximately eight miles to Blanco Basin Road (CR 326). After driving 10 miles, turn right across the Blanco River Bridge. Follow the Castle Creek Road (CR 660) to the signed junction for the Opal Lake Trailhead. Turn right and drive a short distance to the trailhead on the right. The trail to Opal Lake is one mile and takes about 45 minutes to hike. A portion of the trail is steep before it traverses an open meadow to the lake. Stands of large aspen line the trail and several beaver dams can be seen in the area. The lake is bordered by wooded hillsides and a sheer mountain face. Minerals deposited at the inlet give the lake its milky color.

Piedra Falls (671)

Difficulty: Easy Length: .5 miles

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) about 17 miles to the junction at Sportsman's Supply. Leave the Piedra Road and continue on the Middle Fork Road (Forest Road 636) for two miles. Take the first road to the right, East Toner Road (FR 637), and follow it to the end. Do not attempt to travel this road in wet weather. Walk up the river to a head gate, where the trail begins. The falls are impressive, thundering off a cliff into a V-shaped canyon of huge boulders. The hike takes about 15 to 30 minutes each way.

Williams Creek (587)

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Length: 10.1 miles

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) about 22 miles. Turn right on Williams Creek Road (FR 640) and go past Williams Creek Reservoir and Cimarrona Campground, continuing on to the trailhead at the end of the road. The trail follows Williams Creek northward into the Weminuche Wilderness. The old Spanish name for Williams Creek was

Huerto — garden-like. The first few miles of Williams Creek trail give the impression of a gigantic walled garden. Across the creek to the right is a group of peaks eroded from volcanic rock. Set your own destination — it continues on to the Continental Divide.

Treasure Falls (563)

Difficulty: Easy Length: .5 miles

Travel 14 miles northeast on U.S. 160 to the base of Wolf Creek Pass. You will see a parking lot on your right. A quarter-mile interpretive trail begins near the restroom and continues to the bridge at the base of the falls. While standing in the refreshing spray on the bridge, the falls rush hundreds of feet down the cliff toward you. During winter, the frozen falls become a beautiful, sapphire ice sculpture.

Turkey Creek Trail (580) Difficulty: Easy to Moderate Length: 5.2 miles

Drive 7.3 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 to Jackson Mountain Road on the left. Follow it for four miles to the end of the road. This trail is the longest in this section of the Weminuche Wilderness. It is 20 miles from the trailhead through breathtaking scenery to the Continental Divide. Choose your own destination here. The five-mile hike will take you to the first creek crossing.

Piedra River Trail (596)

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate

Length: 11.2 miles

The upper terminus of the trail begins on the Piedra Road (CR 600), about 16 miles north of Pagosa Springs. After crossing the Piedra River you will notice the trailhead parking lot on the left. The trail starts on the canyon rim and then descends to the river. Sheer cliffs rise on both sides for over several hundred feet. This is an easy trail for young and old alike if you only go the 3.5 miles to the footbridge across the Piedra. For a longer hike, follow the river for another 8.5 miles. The trail passes several cool box canyons to end at the bridge on the First Fork of the Piedra Road. Confirm that First Fork Road is open and shuttle a vehicle to the First Fork Bridge for the longer hike.

Continental Divide Trail North (813)

Difficulty: Easy to difficult depending on duration and destination Length: Depends on destination

Turn left on the dirt road just past the Continental Divide marker at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. Drive 1.5 miles to the Lobo Overlook parking area and microwave tower site. The trail begins behind the microwave tower and follows the Continental Divide, which is the backbone of the continent and the dividing line for eastern and western watersheds. From the trailhead, you can embark on an easy day hike or begin an extended backcountry journey. Hiking options along the Continental Divide trail seem limitless.

Ice Cave Ridge Trail

Difficulty: Easy Length: .5 miles

Drive to the Piedra River Trail (596) parking area to access this trail. From the parking area, start on the Piedra River Trail for several hundred yards, then follow the old road bed to the right. This is an easy, short trail up Ice Cave Ridge. The fissures on the side of the ridge contain snow deposited through the winter and hidden from the sun. After melting and compressing, the ice remains in the fissures as late as the end of June. From the ridge at the top, you have a good view of the Piedra Valley and other ridges. Use caution when viewing the ice fissures. Watch your footing, keep children near you and

Continental Divide Trail, Alberta Peak (813)

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult due to a steady uphill grade and elevation Length: 2.5 miles

Travel east on U.S. 160 22.6 miles to the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. The trail begins on the south side of the road, just east of the Continental Divide information kiosk. A trail travels south and climbs to the west of Wolf Creek Ski Area. It then leads to rocky ridges on the west side of Alberta Peak. The trail to the top of the peak (11,870 feet) is not marked, although a 15 to 20 minute scramble will take you to the top. There are many beautiful vistas along the ridge.

West Fork or Rainbow Trail (561)

Difficulty: Moderate Length: 11.6 miles



Outdoor Adventures

Travel to this trailhead from Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. Drive northeast for 15 miles, then turn left on the West Fork Road (FR 648). Travel three miles to the trailhead. The first portion of this trail passes through private property. Hiking three miles will take you to the West Fork of the San Juan River, and 1/4 mile further is Beaver Creek. Either are pleasant day hikes. The trail continues on to the Continental Divide.

Cimarrona Trail (586)

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult Length: 8.5 miles

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) to Williams Lake Road. The trail begins on the left side of Williams Lake Road just beyond the entrance of Cimarrona Campground. The first two miles of trail are moderately easy, wandering through conifer and aspen stands. Then, many switchbacks start a steep ascent. Choose your destination — the trail continues on to the Continental Divide Trail at Squaw Pass.

Treasure Mountain Trail (565)

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult Length: 8.1 miles

A spectacular trail to Windy Pass starts from the East Fork Road. Drive eight miles northeast on U.S. 160, turn right on the East Fork Road and travel approximately seven miles to the trailhead. A small sign on the left side of the road marks the trailhead. After approximately three miles, the Windy Pass Trail from the southwest intersects this trail in a large scenic park. Windy Pass is about three-quarters of a mile to the west of this junction. You can return the way you came up, or go down to U.S. 160 (if you left a car there). You could go to the top of Windy Pass from U.S. 160, but it isn't as scenic.

Little Blanco Trail (572)

Difficulty: Difficult Length: 8.3 miles

Travel south on U.S. 84 for approximately 1/4 mile and turn left on Mill Creek Road (CR 302). Drive for approximately 15 miles and bear right on the Nipple Mountain Road (FR 665). Follow it nearly to the end. You will see a trailhead sign on the left. The first two miles of the Little Blanco Trail are steep and winding. You will travel through aspen stands and pine forest to a narrow ridge with a sweeping view to the west. Follow the trail to the junction of the Quartz Lake Trail. The trail continues to the left for another mile to Quartz Lake — a relatively small, but pristine lake. Snow will linger on this trail into early summer. Check conditions before you go.

Anderson Trail (579)

Difficulty: Moderate to difficult loop Mileage: 9.3 miles with a total ascent of 2,600 feet

See Fourmile Falls Trail for directions. This trail begins at the Fourmile Trailhead, to the left of the Fourmile Trail. This trail climbs steadily for about four miles to skirt the east side of Pagosa Peak. The summit of the peak is 12,640 feet. The trail continues on to Fourmile Lake. It is about two miles to the junction with the Fourmile Trail. From the junction, it is six miles back to the trailhead and very steep in some areas. Snow will linger on this trail into early summer. Check conditions before you go.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

The public lands and forests surrounding Pagosa Springs provide exceptional big game habitat, and licensed sportsmen and women enjoy some of the finest hunting in North America while visiting Pagosa Springs.

The adjoining San Juan and Rio Grande national forests, together comprising nearly 4 million acres of varied elevation and diverse terrain, are home to black bears, cougars and bighorn sheep, as well as considerable herds of mule deer and elk that migrate seasonally between winter and summer ranges. Though far fewer in number, Shiras moose may also be seen grazing in the high country.

Access to the remarkable hunting grounds surrounding Pagosa is gained via a network of forest service and Bureau of Land Management roads. If hunters prefer to trek into the forest by foot or on horseback, they may use the many foot and horseback trails, which offer passage into vehicle-restricted regions such as the rugged and remote Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas. Designated wilderness areas are closed to all forms of mechanized travel (including bicycles, game carts and wheelchairs) at all times. Hunters should call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268 for travel policy information and travel details including posted road closures and other travel restrictions that may affect specific hunting units. Information related to other activities that might coincide with big game seasons — such as domestic livestock grazing, prescribed burns and special recreational events — is also available.

Through direction from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Colorado Parks and Wildlife governs bag limits, hunting regulations, season dates and licensing for big and small game hunts. Though subject to yearly changes, the first of the 2014 big game seasons, archery deer and elk, begins Aug. 30. The final limited deer and elk rifle season will end Nov. 16.

Obtaining a license to hunt big game in Colorado may require participation in a drawing. Deer licenses can only be obtained through a lottery. Other limited license species include Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, mountain goat, pronghorn, moose and black bear. For elk, hunters must enter and be drawn from a lottery for licenses to hunt in the first and fourth seasons, and for all seasons in other specified units. The deadline for entering select season draws will be April 1 of this year. Hunters can enter these drawings online at www.wildlife.state.co.us or by filling out a paper application found in the Colorado Big Game Brochure available at all license agents.

Over-the-counter licenses for elk are available in most units in the state for the second and third rifle seasons and archery season. In addition, leftover licenses go on sale Aug. 5, 2014 and can be purchased at licensed dealer locations, CPW offices, and through the CPW website.

A mandatory 25-cent Search and Rescue surcharge is added to the cost of all Colorado hunting and fishing licenses. To improve wildlife habitat and wildlife education, a 75-cent Public Education Advisory Council surcharge and a \$10 Habitat Stamp fee are also added to all license costs. The Habitat Stamp fee is added only to one license purchased by an individual in a given year.

Documentation proving completion of a hunter education course is mandatory for all hunters born Jan. 1, 1949, or after who wish to pursue any game species in Colorado. Licenses will not be granted without hunter education verification.

For complete information on hunting seasons, pick up one of the Colorado hunting brochures at any local sports store. You can also go to the CPW website: www.wildlife.state.co.us.

For more information regarding hunting opportunities unique to Pagosa Country, stop by the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District office, located at 180 Pagosa St. (U.S. 160 on the east side of town); or call the Durango Colorado Parks and Wildlife office at (970) 247-0855.

Outdoor Adventures



If you've brought your camera and are inclined to trek through the extensive wilderness that composes the greater portion of Pagosa Country, be prepared for the chance to snap the shot of a lifetime.

In a region that ranges from 6,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the 1.8 million acre San Juan National Forest not only hosts a complex diversity of climate zones, ecological niches and microenvironments, but also contains a vast array of wildlife that call some or all of the habitats home. As the country climbs in elevation from the south and east to the mountains north and west, that diversity becomes apparent as high desert plateau gently transitions into alpine forest, then dramatically ascends beyond the tree line to alpine tundra. While many species of wildlife prefer to inhabit a specific ecological zone, others travel throughout Pagosa Country, seeking resources and habitat wherever they can find them.

Coyotes, various foxes, cougars and black bears may roam the region at almost any elevation and are a common site (and sometimes a nuisance) for residents and visitors alike. A special but not uncommon sight is the symbol of our country — the American Bald Eagle — soaring majestically above meadows, lakes or rivers at all elevations. Sighting a mating pair in the skies above is not at all unusual, but snapping a photo of one of these birds perched atop a ponderosa pine is a rare treat.

In the lower reaches, short-horned lizards, eastern fence lizards, western rattlesnakes and ringtail cats share sandy sage flats, arid rocky slopes, deep canyons and sandstone mesas with jackrabbits, prairie dogs, elk and mule deer. Piñon jays, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks and golden eagles commonly grace the sun-drenched skies above the high desert plateau.

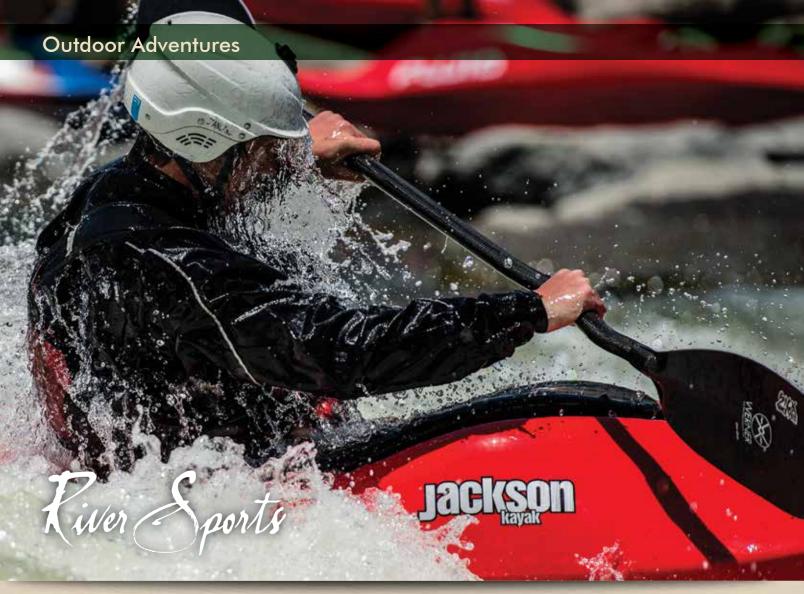
In the high country, observers may see Rocky Mountain goats, bighorn sheep, snowshoe hares, ptarmigan or a rare Canada lynx. Although normally a denizen of high country meadows, willow flats, forests and lakes

north of Pagosa Springs, it is not unusual for the Shiras moose to be seen at most elevations. The largest member of the deer family, these lone individuals occasionally wander the streets and outskirts of town.

While the encroachment of civilization on some of the region's wilderness has decreased the numbers of several species in the area, foxes and coyotes, mule deer, bears, magpies, crows and ravens, golden and bald eagles, wild turkeys and vultures are more numerous than in years past. While mountain lions are normally solitary and secretive, reported sightings have become frequent, particularly between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Visitors and residents should be cautioned not to feed local wildlife, especially as prey species can attract lions into residential areas.

In the spring and early summer, infrequent hikers and wildlife watchers will invariably stumble upon a newborn fawn or elk calf. Baby birds, rabbits, foxes and squirrels may appear quite approachable, yet mother is almost certainly nearby. As long as a potential predator lurks about, she'll not return to feed or coddle her young. Therefore, it is always best to back away and leave little ones as they're found. Survival in the wild is challenging enough without avoidable human interference.

In a bountiful area as rich and diverse as Pagosa Country, vigilant observers will enjoy an array of wildlife matched by few places on earth. The adventurous visitor traveling the canyons, mesas and forests early or late, moving in silence and employing a pair of good field glasses, is almost guaranteed to be rewarded with the sight of wildlife in their natural habitat — and the experience of a lifetime. For more information about the best hiking trails for wildlife watching in the San Juan National Forest and surrounding wilderness areas, visit the U.S. Forest Service website at www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/ or stop by the Pagosa ranger station located at 180 Pagosa St.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Feeling lazy on a summer day? Grab a tube and take a float down the San Juan River.

Bored and can't take the heat? Grab a kayak and test your skill set on the rapids in and around town.

Group of friends ready for an adventure? Hop in a raft and let the river be your guide.

Pagosa Country is a popular destination for rafters, kayakers and tubers. With waters both inviting for beginners and challenging to experts, area rivers including the San Juan, Piedra and Animas provide something for everyone.

Flowing through the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs, the San Juan River is perfect for those new to river sports and those who enjoy a gentle float. Offering superb views of the town and, farther downstream, spectacular shale cliffs, rafting or kayaking trips down the San Juan begin as early as March and continue as the season peaks in May or June.

By mid-summer, river flows dramatically taper off and, while rafts and kayaks largely disappear from the river, activity continues as tubers take to the waters. Beating the summer heat in the cool, refreshing waters of the San Juan, tubers can bring their own tubes or rent them from local businesses including Pagosa Outside, the Ski and Bow Rack and Summit Ski and Sports, which also provides a shuttle service. Tubers can enjoy surfing several river features in town or just relish a relaxed float down the lazy river. During this time of year, people wade in the cool waters and gather

on the banks of the river in this superb recreational corridor running from one end of town to the other. Even when flows are at a minimum and river speeds drop to a gentle flow, young children should always enter the river with a life vest and never without direct adult supervision.

More experienced boaters can test their skills about 23 miles west of Pagosa on the Piedra River. During a brief 6-8 week season (from May through June), waters rush over class III to IV rapids through a pair of breathtaking box canyons offering kayakers and rafters a challenging ride on nearly 20 miles of wild river and whitewater.

Further west, the upper Animas River has a reputation as one of the top five stretches of river for rafting thrills in North America. Boasting dramatic scenery and intensely long stretches of rapids, the upper Animas can be rafted and kayaked from late May to early August. In high water from early to mid June, the Animas runs with continuous class III rapids and stretches of intermittent class IV and V whitewater.

Several Pagosa Springs companies including Pagosa Outside, Pagosa Rafting Outfitters and Wilderness Journeys Pagosa, Inc. offer guided rafting trips of varied lengths. Visitors are encouraged to call at least a week in advance to secure the date of their choice. Local companies also offer equipment rental including kayaks, rafts and associated gear as well as daily tube rental.

From raging rapids to gentle flows, scenery of soaring cliffs and deep deep canyons in the backcountry to a small town landscape, Pagosa Country has it all when it comes to river rafting, kayaking and tubing.



RANDI PIERCE

Providing a 'hand up, not a hand out' to partner families

Yes, Pagosa Country is famous for the beauty and wonder of its natural features, from the grandeur of its mountains to the miracle of its hot springs, but perhaps the most valuable resource in this place is its people.

You would be hard pressed to find a community with more civic-minded, friendly, conscientious neighbors than what we have here. The local chapter of Habitat for Humanity is a prime example.

The mission of Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County, Inc. is to build confidence; strong ties between compassionate volunteers and new homeowners; a richer community through shared hope and common effort amongst caring people of all faiths; and simple, decent, affordable houses for families in need.

"Our core program, begun when the affiliate was founded," former Executive Director Cindi Galabota explains, "is our traditional New Construction Program. We partner with hard-working, low-income families to build simple, decent, affordable houses."

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County was founded in 1994 by Bruce Muirhead and Harold Morrison. Muirhead had witnessed the success of Habitat for Humanity International in southern Arizona and brought the idea of starting a local affiliate to his church in Pagosa. The

first Habitat house in Pagosa was completed in the fall of 1995.

Until the spring of 2007, the organization was run entirely by a dedicated, volunteer board of directors. In 2007, they hired Galabota, who has been with the organization ever since. While the local affiliate is associated with Habitat for Humanity International, it is a separate, independently governed and funded organization, and is currently celebrating 20 years of building houses and hope in Archuleta County.

Habitat for Humanity of Archuleta County is dedicated to eliminating poverty housing in Archuleta County by building and repairing simple, decent affordable houses for families in need and providing a "hand up, not a hand out" to partner families.

Construction of a new home takes approximately six months. Completed houses are then sold to partner families at cost with a no- to low-interest mortgage. Partners gain financial independence by paying thirty percent or less of their gross income on their energy-efficient, affordable home.

"Since 1994, we have built 24 new Habitat homes," Galabota reports. "We have also completed nine Neighbors Helping Neighbors Home Repair Projects. In total we have partnered with more than 135 people,

Real Estate & Home Guide

largely children."

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Home Repair Program began in 2011 and is an interior/exterior home preservation program for homeowners in need. It is meant to help people impacted by age, disability and family circumstances who struggle to maintain their homes.

"NHN serves as a companion to our core building services," Galabota continues, "enabling us to serve more families and increase opportunities for volunteers and sponsors. NHN ensures that families live in safe and well-maintained homes."

The program is designed to revitalize the appearance of the neighborhood, encourage connections with the community, and most importantly, help preserve affordable housing stock in Pagosa. Partners of completed home repair projects enter into an agreement to pay back the project costs at no interest through a 5- to 7-year loan.

Galabota encourages anyone to apply to become a Habitat partner, but cautions that the application process is rigorous and precise. Families are chosen based on need, income and the willingness to partner in the building or repairing of their home and/or another Habitat home.

Typically, the families are living in homes that have structural deterioration, inadequate plumbing or wiring or are otherwise unsafe, are overcrowded or too expensive. They have annual incomes that are between 30 and 60 percent of the Area Median Income in Archuleta County, which was \$69,600 in 2013.

Applicants often attend credit and financial counseling before qualifying to partner. They also need to have the ability to make modest monthly mortgage or loan payments on their home. Perhaps most importantly,

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families must agree to work a minimum of 400 hours of "sweat equity" on their new home or other Habitat homes.

For the NHN program, applicants must agree to work at least eight hours or 10 percent of the total hours of a repair project. Payments from all the mortgages and loans are used to help fund future Habitat housing projects.

Speaking of the future, helping build or repair houses isn't the only work Habitat volunteers do locally.

"We are currently in our fourth year of a partnership with the Pirate Achievement Center (PAC) in the local high school," Galabota explains. "Through this partnership, we teach at risk youth ages 14-18 about Habitat for Humanity and affordable housing."

Students look at local housing issues and explore solutions to those issues. They also help build part of a Habitat house using construction skills taught to them by staff and other experts in the community.

Funding for Habitat comes from a variety of sources, including grants from private foundations and donations from local individuals and businesses. The local affiliate has received federal funding in the past, but it is generally not a primary source of funding.

Habitat also conducts a number of fundraising events, including the annual Recycled Arts Show, which takes place around the Earth Day weekend in April. This event brings local artists together to display and sell their recycled artwork and support Habitat for Humanity.

However, the heart of the organization is its dedicated corps of volunteers.

Galabota affirms, "We rely on volunteers to help build and repair houses, make lunch for the construction volunteers, sit on committees and the Board of Directors. Local businesses donate materials and labor; churches and restaurants provide much needed lunches for volunteers at the work site; and local clubs offer volunteer labor. Individuals do all of this and much more."

To build one house requires more than 2,500 volunteer hours just for the construction labor.

"Locally we have more than two dozen volunteers who work regularly," Galabota explains. "Then we have another handful of dozens who have worked at least one day, pounding nails or in another capacity. Whether a volunteer works one day or many days, all are vital to our success!"

The local Habitat affiliate also works with many volunteers who travel from elsewhere. Some church groups, for example, spend a week or more volunteering in Pagosa Country.

"We also partner with Care-A-Vanners," Galabota says, "a program through Habitat for Humanity International. Care-A-Vanners travel from all over the U.S. in their RVs and spend one or two weeks volunteering with us every day, five days a week. They help get much accomplished on our projects. We have many Care-A-Vanners who have been coming here for years because they love Pagosa!"

Through the work of Habitat, thousands of low-income families have found new hope in the form of affordable housing. Churches, community groups and others have joined together to successfully tackle a significant social problem — decent housing for all.

Today, Habitat has helped build or repair more than 800,000 houses and served more than 4 million people around the world.

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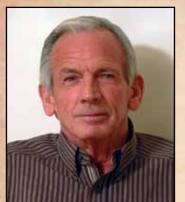
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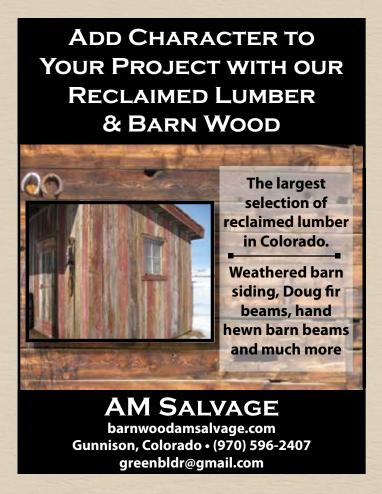
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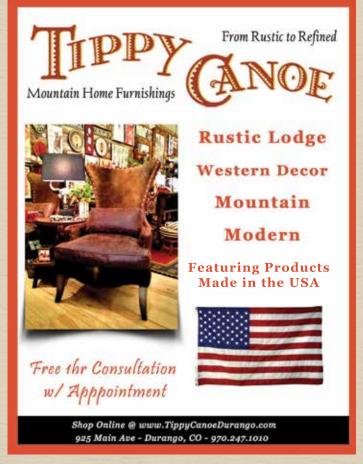




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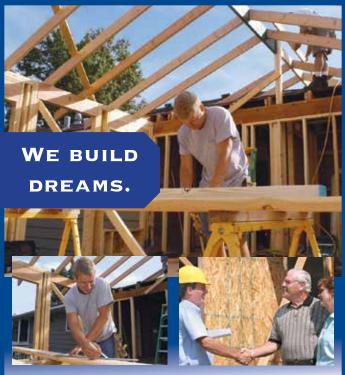
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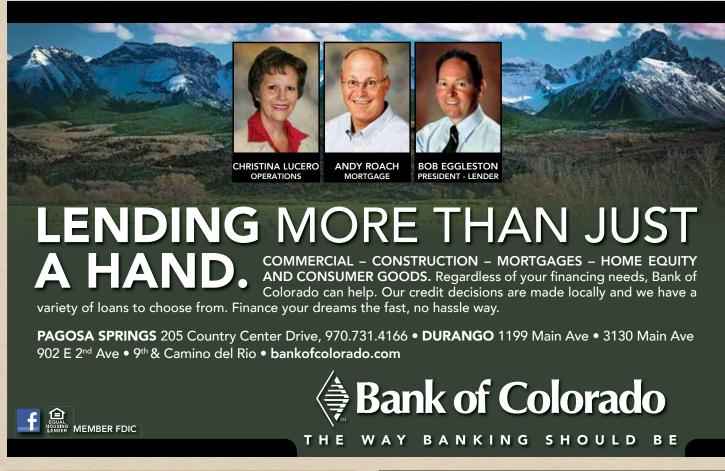
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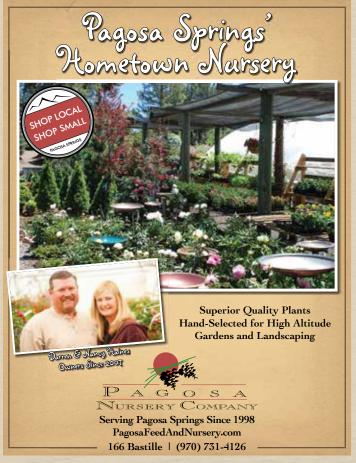
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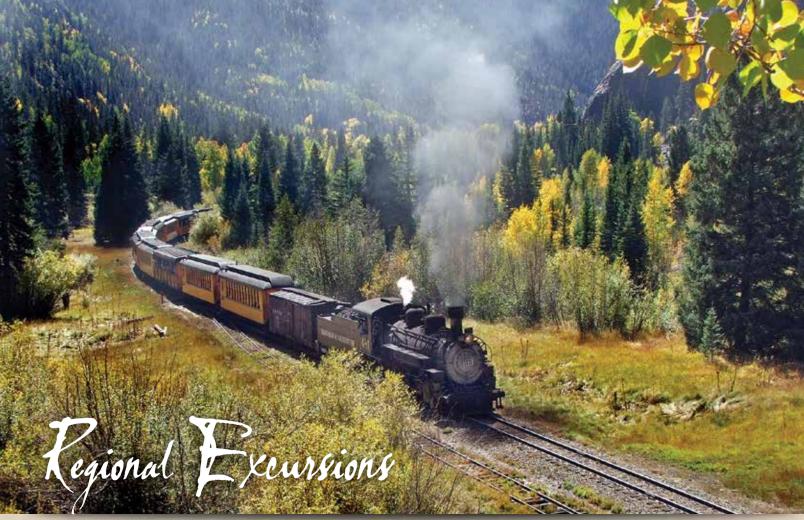
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YVONNE LASHMETT

Whichever road taken out of town, you will encounter some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world.

Pagosa Country is perfectly located in the midst of some of the most interesting attractions and spectacular scenery in the world and being here reminds a person what it means to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. Sometimes the call of the open road becomes irresistible, and when the urge hits, a little road trip is just the ticket.

Driving south

Heading south from Pagosa on U.S. 84, your trip offers a wide variety of areas to explore through the mesa country of northern New Mexico.

Just 40-50 minutes away, one can explore the Cumbres Pass area by car or rail.

The car-bound can explore the rich history in Dulce, the center of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Tribe. Be sure to go for the mid-July Little Beaver Pow-Wow and Carnival celebration.

Traveling south on U.S. 84 to Taos (and Taos Pueblo) is a longer, beautiful drive across the scenic Brazos Mountains from Tierra Amarilla (home of Tierra Wools), arriving at a town of artistic notoriety. Likewise, Santa Fe is a three-hour drive south on U.S. 84, offering not only Native American arts and crafts sold near the Governor's Palace, but numerous art galleries lining a plaza that includes historic churches and places of interest.

Also on U.S. 84 is the quaint and knock-your-socks-off gorgeous town of Abiquiu, which inspired the painter Georgia O'Keefe. For those interested in exploring the spiritual roots of the area, a quick turn on the Forest Service Rd. 151 not only offers views of the Chama Canyon, but will dead end at the Benedictine Monastery Christ in the Desert. Built by famed Japanese architect George Nakashima, the chapel and original monastery show the simple elegance of southwest architecture. Since Benedictines have taken a vow of hospitality, they will be sure to welcome you with arms wide open. Make sure, though, to ring the bell loud!

Driving west

A short drive west of town leads to the Chimney Rock National Monument, which provides an introduction to the Ancestral Puebloan Indians who settled here over 1,000 years ago. This is a perfect complement to a day trip to Mesa Verde.

Continue south and east on Colo. 151 from Chimney Rock and you will pass through Arboles and Allison and make your way to Ignacio — the home of the Southern Ute Tribe. After checking out the casino, visit the spectacular, new Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum for a look into the history of one of the storied tribes of the Southwest.

Mesa Verde National Park, our nation's third most visited national park, offers a look back in time at the lives of the "Anasazi" (Navajo for "Ancient Ones"), the ancient Puebloans who mysteriously disappeared from their spectacular cliff dwellings over 1,000 years ago. The Canyon of the Ancients National Monument is located northwest of Cortez and includes several smaller Anasazi ruin sites for a quieter and more private experience. South of Durango, across the New Mexico state line, is Aztec Ruins National Monument.

Traveling further west beyond Mesa Verde on U.S. 160 is the Four Corners monument at the junction of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. Closer to Pagosa is Navajo State Park, just 30 miles from Pagosa on Colo. 151, offering camping, water skiing, sailing, fishing, boating and pretty much everything else.

For a more metropolitan experience, Durango is an hour west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 with Fort Lewis College on site and a vibrant historical downtown area. A ride on the Durango & Silverton Railroad, through the Animas River gorge, where lofty peaks rise above this historic train ride from Durango to Silverton, is certain to please the visitor seeking the "Old West" experience (many areas of the canyon were locations for the movie "Butch

Regional Excursions

Cassidy and the Sundance Kid").

Driving north

Directly north of Pagosa Country lies a vast roadless area known as the Weminuche Wilderness, so pretty much anything accessed from the north first requires a drive to the east or west.

From the east (up U.S. 160 to Lake City), a drive up the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway, a 65-mile, four-wheel-drive road over Engineer Pass toward Silverton and Ouray makes for a spectacular — and breathtaking — day trip. To the west, a trip up U.S. 550 from Durango to Silverton, and then on to Ouray (the Switzerland of America), is substantially less taxing on the rear axle.

Driving east

Almost no one visiting the area misses an opportunity to drive over Wolf Creek Pass. Aside from the opportunity to hike up Treasure Falls or view the Pagosa basin from the overlook, or the short drive up Lobo Overlook on the north side, travelers are provided with some of the most breathtaking miles of road offered anywhere in the world. A swing by Big Meadow Reservoir, a few miles from the summit and on the north side of the highway, is well worth the diversion.

On the other side of the pass, South Fork offers the option of driving north on Colo. 149 on the Silver Thread Scenic Byway toward Lake City, or continuing east on U.S. 160 towards the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

If choosing Colo. 149 to Creede, an old mining town with a deep heritage, a visitor might enjoy the Mining Museum (at the far north end of Main Street) or a performance at the renowned Creede Repertory Theatre.

North from Creede (as mentioned earlier) and over Slumgullion Pass (named for the yellowish dirt that a mudslide uncovered a thousand years ago) is Lake City. With the natural dam forming beautiful Lake San Cristobal, the highest natural lake in Colorado, Lake City also proudly features the history of Alferd Packer, the only U.S. citizen ever charged, tried and convicted for the crime of cannibalism — where judge M.B. Gerry said, famously, "You son of a bitch. There were only seven Democrats in Hinsdale County and you ate five of them!"

Continuing east on U.S. 160 from South Fork takes visitors into the high desert (8,000 feet) and towards the Great Sand Dunes National Park, about 15 miles past Alamosa and a left on Colo. 150.

At the base of the intimidating Sangre de Cristo range (four 14,000-foot peaks at Crestone, less than 20 miles northeast), the area has had millions of years collecting the sand of the San Luis Valley into dunes several hundred feet high, creating the backdrop for numerous Westerns and the awe of millions of visitors.

No matter which direction you choose for a trip, Pagosa Springs is the hub for a trip to a destination that promises to be both breathtaking and memorable, with amazing views and a rich history left from those who settled in this area.



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Discover where the roads lead ...

Sometimes, there is no destination, and that provides the freedom to truly appreciate the beauty, the history and the culture of Pagosa Country. Sure, you can stand outside on a main street and gaze at the peaks of the San Juan Mountains that surround you, listening to the San Juan River as it rolls by. And if that's all you choose to do, you've done well.

Perhaps, however, your interest was piqued. "What else is out there? What views, what wonders, lie just behind the mountain?" You don't have to be a member of the explorer's club to find out.

Much of this incredible natural wonder can be observed from the comfort of a conventional vehicle. However, one must be warned: Just because the car may be comfortable does not mean the driving conditions are always easy. Before taking a drive of high altitude discovery, know that high-mountain driving offers hazards as well as unforgettable views; weather conditions are liable to change in the blink of an eye. While most of the roads recommended for the tours listed here are all-weather gravel roads, conditions can vary. Some roads require four-wheel drive vehicles; many will test your driving skills and courage.

Go prepared. A forest service map, available at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center, is a benefit. Excellent scenic vantage areas are located along all routes. Many of the trips are in remote areas with little traffic — plan accordingly. Water, blankets, a GPS system (or a map, coordinates and compass for those who prefer to keep old school), a full sack of snacks and leaving an itinerary with someone is highly recommended.

Please use the pullout recreation map as a guide. Check road conditions and check for closures before heading out; call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

East Fork of the San Juan River

10 miles to turnoff

This route is suitable for high clearance vehicles as far as Silver Falls, about eight miles from U.S. 160. From town, start by traveling 10 miles northeast on U.S. 160. Take a right at the gravel road signed, "Forest Service Access Road East Fork of the San Juan." The route goes through the East Fork Canyon and passes some dramatic "beehive" rock formations on the left. The canyon opens up into a privately-owned mountain valley, but through which public access is permitted. At the upper end

Regional Excursions

of this valley, there is a fork — stay left toward Elwood Pass, if you are ready for an adventure and have an ATV, dirt bike or a four-wheel drive vehicle with high clearance and a short wheel base. This route will take you past the historic Joe Mann Cabin, the old Black Diamond Mine, over the Continental Divide and to the old mining town of Summitville. From there, one may return by (1) the same route, (2) go down Park Creek to U.S. 160 and back to Pagosa over Wolf Creek Pass, or (3) proceed to Chama as detailed in Route #7. Please note that the road over Elwood Pass is often impassable in early summer and during heavy rains due to multiple river crossings and extremely slick road surfaces. Additionally, because the road is challenging even when dry, only experienced drivers should attempt its passage.

Plumtaw — Piedra Loop

35-mile round trip

From U.S. 160, turn north at the corner of Lewis Street near Subway, then an immediate left on Fifth Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Follow Fourmile Road (CR 400) about 8 miles, then take the left fork and follow the Plumtaw Road. It is substantially higher in elevation than most other back roads in the county and affords spectacular vistas and autumn colors. It is also the summer home for many deer and elk. Keep an eye peeled for grouse and turkey. When you descend to Piedra Road (CR 600), you can continue your trip in two directions. If you turn right, you will head toward Williams Creek Road and Williams Creek Reservoir, a scenic high mountain reservoir with a reputation for good fishing, hiking and camping. On your way, where Piedra Road crosses the Piedra River, take a little hike (half-hour or longer) down the Piedra Gorge past caverns of maidenhair ferns and mini waterfalls. If you turn left, you will head back toward Pagosa. These gravel roads are suitable for conventional vehicles and this is a great route for viewing fall foliage.

Blanco Basin

8.5 miles to turnoff

This is one of the most scenic drives in the state of Colorado when fall colors are bright. The route is south on U.S. 84 for 8 miles to the Blanco Basin turnoff (CR 326). Follow the road to the head of the basin and to many magnificent views of the Continental Divide, Square Top Mountain and Oil Mountain. For an even more spectacular side trip, turn right onto Castle Creek Road, cross the Rio Blanco and proceed to the end of the road at Fish Creek, approximately 6 miles. The last 2.5 miles of the road to Fish Creek are very slick when wet. The views are more than inspiring. Return by the same route.

Mill Creek — Nipple Mountain Road

7/10 mile to turn off

32 miles round trip

This route is suitable for all vehicles to the vicinity of Little Blanco Trailhead. Four-wheel drive vehicles are required beyond that point. Turn onto Mill Creek Road just north of the County Fairgrounds from U.S. 84. At approximately 7 miles, take the right fork and proceed



Regional Excursions

about 9 miles east to the Little Blanco Trailhead. At this time, the road is closed less than a mile past the Little Blanco Trailhead, due to a washout that makes it impassible. The trip will provide a vast panorama of the upper San Juan Valley. Return by the same route.

Pagosa Junction

45-50 miles round trip

Go south on 8th Street out of Pagosa Springs, turning right on Apache Street, which becomes Trujillo Road (CR 500), through the early-day settlements of Juanita and Trujillo. See historic Pagosa Junction, in a landscape more akin to New Mexico than to Colorado. From there, the route goes up Cat Creek Gap (CR 700) past the now-deserted Talian Mine and the Lone Tree Catholic Church, a landmark. Return to Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, the Navajo Trail, stopping to view the historical Pfeiffer Memorial marker, the site of a duel between Indian tribes for the ownership of the famed Pagosa Hot Springs. The park is at the west edge of the Pagosa Lakes development. Continuing on CR 500 will take you to Navajo Lake and Navajo State Park, which is left onto Hwy. 151. Return to Pagosa Springs via Colo. 151, past Chimney Rock National Monument and U.S. 160. Roads are all suitable for conventional vehicles.

Radio Transmitter — Continental Divide

22 miles to turnoff

Suitable for conventional vehicles and as close to the top of the world as you can get by vehicle in this area. Turn north off U.S. 160 at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, follow the road up to the transmitter site. A spectacular vantage point and a picnic area are provided at the topographical crest of the mountain.

Platoro — Cumbres Pass — Chama

18 miles to Silver Falls, 10 miles to Platoro The trip to Platoro can begin as described

in Route No. 2, turning south after crossing Elwood Pass, a trip that requires a four-wheel drive vehicle, preferably with high clearance and short wheelbase. Another route to Platoro is to proceed northeast from Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, cross Wolf Creek Pass

to Park Creek Road (approximately 5-1/2 miles from the summit). Turn south on Park Creek Road and proceed to Elwood Pass and south to Platoro. Take your fishing gear and enjoy some excellent fishing on the Conejos River, which parallels your route south of Platoro. At times the route between Platoro and Highway 17 can be very rough. Call Conejos Peak Ranger District of the Rio Grande National Forest at (719) 274-8971 for current conditions. Upon reaching Colo. 17, turn right and cross Cumbres Pass. You will follow the route of the Cumbres & Toltec narrow gauge railroad to Chama, N.M. From there, it is only 48 miles back to Pagosa Springs via U.S. 84. This is an exceptional route for observing the fall foliage as the Conejos Valley is blanketed with quaking aspen. The mileages for this trip do not indicate that the full route may take all day. Except for the por-

tion of the route crossing Elwood Pass and, at times, the route south of Platoro, roads are suitable for conventional vehicles.

Motor Vehicle Use Map

The San Juan National Forest provides a Motor Vehicle Use Map that identifies all roads and trails that are open to motorized travel on the Pagosa Ranger District. The map is the legal document used to enforce travel rules on the Pagosa Ranger District. It does not identify non-motorized recreational routes.

The Motor Vehicle Use Map for the Pagosa Ranger District is available online at: www. fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan/recreation/travel_mgmt/mvum/index.shtml. Hard copies are available at San Juan Public Lands offices in southwestern Colorado free of charge. For more information, please contact the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

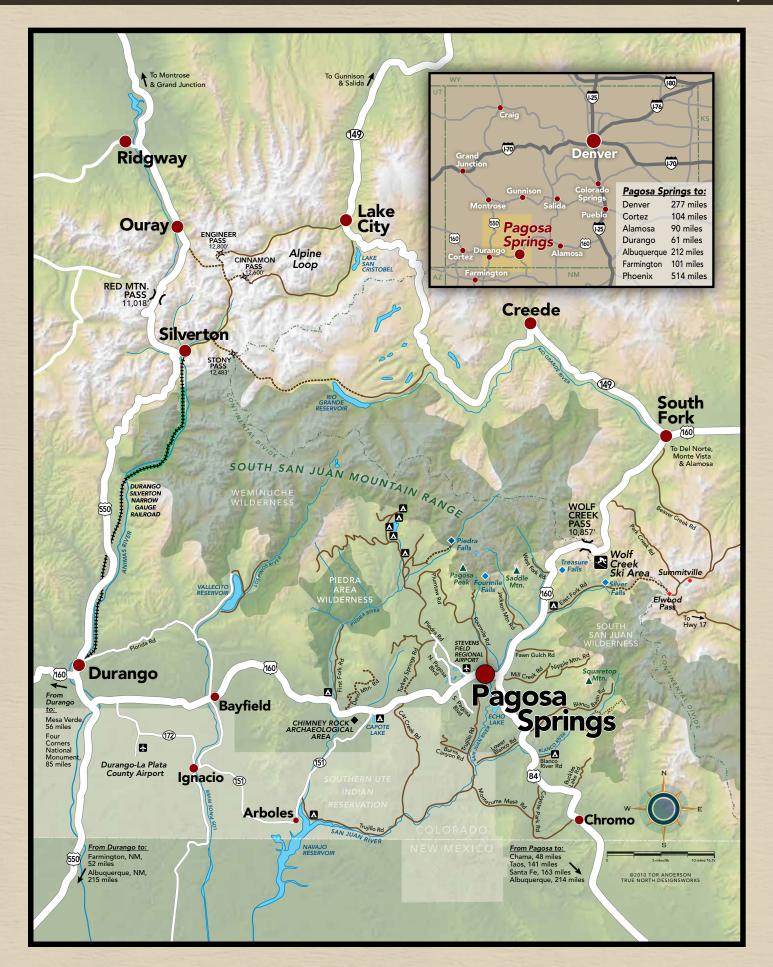


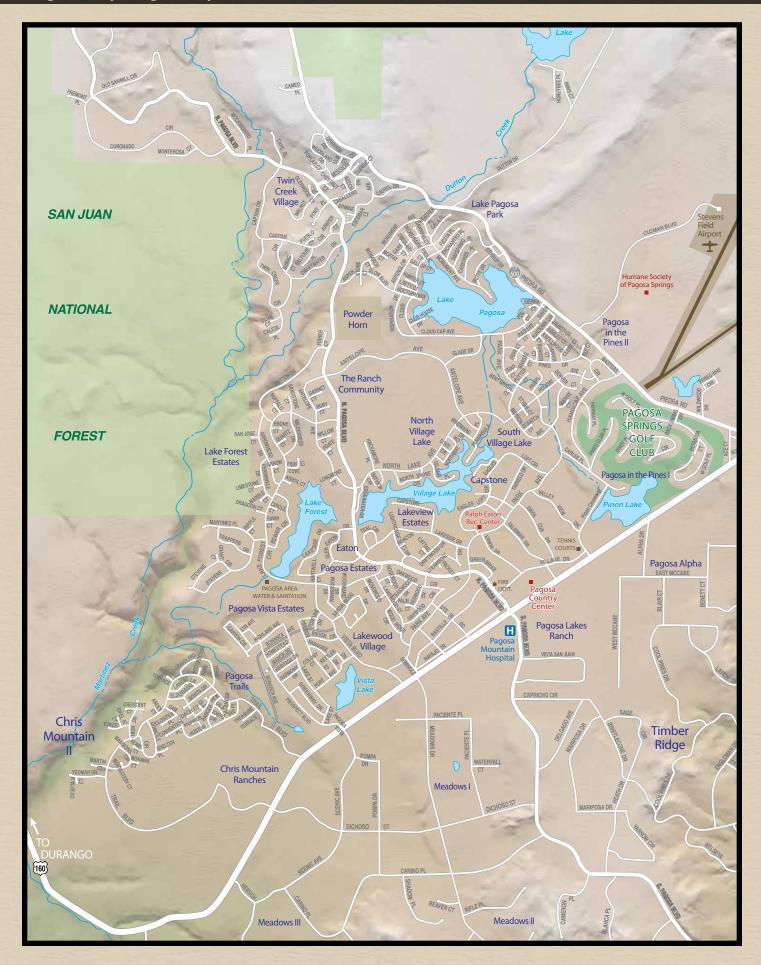
If you have only one day to spend in and around Pagosa Springs, never fear — there is still plenty of time to sample what our area has to offer. Consider the following suggestions to make the most of your visit:

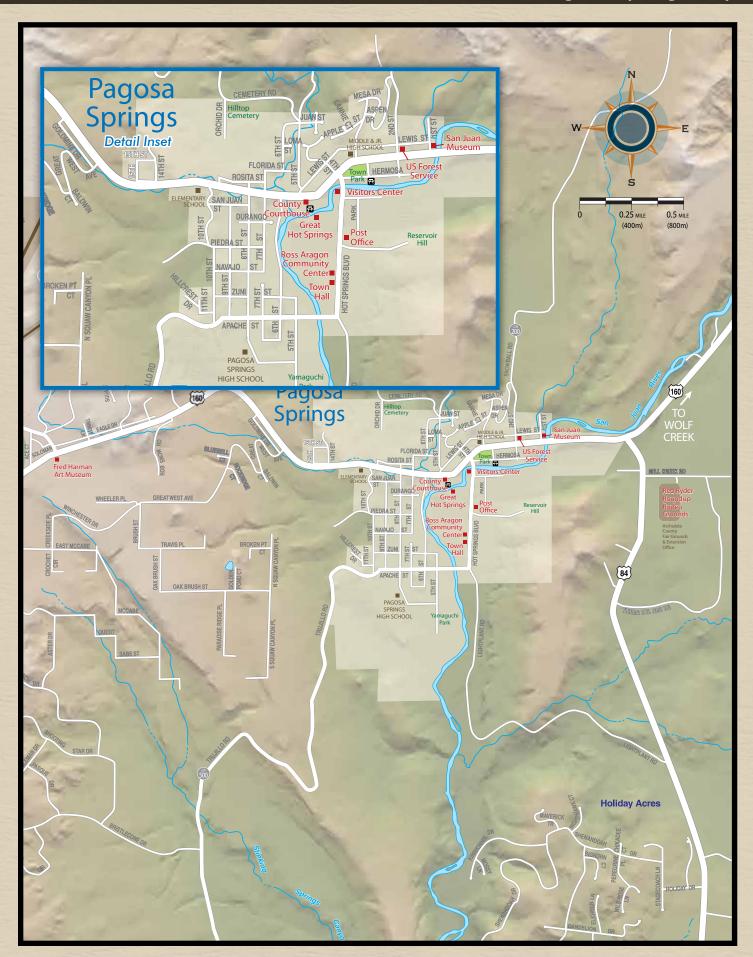
- Rent a tube or book a raft trip to float the San Juan River through downtown
- Fish our amazing and numerous waters
- Stroll around the town, taking in Pagosa's unique and plentiful shopping
- Feast your eyes on a tour of the town's art galleries
- Step into the past at Chimney Rock National Monument,
 San Juan Historical Society Museum or Fred Harman Art Museum
- Treat yourself to a scenic drive to Wolf Creek Pass or along Piedra Road
- Hike on any of Pagosa Country's wonderful hiking trails
- Soak at one of our three hot springs facilities
- Scope out the community calendar and arts venues for events

If you are lucky enough to spend multiple days in Pagosa Country, the list below will provide a variety of options for your enjoyment:

- Explore the surrounding backcountry on horseback, mountain bike or ATV
- Pick up a set of discs at one of the local sporting goods stores and head up to Reservoir Hill
- View Pagosa Country from above during a hot air balloon ride
- Take a beautiful train ride
- Relax during a massage or spa treatment at one of our many facilities
- Stop by the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park (check into feeding-time tours for a special experience)
- Explore the past at Mesa Verde National Park and tour a cliff dwelling
- Enjoy a guided fly fishing or hunting adventure



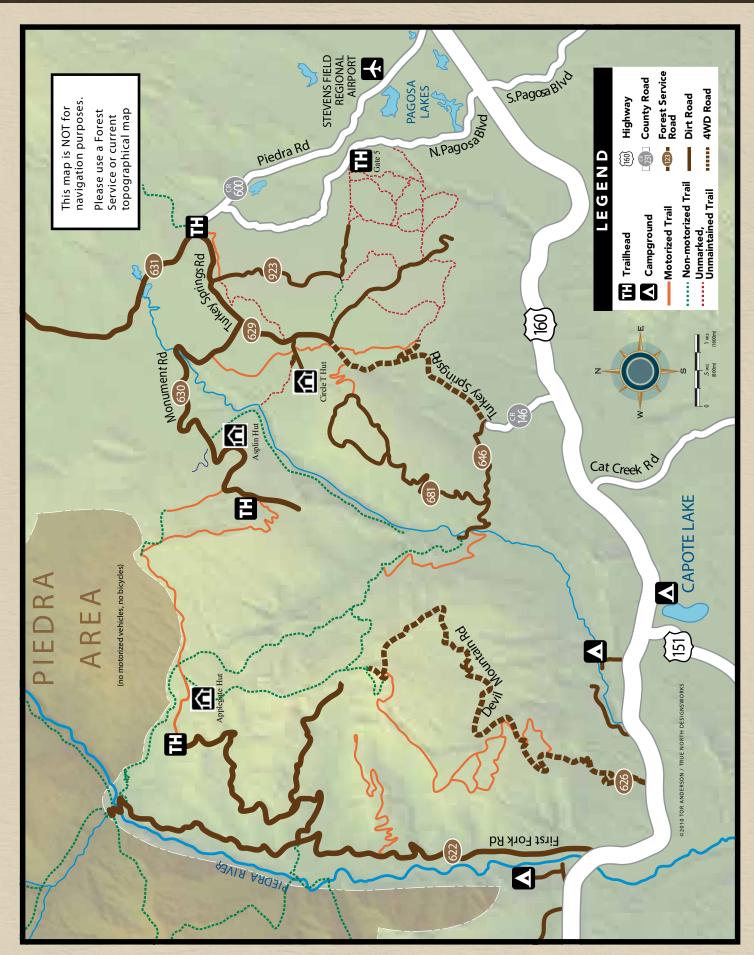


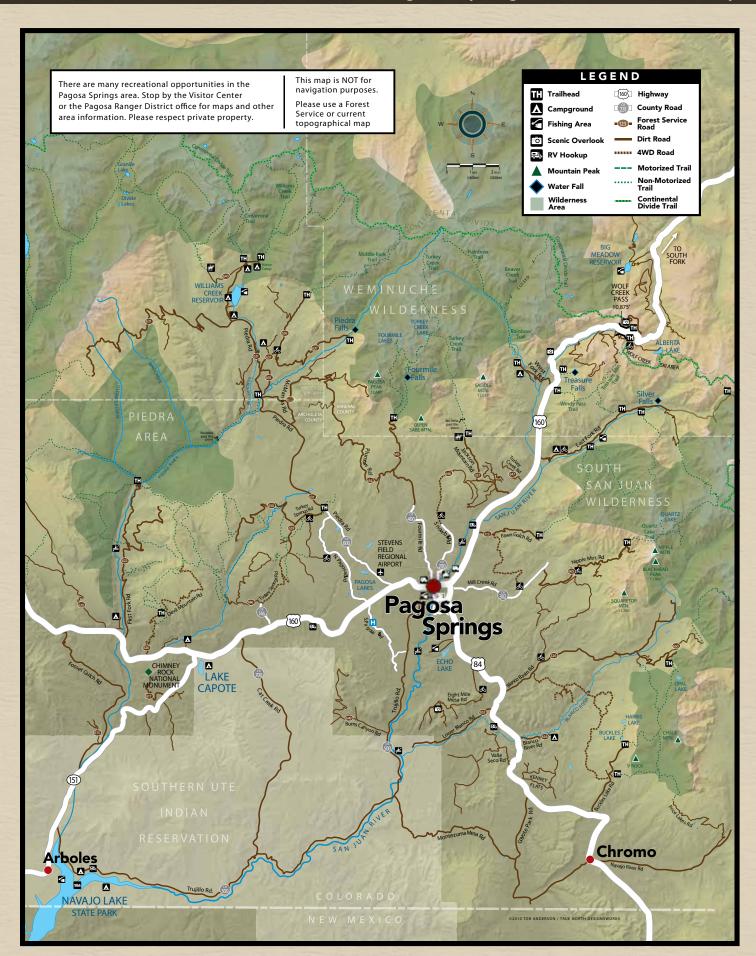


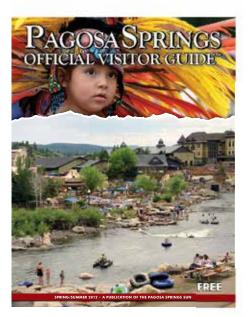
Downtown Pagosa Springs Recreation Map

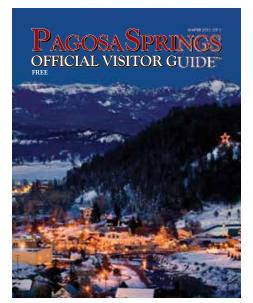


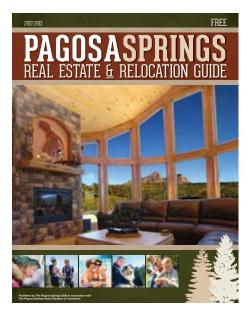












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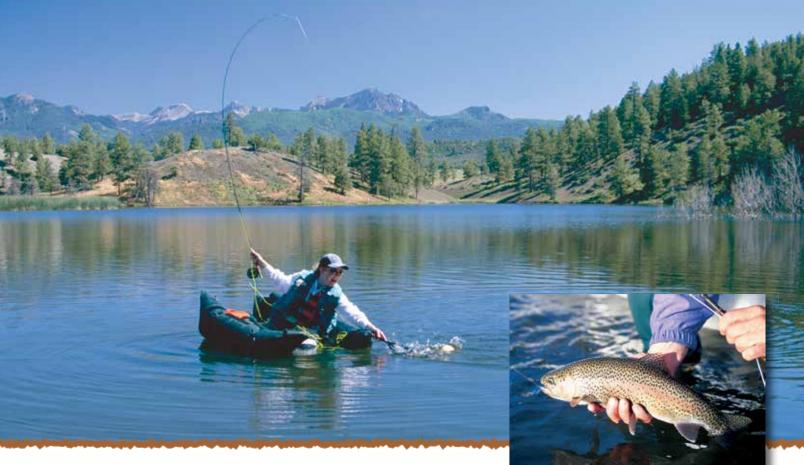
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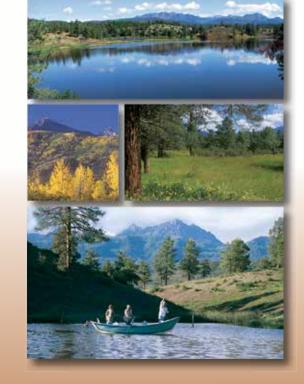
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