

PAGOSA SPRINGS

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™



CALENDAR OF EVENTS • DINING • LODGING • SHOPPING
OUTDOOR ADVENTURES • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • MAPS
REAL ESTATE & HOME GUIDE • FAMILY FUN • HISTORY & MORE

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RESORT & SPA
PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO
PAGOSAHOTSPRINGS.COM





Layne

Stan

Chris

Steve

Lindy

Bill

Ed

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THE BEAUTY OF PAGOSA WITH YOU



It is truly a pleasure to be of service to our clients as they discover the Pagosa lifestyle.

We are passionate about this place we call home. We live here. We play here. We raise our families here.

And as the area's leading team of brokers since 2006, we are dedicated to working with you every step of the way. We are in it for the long haul - and we would love to earn your business.



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Downtown Main Office: Next To The Theater | Uptown Showroom: In The City Market Center

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Brent

Peggy

Juli

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Based on PSAAR MLS Data Of Total Volume Sold From January, 2006 - October, 2014. In Cooperation With Other Brokers.

FEATURED SW COLORADO PROPERTIES

RANCHES & LAND | HOMES & ESTATES | INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



MAJESTIC TIMBER RIDGE

REDUCED TO SELL. Exquisite 5,962 sq. ft. home on 3 acres with floor-to-ceiling windows, magnificent views, gourmet kitchen, massive ledgestone fireplace, outdoor entertainment area and much more. Close to town. \$1,590,000. (6979749)



ROCKIN' R RANCH

Custom 4,897 sq. ft. home on 35 acres with huge views, 5,000 sq. ft. barn, 25 x 60 equipment barn, two 12 x 24 loafing sheds with water & power, two large paddocks, outdoor 132x208 riding arena, 60' round pen. \$1,195,000. (690195)



TIMBER RIDGE LOG HOME

Exquisite 3,108 sq. ft. Log Home on 3 acres with huge views, vaulted ceilings, Brazilian cherry wood floors, large rock fireplace and more. Screened in porch, wrap around deck, attached garage, 1,521 sq. ft. heated workshop. \$995,000. (697758)



PINEVIEW LUXURY

Exquisite 4,021 sq. ft. estate home on 8.45 acres in Continental Estates with huge windows showcasing magnificent views, custom finishes throughout, main level master bedroom and professional landscaping. \$849,000. (694687)



PRIVATE CO MOUNTAIN HOME

Craftsman style 3,720 sq. ft. home on 5 acres with mountain views. Main level master, 2 fireplaces, Douglas Fir beams, gourmet kitchen, landscaping, outdoor fire pit & much more. Borders undividable tract of land. \$799,000. (697252)



PIEDRA ESTATES BUNGALOW

Wonderful 2,666 sq. ft. 3 bedroom home on 3.61 acres with huge expansive views, beautiful interior including pine flooring and an office. Growing Spaces Greenhouse, 850 sq. ft. shop and additional heated barn/shop. No HOA. \$499,900. (695689)



COBBLESTONE RIVERFRONT

Brand new Townhome Community in historic downtown featuring 2,000 sq. ft. one-level riverfront residences. 3 Bedrooms, beautiful finishes. Walk to Pagosa Hot Springs, dining & shopping. Starting at \$494,000. (698484)



TWINCREEK VILLAGE GEM

Immaculately maintained 2,845 sq. ft. Log Home on 94 acres (3 lots) bordering Greenbelt with 4 bedrooms. Separate Guest Quarters above the garage. Park-like setting with raised flower beds & paved driveway. \$475,000. (691067)



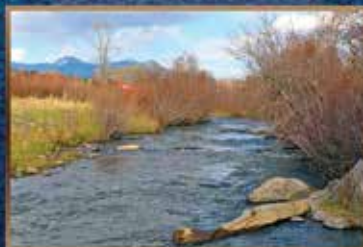
SW STYLE HOME ON 3 ACRES

Custom 2,674 sq. ft. home with 3 bedrooms and beautiful views of Navajo Peak and Banded Peaks. Enjoy views of Log Canyon Lake and the valley from the back deck. Private owner hot springs, 1300 acres of open space. \$395,000. (693584)



PAGOSA HORSE PROPERTY

3,470 sq. ft. home on 4.48 acres with barn, hay room, horse stalls, arena and two fully fenced pastures. Great open floor plan with office space/rec room above garage and exercise room with a 6 person built-in dry Sauna. \$378,000. (696256)



RIVERFRONT HOME SITE

Enjoy great fishing and views from this 35 acre parcel in Navajo River Ranch with 2,000+ feet of improved Navajo River - part of which includes both sides of the river. 26 shares of irrigation water from Fitzhugh and Enterprise ditches. \$369,000. (692886)



1-LEVEL TWINCREEK LIVING

Cozy 3 bedroom home backing the trail system into Dutton Canyon! Close to amenities, with a million+ acres of National Forest access right out your back door. Great private deck, access to multiple stocked lakes. \$280,000. (694217)

Downtown, Next To Theater | Uptown, City Market Center

Pagosa Springs, CO | 970.264.1250



GALLES
PROPERTIES

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2014-2015 SEASON

MUSH-ON!

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**Holiday and
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EVERY WINTER OUR MINDS TURN TO MUSH

EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF BEING GUIDED THROUGH THE SNOW BY A TEAM OF ALASKAN MALAMUTES AS YOU TRAVEL AT THE SPEED OF DOG AND TAKE IN THE DRAMATIC AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY OF SOUTHWEST COLORADO!

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Welcome to Pagosa Country

For some visitors, winter in Pagosa has quite the reputation: plenty of snow and cold.

The reputation is only partly deserved.

Yes, we get some impressive snowfall here.

Yes, there are times the bank of snow at the side of the house creeps past the top of the windows as it slides from the roof.

The peaks of the San Juan Mountains just east of Pagosa Springs are known for amazing snowfall, and Wolf Creek Ski Area legitimately boasts of the “most snow in Colorado” (as well as the best, with powder that can’t be equalled).

We handle it well. In fact, we enjoy it. When a “big dump” hits Pagosa Country, the crews that clear our roads and highways know their stuff and do a remarkably good job. It barely slows us down.

In other words, bring on the snow! We get around in fine fashion. So will you.

And it’s a good thing — there’s plenty to do and plenty to enjoy during the winter here.

Those of us who live in Pagosa Country year round not only know how to deal with snow, but we welcome it. The more, the better.

Why?

Because it turns this part of the world into a winter playground with few peers — a remarkably beautiful alpine environment in which every winter, outdoor recreation option is maximized. Alpine skiers, snowboarders, showshoers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, sledders, skaters — all benefit from being in Pagosa Country, for a day, for a week, for the season.

Our snow is not a problem here in Pagosa Country ... it’s a blessing.

Yes, it can get cold here. But it’s not the kind of cold you experience in low-altitude, high-humidity, windy environments. The winters here are

fairly mild when it comes to the temperatures. The weather is usually perfect for peak winter experiences — offering some of the best winter fun you’ll find anywhere. The snow falls flat and often deep, and a general lack of wind makes for a white wonderland. The sun shines more often than not, and the sparkling vistas are magnificent, calling you out of doors, promising a satisfying and memorable experience.

When winter comes and the snow falls from the clouds, we are ready in other ways — ways that ensure you have a memorable visit. Our local business community — lodging establishments, outdoor recreation equipment sales and rental outlets, clothing stores and restaurants — are ready to welcome you and provide you with all you need.

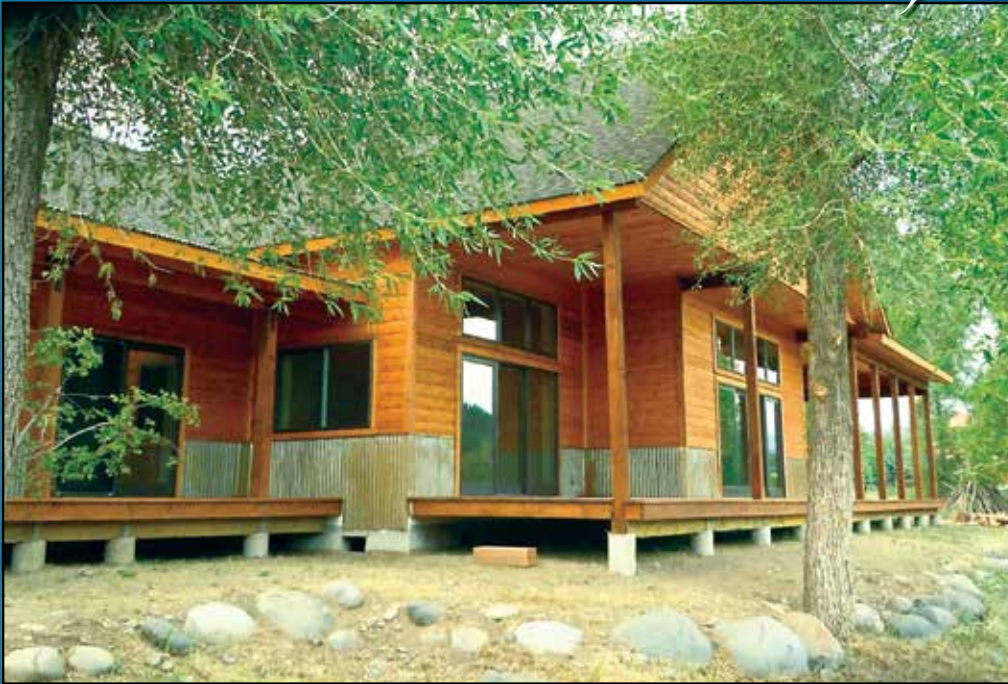
We locals frequent these establishments, we patronize the stores, we use the services, we eat at the restaurants, we go to the movies, the theater productions, the art galleries. The many people, places and products here make our winters pleasurable, too. Pagosa Country is chock full of tremendous businesses and wonderful talents, and they await your arrival.

Among those wonderful folks are some of the most treasured and valuable members of our Pagosa family — the people who create and operate the many non-profit organizations, clubs and programs that help make life here so comfortable. They make this place their home; they work diligently on behalf of groups and programs that serve a full spectrum of worthy causes and interests. They are as well acquainted with this place and its people as anyone. This year, we’ve included some of our nonprofits, groups and clubs, and their people, in this publication, bringing what they know so well, and what they cherish about Pagosa, to you.

If you are a visitor during the winter, take advantage of all we have to offer. You are our guest; we welcome you.

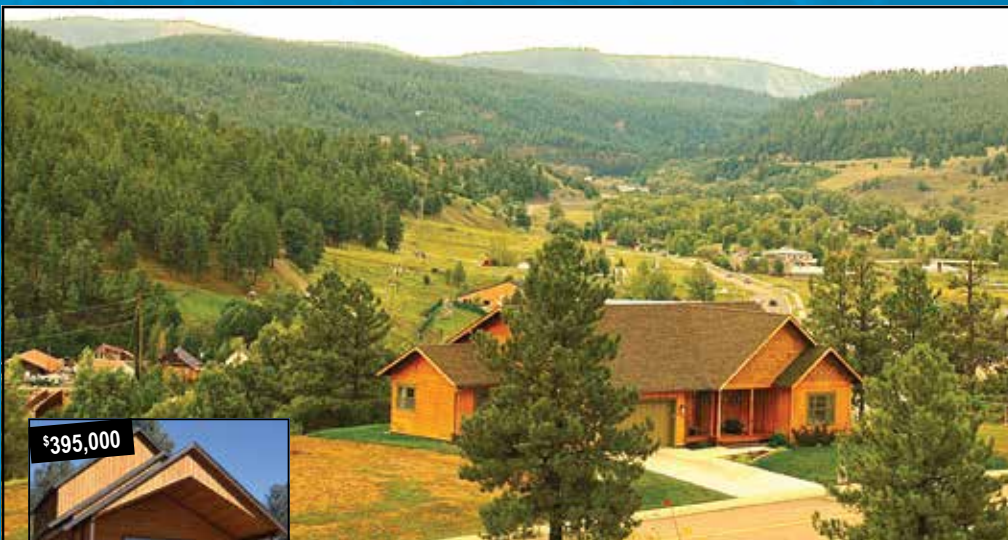
Enjoy your time here, and return.

Live on the Bank of the River!



Access to the Pagosa Springs **Downtown River Walk** bordering Cobblestone Townhomes will allow you to take a leisurely walk to the Historic Downtown for coffee shops, restaurants, shopping and, of course, the famous **Pagosa Hot Springs**. Also, enjoy **Yamaguchi Park** bordering Cobblestone Townhomes for exercise or a relaxing time watching kayakers play in the waves of the **San Juan River**. Call Jerry today to begin your new lifestyle!

Single-level living
High-quality construction
Enjoy coffee on your deck
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Frequently Asked Questions



Ask questions now. Have fun later.

PHOTO: MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

There are 1,001 questions that come up anytime you're visiting a new place.

Where is Pagosa Springs?

Pagosa Springs is an outdoor lover's paradise nestled at more than 7,000 feet in altitude in southwest Colorado's rugged San Juan Mountains. With spectacular fall colors, snow-covered peaks, Chimney Rock National Monument, incredible hunting, amazing wildlife, clean air and 2.5 million acres of national forest, Pagosa offers countless opportunities to soak up the scenery in every season.

Who can I contact for info?

To get started exploring Pagosa Springs, check out www.ExplorePagosa.com for information on lodging, restaurants, recreational activities and more. Potential visitors can also call the Visitor Center's vacation line at (800) 252-2204. Archuleta County news and events can be found in The Pagosa Springs SUN, the community's weekly newspaper, with weekday, online updates at www.PagoSaSUN.com.

What is it like at altitude?

Regardless of your level of physical fitness, acute mountain sickness can strike anyone not acclimated to Pagosa's 7,000-foot elevation. To stay well during your visit and to get the most out of your time in Pagosa Springs, it is recommended that visitors follow a few pieces of altitude advice:

- Drink three to four quarts of water per day.
- Avoid overexertion, caffeine and alcohol for the first few days.

- Take a day or two to acclimate before venturing to higher-elevation destinations.
- Seek medical attention if persistent headache, fatigue, poor coordination or shortness of breath occur.

What is the weather like?

In a word, the weather in Pagosa Springs is beautiful. Archuleta County is located just 28 miles north of the New Mexico border and along the western slope of the Continental Divide. The combination of high desert plateau and dramatic Rocky Mountains to the north and east creates an unusual microclimate. Because of this, Pagosa Springs has it all, with warm pleasant summers, long autumns with gorgeous colors and plenty of dry, powdery snow. On average, Pagosa residents enjoy 300 days of sun each year, as well as four distinct and uniquely beautiful 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: 20.21 inches/year

Annual Snowfall: 101.4 inches/year

Average Monthly Temperatures:

Month	High	Low
Jan.	43°F	8°F
Feb.	47°F	14°F
March	55°F	21°F
April	63°F	26°F
May	73°F	33°F
June	82°F	39°F

Is there a medical facility?

- Pagosa Springs Medical Center is a critical access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- Hospital and EMS services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Primary Care Clinic and Wellness Center available 6 days a week by calling (970) 731-9545.
- Contact the hospital by calling (970) 731-3700.
- Dial 911 for emergency services.

Important phone numbers:

EMERGENCIES DIAL "911" (ambulance, EMT, fire, police)

For non-emergency ambulance, fire, EMT, police, dial 731-2160

Archuleta County Dispatch	(970) 731-2160
Archuleta County Commissioners	(970) 264-8300
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office	(970) 264-8430
Archuleta School District 50 Joint	(970) 264-2228
Colorado State Patrol Headquarters	(303) 239-4501
Colorado State Patrol District 5.....	(719) 589-2503
Emergency Medical Services	(970) 731-2160
La Plata Electric Association	(970) 247-5786
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation ...	(970) 731-2691
Pagosa Fire Protection District	(970) 731-4191
Pagosa Springs Police	(970) 264-4151, Ext. 228
Pagosa Springs Post Office	(970) 264-5440
Pagosa Springs Town Hall	(970) 264-4151
The Pagosa Springs SUN	(970) 264-2100
Senior Center	(970) 264-2167
SourceGas	(800) 563-0012
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	(970) 563-0100
Stevens Field Airport, Manager	(970) 731-3060
Stevens Field Fixed Base Operations ..	(970) 731-2127
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library	(970) 264-2209
Victim's Assistance	(970) 264-9075

Marijuana laws: remain responsible and legal

Word is out — marijuana, both for medicinal and recreational purposes — is legal in Colorado. But, while it may be legal, there are a few things you should know, whether you plan on partaking or not, to remain responsible and legal.

First, there are differences in the laws regarding medicinal and recreational marijuana. To obtain marijuana for medicinal purposes, you must be a Colorado resident with a state red card, which can only be obtained with recommendation from a doctor. With that red card, medicinal users can obtain marijuana from a licensed center, primary caregiver, or can grow a limited amount themselves. For more information about medical marijuana, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/medicalmarijuana>.

To buy or possess retail marijuana for recreational purposes, you must be 21 or older. It's illegal to give or sell retail marijuana to minors.

Retail marijuana can be purchased at licensed retail stores. While Archuleta County allows these retail stores, the Town of Pagosa Springs does not.

Adults are allowed to possess 1 ounce or less of retail marijuana in the state of Colorado. Residents 21 and older can

purchase up to 1 ounce of marijuana at a time, while nonresidents can purchase one-quarter ounce at a time.

Marijuana, however, cannot be consumed publicly, on public land (including, but not limited to, the national forest and Wolf Creek Ski Area), or be accessible to the public. It also cannot be consumed in any indoor, but public, areas — like restaurants, bars or common areas in buildings.

Private business owners, including lodging facilities, can choose whether or not to allow marijuana in their establishment. To determine if consumption is allowed in any lodging establishment or not, check with the company's staff.

Marijuana is permissible in cars, but cannot be in an open container or cross state lines (with neighboring states sometimes actively checking cars leaving Colorado). It is illegal to consume marijuana in vehicles or to drive while under the influence of marijuana.

Possession and consumption rules are the same no matter the form (edible or to be smoked), and violators are subject to prosecution, with penalties ranging from fines to possible jail or prison sentences. It should also be noted that marijuana, of all kinds, remains illegal at the federal level.

See how we're making the future of healthcare in Pagosa *better*.

Watch the vision video today.
tinyurl.com/psmcvision

PAGOSA SPRINGS Medical Center

Emergency 911
Hospital 970.731.3700
Clinic + Urgent + Pediatric Care 970.731.9545
Ortho + Surgery 970.585.1445
Wellness Center 970.731.1533
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IN-PATIENT CARE: 11-BED HOSPITAL LAB OUTREACH PARAMEDICS
WOMEN'S HEALTH MAMMOGRAPHY + BONE DENSITY SCREENING
ORTHOPEDIC + GENERAL SURGERY MRI + 128-SLICE CT
PHARMACY + INFUSION PRENATAL + PEDIATRIC CARE





EXCELLENCE

Overall General Excellence Winner

Advertising Sweepstakes Winner • Online Sweepstakes Winner • Photo/Design Sweepstakes Winner

1st Place

Best Deadline News Reporting
 Best Photo Essay
 Best News Page Design
 Best Black & White Ad
 Best Use of Color in an Ad
 Best Small Space Ad
 Best Automotive Ad
 Best Real Estate Ad
 Best Restaurant Or Dining Ad
 Best Health Care Ad
 Best Advertising Special Section
 Best Advertising Campaign
 Best Advertising Layout & Design
 Online Breaking News
 Best Online Update of Breaking News
 Best Photo Slideshow or Gallery
 Website-Weekly-Content
 Website-Weekly-Interactivity
 Website-Weekly-Design
 Website-Weekly-Advertising
 Website-Weekly-Community
 Website-Weekly-Multimedia

Suspect in custody following 26-hour standoff
 2013 Regional Playoff Basketball
 Inside the command center
 Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Open House
 Thank You Firefighters
 Goodman's Department Store
 4x4 Auto Sales
 REMAX Eagle's Nest
 Old Town Market and Deli
 Get Global Green
 Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide - Summer
 Pagosa Brewing Co.
 Pagosa Springs SUN Advertising Layout and Design
 West Fork Complex fires
 West Fork Complex fires
 A Visit with Santa
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 Mike Pierce
 Terri House
 Mike Pierce
 Terri House, Mike Pierce
 Shari Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 SUN Staff
 Shari Pierce
 Terri House, Shari Pierce, Mike Pierce
 Terri House, Randi Pierce, Mike Pierce, Shari Pierce
 Terri House, Shari Pierce, Mike Pierce, Randi Pierce
 Randi Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
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 Mike Pierce, Shari Pierce, Terri House
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce

2nd Place

Best Education Story
 Best Feature Photograph
 Best Sports Photograph
 Best News Page Design
 Best Informational Graphic
 Best Photography Portfolio
 Best Cover Design
 Best Small Space Ad
 Best Automotive Ad
 Best Real Estate Ad
 Best Health Care Ad
 Best Advertising Campaign
 Best Classified Page(s) or Section(s)
 Photo Slideshow or Gallery

Pagosa students take a PAC trip to Grand Canyon
 Westfork Fire Command Military
 2013 Pirate Boys Regional Tourney Tip-off
 West Fork Complex Fires: 81,331 acres, Zero containment
 Election Tracker
 Terri House Portfolio
 Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide - Winter
 Hair by Kandi
 Harbison Auto Sales
 Jann C. Pitcher Real Estate
 Ross Aragon Community Center
 On The Rocks Country Bar & Bistro
 Classified Advertising Section, August 29
 High School Basketball Spirit

Ed Fincher
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Terri House
 Terri House, Randi Pierce
 Terri House
 Terri House, Mike Pierce
 Shari Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Terri House, Missy Phelan, Sandy Isaacson
 Mike Pierce, Randi Pierce

3rd Place

Best Public Service
 Best Sports Photograph
 Best Editorial Layout & Design
 Best Informational Graphic
 Best Black & White Ad
 Best Use of Color in an Ad
 Best Automotive Ad
 Best Restaurant Or Dining Ad
 Best Health Care Ad
 Best Advertising Campaign
 Best Newspaper/House Ad Promotion
 Best Classified Page(s) or Section(s)
 Best Photo Slideshow or Gallery

West Fork Complex fires coverage
 Lady Pirates Basketball
 Pagosa Springs SUN Editorial Layout & Design
 Saluting Our Heroes
 Happy Trails Ladies Boutique
 Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guides
 Pagosa Springs NAPA
 Pagosa Brewing Co.
 Cornerstone Family Medicine
 Happy Trails Ladies Boutique
 Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guides
 Classified Advertising Section, July 18
 High School Basketball Spirit

Randi Pierce, Shari Pierce, Karl Isberg, Mike Pierce, Terri House
 Pat Artis
 Terri House, Shari Pierce
 SUN Staff
 Mike Pierce
 Terri House
 Shari Pierce
 Shari Pierce
 Shari Pierce
 Mike Pierce
 Terri House, Randi Pierce
 Terri House, Missy Phelan, Sandy Isaacson
 Mike Pierce

The Pagosa Springs **SUN**



Pagosa Springs

PHOTO: JEFF LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

Drifting doesn't just describe our mountain streams.

For more than a century, Pagosa Country has enchanted visitors with its stunning natural beauty.

Snow-covered mountain peaks, clear blue skies and healing mineral waters captivate guests who cannot help but be charmed by the relaxed, friendly atmosphere of life in the San Juan Mountains.

The elements that contribute to Pagosa's magic are many: wild game, stately timbers, lush valleys, sparkling rivers, scenic seclusion and the craggy peaks of the rugged San Juan Mountains. Unlike so many modern "retreats" in the Rockies, Pagosa Country doesn't offer everything money can buy, but it does offer countless things money can't buy.

Leave the hustle and bustle of city living and the glitz of Rocky Mountain resort towns — escape to Pagosa.

Basic services abound

Pagosa has everything guests and residents need to be entertained and accommodated. A public library, art galleries, a movie theater, museums, numerous restaurants and a variety of specialty shops provide plenty of opportunities for amusement. Churches, gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, motels and public and private health care facilities are also available to fill any need.

Information is available

Head to the Visitor Center for directions and information on all Pagosa has to offer.

Located on the right side of Hot Springs Boulevard just after you cross the bridge over the San Juan River, the Visitor Center, which is designed to represent one of Pagosa Springs' early-day bathhouses, offers a wealth of information. With a knowledgeable staff familiar with the ins and outs of Pagosa, the Visitor Center is the place to go for questions, concerns, tips and advice, as well as pamphlets, maps and brochures for the area's events, destinations and other attractions.

World's largest hot spring

A short walk south from the Visitor Center will take you to "The Great Pagosa Hot Spring" — certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the deepest geothermal hot spring in the world. From the Visitor Center, follow the sidewalk down Hot Springs Boulevard until you're southwest of The Springs complex and follow the paved path to the right.

The Springs Resort offers an outdoor pool and a variety of outdoor geothermal hot tubs located next to the San Juan River, featuring water temperatures to suit every need and taste, as well as a spacious bathhouse with locker rooms and showers. The Springs Resort is a popular place to take in the sights and sounds of beautiful Pagosa Springs while relaxing in the warmth of the springs and the coolness of the mountain air. Across the street, the Healing Waters Resort and Spa on the corner of San Juan Street and Hot Springs

Boulevard also offers an outdoor swimming pool along with indoor mineral baths fed by a geothermal well that taps into the Pagosa Springs aquifer. Another good option for soaking is The Overlook Mineral Springs Spa located in the heart of the downtown historic district, which offers Victorian-style mineral baths and a rooftop pool with mountain views.

Outdoor activities

Pagosa Springs is overflowing with opportunities to engage in outdoor adventures. To help you find the best places to enjoy your favorite activities, stop by the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office at the corner of 2nd and Pagosa streets. The staff there can provide a wealth of information on all manner of seasonal activities, including hunting, area ski or snowshoeing routes, snowmobiling, winter camping opportunities, ice fishing, rafting, hiking and horseback riding.

For the area's earliest Native inhabitants, Pagosa was considered a land of healing waters. For today's vacationers, Pagosa is a land of invigorating experiences, from the depths of the healing pools to the mountains and valleys that beckon enthusiasts year round.

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.

Calendar of Events



PHOTO: TERRI HOUSE

NOVEMBER

November 1-2

"Misterman"

Featuring Craig MacArthur and Olympia Dukakis, rated R. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m., Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

November 15

Fall Concert

Pagosa Springs Community Band. 7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

DECEMBER

December 5

Festival of Trees

Gala evening featuring gorgeously decorated trees. Ross Aragon Community Center. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for cocktail hour. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. The auction for the trees will start at 8 p.m.

December 6

Free Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic

For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com. 9 to 11 a.m.

December 6-7

Whatchamawhozit's Children's Theatre Christmas Show

A heartwarming holiday show written by the talented kids in the Whatchamawhozit's Theatre class. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2 p.m.

December 12-14

"Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas"

Full of Christmas songs and quirky cowboy tunes, rated G. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Dec. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m., Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

December 12-14

Second annual Colorado Nordic Ski Challenge Weekend

Three days of events. For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com.

December 12-14

"Wonders of Christmas"

Pagosa Springs Community Choir's annual Christmas concert. Dec. 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. Pagosa Springs High School auditorium.

December 17 -21

"Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas"

Full of Christmas songs and quirky cowboy tunes, rated G. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Dec. 17-20 at 7 p.m., Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.

December 22

A Thingamajig Christmas Concert

A family event to help celebrate the holiday season featuring Thingamajig actors. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

December 23-24

"Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas"

Full of Christmas songs and quirky cowboy tunes, rated G. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

December 26-28

"Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas"

Full of Christmas songs and quirky cowboy tunes, rated G. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Dec. 26 and 27 at 7 p.m., Dec. 28 at 2 p.m.

continued on page 14

New Years Eve Masquerade Ball

Dec. 31 • 7pm-Midnight

So...
Picasso
an
Irishman
an
Opera Star
and
TWO Cowboys
walk into a theater...



presents its 2014-2015
winter season

Misterman

Oct. 10-Nov. 2, 2014

Chaps! A Jingle Jangle Christmas

Dec. 12-28, 2014

Lend Me a Tenor

Jan. 9-25, 2015

Cowboys Are My Weakness

Feb. 12-22, 2015

A Picasso

May 15-31, 2015

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Photos Complimentary of Douglas Chapin Photography

Calendar of Events

continued from page 12

December 31

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball

An elegant evening of decadent food, dance music and plenty of celebration. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

JANUARY

January 2

Free Moonrise/Sunset Soup and Chili Cross-Country Ski Social

For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com. 4 to 7 p.m.

January 9-11

"Lend Me a Tenor"

A comedy, rated PG-13. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Jan. 9 and 10 at 7 p.m., Jan. 11 at 2 p.m.

January 10

Free Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic

For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com. 9 to 11 a.m.

January 15-18

"Lend Me a Tenor"

A comedy, rated PG-13. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Jan. 15-17 at 7 p.m., Jan. 18 at 2 p.m.

January 21

"For the Love of Nature"

A dance performance celebrating the relationship between nature and the cosmos. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

January 22-25

"Lend Me a Tenor"

A comedy, rated PG-13. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Jan. 22-24 at 7 p.m., Jan. 25 at 2 p.m.

January 30

Free Moonrise/Sunset Soup and Chili Cross-Country Ski Social

For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com. 4 to 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

February 7

Free Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic

For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com. 9 to 11 a.m.

February 12-13

"Cowboys Are My Weakness"

Based on the book by Pam Houston, adapted by Laura Moore, rated PG-13. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

February 13-15

WinterFest

A chance to escape from the winter "blahs" at a variety of events. For more information, see related article in this guide.

February 14-15

WinterFest Nordic Weekend Challenge

Two days of races for all ages. For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com.

February 15

"Cowboys Are My Weakness"

Based on the book by Pam Houston, adapted by Laura Moore, rated PG-13. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2 p.m.

February 19-22

"Cowboys Are My Weakness"

Based on the book by Pam Houston, adapted by Laura Moore, rated PG-13. Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, Jan. 19-21 at 7 p.m., Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.

February 21-22

Pagosa Paw Dog Sled, Canine Skijoring and Cani-Cross Races

Two-day winter dog sports event. For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com.

February 27

Free Moonrise/Sunset Soup and Chili Cross-Country Ski Social

For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com. 4 to 7 p.m.

MARCH

March 1

Pagosa Springs Quad Challenge

The most popular Nordic ski race in Pagosa Country. For more information, see related article in this guide and visit www.PagosaNordic.com.

March 21

Improv Showcase

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Wolf Creek Ski Area events

Nov. 7	Tentative Opening Day
Nov. 8 & 9	Ski School Hiring Clinic
Nov. 9	College Days
Nov. 12	Local Appreciation Day
Nov. 16	College Days
Nov. 18	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Nov. 19	Local Appreciation Day
Nov. 23	College Days
Nov. 30	Local Appreciation Day
Dec. 3	Local Appreciation Day
Dec. 6	Women's Ski/Board Clinic
Dec. 7	Telemark Clinic
Dec. 7	College Days
Dec. 9	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Dec. 10	Local Appreciation Day
Dec. 13	Fun Race Series
Dec. 24 & 25	Santa Visits the Ski Area
Jan. 3	Fun Race Series
Jan. 4	College Days
Jan. 7	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 10	Fun Race Series
Jan. 10	Camp Robbers
Jan. 11	College Days
Jan. 11	Telemark Clinic
Jan. 13	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Jan. 14	United Way Day
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Race
Jan. 21	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 24	Camp Robbers
Jan. 24	Women's Ski/Board Clinic
Jan. 25	Fun Race Series
Jan. 25	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 31	Camp Robbers
Feb. 1	Super Bowl Race
Feb. 1	Local Appreciation Day
Feb. 3	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Feb. 8	Fun Race Series
Feb. 7	Camp Robbers
Feb. 7	Women's Ski/Board Clinic
Feb. 15	President's Day Race
Feb. 11	Local Appreciation Day
Feb. 21	Telemark Clinic
Feb. 22	Washington's Day Race
Feb. 22	College Days
Feb. 25	Local Appreciation Day
Feb. 28	Fun Race Series
March 3	Baby Boomers' Clinic
March 4	Local Appreciation Day
March 7	Fun Race Series
March 14	Spring Fling Race
March 21	Fun Race Series
March 22	College Days
March 28	College Days
March 28	Fun Race Series
March 28	Women's Ski/Board Clinic
March 28	Telemark Clinic
March 29	Local Appreciation Day
Mar. 31	Baby Boomers' Clinic
April 1	Local Appreciation Day
April 4	College Days
April 5	Easter Day Race
April 5	Local Appreciation Day
April 5	Closing Day



Save ordinary for someplace else.

PHOTO: MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Visit pagosanordic.com for event dates, trail grooming reports, trail maps and event details, and see The Pagosa Springs SUN for additional information on the below events.

Free Moonrise/Sunset Soup and Chili Cross-Country Ski Socials — Fridays, Jan. 2 and 30, and Feb. 27, 4-7 p.m.

The Pagosa Nordic Club invites you to join in its fun and free moonrise/sunset soup and chili family cross-country ski socials. Show up at the predetermined location any time between 4 and 7 p.m. and ski the groomed trails at your leisure, enjoying an easy ski under the colorful sky. Then, meet back at the parking lot to enjoy homemade soup and chili while socializing around a warm campfire, complete with hot cocoa and s'mores. Although bringing a dish to share is welcome, it is not required. This is a great activity for families and skiers of all ages and abilities. Dress warmly and bring headlamps or flashlights and chairs. Come learn about the Pagosa Nordic Club and the Pagosa area's groomed Nordic trails. Locations are close to town and will be chosen based on snow conditions.

Schedule dates are Fridays before a full moon.

Free Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinics — Saturdays: Dec. 6, Jan. 10 and Feb. 7, 9-11 a.m.

These introductory clinics will be held throughout the season. Skate ski and classic cross-country ski basics will be shared by some of Pagosa Springs' best skiers, all free of charge. Come learn how to make these outdoor winter activities even more enjoyable. Bring your ski gear; skate skis or classic kick and glide. All local ski shops rent cross-country ski gear and offer special rental discounts for these clinics — just mention you are attending the free clinic.

Dog Harness and Skijoring Clinic — Monthly, dates to be determined

This sport is really beginning to take off! Canine skijoring is a great way to take your dogs out skiing while they pull you along. Learn the basic gear and techniques and to get you and your dog off and running. Check PagosaNordic.com for more information.

Second annual Colorado Nordic Ski Challenge Weekend — Friday, Dec. 12, through Sunday, Dec. 14

It is no secret that the San Juan Mountains receive the most snow in Colorado, which results in excellent early season skiing conditions. This year's Pagosa Nordic Season Opener Ski Challenge Weekend features Masters X-C Ski champ Murray Banks.

- Friday, Dec. 12: Murray Banks will teach a waxing clinic at the Alpen Haus Ski Center from 6-8 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 13: Murray will teach two of his famous skate ski clinics, one for advanced skate skiers at 9 a.m. and one for intermediate skate skiers at 1 p.m. at Wolf Creek Ski Area.
- Sunday, Dec. 14: Murray joins us at the Wolf Creek Ski Area for the season's first Red Ryder BB Gun biathlon, where skiers will have three chances to shoot targets. Racers are invited to test their ski and target shooting skills in the 12 km competitive or citizens 6 km. Those 10 and older and of all ability levels are invited.

This weekend will get you warmed up and energized for the rest of the season.

WinterFest Nordic Weekend Challenge — Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 14-15

Two days of classic and skate skiing race events. The weekend includes classic and skate ski races of varying lengths, fun relay races perfect for families and kids; sprint races; and

the Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon, along with challenging long distance courses. Citizens, competitors, families and kids welcome!

- Saturday, Feb. 15: Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon races for all ages. Four ski legs with three opportunities to shoot at targets.
- Sunday, Feb. 16: The Plumtaw Ultra 30 km/60 km Freestyle Nordic Race — a self-supported ultra long ski race for hearty Nordic souls.

Pagosa Paw Dog Sled, Canine Skijoring and Cani-Cross Races — Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 21 and 22

A great spectator event. Join members of the Pagosa Nordic Club and Colorado Mountain Musers for the annual Pagosa Paw. This two-day winter dog sports event includes spectacular dog sled racing, as well as Nordic skiing. Races start at 9 a.m. both days and include dog sled races, a skijor race (dog pulls you on skis), cani-cross race (dog pulls you on snowshoes) and a freight event. Cash prizes are awarded for competitive entries (based on a combined score for racing both days) and there are ribbons and prize drawings for sportsman participants who just want to try it out.

Spectators are encouraged to arrive as early as 8 a.m. to watch sled teams prepare for the 9 a.m. races, which are the fastest-paced races. Visit the website for event location.

Pagosa Springs Quad Challenge — Sunday, March 1

Mark your calendars and start your training. Now the most popular winter race in Pagosa Country, the annual Pagosa Springs Quad Challenge will feature a 10 km X-C ski (skate or classic) at the West Fork Nordic area, followed by a 5 km run, 22 km bike to town and 1/2 km swim at The Springs Resort.

Race solo or as part of a team.



Wonderful WinterFest

PHOTO: RANDI PIERCE

Snow sculptures, Chilly Bowl, Cabin Fever Cribbage Tournament, hot toddy contest, icy Penguin Plunge, skiing, homemade sled racing ... you name it and Pagosa celebrates it!

Brave-hearted people plunging into the San Juan River, hot toddies for the bodies, delicious chili tasting, live music, Nordic skiing and competitions, homemade sled racing — you name it, Pagosa celebrates it!

WinterFest 2015 is set for Feb. 13-15, just in time to rescue locals from the “winter blahs” and add a little spice to the waning winter months for residents and visitors alike. Combine the three-day President’s weekend with Valentine’s Day and travel to Pagosa Springs for a memorable mini-vacation. WinterFest offers the serious and not-so-serious athlete or the spectator a number of great outdoor activities throughout the extended weekend.

WinterFest Chilly Bowl and Cabin Fever Cribbage Tournament: The weekend kicks off with the Chilly Bowl chili contest on Friday, Feb. 13. Partake in numerous, spicy chili recipes provided by many of Pagosa’s fine restaurants, caterers and just plain good cooks.

Taste various cornbreads and enjoy our famous local microbrews or a glass of wine and take home a collectable soup mug as well. There will be amateur and professional categories for the best red, green and vegetarian chili, posole and soups, along with cornbreads. It is a verifiable feast of southwest cuisine.

Adding to the evening’s enjoyment will be a dance with live music.

The winning recipes for both the amateur and commercial categories will be reproduced at various restaurants around the community, with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of bowls of chili for the rest of the month benefiting the food banks in Pagosa Springs.

Also being held on Feb. 13 will be the third Cabin Fever Cribbage Tournament. This popular tournament engages some of the best regional cribbage players, all vying for cash prizes. Players can sign up just for the card tournament or they can also purchase a ticket and enjoy the Chilly Bowl and dance.

For more information, to purchase tickets, enter the chili and cornbread contest or to register for the Cribbage Tournament, visit pagosachamber.com.

Nordic Weekend Challenge: On Saturday, Feb. 14, kids, citizens and athletes participate in the Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon — a great experience for all skill levels and ages, and fun for spectators, too! On Sunday, Feb. 15, the more seasoned athletes compete at the Plumtaw Ultra 30 km/60 km Freestyle Nordic race. Prizes and awards will be given out to participants all weekend.

Anything Goes Downhill Sled Race: Also on Saturday, Feb. 14, the wild and wooly “Anything Goes Downhill Sled Race” sends homemade sleds racing down Reservoir Hill in downtown Pagosa

Springs, and it is not unusual to see a couch, canoe, satellite dish or outrageously decorated sled crossing the finish line — all in the name of fun. A large crowd of spectators cheer on the racers and everyone enjoys the event. Prizes are given for the fastest sled, most creative sled and the best crash.

Pagosa Penguin Plunge: The festivities continue on Sunday, Feb. 15, at noon, when we have the Pagosa Penguin Plunge. The frigid waters of the San Juan River, approximately 32 degrees, provide the perfect environment for those daring enough to take a plunge for their favorite non-profit organization. Registration is through the Chamber of Commerce. The event takes place in front of the Visitor Center, where the plungers have to float down the river a bit and then go over "Davey's Wave" for a full-body experience. While waiting for the plungers, stay warm with some tasty, toasty alcoholic and non-alcoholic concoctions served along the Riverwalk. Walk along the Riverwalk, enjoy the music, stay warm and then cheer on your favorite Plungers.

WinterFest Weekend is the time to visit Pagosa Springs with all the fun activities. Since many of the WinterFest activities are totally dependent upon the whims of Mother Nature, call (970) 264-2360 or (800) 252-2204 for information about times, places, dates and status of all these events and more festivities to be announced.



Holiday Palooza

Palooza: A party; partying at one place with a lot of people.

Join the people in Pagosa Country and celebrate a month-long Palooza. Spanning the holidays from Thanksgiving to Christmas, Pagosans will celebrate Holiday Palooza with a plethora of activities from Nov. 27 through the end of December.

Activities occur every weekend and during the week, as well. This is a magical time of year in Pagosa as the community breaks out the decorations and lights and snow falls in town and on the mountains; skis and snowboards are mounted on the roof racks of cars, their owners ready at a moment's notice to hit the slopes of Wolf Creek Ski Area or to glide one of several Nordic trails.

Every week you are in town, you can enjoy an open house and a great sale at many of Pagosa's unique retail stores. The first weekend in December is the annual Parade of Stores No-Tax Shopping Extravaganza, where you will not only get some tremendous merchandise at great prices, but you can also enter to win one of several Pagosa Prize packages.

You can catch "Wonders of Christmas," a holiday concert by the talented Community Choir; our community theater group Curtains Up Pagosa is producing the '60s musical sensation "Beehive" at the high school; and the professional Thingamajig Theatre Company presents "Chaps! A Jingle, Jangle Christmas" at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts.

The annual Festival of Trees takes place on Dec. 4, with entertainment, hors d'oeuvres and gorgeously decorated trees.

Adults and children alike will love to see the lights in town and in our residential areas. Attend a lighting ceremony with treats and hot chocolate, and Santa will visit. Maps for the lighted areas can be obtained at the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center. The combination of snow and holiday lighting reflects a stunning mountain town community.

A list of events for the Holiday Palooza season can be obtained at the Visitor Center, at lodging facilities or at many other locations around town.

When not on the ski slopes, in the backcountry or soaking in the hot springs, keep busy with a host of activities to enhance your visit.

For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (800) 252-2204.

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PHOTO: RANDI PIERCE

This is not your mother's library

By Randi Pierce

It's been said by both staff and patrons — this is not your mother's library.

The Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, named for a noted Pagosa Springs pioneer and educator, was born out of a community effort and, over the years, has expanded through continued efforts of the community, making it not just a place to store books, but a place where people of all ages — both locals and visitors — can meet, read, relax and learn.

From story time for those aged 6 months and up to a LEGO club, gaming (both card and video), candle making, movies, technology help sessions and classes, Lifelong Learning lectures and more, the library staff has taken a keen interest in not only individual patrons with age-specific programming, but also the entire family.

"We see that there are families that come in with children of different ages, and sometimes they want to go to the same event, but one falls out of the targeted age range. We believe that we can serve our families in a different way by having a program that they can all attend," says Meg Wempe, assistant director and adult services librarian.

Because of that, the library staff is working to add more family-friendly events for the whole family to attend together.

The library recently added Family Fridays, which begin at 2 p.m. and run through 3:30 p.m. Each week features a different activity — from films to board games, a Maker Lab, surprise themes and more.

There is no cost for Family Fridays, and no registration is required.

"We hope to attract all ages with our activities, and think families will enjoy the possibility to come together. We will also continue our variety of targeted age programs, as we see the value in those programs, too," Wempe says.

For a full list of programs, see the library's website, www.pagosalibrary.org, or see the weekly calendar in The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Beyond being able to partake in the programming at the library, visitors are also able to check out books.

Visitor membership with the library is available free of charge, with visitors able to check out up to five items at a time.

And, in addition to the titles on hand, the library belongs to a consortium of about 40 different libraries, making hundreds of thousands of titles available.

"Whether someone is visiting for a few days, or a couple months, we welcome them to the library and are happy to connect them with a library card to make full use of our resources," Wempe says.

The library also holds hours that cater to busy families. The library is open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. The library is closed on Sundays.

The library is located at 811 San Juan St., at the corner of U.S. 160 and 8th Street. For more information on the library and its programming, either call (970) 264-2209 or visit www.pagosalibrary.org.



Magical Moments

We put family fun and adventure where it belongs.

Of all the descriptions usually applied to Pagosa Country, "family friendly" ranks among the most treasured by visitors and locals alike.

While winter's snowy brush paints a picture that pleases the child in all of us, with the

town taking on a magical quality as if suddenly populated by gingerbread houses covered with icing, it's not just the postcard-perfect landscape that gives the area a family-friendly reputation. It's myriad safe and fun activities available for all ages that

have made Pagosa Country a favorite family destination for decades.

With freshly plowed roads forcing us to slow down and appreciate the view, a quick glance reveals numerous slopes for sledding or getting little legs accustomed to skis or a snowboard. A traditional local hot spot for a downhill thrill is Reservoir Hill (downtown, just behind The Healing Waters Resort and Spa on the east side of Hot Springs Boulevard), which was improved in recent years. Unless a spell of dry weather has brought out brown patches (with over 300 sunny days a year on average, not an unheard-of condition in the Pagosa area), the slopes promise a good time for kids of all ages.

Parents hoping to spend a day on the more substantial slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area can enroll children ages 5 to 8 in the Wolf Pups ski school and 9 to 12 in the Hot Shots ski school. Prices and deals on ski school programs can be found at <http://wolfcreek-ski.com/wolf-creek-beginner-ski-school.php>. Equipment rental is not included in the ski school price. Check the Wolf Creek Ski Area section of this guide for more information on

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other ski school programs.

Those looking to stay slightly lower in elevation can glide across frozen water, with the pond at The River Center Park open for skating from mid-December through mid-February. To check conditions and hear if ponds are open, call the Pagosa Springs Sports Hotline, (970) 264-4151, ext. 301.

In late January or early February, young anglers get their chance to prove their stuff with the challenges of ice fishing during the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association (PLPOA) annual Winter Perch Tournament. Open to adults as well as children, the contest offers cash prizes in various categories. Check a copy of The Pagosa Springs SUN or contact the PLPOA at (970) 731-5635 for more details.

For those with an aversion to the white stuff and cold air, Pagosa Springs offers several indoor alternatives certain to please those not inclined to slap boards on their feet for the purpose of sliding down a mountain.

Of course, the bookish will want to seek out the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library at 811 San Juan St. (on the southeast corner of 8th Street and U.S. 160). With a wide selection of children's, young adult and adult fiction, as well as non-fiction and reference, the library offers visitor library cards for those wanting to take some books back for curling up with next to a warm fire. While there, free Internet and computer use are available. The library also offers programs for adults and children throughout the winter — check a copy of The Pagosa Springs SUN, call the library at (970) 264-2208 or visit pagosa.colibraries.org for program times and schedules.

The Ross Aragon Community Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. (less than a quarter mile south of The Springs Resort) offers programs for young and old alike. From bridge to yoga, pick-up basketball games to Mah Jongg, the center is open to the public and all programs and classes are free. Check The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN or call (970) 264-4152 for a full calendar of events featured during the week or for more information.

Finally, during that most magical time of year, plenty of holiday events are taking place. Among these are a visit with Santa at the Visitor Center, The Festival of Trees, and numerous holiday music and theater events which are listed in the "Music and Theater Offerings" portion of this guide.

Whether seeking a hot time in the snow or cool activities inside, young folks, from toddler to teenager, will find plenty to do in Pagosa Country this winter season.



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World's Largest Hot Spring

History is filled with colorful stories of brave trailblazers who had a passion for adventure and flair for the dramatic.

Come on in, the water's fine!

For centuries, the waters in Pagosa Springs have drawn visitors who wish to take advantage of the healing qualities of the world's deepest natural hot spring.

Prior to the arrival of Hispanic and Anglo settlers, members of various tribes of Native Americans came to heal and refresh themselves in the local waters. Historians report that Native Americans preferred to coat themselves with mud mixed with the mineral water, rather than soaking directly in the pools. The rationale was simple: at 144 degrees Fahrenheit, undiluted spring water is far too hot for a pleasurable soak.

Although early Hispanic and Anglo settlers took advantage of the hot springs from time to time, the healing properties of the waters remained largely a local secret. Eventually, however, word was passed regarding the "magical properties" of The Great Pagosa Hot Spring and travelers sought out the medicinal qualities of the water. Since then, visitors from all over the world come to seek out a healing experience that had once been known only to the local inhabitants.

Today, few of life's pleasures are more rewarding than surrendering your body to hot, soothing waters after a day on the slopes, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing the backcountry, skating the River Center Park pond or sledding the numerous hills in Pagosa Country.

Locals call this luxury "ski and soak," a combination guaranteed to ease the aches and

pains of even the most tired muscles.

Experience the 'magic'

Time and again, visitors here comment on the friendliness and laid-back demeanor of our residents. More than that, many visitors ask why so many of our locals seem so healthy, vibrant and appear much younger than their age — an observation that inevitably leads to the question, "So, what's in the water?"

Local spin has it that the Ute term, "Pagosa," describes the mystical qualities of the legendary Great Pagosa Hot Spring, repeating the apocryphal tale that the phrase translates as "Healing Waters."

Alas, the truth might be much more hackneyed, but no less descriptive: local historian John Motter writes that, "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."

Certainly, there is an unmistakable aroma accompanying the springs, but are they really also healing waters? You can judge for yourself, but abundant testimonials say, "yes."

And while Native Americans visited the geothermally heated waters, certain the Great Spirit had endowed the bubbling cauldron with superhuman virtues, reverence for the "Healing Waters" has not abated with passage of time. In recent years, The Great Pagosa Hot Spring has attracted more visitors than ever before. And why not? — it is a unique experience, providing comfort and relaxation unmatched anywhere.

Making it all possible is The Great Pagosa Hot Spring, that bubbling fountain of natural mineral water and the world's largest hot spring.

How can we make the claim of "the world's deepest hot spring?" Because the Guinness Book of World Records says so! A judge from the New York office of the Guinness Book of World Records visited Pagosa Springs to verify measurements on The Great Pagosa Hot Spring made by Durango-based hydrologist John Casey.

How deep is it? We wish we could say. So far, attempts to plumb the depths of the spring have defied the best efforts to find out. When Casey dropped a 1,002-foot long plumb line into the "mother spring," it didn't hit the bottom; instead, the plumb line ran out. So now, the official measurement is 1,002 ft. and, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, that's the deepest hot spring in the world.

Prior to that, however, the depth of the spring had been measured using a 2,500-foot plumb line. The same thing happened: before the plumb line reached the bottom of the spring, the line ran out.

So, the mystery remains unsolved. Deeper still, however, is the mystery of our water's ability to soothe, heal and relax even the most harried soul. Visit the site of the spring and experience it for yourself. Take the opportunity to avail yourself of Pagosa's healing waters, its mystery, its spirit-rejuvenating properties and, yes ... its magic.



Pagosa's past, a saga of the Old West

History is filled with colorful stories of brave trailblazers who had a passion for adventure and flair for the dramatic.

By John M. Motter

Pagosa Springs SUN Columnist

Archuleta County history is 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 of time.

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 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 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 subsistence 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 continues to dominate life here. As it has been from the beginning, Pagosa Country, dominated by God-given natural resources, remains bold and brash.



Your sense of awe comes standard.

PHOTO: JEFF LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

Sometimes the best part of a trip is what you bring back with you.

Location

Archuleta County is located in southwest Colorado, situated at the junction of Highways 160 and 84 at an elevation of 7,079 feet. The county seat, Pagosa Springs, is located just 28 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.

Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350
Persons per square mile — 7.3

Physical Description

Archuleta County is comprised of 867,263 acres. Only 31 percent of lands in Archuleta County are in private ownership. Tribal lands comprise 14 percent of the county. Most of the northern and eastern portions of the county (49 percent) are within the San Juan National Forest and are under the management of the U.S. Forest Service. There is a total of approximately 2.5 million acres of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management surrounding Archuleta County.

Population Archuleta County

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts
2010 Census — 12,084
2011 Estimate — 12,013
2012 Estimate — 12,070
2013 Estimate — 12,194

Media

Newspaper: The Pagosa Springs SUN
www.pagosasun.com (970) 264-2100

Radio Stations: KWUF AM-1400, FM-106.1
kwuf.com, (970) 264-5983

Housing and Income

Median value of housing — \$291,300

Households — 4,536
Persons per household — 2.64
Per capita money income — \$29,771
Median household income — \$54,007
Persons below poverty — 8.8 percent

Taxes

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

Lodger's Tax: A 4.9 percent tax is collected from the lodging industry in the town of Pagosa Springs, and 1.9 percent from lodging in Archuleta County. Those revenues are used for tourism promotion in both the town and the county.

Primary Source of Town & County Revenue:

Retail sales taxes, property taxes and charges for services.

Government

Town Government: www.pagosasprings.co.gov
Home Rule Municipality
Town council with elected mayor and six councilors elected for alternating four-year terms, town administrator is appointed.
Date of Incorporation: 1891.

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

Tourism and Business Development

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp.
pagosaspringscdc.org
(970) 247-9621

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

Town Tourism
(800) 252-2204
visitpagosasprings.com

Related Web Site Links and Info

Pagosa Springs Association of Realtors
(970) 731-4015, pagosaspringsrealtors.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

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
(970) 382-6050, flydurango.com

Road Conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation
(303) 639-1111, cotrip.org

Archuleta County Sheriff's Office Road Report
(970) 264-5555

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



PHOTO: JEFF LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

You can find whatever you want here — alpine, telemark and cross-country skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, snowmobiling, world famous hot springs, an eclectic array of shops and a range of accommodation and restaurant choices that are sure to please you and everyone in your family or group.

Nestled at an elevation of 7,079 feet alongside the San Juan River, Pagosa Springs is surrounded on the east and north by the craggy spires of the Continental Divide, the Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas. “The most snow in Colorado” falls upon the majestic San Juan Mountains and Wolf Creek Ski Area more frequently than any other mountain range in the state. Yet, it is here in Pagosa that uncommonly blue skies prevail more often than not.

Alpine skiing

Wolf Creek Ski Area, considered by many as one of the best-kept secrets in Colorado, offers skiers and snowboarders an abundance of powder and packed powder on sun-drenched slopes. Skiers love it because lines are short (with two high-speed quad lifts in operation), runs are long and prices are traditionally lower than most areas in Colorado. You will also find more snow here than just about anywhere else in the state. Throughout the ski season, the Wolf Creek Ski Area calendar is jam-packed with myriad activities designed for fun and families and all levels of expertise. The Wolf Pup ski school is renowned for its excellence, and there are plenty of fun programs for skiers of all ages.

Backcountry

Fans of snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, telemark and alpine touring often find themselves just plain giddy when they discover the beautiful, pristine backcountry areas available for their adventures. You can bring your own equipment, book a tour with an outfitter or rent whatever you need at a number of sporting goods shops in Pagosa.

Beginner and more relaxed cross-country trails surround Pagosa Springs. For those seeking a “wilder” experience, there are cross-country trails in the vicinity of Wolf Creek Pass and in other parts of the San Juan National Forest. With plenty of trails and an abundance of snow, there are innumerable opportunities for the skilled and well-equipped backcountry adventurer.

Cross-country skiing

If alpine skiing isn't your forté, the Pagosa Nordic Club undertakes an ambitious program to bring a variety of cross-country and skate skiing opportunities to the Pagosa Springs area.

Groomed trails are available in town on Reservoir Hill and east of Pagosa Springs near the West Fork trailhead area, as well as in other locations in the area. If a cross-country tour under a full moon appeals to you, the Pagosa Nordic Club offers Moonrise/Sunset Cross Country Ski Socials throughout the winter months. Enjoy free soup and chili, a warm fire and lots of camaraderie after an invigorating cross-country excursion.

If you would like to learn more about Nordic skiing or snowshoeing, there are clinics held throughout the winter months. For more scheduling information, visit the club's website at PagosaNordic.com.

Ice fishing

If braving the cold to catch perch, trout or bass is your sport, then try

ice fishing at one of the local favorite ice spots such as Williams Creek Reservoir or Echo Lake.

Numerous businesses and sporting goods stores sell fishing licenses and can give you the inside scoop on winter fishing. Watch for ice fishing tournaments to be held in the winter, as well.

Ice skating

During the height of winter, when a day on the slopes is (for whatever reason) out of the question, people trade in their boards for a pair of blades and head to the ponds.

Located at the eastern edge of town, just north of U.S. 160 next to the San Juan River and adjacent to the River Center shopping complex, ice skating is available to visitors and locals alike on the lower west-end pond at The River Center Park.

The pond is usually groomed for skaters from about mid-December — just before the Christmas break rush — until mid-February (depending on weather conditions, of course). No skates? No problem. A few local sporting goods stores offer rentals for those who want to take a little slice on the ice, but couldn't find room to pack skates. To check conditions and learn if ponds are open for skating, call the Pagosa Springs Sports Hotline, (970) 264-4151, ext. 301.

Mineral hot springs

A long, relaxing soak in Pagosa Springs' world-famous healing waters is the perfect way to end a day of winter fun. Visitors and locals alike laud the waters' curative powers.

Three mineral hot springs facilities are enjoyed by thousands of guests year round. Stop by the Visitor Center to obtain a mineral hot spring facility synopsis.

Holiday festivities

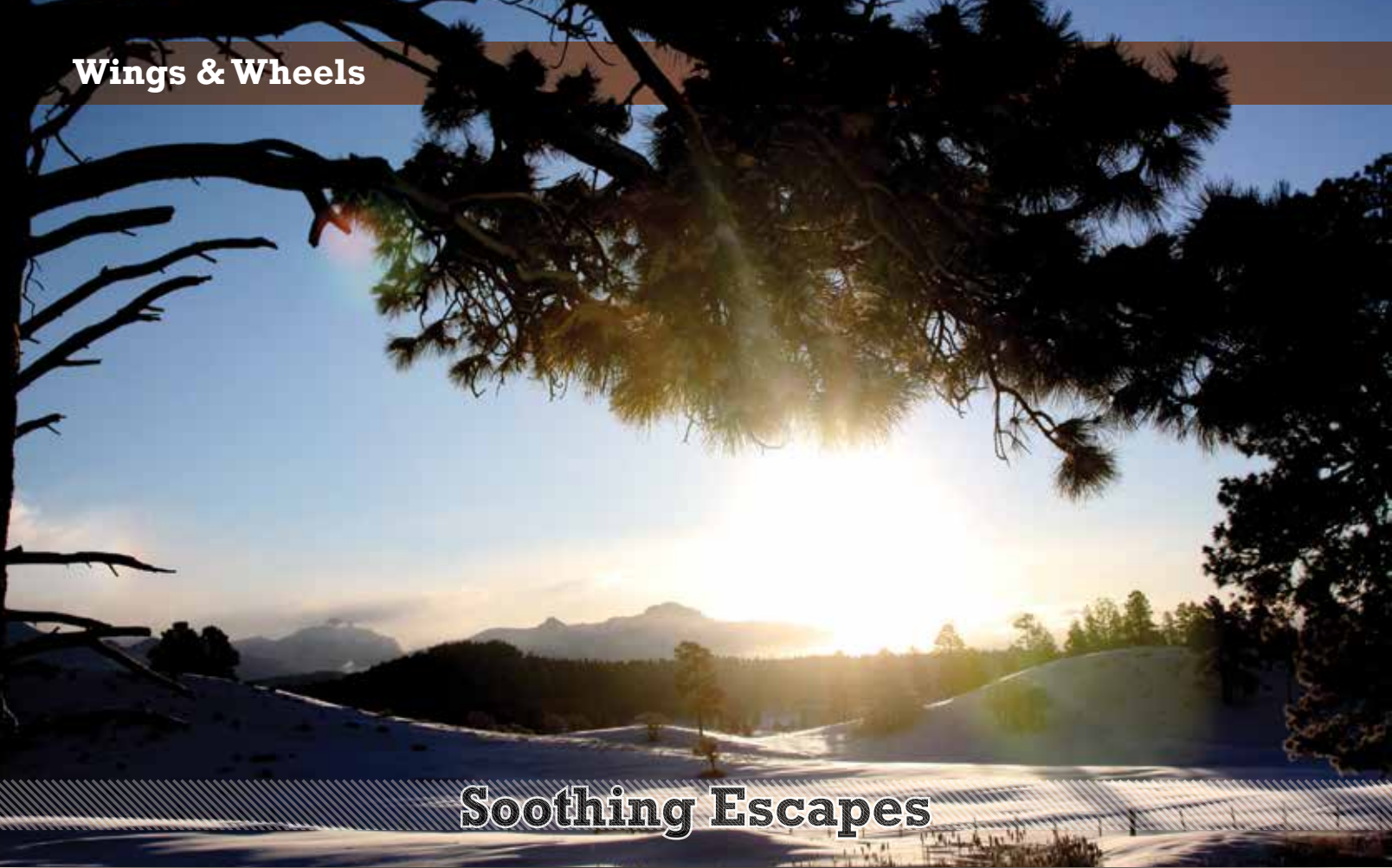
If you happen to be in Pagosa around Christmastime, you're in for a treat. Merchants traditionally roll out the red shopping carpets with the community-wide “Parade of Stores.”

Santa can be seen all around town during the holiday season, and he visits the Visitor Center in the late afternoon and evening on the first Saturday of December. He listens to Christmas wishes as participants enjoy treats, give-aways and hot spiced cider. There is typically entertainment until Santa appears on the deck of the Visitor Center for the official, annual community lighting ceremony.

The community welcomes visitors later on in the winter season with WinterFest — a weekend in February with fun, frolic and the celebration of winter. Enjoy Nordic races, crazy contests such as snow sculpting, the Anything Goes Downhill Sled Race, a Snowshoe Romp and, weather permitting, a snowboard jam.

Nestled in the heart of the San Juans, Pagosa Springs is a winter wonderland sure to fulfill all your snow-filled dreams. Whether enjoying a family outing, a romantic getaway or a weekend to clear out the cobwebs, come experience the panoply of never-ending winter activities, seek the calm and relaxation at the hot springs, or meander through town and warm up with some sumptuous local fare at one of Pagosa's cozy coffee shops or eating establishments.

Whatever track you choose, it's all right here in Pagosa Springs.



Soothing Escapes

PHOTO: TERRI HOUSE

Inner imagination is best stirred with outer wonder.

Stevens Field Airport

Archuleta County's Stevens Field, a General Aviation Airport, has seen a great deal of improvement over the past few years, with more planned for the future. In 2006, workers widened and resurfaced Runway 1/19 and built a new fixed base operations terminal building at midfield. Since, new hangars have appeared, an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) is in place and the FAA airport identifier has become KPSO. A 3,000-foot partial parallel taxiway now links the north end of the runway with midfield and a two-mile interior road allows fuel tankers and other vehicular traffic the freedom of movement on airport grounds without using the runway. In the summer of 2010, the facility added an improved north ramp surface where visiting pilots can safely park airplanes. As part of the north ramp improvements, a self-serve fuel tank is in place at the north ramp. Additionally, new, dedicated snow removal equipment has made its way to the airport, with more on the way, making winter operations smoother and more reliable. Future improvements include extending the parallel taxiway 5,000 feet and carrying out phase 1 of the midfield apron expansion. In keeping with its commitment to Archuleta County and Stevens Field, the Federal Aviation Administration promptly completed and published a GPS instrument approach for pilot use during nighttime and low-visibility landings. The FAA has funded 95 percent of the various

improvement projects in the past several years, while the Colorado Department of Transportation-Aeronautics Division and the county each contributed 2.5 percent.

The fully lit asphalt runway is 100 feet wide and 8,100 feet long. Located just three miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs, its aircraft weight capacities are 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.

For more information, visit www.stevensfield.com.

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. Turn right (northeast) on Cloman Boulevard and proceed to 61 Aviation Court. Pilot supplies, a flight service telephone, restrooms, vending machines, catering service, coffee and a lounge area are provided at the FBO. In the heated hangar, light aircraft maintenance services and a mechanic are available on call weekdays and a full line of aviation oils and supplies, including 100 low-lead and Jet-A rated fuels, are also at hand. For more information about these and other Stevens Field services, call Avjet at (970) 731-2127. For specific airport management questions or concerns, call the airport manager at (970) 731-3060. The AWOS system is avail-

able on frequency 127.17 or by phone at (970) 731-0365.

Various car rental companies are available throughout Pagosa Springs.

Durango-La Plata Airport

The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers daily service with Frontier Airlines, United Express and US Airways. It also offers a full range of comfortable and convenient terminal services, including food, retail, wireless Internet WI/FI and services for persons with disabilities. The airport provides short- and long-term parking, full rental car services and shuttle/taxis.

Located 60 miles from Pagosa Springs, the Durango-La Plata County Airport sits 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, call the airport administration office at (970) 382-6050, or visit the airport website at www.flydurango.com.

Mileage from Pagosa

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.	688 miles
Dallas, Texas.	790 miles



PHOTO: MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Relaxing the spirit and healing the body

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 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 clothing-optional bathing.

Across the street, The Springs Resort offers more than 79

Rest & Relaxation

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 Mediterranean-style 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.

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bothering you?

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PHOTO: JEFF LAYDON/PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

Snow sports activities: from the extreme to the serene

By Ed Fincher

Pagosa Country offers a unique blend of snow sports activities ranging from the extreme to the serene, attracting everyone from world-class athletes to the winter weekend warrior.

Last November, for example, the 2014 U.S. Freestyle Moguls Team, which went on to compete in the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, officially announced its roster during a ceremony at The Springs Resort in downtown Pagosa Springs.

"I am really looking forward to the upcoming season," head coach Scott Rawles said. "We have had great preparation this summer at all of our camps and all the athletes have been working very hard and are very focused on the task at hand this winter."

For the last three years, the team has made a habit of using Wolf Creek Ski Area as one of those training camps. Because

of its unique geographical situation, Wolf Creek Pass gets some of the earliest, deepest and best snow in the state of Colorado, making it an ideal location for early season training for these world-class athletes.

Early in the season, Wolf Creek's trail grooming crews smooth out Alberta Face and help build moguls and jumps to the team's specifications. As a result, ski area patrons riding the new Treasure Stoke detachable quad chairlift are afforded a front row seat to all the action, witnessing the high-flying aerial acrobatics of such athletes as Olympic Champion Hannah Kearney and Olympic bronze medalist Bryon Wilson. Double backflips are not uncommon, garnering enthusiastic hoots and hollers from the spectators on the chairlift.

While many may consider cross-country skiing a much quieter, more introspective activity, the Pagosa Nordic Club



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also offered some excitement, playing host to a world-class athlete: masters cross-country ski champion and inspirational speaker Murray Banks.

Last December, Banks taught a cross-country waxing clinic at the Alpen Haus Ski Center. Banks is on the Toko Wax Tech Team and used anecdotes, examples and demonstrations to demystify the nuances of waxing classic skis and skate skis. As a two-time masters cross-country skiing world champion, Banks shared some hilarious and inspiring race stories from the masters world championships in Italy, Norway, Switzerland, Canada and the USA.

The next day, Banks taught two skate ski clinics in Alberta Park at the Wolf Creek Ski Area — one for intermediate and another for advanced skate skiers. Banks shared many new techniques that he has developed over the last five years, teaching the participants how to make more efficient use of their energy and increase their overall enjoyment of the sport.

The mission of the Pagosa Nordic Club is to enhance winter recreational opportunities in Pagosa Springs by maintaining accessible groomed winter trails for skate skiing, classic cross country skiing and snowshoeing for all ability levels and to encourage and promote the use of these winter trails through education, marketing and events.

Olympic mogul racing and cross country skiing are just two examples of the spectrum of winter activities Pagosa has to offer, but all of it is world-class. Visitors are also encouraged to check out the ice-skating, ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, sledding, and so on.

The list is endless.



PHOTO: JAMES DICKHOFF

WINTER

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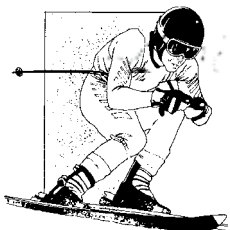
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Wolf Creek Ski Area

PHOTO: JASON LOMBARD

New projects, programs at Wolf Creek for the 2014 – 2015 season

Wolf Creek Ski Area is ready for its 75th season of epic powder skiing! A number of ski enthusiasts from the San Luis Valley got together in the late '30s to enjoy the snow that fell in abundance on top of Wolf Creek Pass. Seventy-five years later, Wolf Creek Ski Area is still providing a service, allowing the public to use and enjoy the mountains in the winter season.

Kingsbury "Pitch" Pitcher, owner of Wolf Creek Ski Area and New Mexico Ski Hall of Famer, will be inducted into the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame on Oct. 17.

Pitch, now 95, will be honored for his role in the development of the ski industry in both Colorado and the United States. He was one of the first certified instructors of the Rocky Mountain Ski Instructors Association, a lifelong skier racer for the Stanford University Ski Team and was a ski school instructor, supervisor and ski area operator for many years. He has been a ski industry consultant over the years and has played a role in the development of many ski resorts.

This 2014-2015 ski season, the Elma Lift (named after the Pitcher family's black Lab) will become a part of the mountain, adding more variety and character to the current Wolf Creek lift system. The new fixed-grip triple chairlift is refurbished from the old Treasure chairlift and will be equipped with a new, efficient electric motor and re-engineered parts that meet all current safety standards. Fifteen towers will span 460 vertical feet, with a capacity of 1,200 skiers per hour. Although this is one of Wolf Creek's smaller lifts, it will provide access to an area of the mountain that is underutilized and establish an alternate route back to the base area from the Alberta Lift.

The Wolf Creek Fun Race Series runs throughout the winter, which is

an extremely popular program for guests of all ages and abilities. The races are free and the fastest racers in 28 brackets are awarded gold, silver and bronze medals. See wolfcreekski.com for a schedule of the races.

The Wolf Creek Ski School is introducing a new pilot snowboard program called the Wolf Riders for children ages 5-8 that teaches the basics and beyond of snowboarding. Tickets for the Wolf Riders can be purchased in the ticket office. Rentals for Wolf Riders are in the Boarder Dome. Kids will meet in the Wolf Pup Building designed specifically for that age group, which offers easy access to the Magic Carpet and Nova Lift. The full day of Wolf Rider ticket includes four hours of lessons, plus lunch and snacks; half day is also available.

The ski school offers a variety of instruction for adults, seniors, women, juniors and the well-known Wolf Pup ski program.

Wolf Creek Pass is in the epicenter of the spruce bark beetle epidemic and the ski area continues to identify and remove dead and dying hazard trees, while leaving many of the standing dead for wildlife to live in.

Wolf Creek continues to do an excellent job of providing quality food service for the many eateries on the mountain. Specialties include: Santa Fe-style green chili stew, red chili, local organic grilled burgers, gourmet salad bar, homemade pizza, a number of delicious desserts and refreshing après-ski drinks.

As a part of Wolf Creek's many services, Wolf Creek offers free paved parking and free parking shuttles.

Wolf Creek Ski Area will continue to offer the complementary use of the Nordic track as it has in years past. The ski area maintains the grooming and track setting each season.

For more information, see wolfcreekski.com.



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November 12, 19, 30

December 3, 10

January 7, 21, 25

February 1, 11, 25

March 4, 29

April 1, 5

A full schedule of Events and Programs at www.wolfcreekski.com



Outdoor Adventures



Snowmobiling

PHOTO: MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

For some, making snow angels just doesn't cut it for winter fun. Nor does a downhill sled taken to any of the area's popular sledding destinations. Or soaking in the hot springs as the steam rises around you, immersing you in warmth.

Some need a little more adventure and adrenaline.

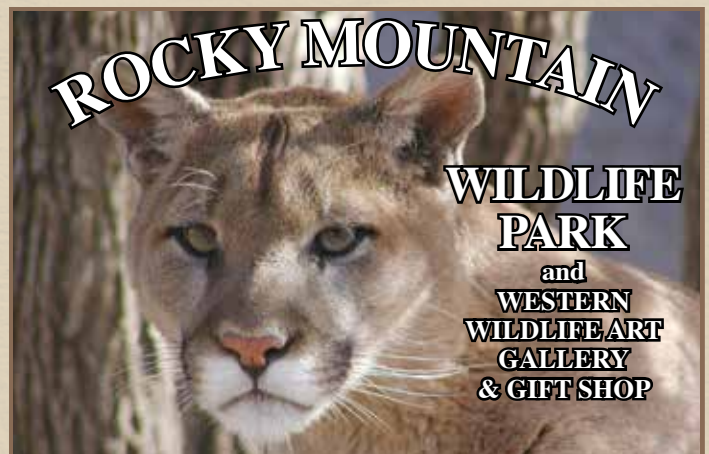
But not to worry, if you want to rev it up, snowmobiling might be the activity for you.

Pagosa Country offers plenty of opportunities for snowmobile adventures and travel. Thanks to the San Juan National Forest Pagosa Ranger District, among others, there is a wide selection of designated snowmobile routes. The routes follow unplowed forest roads and trails, many of which are groomed by a local volunteer group, the Wolf Creek Trailblazers Club, under authorization of the Forest Service. Grooming frequencies vary due to conditions and resources, and most routes are only minimally marked, making route-finding skills, maps, avalanche awareness and good pre-trip planning essential for a safe expedition into the Pagosa backcountry during the winter months.

The following trail descriptions have been developed to assist visitors in locating snowmobile opportunities in the Pagosa area. Mileages are approximate and do not represent round-trip distances from trailheads. Please be familiar with the rules, regulations and tips for safe winter travel.

Rules and regulations

- Cross-country winter travel is generally permitted on the Pagosa Ranger District. However, there are areas in which snowmobiles are prohibited or restricted to designated routes.
- Snowmobiles are prohibited in the Weminuche Wilderness, the South San Juan Wilderness and the Piedra Area.
- Please refer to the San Juan National Forest Visitor Map and reference the area table for information about the location of areas where travel is restricted to designated routes.
- Each over-the-snow vehicle that is operated on public land in Colorado must be registered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Out-of-state residents who bring snowmobiles into Colorado must purchase



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- Per Colorado law, it is unlawful to operate a snowmobile on plowed public roads, including plowed roads located on national forest lands. It is also unlawful to pursue, drive at or otherwise intentionally disturb or harass any wildlife. For more information regarding state law, go to cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/SnowmobileLawRegs.aspx.

Pre-plan and prepare

The Forest Service does not manage or post signs for all hazards. That said, always be prepared for and aware of:

- Changing weather conditions.
- The potential for altitude sickness and hypothermia.
- The need to find your own way or turn back if conditions become too difficult for your skills, ability or equipment.

Avalanche danger

- Carry essential equipment and know how to use it.
- Be familiar with accepted winter travel procedures and rescue techniques.
- Daily avalanche forecasts can be obtained online at <http://avalanche.state.co.us> or (970) 247-8187.
- More educational information, including a listing of available training, can be obtained at www.avalanche.org.

Route finding

Before setting out on untracked snow, remember that some trails are minimally maintained or unmarked. Route finding skills are necessary. Always carry maps, such as the San Juan National Forest Map and current topographic maps. Avoid trespassing on private property adjacent to or surrounded by national forest lands.

On ungroomed trails, users will be relying upon their own route-finding skills, maps and, perhaps, the knowledge and skills of those who traveled before them.

Parking

Parking areas may not be plowed; therefore, parking space is often limited and may not be available after snowstorms when snow removal is in progress. Please park considerably without blocking gates or other vehicles.

Grooming conditions

There is not a set schedule for grooming and some trails may not be groomed for an entire season. For information about grooming conditions or to learn how you can help, go to www.coloradosledcity.com and click on "Trail reports/Maps." When the map loads, select Pagosa Springs, then scroll down through the Groomer Reports.

Search and rescue

In an emergency, call 911. The local sheriff's office is the lead agency for search

and rescue.

Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Cards cover search and rescue mission costs, support Colorado search and rescue volunteers and contribute to well-trained and equipped search and rescue teams. Cards are available at outlets that sell hunting and fishing licenses. Anyone with a current hunting/fishing license, or boat, snowmobile or ATV registration is already covered by the fund.

Pagosa Public Lands Office

For maps and additional information, the Pagosa Public Lands Office is located at 180 Pagosa St. in Pagosa Springs. Call (970) 264-2268 or go to www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan.

The trails

Most of these routes follow unplowed forest roads and trails. County Road (CR) and Forest Service Road (FR) numbers correspond with the San Juan National Forest Map.

It should be noted that all trails shown on the map are open to both motorized and non-motorized travel. Please keep speeds slow while traveling on these shared trails. When possible, keep your tracks separate from those of other users.

Some areas are very popular for snowmobiling. Be aware of and alert to other users.

Monument Park Trail

Follows portions of the First Fork Road (FR 622), Monument Park Road West (FR 630) and Devil Mountain Trail (Trail 600).
Length: 30 miles.

Trailhead: First Fork Road (FR 622).

Grooming: Ungroomed.

Connections: Monument Trail (FR 630).

Monument Trail

Follows Monument Road East (FR 630).

Length: 7.8 miles.

Trailhead: Parking area on First Fork Road.

Grooming: Occasionally groomed.

Connections: Turkey Springs Loop and Monument Park Trail (FR 630).

Turkey Springs Trail

Length: 8.5 mile loop.

Trailhead: Turkey Springs Trailhead on Piedra Road (FR 631).

Grooming: Occasionally groomed.

Connections: Monument Trail (FR 630).

Fourmile (winter) Trail

Follows Fourmile Road (FR 645) from the winter closure point to its end.

Length: 4.6 miles.

Trailhead: Fourmile Road (CR 400) at winter closure.

Grooming: Frequently groomed.

Connections: Plumtaw Trail (FR 634).

Plumtaw Trail

The trail is accessed via the Fourmile (Winter) Trail (FR 645). It follows Plumtaw Road (FR 634) to end at McManus Road (FR 633).

Length: 18.3 miles.

Trailheads: Fourmile Road (CR 400) or McManus Road (FR 633) at winter closure points.

Grooming: Frequently groomed.

Connections: The McManus-E. Toner Connector (5.8 miles) crosses the Middle Fork of the Piedra River. The route consists of a groomed trail to E. Toner Road (FR 637), then follows E. Toner Road to Middle Fork Road (FR 636) and continues southwest to a parking area at the junction with Piedra Road (FR 631).

East Fork Trail

Follow East Fork Road and FR 684 to Quartz Meadows.

Length: 12.6 miles.

Trailhead: Plowed parking area at winter closure of East Fork Road.

Grooming: Occasionally groomed.

Nipple Mountain Trail

Parallels Mill Creek (CR 302/FR 662) and Nipple Mountain Roads (FR 665), then follows an unplowed portion of Nipple Mountain Road. Stay on the trail as it crosses private property.

Length: 10.5 miles.

Trailhead: Along Mill Creek Road (CR 302) before its junction with Nipple Mountain Road.

Porcupine Trail

This trail connects the Nipple Mountain Trail to Blanco Basin Road (CR 326), via Porcupine and Lefthand Canyon Roads (both numbered FR 024).

Length: 10.4 miles.

Trailhead: Parking at the junction of Blanco Basin and Lefthand Canyon Roads.

Grooming: Portion is groomed occasionally.

Connections: Connects to Nipple Mountain Trail.

Additional Routes

There are many other areas to ride on the Pagosa Ranger District. However, parking generally limits access.

Plowed parking is occasionally available and allows snowmobile access to Eight Mile Mesa (FR 651) and Jackson Mountain (FR 037) Roads.

These areas are not groomed.

Wolf Creek Pass

A plowed parking area is located on Wolf Creek Pass on the south side of U.S. 160. Routes on the pass provide access to a variety of terrain and may be groomed. To help provide quality recreation experiences for everyone, follow these guidelines:

South Side of the Pass

- Multiuse area recommended for trail and off-trail snowmobiling.

- The area known as the Rock Garden is non-motorized.

North Side of the Pass

- The road to the Lobo Overlook is a designated snowmobile route.

- The remainder of the north side is for non-motorized use.



Avalanche Awareness

PHOTO: MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Winter backcountry treks can be rewarded with sights and sensations of incomparable beauty; they also can come with some risk.

While avalanches are a serious threat to winter backcountry travelers everywhere, they are particularly so in Colorado. In fact, according to local avalanche forecaster Mark Mueller with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, Colorado has recorded more avalanche-related deaths since 1950 than any other state. Therefore, knowing how to recognize the elements that cause avalanches is a must for safe mountain travel in and around Pagosa Country.

As a long spine of high inland peaks, the Colorado Rockies usually accumulate a colder, shallower snowpack than that of the mountain ranges nearer to the west coast. As a result, certain physical characteristics merge to create persistent fragile layers ripe for avalanche, once sufficient stress develops. The San Juan Mountains, for example, possess abundant steep terrain, while receiving ample annual snowfall. As simple gravity increases stress, combined forces routinely elevate the risk of an avalanche.

A combination of weather, steep terrain and existing snowpack structure may give rise to avalanche danger. Weather factors typically include heavy snowfall, high winds and wildly fluctuating temperatures. Avalanche terrain is mainly determined by slope steepness and slope orientation to the wind and sun. Relevant snowpack characteristics include the formation and presence of weak layers vulnerable to increasing stress.

As stress on a slope overcomes the strength of its snowpack, an avalanche can result. Stress can increase dramatically under the weight of new snowfall, the sudden release of a cornice (or snow overhang), or, as an individual or group of skiers, snowboarders or snowmobilers moves across unstable snow. Most often, avalanche victims trigger the slides that overtake them or other members of their group.

Travelers should move singly in avalanche terrain to reduce stress on the snowpack, while possessing the equipment and the skills necessary to successfully affect an avalanche rescue. Because a victim buried just 30 minutes stands less than a 35-percent chance of survival, time is of the essence. To aid in location and rescue efforts, each well-equipped party member should carry an electronic avalanche beacon, probe pole and lightweight shovel. In too many cases involving unintentional slides, ignorance, arrogance, fatigue or peer-group pressure can result in backcountry travelers ignoring obvious warning signs.

Backcountry travelers caught in an avalanche may not fare well. Whether being buried alive and deprived of oxygen for several minutes or being carried over cliffs, into trees, rocks or other large objects, serious in-

jury — or worse — can result. Therefore, an immediate rescue is essential to increasing a victim's odds of survival. An individual's beacon helps companions locate him or her quickly, while a probe pole and shovel allow individuals to pinpoint and uncover companions buried in the snow. Backcountry enthusiasts can purchase this equipment from various recreational retailers in Pagosa Springs and Durango.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center provides daily mountain weather and avalanche hazard forecasts available on the Web (see below) and through a local hotline in Durango, (970) 247-8187. Daily forecasts begin in early November and continue through most of April. Backcountry travelers should use this information as a basis for their own risk assessment and trip planning.

Educate yourself. Seek out knowledgeable people, read books, take an established avalanche course and — most important — always pay attention to the clues nature provides, as you travel the backcountry.

Recommended reading:

Useful websites are the Colorado Avalanche Information Center at avalanche.state.co.us for daily avalanche hazard forecasts, and The American Avalanche Association at www.avalanche.org/.

For Reading:

- "Snow Sense: A Guide to Evaluating Avalanche Hazard," by Jill Fredston and Doug Fesler, 1988. This guide easily fits in a pack, is understandable and very practical — written by two internationally acclaimed avalanche educators.
- "The Snowy Torrents," by Nick Logan and Dale Atkins, Colorado Geological Survey, 1996. As a collection of actual avalanche accident case histories, this book describes how others responded — both right and wrong. It is available from the Colorado Geologic Survey.
- "The Avalanche Handbook," by Peter Schaerer and Dave McClung, 1993. A comprehensive look at the avalanche field.
- "Staying Alive in Avalanche Terrain," by Bruce Tremper, 2008.

A free Pagosa Springs annual Community Avalanche Awareness talk is traditionally held annually. Look for announcements for this talk in The Pagosa Springs SUN and at local outdoor shops.

Mark Mueller monitors and forecasts local avalanches for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center and the Colorado Department of Transportation. Based in Pagosa Springs, he is about to begin his 38th winter in the field. Groups or individuals interested in avalanche safety may contact Mark at (970) 731-2486.

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Cross-country Skiing

What really gets exhausted is your supply of adjectives.

Courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service and the Pagosa Nordic Club

The opportunities for snowshoeing, classic cross-country skiing and skate skiing in Pagosa Country are plentiful, no matter your level of experience. Some trails/areas cater to those attempting the sports for the first time, while others will challenge even the most experienced winter enthusiasts. The routes described below are a mix of groomed trails and unplowed, ungroomed Forest Service roads closed to most vehicles except snowmobiles.

The U.S. Forest Service, Wolf Creek Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club, Wolf Creek Ski Area and the Pagosa Nordic Club all work in conjunction with each other to groom trails for the public to use for skate skiing, classic cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling.

The forest service roads listed below are enjoyed and shared by people on skis, snowshoes and snowmobiles. Check with the Pagosa Ranger District Office in downtown Pagosa Springs or go to PagosaNordic.com to learn more about groomed trail opportunities.

Parking

Parking may present a problem and at times may prevent the use of a particular route. Park considerately, taking no more space than needed to avoid blocking other vehicles or impeding access to trails, and without impeding access for emergency vehicles. Leave room for vehicles and trailers to turn around. Colorado Department of Trans-

portation crews clear parking areas along state highways adjacent to trail access, but their first priority is to clear the road. Avoid parking along highway travel lanes.

Trail etiquette

Cross-country skiers might find all manner of winter recreation enthusiasts on trails in the Pagosa Springs area. Please don't walk or snowshoe on groomed trails. Yield the right of way to downhill traffic. Use caution when approaching or overtaking another user. Do not interfere with or harass other users. Do not disturb wildlife. Only friendly dogs under voice control are permitted and all dog defecation should be removed from the ski trail. In addition, pack out everything you pack in.

Safety

Before venturing out onto unpacked snow, take the time to learn emergency procedures and backcountry travel and winter camping skills. Weather and snow conditions can change rapidly in Colorado's mountains. Plan ahead and know what conditions to expect. Your trip will be much more enjoyable if you are physically and mentally prepared for whatever may arise. Be prepared for medical emergencies and leave a detailed description of your trip plans with a responsible person each time you go. Make sure the person you leave your plan with knows to contact the sheriff's office if you fail to return. In addition, consider purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (COR SAR) card to ensure that the county can recover

all of your search-and-rescue costs. Cards cost \$3 for one year or \$12 for five years and are available at hunting and fishing license vendors.

Weather

When planning any backcountry trek, check current and forecasted weather conditions before you leave home and continue to monitor the weather throughout your trip. Dramatic weather changes can occur in minutes throughout Pagosa Country, especially in the mountains. Be informed about avalanche terrain and conditions. The Colorado Avalanche Information Center provides current information on weather and avalanche conditions at <http://avalanche.state.co.us>.

Stay within limits

Recognize and stay within your limits. Carry the appropriate gear for your trip, including extra clothing, a space blanket, sunscreen, sunglasses or goggles, matches or lighter, extra food and water. If traveling with a dog, carry plastic bags for cleaning up after your pooch. Carry a compass and topographical maps and know how to use them. For backcountry trips, avalanche safety skills and equipment, including a snow shovel, avalanche beacon and probe are essential. In addition, be prepared to repair equipment and carry a simple field repair kit that includes supplies for common breakdowns.

Routes

Groomed Nordic trails are rated for difficulty. Routes along Forest Service roads are

not. All directions begin in downtown Pagosa Springs. The numbers in parentheses next to road names are Forest Service road numbers and may be found on the San Juan National Forest map.

General Trail Map Disclaimer

Nordic ski track maps should not be used for navigation — use a topographical map for terrain navigation. Trails shown on maps are general locations. Trails may change course, be omitted or added due to snow conditions. Trail distances are approximate. All trails are groomed for skate skiing with set tracks for classic kick and glide skiing depending on snow conditions.

Visit www.PagosaNordic.com or the Pagosa Ranger District office at 2nd Street and U.S. 160 in downtown Pagosa Springs for up-to-date trail status and conditions.

Nordic Ski Trail Information: West Fork Nordic Trail

With an abundance of flat, groomed and natural terrain, the West Fork area provides fantastic cross-country opportunities for beginners and families. The area offers skiers the chance to ski through stands of giant conifers, as well as scenic views of the valley floor and the headwaters of the San Juan River.

Ability levels:

- Beginner 80 percent, intermediate 10 percent, advanced 10 percent.

Special features:

- The Pagosa Nordic Club grooms up to 15 km for skate skiing, with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing.

Getting there: Drive 14 miles east of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 — look for the Bruce Spruce Lodge sign on the left side of the road. Turn left onto West Fork Road (Forest Road 648). Drive to the end of the road (.25 miles). Park on the side of the road where it is plowed.

Coyote Hill

Coyote Hill is another great family and beginner area with three levels of loops. The Pagosa Ranger District grooms up to 14 km skate skiing, with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing. The first level — just off the parking area — offers 3 km of beginner, groomed trails. From the main trail, skiers can continue up to the second level for an additional 3 km of intermediate terrain. The upper loop offers another 6 km of intermediate terrain and 2 km of advanced terrain. The upper loops offer immense, stunning views of Pagosa Peak.

Ability levels:

- Beginner 20 percent, intermediate 70 percent, advanced 10 percent.

Special features:

- The trails are groomed exclusively for cross-country skiing. Walkers and snowshoers are prohibited on the groomed trails. Snowmobiles are prohibited on Coyote Hill.

Getting there: Drive 6.3 miles north of U.S. 160 on Piedra Road (County Road 600). The trailhead is on the right, just after the cattle guard. Please park in the pull-off if it is plowed.

Reservoir Hill

Reservoir Hill is located in the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs and the trailhead is within easy walking distance of a variety of downtown lodging establishments. Reservoir Hill provides trails interspersed with hills; some skiers walk between trail sections.

Ability levels:

- Intermediate 70 percent, advanced 30 percent.

Special features:

- Intermediate and advanced skiers only. Not recommended for beginners.
- The Pagosa Nordic Club grooms up to 10 km for skate skiing with set tracks for cross-country skiing.

Getting there: Take U.S. 160 to downtown Pagosa Springs. Turn south at the Hot Springs Boulevard traffic light and take the second left onto San Juan Street. Look for a public parking area on the left. From the public parking area, it is a short uphill walk to the Spa Trailhead, which provides access to Reservoir Hill.



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Yamaguchi Nordic Track

Also located in downtown Pagosa Springs, this 1.5 km Nordic track loop provides flat conditions for 100 percent beginner terrain, providing a great family area and perfect lunchtime workout area.

Ability levels:

- Beginner 100 percent.

Special features:

- The Pagosa Nordic Club grooms a 1.5 km loop for skate skiing, with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing.

Getting there: Follow Hot Springs Boulevard past Pagosa Springs Town Hall and turn right on Apache Street, then left on South 5th Street. Follow South 5th Street about two blocks to the parking area.

Pagosa Springs Golf Course Nordic Track

The Pagosa Nordic Club grooms at least 5 km for skate skiing with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing.

Ability Levels:

- Beginner 85 percent, intermediate 15 percent

Special Features:

- This track is centrally located near uptown Pagosa Springs.

Getting there: From U.S. 160, go north on Pinon Causeway at the Wyndham sign, turn left on Carlee Place, turn right onto Pines Club Place, then right into the Pagosa Springs Golf Club parking lot.

Nordic Ski Options East on U.S. 160:

Jackson Mountain Road

(Forest Road 037)

Gradual, uphill, 4-mile route to the end of an unplowed road with additional opportunities to travel other roads in the area. Jackson Mountain is a popular area for snowmobiles.

Getting there: Travel 7.3 miles northeast on U.S. 160. Parking is on the left at Jackson Mountain Road.

East Fork Road

(Forest Road 667)

An enjoyable route for one or several miles, this route parallels the East Fork of the San Juan River. It is eight miles to the historic Silver Falls Guard Station. Please stay on the road as it passes through private property. This area sees significant snowmobile use, is groomed occasionally by the Wolf Creek Trail Blazers snowmobile club, and can provide a quality distance ski.

Getting there: Travel 9.5 miles east on U.S. 160, turn southeast on East Fork Road, then continue about 3/4 mile to the parking area at the end of the plowed road.

Fall Creek Road

(Forest Road 039)

Beginning at about 9,600 feet in elevation, this popular ski route climbs gradually for about six miles. Great early and late-season snow conditions. 5 km groomed for cross-country skiing early in the season only, prior

to other trails opening for the season.

Getting there: Travel 19 miles northeast on U.S. 160 to Fall Creek Road. Once cleared, there is a large parking area on the south side of the highway. Avoid parking along highway travel lanes.

Lobo Overlook

This route climbs generally uphill for 1.5 miles to the Lobo Overlook, the Continental Divide trail (and the microwave tower). Skiers will be rewarded with breathtaking views at the top. Snowmobiles are allowed on the forest service road and provide a packed trail for the ascent.

Getting there: Travel 23.2 miles northeast on U.S. 160. Parking and the road to the overlook are north of the highway just past the Continental Divide.

Wolf Creek Road

(On Wolf Creek Pass — Forest Road 725)

There are three access points along approximately three miles of road with some fairly open, moderate terrain in this area. Views are spectacular. This area is popular for snowmobiling. Skiers typically use Lobo Overlook, 1/2 mile east of the Wolf Creek Pass summit, on the north side of the road.

Getting there: To trailhead: Travel 20 miles northeast on U.S. 160 to Wolf Creek Road.

Alberta Lake Loop

A beautiful 10 km loop that starts at the end of the upper parking lot of Wolf Creek Ski Area travels through the forest. Wolf Creek Ski Area has groomed this cross-country ski trail for many years with no use fees required.

Ability levels:

- Beginner 30 percent, intermediate 40 percent, advanced 30 percent

Special features:

- The Wolf Creek Ski Area grooms up to 10 km for skate skiing, classic cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.
- The first km is an intermediate access to the Alberta Meadow Nordic loop. Beginners should be aware of the slope and that speed control is needed.
- There is no ability level signage.

Getting there: Travel 24 miles east on U.S. 160 to the Wolf Creek Ski Area. The parking attendant can guide you to the far east end of the upper parking lot where the Alberta Park cross country ski trail begins.

Nordic Ski Options South on U.S. 84:

Nipple Mountain Road

(Forest Road 665)

In addition to traveling Nipple Mountain Road, there are a few other options in this area. The hardy person with a map and backcountry skills may identify lengthy or loop trips.

Getting there: From downtown, go east on U.S. 160 to the junction with U.S. 84. Travel 1/8 mile south on U.S. 84 and turn left on Mill Creek Road (CR 302), drive approximately 5 miles to trailhead parking before the

junction with Nipple Mountain Road (665).

Blanco River Road

(Forest Road 656)

Blanco River Road is closed at the highway. The route generally parallels the river for 2.5 miles from the highway to Blanco River campground.

Getting there: Travel 11 miles south on U.S. 84 to Blanco River Road. Parking may be limited.

Kenney Flats Road

(Forest Road 006)

This road through open, fairly level terrain is good for beginners and provides several possible routes.

Getting there: Travel 14 miles south on U.S. 84 to Kenney Flats Road. Parking is located on the east side of the highway.

Nordic Ski Options North of Pagosa Springs:

Fourmile (645) and Plumtaw Roads (634)

The first 1.5 miles of this route is uphill. At the junction, one can continue on Fourmile Road or go left on Plumtaw Road. For a long trek, continue on Plumtaw Road to its junction with McManus Road in the Upper Piedra, a distance of about 17 miles. This route is groomed occasionally by the Wolf Creek Trailblazers snowmobile club, which can provide a quality distance ski.

Getting there: Turn east on Lewis Street, north on Fifth Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Travel 6.5 miles north on Fourmile Road to the closure point near the national forest boundary.

Williams Creek Area

Open, fairly flat area that is good for beginners. Enjoy spectacular views of mountains and large, open parks. Unplowed road continues past Williams Creek Reservoir to Poison Park and Williams Creek trails.

Getting there: From downtown, travel two miles west on U.S. 160, turn north on Piedra Road. Travel 22 miles, and then turn right on Williams Creek Road, continue to Williams Creek Reservoir.

Recommended equipment

As a general rule, dress in layers so you can add and subtract layers as you become hot or cold. Remember, it can be quite cold in the morning, warm up considerably during the day, and get cold as soon as the sun moves behind the hills or a cloud. Avoid cotton clothing, especially next to the skin. You can be sure that you will get wet from sweat, from falling down, or from snow falling off trees. You may get cold if you stop for any amount of time. The weather may change dramatically if a front is coming in or if it starts snowing. In a group, some items can be shared.

Equipment and clothing

Skis, boots, poles — no-wax skis, maxiglide or other for sticking; waxable skis — waxes,

cork, scraper and snow thermometer; sunglasses or glacier glasses; sunscreen; day pack or fanny pack; Swiss army knife; compass; maps; quart-size canteen or wide-mouth bottle filled with water; long underwear (polypropylene or other synthetic); intermediate layer — sweater (wool or synthetic) or shirt (wool or synthetic); windbreaker layer (nylon, 60/40 cloth, avoid garments that are heavily treated with waterproofing); pants or knickers (wool or synthetic, blue jeans are not recommended); socks (wool or synthetic); liner socks; hat (wool or synthetic) — you must be able to cover your ears; high energy snacks and lunch, if appropriate; toilet paper and plastic bag for used paper; first aid kit; flashlight; vest (down or synthetic) or warmer jacket (down or synthetic); poncho and/or space blanket; extra hats, extra gloves; balaclava or ski mask; neck gaiter; ear band (knit-wool or synthetic); thin polypropylene or other synthetic gloves to operate equipment such as cameras; matches in a waterproof container; candle; whistle; duct tape; ski tip.

Be prepared for avalanche danger

Carry an avalanche shovel, beacon and probe for each person. Always test equipment and make sure all beacons are compatible and have adequate battery power.

Always check conditions with an avalanche forecasting group before going out. Daily avalanche forecasts can be obtained online at www.avalanche.state.co.us or (970) 247-8187. More educational information, including a listing of available training can be obtained at: www.avalanche.org and www.avalanche.state.co.us (Colorado Avalanche Information Center [CAIC]).

Maps and trail information are available from the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District, 180 Pagosa St. or call (970) 264-2268.

For grooming reports, trail maps and events information, visit PagosaNordic.com and look for brochures in local businesses and the Visitor Center.

Backcountry guidelines

- Observe and obey all trail signs, area restrictions and closures. Certain backcountry areas do not allow access to skiers, snowshoers, snowmobilers, ice climbers and others.

- Though dogs are allowed in most areas of the national forest, owners must keep them on a leash or under voice control at all times. While traveling maintained Nordic trails, skiers should leave pets at home. Paw prints and feces damage groomed surfaces. Dogs are welcome companions on all primitive or unimproved trails.

- Never allow dogs to chase wildlife or domestic livestock.

- All backcountry users should know how to use an avalanche beacon, probe and shovel, and have them along whenever venturing off the beaten path. Voyagers should always travel with at least one companion, and inform others where they're going and what time they'll return.

- While licensed hunters and anglers have paid a nominal surcharge to cover costs associated with a potential search and rescue, all others should buy a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Card. They are available online at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DOLA-Main/CBON/1251592090523> or at over 300 license retailers in the state. Keep in mind, possession of a hunting or fishing license, or search and rescue card, does not cover the cost of helicopter evacuation or air and ground ambulance services.

- For local avalanche information or forecasts, call Mark Mueller, Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) avalanche forecaster, at (970) 731-2486. More information can be found on the CAIC website at <http://avalanche.state.co.us>.

Wyndham Pagosa Activity Center

Photo courtesy Pagosa Photography



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Pagosa Springs: Popular for centuries

By Randi Pierce

Lists of the best places to go and things to do are all the rage these days.

And according to several of those lists, Pagosa Springs is also all the rage, from a feature about Pagosa Springs as an adventure town by none other than National Geographic (<http://adventure.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/trips/adventure-towns/pagosa-springs-colorado/>) to news stations and lifestyle magazines touting our world-famous hot springs, public lands and majestic views.

“Surrounded by the 2.5-million-acre (1-million-hectare) San Juan National Forest and overshadowed by the 12,000-foot (3,658-meter) peaks of the San Juans, this Rockies outpost shares much of the same terrain as Durango, 60 minutes west — with fewer crowds. So chances are good you’ll find room in

the new Pagosa Hut and Trail System, a 36-mile (58-kilometer) network of backcountry paths. Bonus: Pagosa averages 300 sunny days a year,” the National Geographic feature starts.

But all the attention isn’t new.

In fact, Pagosa has been a destination for a lot longer than these lists have been around.

Wolf Creek Pass, located just minutes from Pagosa Springs, has long been a center of attention, including in a 1975 song named for and written about the pass by C. W. McCall to scenes filmed on the pass for “National Lampoon’s Vacation” in 1983. Too, Wolf Creek Ski Area is well known to have the most natural snow in Colorado, drawing snow enthusiasts of all sorts.

But for even longer than that, the Great Pagosa Hot Spring, located in downtown Pagosa Springs, has been drawing

crowds, as have the beautiful (and useful) San Juan River valley and San Juan Mountains.

The area has been popular for centuries — beginning with Native American tribes who called the area home and Hispanic explorers who made their way north to the area.

And, seeing as they enjoyed — and in some cases worshipped — the medical benefits of the mineralized hot springs water, we're pretty sure it would have topped some lists back then, too.

After the U.S. gained control of the area, the Army sent an expedition through Pagosa Country that included several scientists who mapped the route and rendered exquisite line drawings of both the Great Pagosa Hot Spring and what is now Chimney Rock National Monument — the first description of the area written in English.

Soon after, in 1860, gold was discovered in the San Juan Mountains and, for the next 30 years, it was the place to be, with a steady stream of prospectors and supporters flowing through Pagosa Country.

That popularity was enough to agitate the Southern Ute tribes, causing the U.S. to send troops into the area. In 1878,

Fort Lewis was established where downtown Pagosa Springs now stands, with Pagosa Springs located on the opposite bank of the river at the time.

And while the Old West largely disappeared, Pagosa Springs kept chugging along, through good times and bad. Then, in 1970, land developers were drawn to Pagosa Country.

Since, the population of the area has increased dramatically and investors developed the Great Pagosa Hot Springs, as well as other unique characteristics of the area, into features that continue to draw attention.

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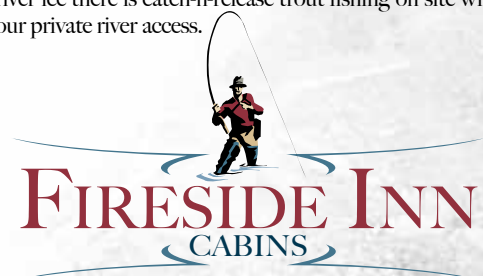
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Places to Stay



There's always life after recreation.

Leave yourself enough time and energy to explore our more civilized pursuits of arts and cultures.

Wintertime in Pagosa Country is white: Snow covers the top of the mountain peaks to the town nestled in the foothills. People wake with wide eyes to follow the snow's silent path from the sky to the ground. For those enthusiasts, one thought is running through their mind as they watch the snow — powder days. And up at Wolf Creek Ski Area, there are plenty of runs in the backcountry for people to make first tracks in that deep, satisfying snow. While an amazing treat for enthusiasts on most days, great amounts of snow also mean that, inevitably, trips to the slopes may not always be advisable or even possible, due to road conditions and avalanche mitigation efforts on Wolf Creek Pass. Or you may just want or need a break after days of playing in the snow.

If this happens, there is no need to panic. Not in this town. Pagosa offers plenty of alternative activities to help keep cabin fever at bay.

If you are visiting with a brood or simply as a couple, there are activities to keep those of all ages and interests entertained, from menu options palatable to a children's taste to art galleries.

Have the money and the time to be indulgent? Pamper yourself at one of Pagosa's day spas or therapy centers. Give yourself the gift of a full-day treatment or enjoy the wellness or feel-good options of your choice. Pagosa's spas offer every possible style of massage technique, skin treatment, facial, manicure and pedicure, tanning and even establishments with oxygen bars (we are at high altitude, after all). Our community is known for its wealth of massage therapists and the talents they possess. Pagosa also offers indoor hot mineral baths for those who don't want to brave the outside and cold. What a luxurious combination — a massage and soak. A combination that would make anyone melt with the pleasure of complete relaxation.

Have a miniature Van Gogh in the family? Well, the art enthusiast will have an enjoyable day of perusing the art galleries that Pagosa hosts. Visitors will be impressed with not only the variety and caliber of artistic talent in our community, but the diversity of the galleries in locations from just south of town at the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park (which could make for two activities at once) to SHY RABBIT on the west side — a contemporary art gallery providing exhibits of the work of nationally and internationally known artists, with a working ceramic arts studio.

Don't have a Picasso in the group, but a Michael Phelps instead? Don't worry; when athletes come to this town, we wear them out with invigorating activities. One of these activities is an indoor archery range complete with virtual reality archery video skill testing. First time with a bow? Then enjoy learning about the ancient sport in a positive, encouraging environment.

There are also recreation and physical activity classes offered at the Ross Aragon Community Center and elsewhere. And don't forget about burnin' up the dance floor with square dancing! The High Country Squares offer sessions for various levels of dancers.

Some people, though, come to town and start feeling lucky. If that's you, just a short distance away in Ignacio is the Sky Ute Casino, complete with gaming tables and a bowling alley.

If your group is split down the middle, the die-hard powder skiers and those who enjoy the snow for a day, but are looking for the rest, Pagosa has the rest.

Send out the die-hard skiers, snowboarders and snowmobilers for a day of fun in the high country, then relish your time spent in Pagosa at one of our many unique retail stores, restaurants, hot springs, spas or galleries.

First stop — shopping, of course!

Whether you are looking for a chic item, gifts, consignment or thrift store bargains, a souvenir, winter gear or a rugged outdoorsman knife, you can find it in one of Pagosa's many unique stores.

The close proximity of downtown shops offers the convenience of being able to walk from one to the next, all the while enjoying some of the sights in the area. But, don't forget shopping on the west side of town, where you'll find the latest in sporting goods and clothing, as well as a variety of hard goods and electronics. Both ends of town offer a variety of coffee shops with baked goods to warm up or appease your sweet tooth during a pit stop.

Looking for more ideas? Let the staff and volunteers at the Visitor Center assist you with ideas and your plans to make your indoor or outdoor activities memorable during your stay in Pagosa. How you enjoy Pagosa Country's delightful winters is up to you!

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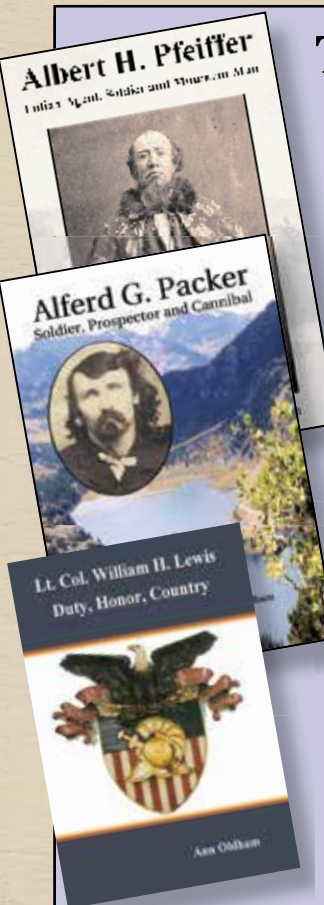


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Elktrace Bed & Breakfast www.elktracebedandbreakfast.com 970-731-5868	6		•		•	•		•	•		\$99 - \$149
Elkwood Manor Luxury Bed & Breakfast www.elkwoodmanor.com 970-264-9166	4		•		•	•		•	•		\$157 - \$175
Sunset Ranch Cabins & B&B www.sunsetranchcabins.com 970-264-0086	1	1	•	•	•	•				•	\$150

Condos and Houses

Alpine Mountain Getaway http://www.flipkey.com/p285848 970-946-1260	1	1			•	•		•	•		\$135 - \$185
Affordable Rentals by Team Pagosa www.lodgingpagosasprings.com 970-731-8599	125	125		•	•	•		•	•	•	\$75 - \$500
Dancing Bear Retreat www.dancingbearretreat.net 214-987-0438	1	1			•	•		•			\$400-\$600
Extra Holidays/Wyndham Pagosa www.extraholidays.com 800-438-6493	100+	100+		•	•	•	•	•	•		\$79 - \$250
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Lofts at the Metropolitan Hotel www.theloftatthemetrohhotel.com 970-264-4237	2	2			•	•		•	•	•	\$99 - \$200
Mountain Majesty Chalet www.mountainmajestychalet.com 800-460-2380	1	1		•	•	•		•	•		\$250 - \$480
Pagosa Central Reservations www.pagosaaccommodations.com 800-945-0182	91	91		•	•	•		•	•	•	\$75 - \$600
Pagosa Peak Rentals www.pagosapeakrentals.com 970-731-3007	2	2			•	•		•			\$155 - \$225
Pagosa Peak Vista Cottage http://www.flipkey.com/p380174 970-731-8877	1	1			•	•				•	\$99 - \$149
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Split Pine Cabin www.vrbo.com/446034 505-506-8808	1	1		•	•	•				•	\$200 - \$295
Sunetha www.sunetha.com 800-365-3149	100	100			•	•	•	•	•	•	\$85 - \$600
Toad Hall Colorado www.toadhallcolorado.com 512-626-8499	1	1			•	•					\$449
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EconoLodge www.chioce-hotels.com 970-731-2701	46		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$70 - \$100
First Inn of Pagosa, Inc. www.firstinn.com 800-903-4162	33		•	•	•	•		•	•		\$60 - \$110
Healing Waters Resort & Spa www.pshotsprings.com 800-832-5523	17	3		•	•	•	•	•			\$80 - \$150
High Country Lodge & Cabins www.highcountrylodge.com 800-862-3707	32	10	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	\$89 - \$169
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Pagosa Springs Inn & Suites www.PagosaSpringsInnSuites.com 888-221-8088	97		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$69 - \$180
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Sky Ute Casino Resort www.skyutecasino.com 888-842-4180	140			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$90-\$150
Sky View Motel www.skyviewpagosa.com 970-264-5803	15	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$57 - \$89
Springs Resort & Spa www.pagosahotsprings.com 800-225-0934	79	57		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$159 - \$650

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Pagosa Riverside Campground www.coloradodirectory.com/pagosariversidecamp 888-785-3234	86				•	•	•			•	\$24 - \$42
San Juan Motel & Cabins www.sanjuanmotel.net 800-765-0250	47	6	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	\$60 - \$145
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In 2005, four local women saw a need to feed the hungry of Pagosa Country, and over the years this group expanded, becoming more formalized until, in 2010, Loaves and Fishes received its nonprofit designation.

Each week, a different community organization prepares a meal that nourishes not only the body, but the soul.

The sponsoring group selects the menu for the week, assists with the cooking and serves the guests.

Loaves and Fishes operates in the Parish Hall of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church on Lewis Street in downtown Pagosa Springs, providing a meal in a safe, warm

and caring environment every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. All are welcome at this free weekly community meal and no questions are asked of the guests.

Those who come to enjoy the meal are from every walk of life. There are some who attend who are in need and who wonder where their next meal will come from. You will find others with a different sort of need: their heart hungers for companionship and kindness. You will find friends old and new sharing stories about their grandchildren and neighbors.

You will notice volunteers in the kitchen packing up meals to be delivered to the homes of our community's shut-ins.

Loaves and Fishes is a volunteer-run community meal program.

According to an article written by Sally Neel and printed in The SUN last year, "Loaves and Fishes, established in 2005, provides a hot and nourishing meal to up to 300 people each week, almost 15,000 per year. There are many in Archuleta County who cannot afford hot meals every day, some who do

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Flavor of Pagosa

not have even a means of cooking a hot meal. Loaves and Fishes assures that they receive at least one balanced and nutritious hot meal each week, free of charge. Loaves and Fishes volunteers are the hub of the organization. It is through their generosity of time, talent, and funding that the hungry are fed.

"The purpose of this organization, Loaves and Fishes of Archuleta County, Colo., serving as a faith based and community based organization, is to provide nutritious meals in a safe, warm, and caring environment, free of charge, to anyone who comes seeking nourishment and fellowship. The mission also is to provide access to community services and resources to those in need, while providing opportunities for volunteers to give of themselves in service to others."

Upon arrival at Loaves and Fishes, you are greeted at the door by members of the volunteering organization for that week.

Donors provide the food, while volunteers cook the meal and serve those in attendance. The process is smooth and efficient.

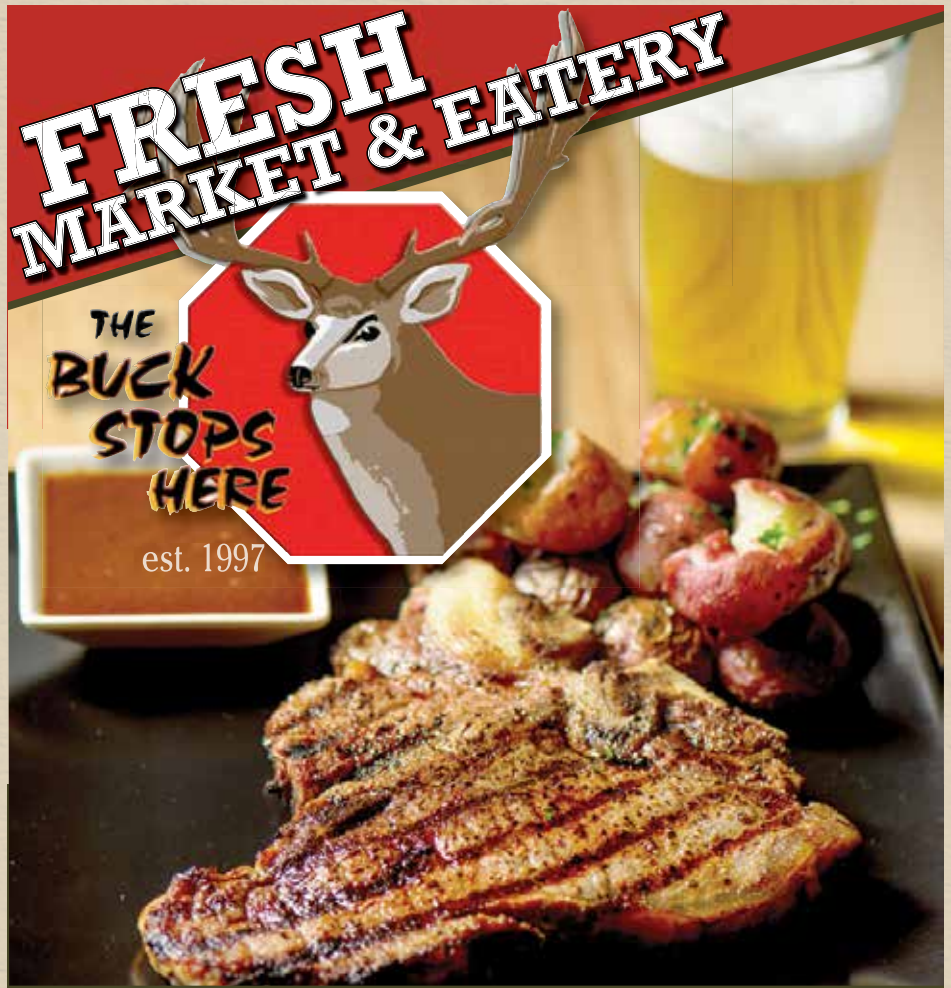
The meal that is served provides more than meets the eye.

It is a much-appreciated break from warming up a can of soup and sitting alone at your desk at work. For those who live alone, it is a social event. It is time to catch up on what your friends, neighbors and fellow Pagosans have been doing.

There is true joy in serving others, but with Loaves and Fishes, what you take away from the time that you share in getting to know your friends and neighbors in Pagosa Springs is priceless.

To truly get to know our community, stop by Loaves and Fishes for lunch.

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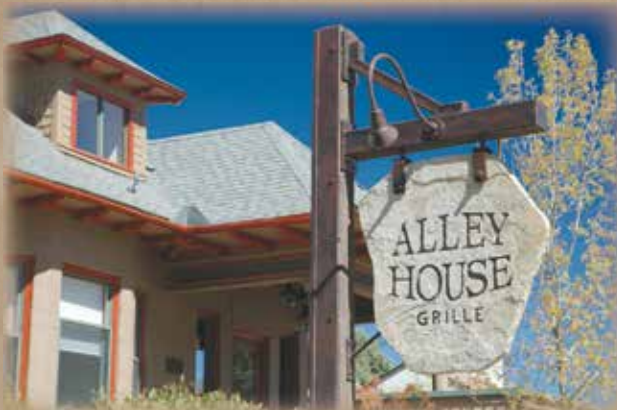
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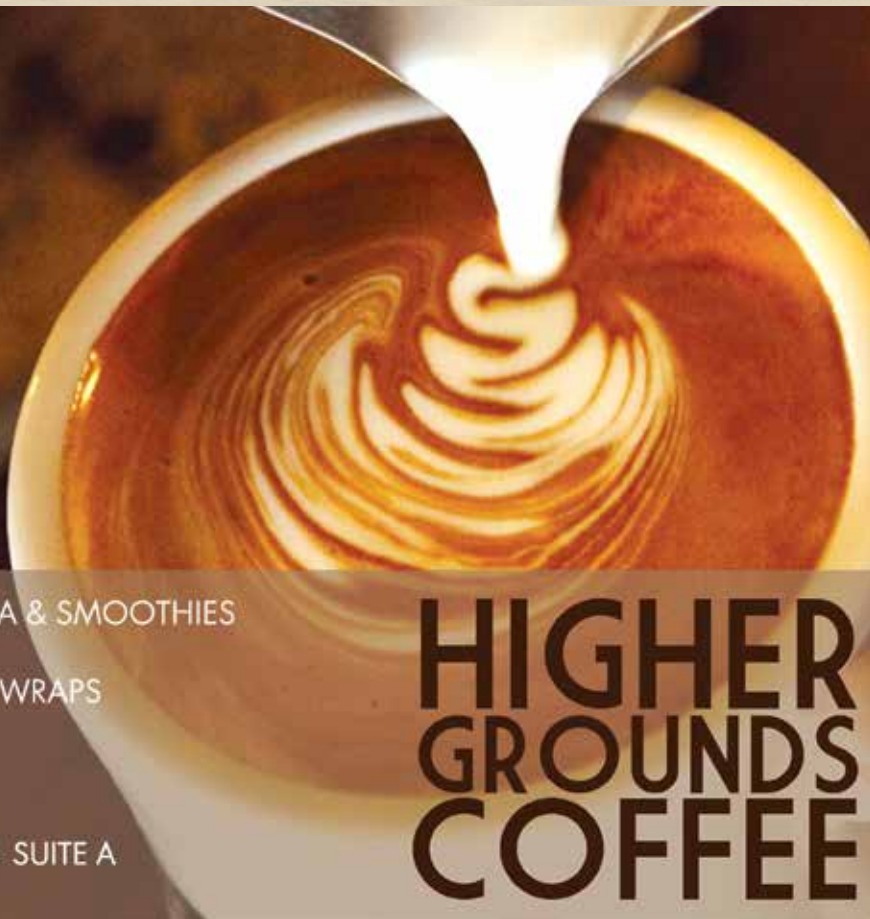
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Shopping in Pagosa is about exploration

By Randi Pierce

Since long before it was incorporated as a town, Pagosa Springs, and the whole of Archuleta County, has experienced the booms and busts associated with numerous industries, including trading between Hispanics and Native American tribes, prospectors seeking gold, lumber mills and railroads. Over time, the flags of several nations have flown over the area, and Native American tribes have inhabited the region, attesting to the air of exploration in the area.

But, through it all, Pagosa Springs stood firm, not falling to the same fate as many towns now listed among Colorado's ghost towns.

Instead, Pagosa grew into a mountain town better known to many for its natural resources and wealth of public lands than its former industries.

And while Pagosa has grown beyond the quaint downtown area that was once the location of an Army fort, the downtown has not been left behind.

It has, however, transformed.

Much of the necessities for daily life are now available elsewhere in town (although downtown shops might surprise you with their selection of everyday items), and many of the downtown shops now focus on those things that make life a little better.

It is also a melting pot, in a way — celebrating the history, cultures, events and natural surroundings that made it what it is today.

Thanks to the varied history and natural beauty and resources in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, Pagosa — the county seat — now not only stands firm, but is packed with

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Shopping

character, much of which is reflected in the goods you'll find for sale throughout town.

From cabin decor to signs that embody your views on life, natural products of all sorts, on-trend apparel, western wear and goods that epitomize the western way of life, handmade jewelry with a southwestern flair, furniture, antiques, art and more, you'll find it in historic downtown Pagosa Springs.

But that certainly isn't where the shopping ends. Or where the character of Pagosa ends.

On either end of town, you'll find more to browse and buy, including sporting goods, books, decorative knick knacks, one-of-a-kind art galleries, Pagosa-made edible goods (jelly, jam, fudge, chocolate, baked goods and restaurants of all sorts) and too much more to be listed — you name it and you'll likely find it.

And that's part of the fun: heading into a shop not knowing what might be around the next corner or what perfect gift you'll find for a loved one (or for you!). Even if you've been there before, it's likely to be the same unknown next time since business owners like to keep things fresh and modern (well, maybe not the antique stores).

And, in true small-town style, you won't often find the people working the stores (often the owners themselves) waiting at the

register for you to bring them money. Instead, they're often striking up conversations, finding that shirt in just the right size for someone, or letting someone know that if they don't have what you want, where in town will. In short, they're usually going above and beyond to make the shopping experience the best it can be for their customers.

Shopping in Pagosa, like much of our county's history and current character, is about exploration — seeing what's around the next corner.

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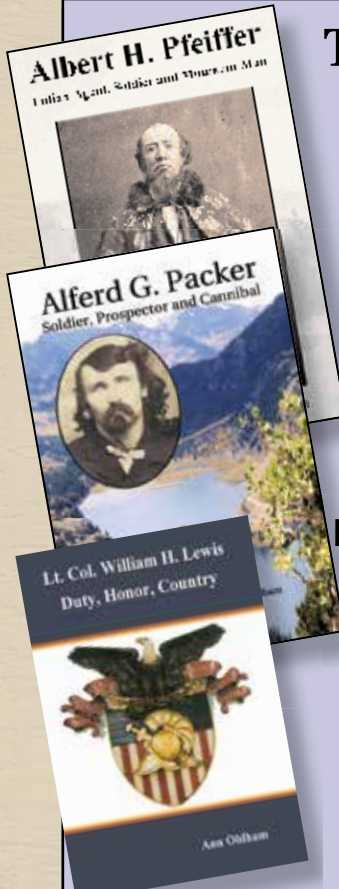
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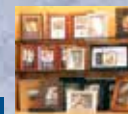


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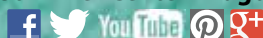
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Pagosa Springs: 'It's a place where there is an outdoor, sustainable way of life.'

By Ed Fincher

Last Spring, when Governor Hickenlooper was looking for a spot to sign new legislation related to geothermal energy, the gazebo in Pagosa Springs' Centennial Park, with the San Juan River and hot springs in the background, was obviously the perfect place to pick.

House Bill 14-1222 gives an incentive for investments in Colorado's growing geothermal industry by reducing the minimum threshold at which a county may issue bonds for the construction or expansion of a geothermal project from \$1 million to \$500,000. The bill also extends the repayment period for the bonds from 10 to 15 years.

Before signing the bill, the governor told a story about starting his microbrewery in Denver. It was the first business of its kind in the state of Colorado, and he just barely beat out

Carver's Brewery in Durango for that honor.

"There is an identity and a brand when you are first," Hickenlooper explained. "If you're the first at something that is really and truly green ... that's going to brand Pagosa Springs as a place where things are done differently. It's a place of innovation. It's a place where there is an outdoor, sustainable way of life."

The governor was referring to a plan by a local company, Pagosa Verde, to build a power plant just south of town that will be the first in the state to use geothermal energy to generate electricity.

"It's hard to make a living in rural Colorado," Jerry Smith from Pagosa Verde said. "Those of us that make a life here have found a connection to the history and the wild grandeur of the natural world that surrounds us. We've become an inde-

pendent, creative people that depend on each other and have a fierce commitment to the land.”

Smith recently explained that Pagosa Verde had received grants from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs totaling more than \$6 million.

“It’s a perfect project for Archuleta County and for Pagosa Springs,” Colorado Rep. Mike McLachlan said, “It will be a major contributor to your economy and it will assist in many ways in advancing our renewable requirements and protecting the environment.”

McLachlan was a sponsor of the bill the Governor signed.

“Pagosa Springs is going to own this forever,” Hickenlooper asserted. “It’s going to spread to other businesses here. This is the right time in the way the world is evolving.”

Furthermore, after the bill signing ceremony, the governor stopped at Riff Raff Brewing Company for lunch before heading to Ignacio for his next stop.

Riff Raff is the first brewery in the state, and possibly the nation, to use the heat from a geothermal resource to brew beer, thus proving the governor’s point even more. Pagosa is a place for innovative, environmentally conscious people.

Why so much snow?

The locals aren’t exaggerating— Pagosa Country really does have some of the best natural snow in Colorado, and the most of it!

If you don’t believe the local lore, check the stats; nearly every winter, an average of 39 feet falls on the area’s 12,000-foot alpine summits surrounding Wolf Creek Pass. One year, the total snowfall exceeded 75 feet.

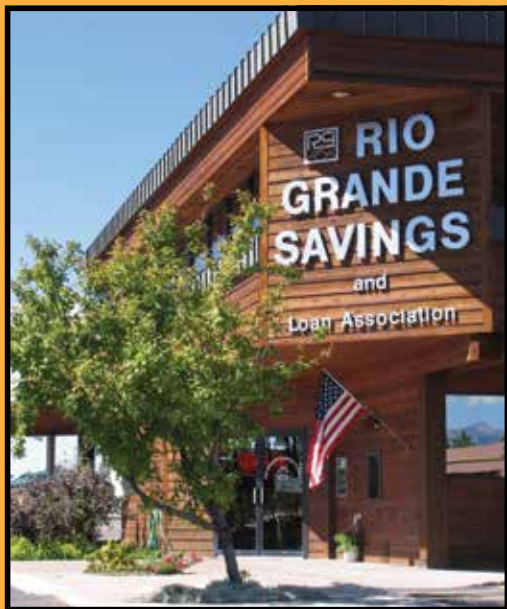
There’s no question; this is the reason powder hounds love Wolf Creek Ski Area. No other Colorado ski mountain can predictably offer as much untracked powder and packed powder as Wolf Creek.

Meteorologists attribute Wolf Creek’s consistent snow accumulation to the ski area’s location within the San Juan Mountains and to numerous high peaks around Pagosa Springs.

According to weather experts, as relatively warm, subtropical moisture from the Pacific pushes east over the southwestern deserts and eventually rises up to surmount the southern San Juan Mountains, it cools and further condenses, thus creating additional moisture. Because colder air holds less moisture, heavy winter precipitation falls in the form of light and powdery snow. The surrounding topography actually funnels this precipitation — referred to as “upslope weather” — to the ski area, thus producing some of the most and best snow anywhere in Colorado.

For winter sports enthusiasts, this means world-class skiing on the runs at Wolf Creek Ski Area, and outstanding cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling throughout Pagosa Country.

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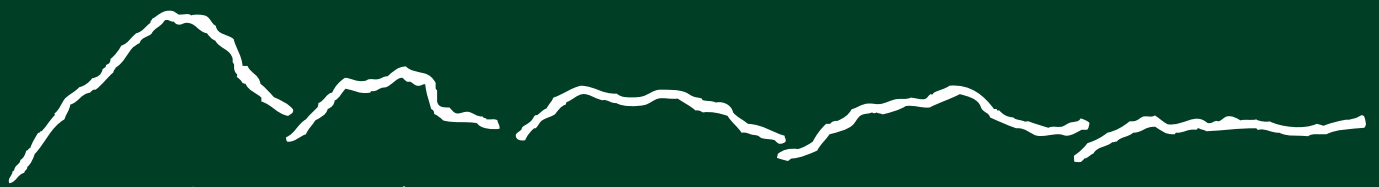


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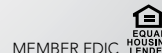
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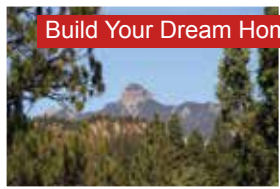
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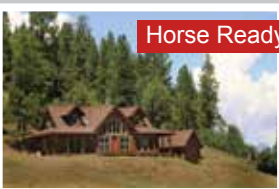


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We are proud to be part of the community and invite you to discover how we may assist you with your mortgage needs.



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Quality Home Builder

• Floor Plans •

You can choose from our plans or we can build from yours

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We offer our clients an, upfront, guaranteed price - no kidding.

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4-6 month completion time - start to finish.
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- Alder Wood Ceilings
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 - Leathered Granite
- Skip Sawn Hickory Wood Floors
 - Huge Rock Fireplace
 - Douglas Fir Beams

Contact Tim today to discuss a start date for your home!

970-946-2768

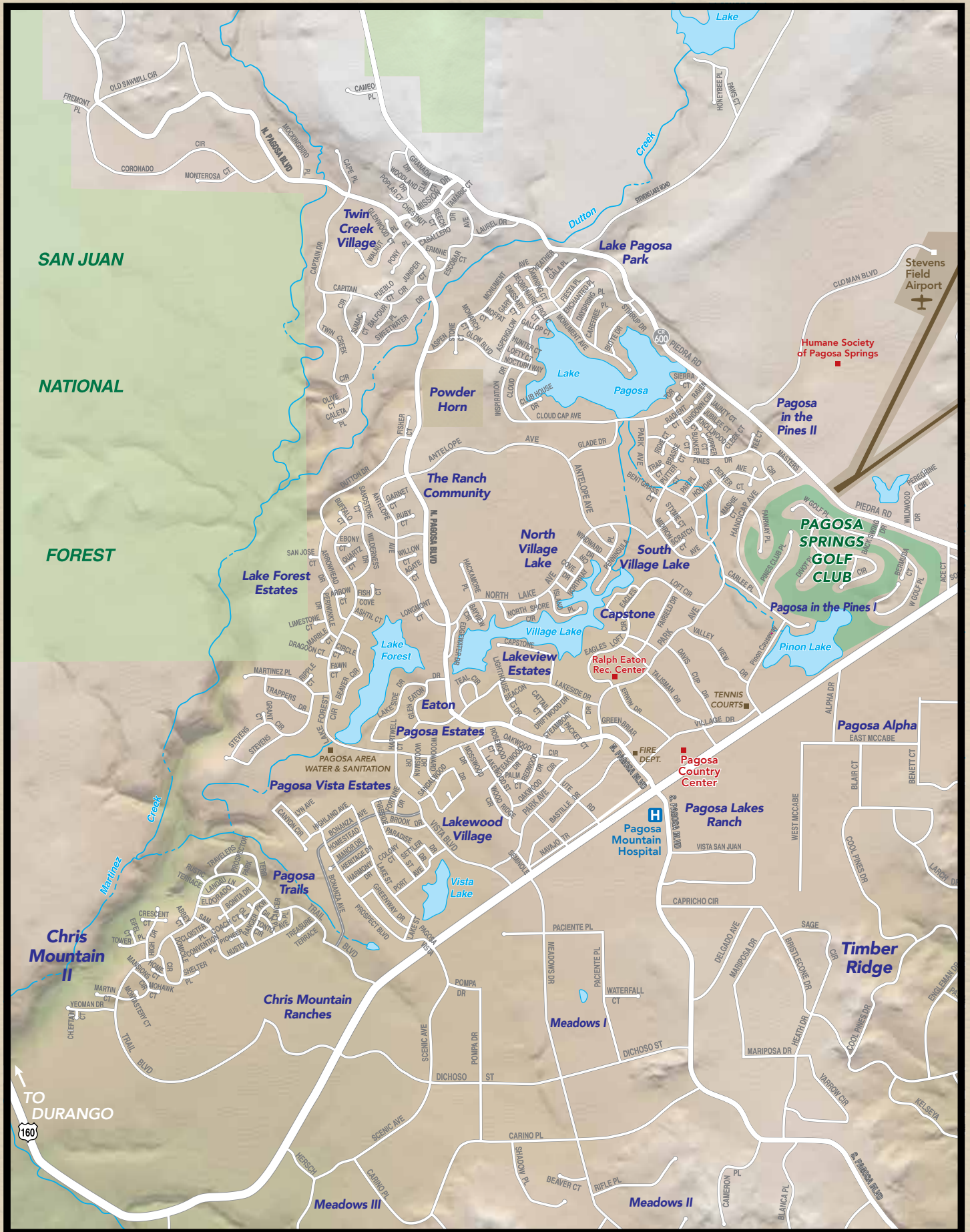
Tim Brown
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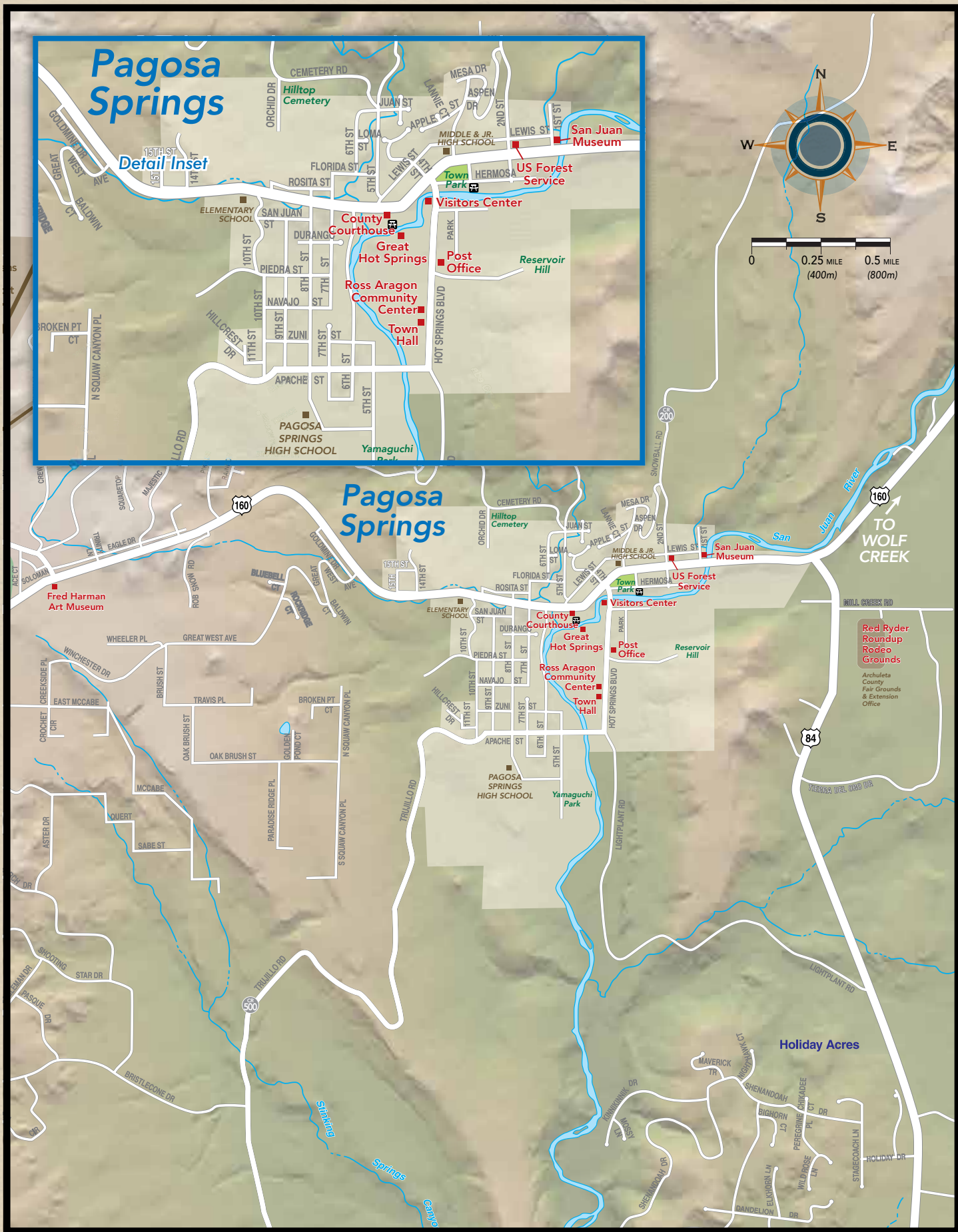
tim@timbrownconstructionllc.com

P.O. Box 3205, Pagosa Springs, CO

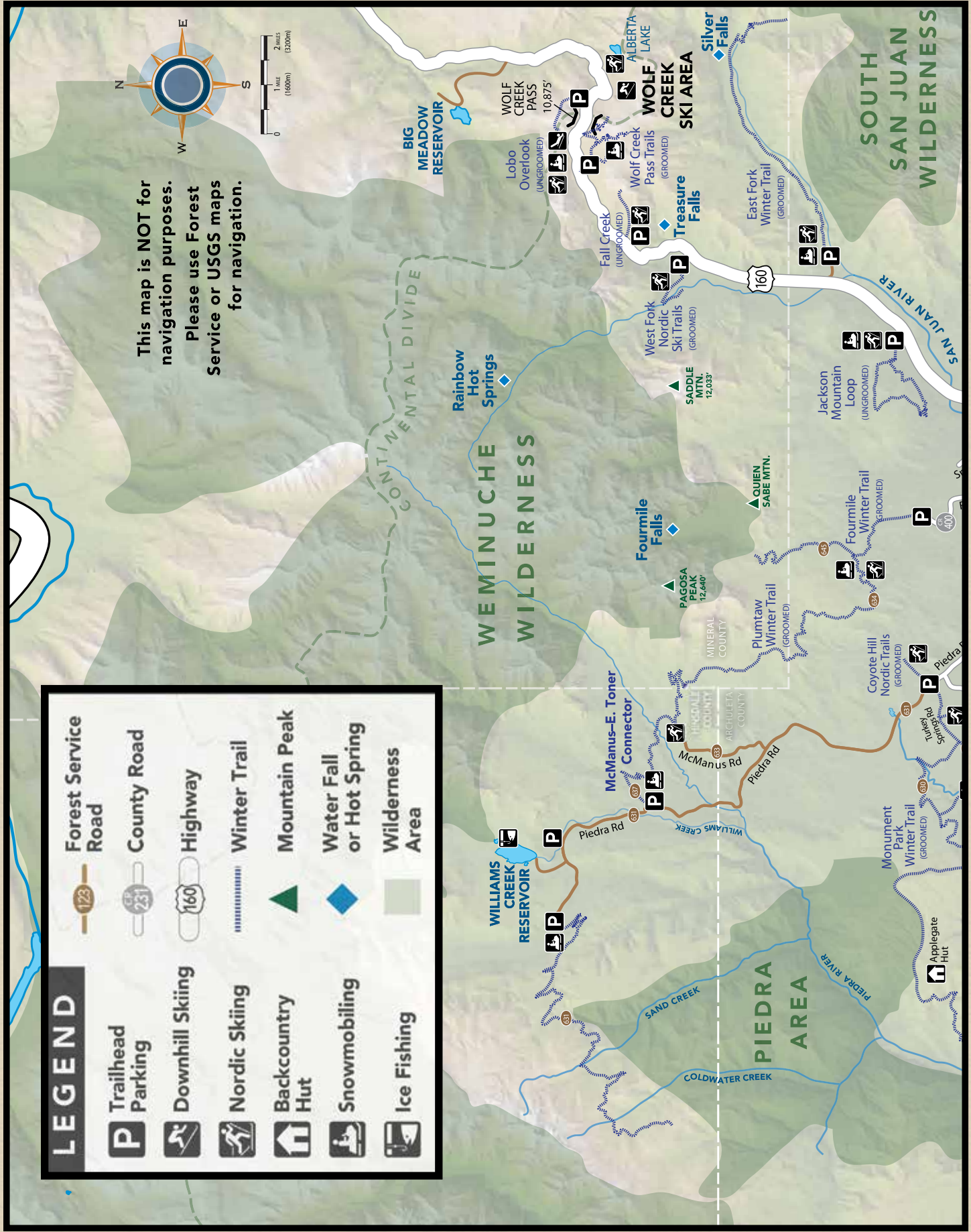
Town of Pagosa Springs Map



Town of Pagosa Springs Map



Pagosa Springs Area Recreation Map

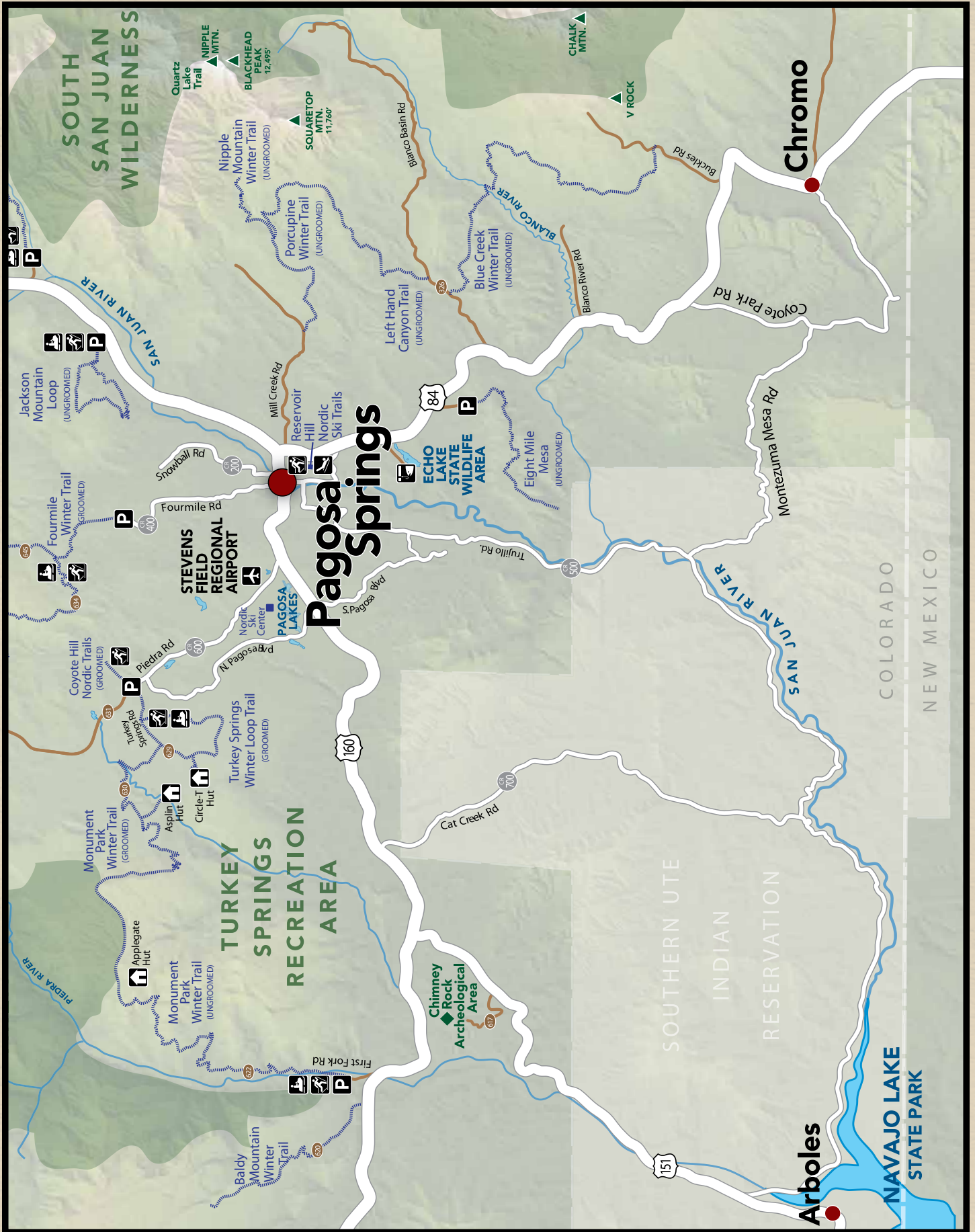


This map is NOT for navigation purposes. Please use Forest Service or USGS maps for navigation.

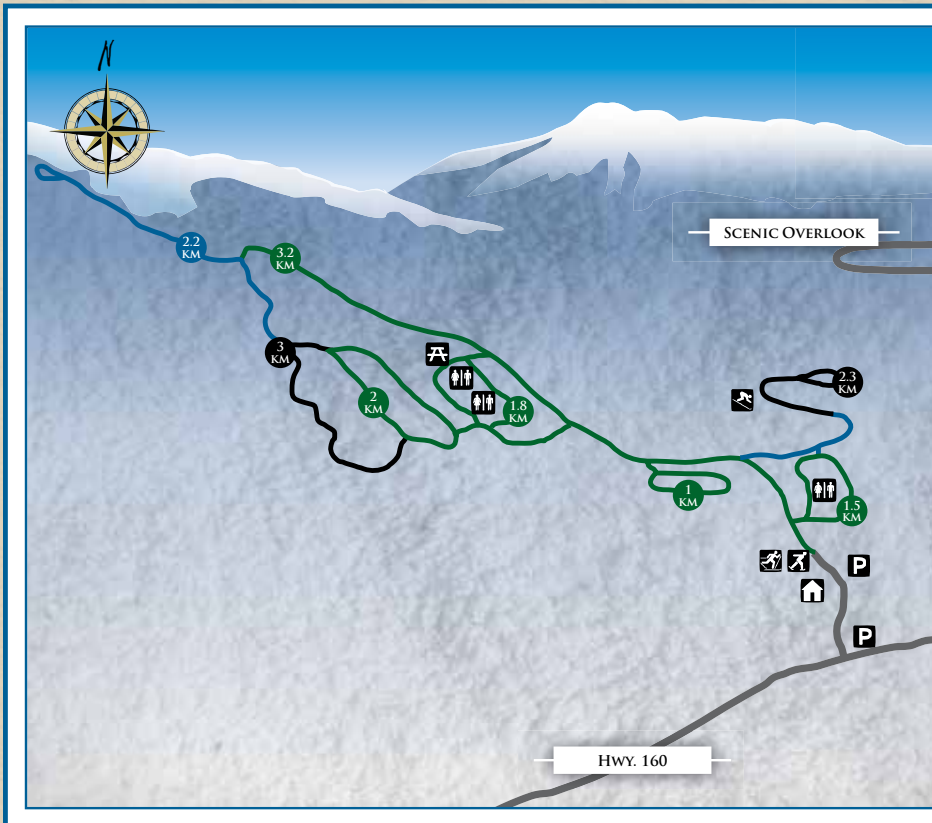
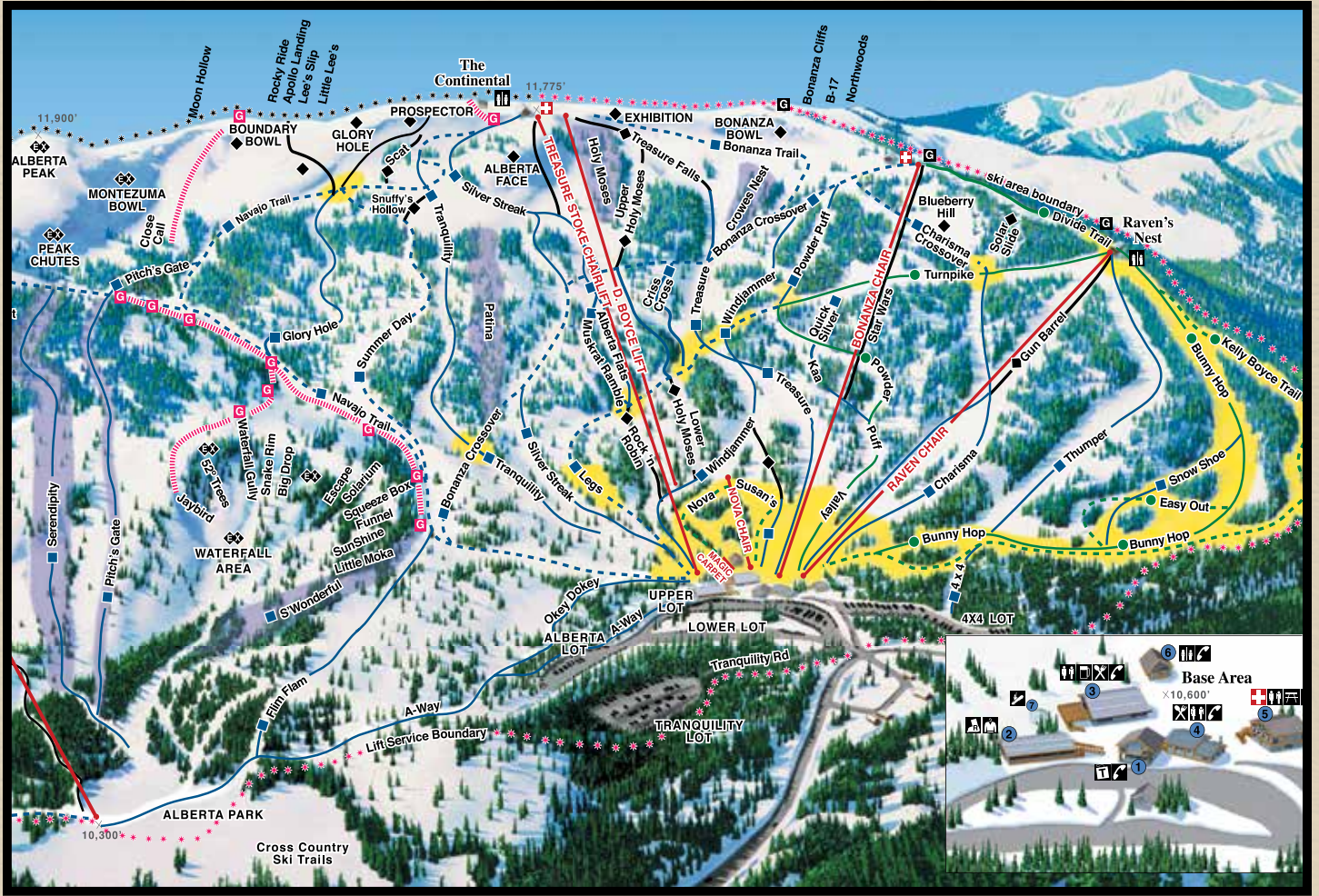
LEGEND

Trailhead Parking	Forest Service Road	County Road	Highway
Downhill Skiing	Winter Trail	Mountain Peak	Water Fall or Hot Spring
Nordic Skiing	Backcountry Hut	Snowmobiling	Wilderness Area
Ice Fishing			

Pagosa Springs Area Recreation Map



Wolf Creek Ski Area Map & Groomed Nordic Ski Trails



WEST FORK GROOMED NORDIC SKI TRAILS

- Easiest, mostly flat
- More difficult, some hills
- Most difficult, steep hills
- Roadway
- (KM) Approximate Distance
- Groomed Trailhead
- Parking
- Telemark Ski Area
- Lodge
- Picnic Table
- Restroom

Groomed for snowshoeing, classic cross-country and skate skiing. The area is a great family and beginners area.

Drive 12 miles east of Pagosa Springs on Hwy. 160. Look for the Bruce Spruce Lodge sign on the left side of the road. Turn left onto the West Fork Forest Service road.

Downtown Pagosa Springs Recreation Map



TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS ELEVATION 7,000'

LEGEND

- Road or Highway
- Riverwalk Trail
- Nordic Trail
- River/Pond
- Park
- Traffic Light
- Parking
- Government Offices
- Post Office
- School
- Visitor Center
- World's Largest Hot Spring
- The Wave
- Geothermal Greenhouse
- Ice Skating
- Snowshoeing & Nordic Skiing
- Sledding
- Forest Service
- Museum

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PAGOSA'S BEST MASSAGE

From our Guestbook .. Our customers say it best....

Wonderful, therapeutic and healing
at a great price and the staff
is helpful and pleasant.

Can't wait to return

Andrea Robillard
Austin, TX

I have had the most enchanting
& fortuitous time here, I will be
back, and Jen is so accomodating
and offers excellent top of the
notch customer service!

Trish Redwood

Amazing massage and an amazing experience! Thank
you so much! I feel healed from the whole
bit! Kati J

We've come here almost every day of
our a week vacation and just can't get
enough. The atmosphere is elegant & relaxing,
the people who work the desk are delightful and
the tubs are most definitely healing. Loved the
view and the people we met. Our massages were
fabulous. Couldn't have been better.

Susan & Joe, Georgetown Texas

What an unexpected & lovely surprise.
Suzanne had the most healing hands
& what a treasure she was I will
be back. Anken Erikson

SD FIVE + Demi MALWAR 2/19/11

The private tub with candles + wine is a must!
Coiled off on the roof tubs and enjoyed the
fantastic views. We'll be back again. Absolutely
wonderful!

I am SO glad it rained
this morning and chased us
in your dirt! Wonderful massage,
great staff, and we loved the
rooftop. We'll be back!

SM

What a relaxing and tranquil place!
MUCH better than your friends across the road!
Great service and very clean. We will
recommnd you to MANY!

Brynn
Rae

Judy was fantastic!
The Swedish massage felt
so good that she put
me to sleep twice! Best
massage ever!
♥ Dayton

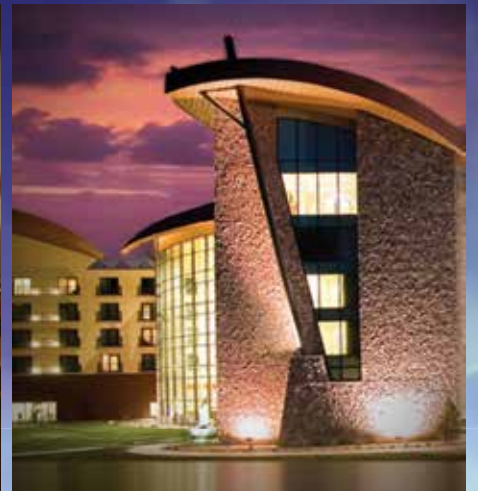
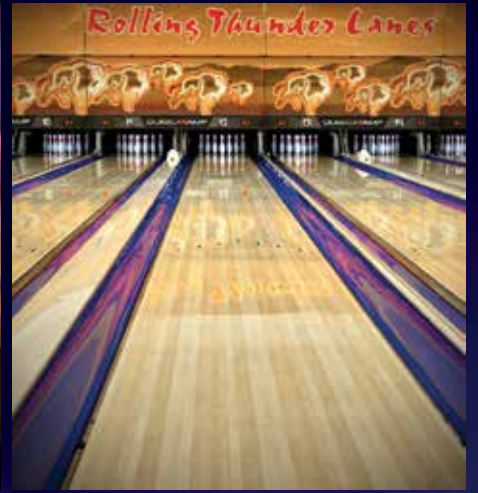


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