

PAGOSA SPRINGS

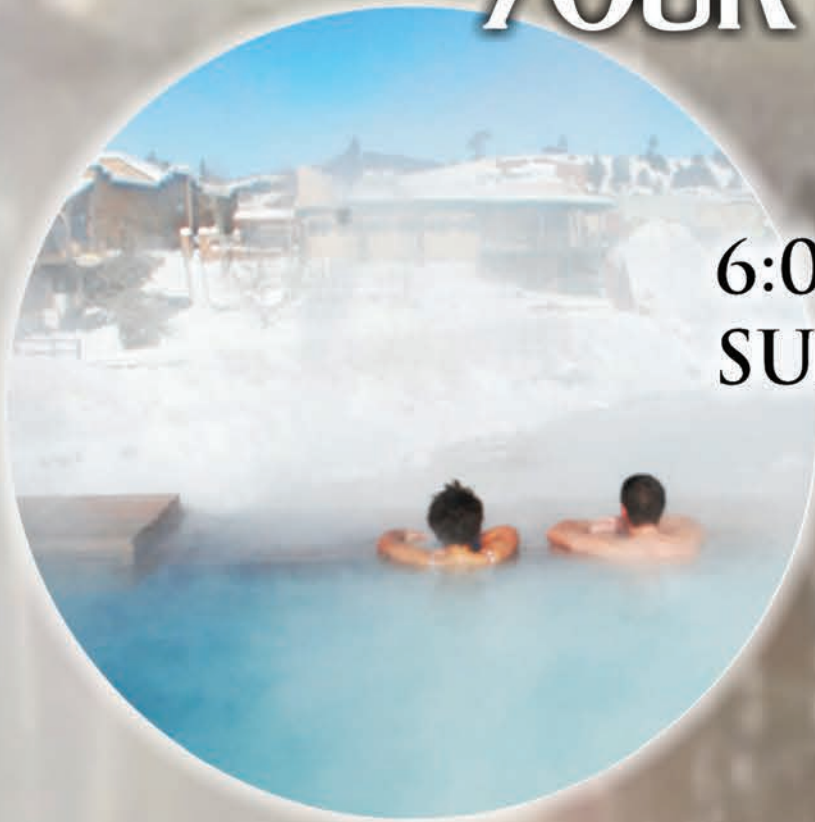
OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™



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

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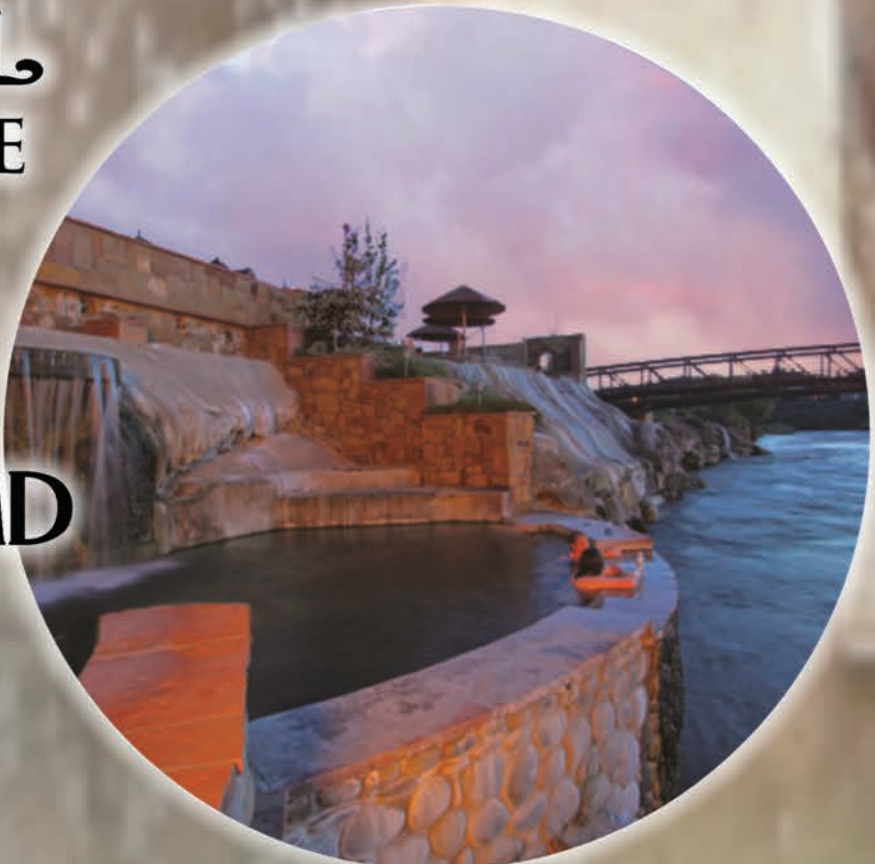


WORLD'S DEEPEST GEOTHERMAL HOT SPRING

12:00PM **PLAY**
MAKE MEMORIES



5:00PM **REVEL**
BAR & LOUNGE



8:00PM **UNWIND**
SUNSET SOAK





Layne

Stan

Chris

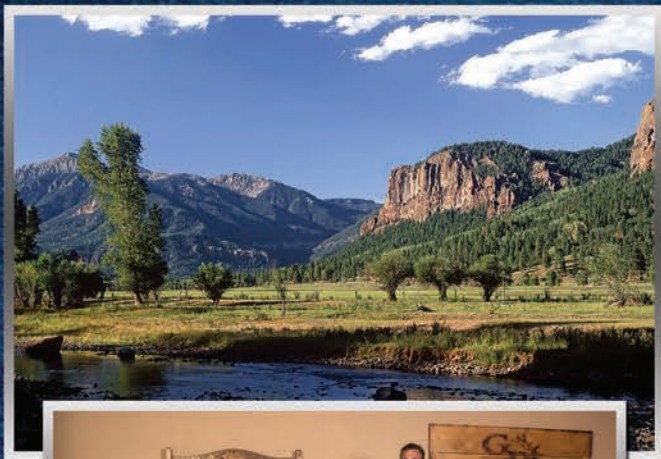
Steve

Lindy

Bill

Ed

LET US HELP YOU DISCOVER THE PAGOSA SPRINGS LIFESTYLE . . .



It has been said that Pagosa Springs is Colorado's "Best Kept Secret." We couldn't agree more.

With 300+ days of sunshine a year, truly unlimited recreational activities and magical mountain views, Pagosa Springs offers a distinctive lifestyle that is unmatched.

We are passionate about this place we call home. We don't just work here - we live the lifestyle. And as the area's leading team of brokers since 2006, we are dedicated to working with you every step of the way.



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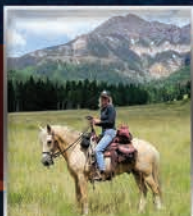
Brent

Peggy

Juli

Eddie

Tim



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HANDCRAFTED LUXURY

Stunning 5,583 sq. ft. log home and 1,161 sq. ft. heated shop w/guest home bordering National Forest in the Reserve. Beautiful craftsmanship throughout. Paved roads, hike, ride & snowmobile out back gate. Offered furnished. \$2,950,000. (709776)



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. (679749)



ECHO CANYON EQUESTRIAN

45.32 acres with a beautiful main home with finished basement, oversized detached shop with guest apartment above and 2,160 sq. ft., 8-stall Morton barn with heated watering system and hay and tack storage. \$1,250,000. (710146)



ROCKIN' R RANCH

The Horseman's Dream! Beautiful 4,897 sq. ft. home on 35+ acres with huge mountain views, 2 barns, an outdoor arena, round pen, 2 sheds, National Forest access and magnificent mountain and valley views. \$1,195,000. (690195)



REDUCED - BEST ON TOUR

Stunning handcrafted 4,469 sq. ft. log home in an alpine setting on 35 acres bordering National Forest. Hunting & fishing out the back gate with lush pasture supported by water rights. Nice place to build a barn. \$1,125,000. (694175)



SAN JUAN RIVER RETREAT

Wonderful 4,142 sq. ft. home perched above the San Juan River on the way to Wolf Creek with great views. 3 bedrooms and 3.5 baths in the main living space, plus a separate apartment downstairs with an additional kitchen & 2 bedrooms. \$769,900 (704654)



BIG VIEWS ON 5+ ACRES

Beautiful 4,057 sq. ft. home on 5.08 acres with main level living, nice Master Bedroom, sunny kitchen and an open floor plan with guest or mother-in-law quarters on the lower level. Oversized garage with shop area, nice decking. \$569,000. (702674)



TWIN CREEK VILLAGE

Wonderful 3,700 sq. ft., 3 bedroom home on 3 consolidated lots with many upgrades, an open floor plan, 2nd family/game room and sun room. Paved drive, 3-car garage with shop area, mountain views. Nicely treed with wrap-around deck. \$499,000. (709727)



EQUESTRIAN BUILDING SITE

Extraordinary 35.35 acre parcel 1 mile east of town with mountain views, water rights, easy access and private building site. 30 irrigated acres, irrigation system, hay production, fenced/cross fenced, horse setup. No restrictions, public water. \$495,000. (710220)



LAKE FOREST DREAM HOME

Beautiful 3 bedroom, 1.75 bath lakefront home on .29 acre in core area. Light and bright floor plan with vaulted ceilings and wonderful natural light. Nice trex deck outside, great mountain and lake views. \$365,000. (707760)



SADDLE MOUNTAIN TOWNHOME

This wonderful 3 bedroom townhome in sought-after Saddle Mountain offers mountain views and is close to restaurants, golf, rec center and shopping. Open floor plan, hickory wood flooring and hickory cabinets, rock fireplace – the list goes on! \$325,000. (710823)



Stop by one of our offices or visit our website for our latest **HOT LIST!**

You can also search all area **MLS listings!**

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Pagosa Springs, CO | 970.264.1250



GALLES
PROPERTIES

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Welcome

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 nonprofit 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.

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

RANDI PIERCE

Shopping?

We've Got
Homes, Townhomes, Condos,
Large Acreage, Small Acreage,
Resort Homesites,
Commercial Properties,
Business Opportunities
And More!



Selling?

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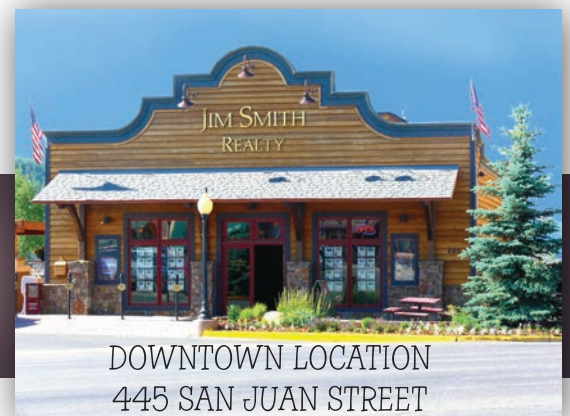


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Frequently Asked Questions

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	Month	High	Low
Jan.	43°F	8°F	July	87°F	48°F
Feb.	47°F	14°F	Aug.	84°F	48°F
March	55°F	21°F	Sept.	77°F	39°F
April	63°F	26°F	Oct.	67°F	29°F
May	73°F	33°F	Nov.	53°F	19°F
June	82°F	39°F	Dec.	43°F	10°F

Is there a medical facility?

- Pagosa Springs Medical Center has a critical access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd.
- Hospital and EMS services available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- PSMC's Primary Care Clinic and Wellness Center are available 6 days a week by calling (970) 731-9545, and other private practices exist.
- 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 FBO	(970) 731-2127
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library	(970) 264-2209
Victim Assistance	(970) 264-9075

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Pagosa Springs

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.



REG LARKIN

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.

All the World is a Stage... and we have the best seats.

Thingamajig Theatre & Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts present the 2015-2016 winter season



Photo Compliments of Douglas Chapin Photography

The Pillowman

Oct. 9-Nov. 1, 2015

Halloween Monster's Ball

Oct. 31 • 7pm-Midnight

Artisans Black Friday (and Saturday!)

Nov. 27 & Nov. 28, 2015

The Night Cap Club Cabaret

Nov. 27-Nov. 29, 2015

White Christmas

Dec. 3-Dec. 29, 2015

New Years Eve Masquerade Ball

Dec. 31 • 7pm-Midnight

Moon Over Buffalo

Jan. 8-Jan. 31, 2016

nova: a modern ballet

Jan. 20 & Jan. 27, 2016

How to Eat Like a Child

Feb. 19-Feb. 28, 2016

A Few Good Men

May 12-June 5, 2016

EVERY MONTH: Mondays-Dance with Ryan and Wednesdays-Whadyacallit Drag

SHOWS & EVENTS RUNNING YEAR ROUND
FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION
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Thingamajig is in residence at the  **PAGOSA SPRINGS CENTER for the ARTS** 2313 Eagle Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO.



RANDI PIERCE

The Basics

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, where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet.

Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350
Persons per square mile — 9

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 land surrounding Archuleta County.

Population Archuleta County

2010 Census — 12,084
2011 Estimate — 12,013
2012 Estimate — 12,070
2013 Estimate — 12,202
2014 Estimate — 12,244

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 — \$279,700
Households — 4,881
Persons per household — 2.45
Per capita money income — \$29,793
Median household income — \$48,933
Persons below poverty — 9.7 percent

Taxes

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

Lodgers' 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 and 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:

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

Tourism and Business Development

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp.
pagosaspringscdc.org
(970) 264-2360
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
(970) 264-2360, (800) 252-2204
pagosachamber.com
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board
(800) 252-2204
visitpagosasprings.com

Related Web Site Links and Info

Pagosa Springs Area 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 M. Sisson Memorial Library
(970) 264-2209, pagosalibrary.org
Stevens Field Airport
(970) 731-3060, www.stevensfield.com
AWOS frequency 127.175, (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
New Mexico Road Report
(800) 432-4269, nmroads.com

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. Archuleta County has multiple licensed retail stores, while the Town of Pagosa Springs only began accepting applications for such licenses this fall.

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.



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Ortho + Surgery 970.585.1445 Wellness 970.731.1533
95 S. PAGOSA BLVD. pagosamed.org

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PHARMACY + INFUSION PRENATAL + PEDIATRIC CARE LAB OUTREACH PARAMEDICS



Calendar of Events

Every Sunday

Bingo

6 p.m., Parish Hall. Open 5 p.m., bingo 6-8 p.m. Concessions, cash prizes.

Nov. 3

Americana Project Concert featuring Songs of the Fall

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School. Featuring five-time Grammy nominee Cia Cherryholmes and Stetson Adkisson. Americana Project class students will open the show. Tickets are \$10, available at the door.

Thursdays through Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Lifelong Learning Lecture Series Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Variety of topics. pagosalibrary.org

Nov. 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mountain View Homemakers Holiday Bazaar

Ross Aragon Community Center. Fifty booths, assortment of Christmas decorations, pottery, jewelry and more. Facebook: Mountain View Homemakers

Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Community Band Fall Concert

Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium

Nov. 11 at 6 p.m.

Whadyacallit Drag Wednesday

Thingamajig Actor Taylor Marrs will lead the way as a fabulous wisecracking Drag Queen who hosts wild and wacky party games. pagosacenter.org

Nov. 14

Lego Contest

Submissions must be turned in at Lego Club at 10:30 a.m. Prizes for each age category: preschool, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17, adult 18 and up. Contact the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, (970) 264-2209.

Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.

Dance with Ryan!

Drop in and join the dance. Ryan will surprise you with a new genre every time. pagosacenter.org

Nov. 19, 20, 21, eves at 7 p.m.

Nov. 22, matinee only at 2 p.m.

"Hollydaze Too," A Broadway Revue with a little holiday

Curtains Up Pagosa! Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. curtainsuppagosa.org

Nov. 27 and 28 at 7 p.m., Nov. 29 at 2 p.m.

Night Cap Club Cabaret

Thingamajig performers celebrate Judy Garland and the people that influenced her career: Gene Kelly, Rosemary Clooney, Mickey Rooney, etc. pagosacenter.org

Dec. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 26, 28, 29 at 7 p.m. and December 6, 13, 20, 27 at 2 p.m.

"White Christmas"

Irving Berlin tells the story of two showbiz buddies putting on a show in a picturesque Vermont inn, and finding their perfect mates in the bargain. pagosacenter.org

Dec. 3, 4 and 5

Parade of Stores

pagosachamber.com

Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

Whadyacallit Drag Wednesday

Thingamajig actor Taylor Marrs will lead the way as a fabulous wisecracking Drag Queen who hosts wild and wacky party games. pagosacenter.org

Thursday, Dec. 10 from 4-6 p.m.

Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo

Celebrate the holiday season with family fun for all at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. Seasonal crafts for all ages and a hot chocolate bar. pagosalibrary.org

Dec. 11, 12 and 13

Community Choir

Annual Christmas Concert

"Christmas is the Best Time of the Year" High School Auditorium, free admission.

Dec. 12 at 2 p.m.

Christmas Show

The children's class at Thingamajig Theatre will perform a show they wrote for the public. pagosacenter.org

Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.

Thingamajig Christmas Concert

Thingamajig's winter cast will warm your hearts at this magical family friendly Christmas Concert. pagosacenter.org

Dec. 31 at 7 p.m.

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts pagosacenter.org

Jan. 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 at 2 p.m.

"Moon Over Buffalo"

From the mind of Ken Ludwig comes a play that centers on husband and wife acting team George and Charlotte Hay, two fading stars of the 1950s. pagosacenter.org

Jan. 13 at 6 p.m.

Whadyacallit Drag Wednesday

Thingamajig Actor Taylor Marrs will lead the way as a fabulous wisecracking Drag Queen who hosts wild and wacky party games. pagosacenter.org

Jan. 16

WinterFest Penguin Plunge

pagosachamber.com

Jan. 16 and 17

WinterFest Balloon Rally

pagosachamber.com

Jan. 18 at 6 p.m.

Dance with Ryan!

Drop in and join the dance. Ryan will surprise you with a new genre every time. pagosacenter.org

Jan. 20 and 27 at 7 p.m.

nova: a modern ballet

Thingamajig choreographer Ryan Hazelbaker's original work about The Moon and her two Sons, Ares and Orion and their sibling rivalry for their mother's affection. pagosacenter.org

Feb. 10 at 6 p.m.

Whadyacallit Drag Wednesday

Thingamajig Actor Taylor Marrs will lead the way as a fabulous wisecracking Drag Queen who hosts wild and wacky party games. pagosacenter.org

Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.

Heart Beat Ball

Pagosa Springs Medical Center's annual fundraiser at Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts. pagosacenter.org

Feb. 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 21, 28, at 2 p.m.

"How to Eat Like a Child"

This hilarious romp through the joys and sorrows of being a child. pagosacenter.org

Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.

Dance with Ryan!

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March 9 at 6 p.m.

Whadyacallit Drag Wednesday

Thingamajig Actor Taylor Marrs will lead the way as a fabulous wisecracking Drag Queen who hosts wild and wacky party games. pagosacenter.org

March 21 at 6 p.m.

Dance with Ryan!

Drop in and join the dance. Ryan will surprise you with a new genre every time. pagosacenter.org

March 26 at 5 p.m.

Whatchamawhozit's Improv Showcase

Thingamajig's youngest thespians will surprise you and delight you with their quick wit and wild imaginations. pagosacenter.org

April 15 at 6 p.m.

Thingamajig Theatre Company's Birthday

Come celebrate as Pagosa's beloved Thingamajig Theatre turns 5 years old!

Wolf Creek Ski Area Events

Nov. 6	Tentative Opening Day
Nov. 7 & 8	Ski School Hiring Clinic
Nov. 8	College Day
Nov. 11	Local's Day
Nov. 15	College Day
Nov. 17	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Nov. 18	Local's Day
Nov. 21	Cosmic Race
Nov. 30	Local's Day
Dec. 2	Local's Day
Dec. 5	Ladies' Clinic
Dec. 6	Telemark Clinic
Dec. 6	College Day
Dec. 8	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Dec. 9	Local's Day
Dec. 12	Fun Race
Dec. 24 & 25	Santa Visits the Ski Area
Jan. 9	Fun Race
Jan. 9	Camp Robbers
Jan. 9	Ladies' Clinic
Jan. 10	Local's Day
Jan. 12	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Race
Jan. 20	United Way Day
Jan. 23	College Day
Jan. 23	Camp Robbers
Jan. 23	Ladies' Clinic
Jan. 24	Fun Race
Jan. 27	Local's Day
Jan. 30	Telemark Clinic
Jan. 30	Camp Robbers
Jan. 31	Fun Race
Feb. 6	Camp Robbers
Feb. 6	Ladies' Clinic
Feb. 7	Local's Day
Feb. 7	Super Bowl Race
Feb. 9	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Feb. 14	Valentine's Day Race
Feb. 20	Telemark Clinic
Feb. 21	Washington's Day Race
Feb. 21	College Day
Feb. 24	Local's Day
Feb. 27	Fun Race
Feb. 28	College Day
March 1	Baby Boomers' Clinic
March 2	Local's Day
March 5	Fun Race
March 5	College Day
March 12	Spring Fling Race
March 12	Ladies' Clinic
March 19	Fun Race
March 26	Telemark Clinic
March 26	College Day
March 27	Local's Day
March 27	Easter Race
March 27	Easter Bunny visits ski area
March 29	Baby Boomers' Clinic
March 30	Local's Day
April 2	College Day
April 3	Local's Day
April 3	Fun Race
April 3	Closing Day



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Nordic club events

Free Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinics
Saturdays: Dec. 12, Jan. 9 and Feb. 6
10 a.m.-noon

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.

Third-annual Season Opener
BB Gun Biathlon
Sunday, Dec. 13

It is no secret that the San Juan Mountains receive the most snow in Colorado, which results in excellent early season skiing conditions. Join us Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Wolf Creek Ski Area for the season opening 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. Kids course will be set based on entries. Those 10 and older of all ability levels are invited. This weekend will get you warmed up and energized for the rest of the season.

Free Dog Harness Clinic
Saturday, Jan. 9

Teach your canine friend to pull you along! Canine skijoring is a great way to take your dogs out skiing while they pull you along. Learn the basic gear and techniques to get you and your dog off and running.

Pagosa Paw Dog Sled, Canine Skijoring and Cani-Cross Races
Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 23-24

A great spectator event. 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



PAGOSA NORDIC CLUB

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.

NordicFest Weekend Challenge Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 13-14

Two days of classic and skate skiing race events. The weekend includes classic and skate ski races of varying lengths, for the Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon, along with challenging long-distance courses. Citizens, competitors, families and kids welcome!

- Saturday, Feb. 13: Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon races for all ages. Four ski legs with three opportunities to shoot at targets.

- Sunday, Feb. 14: The Plumtaw Ultra 30 km/60 km Freestyle Nordic Race — a self-supported ultra long ski race for hearty Nordic souls.

Pagosa Springs Quad Challenge Sunday, March 6

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 in a warm geothermal pool. Race solo or as part of a team.

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.



TERRI HOUSE

WinterFest

WinterFest Weekend is the time to visit Pagosa Springs with all the fun activities going on, in addition to the great skiing at Wolf Creek Ski Area.

WinterFest 2016 is set for Jan. 16 and 17, just in time to rescue locals from the “winter blahs” and add a little spice to the winter months for residents and visitors alike.

Hot Air Balloon Rally: Hot air balloons will make a welcome return for this year’s WinterFest celebration.

Be sure to bring your camera to capture the splendor of winter as bright and colorful hot air balloons will rise above Pagosa Country with mass ascensions on Jan. 16 and 17.

Saturday’s mass ascension will take place in the downtown area against the gorgeous backdrop of the San Juan Mountains and next to the beautiful San Juan River. On Sunday morning, the balloons

will ascend from various locations on the west side of town.

Pagosa Penguin Plunge: Come out and cheer for your favorite Plungers on Saturday, Jan. 16, at 1 p.m., at 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 nonprofit organization. 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. Registration is through the Chamber of Commerce.

Since 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 these events and more festivities to be announced.



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Family Fun

JEN LINDBERG

Boy Scouts: Building a stronger community

By Randi Pierce

The Boy Scouts of America exists in many communities throughout the country, and this one is no different, as one might imagine, with the plethora of outdoor space available to explore and learn from. But Scouting is more than just camping and being prepared in the great outdoors.

According to the Scout Law, “A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.”

If you look around, it’s easy to see that Pagosa Country’s scouts are just that.

Local scouts can regularly be seen fulfilling the Boy Scout slogan, “Do a Good Turn Daily,” by picking up trash, putting out and picking up flags from the graves of veterans for Veterans Day, helping set up and tear down booths at the Mountain View Homemakers’ holiday bazaar (and selling popcorn), hosting a community pancake breakfast on Easter, helping with flag disposal ceremonies, appearing at community events such as the Fourth of July Parade, and more.

According to Jean Lindberg, scoutmaster for Troop 807 for the last five years and father of two scouts, that work not only gets the boys out in the community and noticed by their peers, but it also “gives the boy a good foundation and a good sense of responsibility for the community and how to help make the community stronger.”

In addition to service projects completed as a troop for the purposes of merit badges or simply to be good community members, each of the five ranks preceding Eagle Scout (the orga-

nization’s highest) require hours of community service. Among other requirements, the Eagle Scout rank requires boys to plan, develop and lead a service project for any religious organization, school or community.

“That’s one of the key things of Scouting,” Lindberg says, “is getting out there in the community and volunteering and helping.”

But the community service projects that have been completed over the years haven’t only benefitted the year-round, permanent residents (some certainly do, however) — they also benefit visitors to the community, as well as nearby communities.

Past Eagle Scout projects in Archuleta County have included installing flagpoles at churches and parks, planting flowers in front of the hospital, working on a church attic, building a gazebo at local fishing ponds, creating signs for a park, helping to create parking and landscaping at a senior center and creating a fire pit for a Christian camp, among others.

A couple projects completed by Pagosa scouts even benefitted a neighboring community — Chama, N.M. One scout spearheaded a project to install a kiosk in the town, while another created a hiking trail with a scale model of the solar system incorporated (which received national attention in the Boy Scout organization).

The completed projects not only better a scout’s community, but also serve as powerful examples of what programs such as scouting can do to better the individual and prepare them for a civic-minded life by fostering leadership, planning, public speaking and organizational skills beginning at a young age.

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Photos By Griz

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Magical Moments

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA

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 has been 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://wolf-creekski.com/wolf-creek-beginner-ski-school.php>. Equipment rental is not included in the ski school price. Check the Wolf Creek Ski Area page of this guide for more information on 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 nonfiction 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.

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.



KELLY LANIER



DOUG CHAPIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Whatever your soul seeks — skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, fishing, snowmobiling, soaking in the hot springs, shopping, sleeping and satiating your appetite for food or drink — Pagosa Country offers 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. Guests love it because the lift lines are short (with two high-speed quad lifts in operation), the runs are long and the prices are 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 ski school is renowned for its excellence, and there are plenty of fun programs for skiers and boarders 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.

In town, the club grooms trails on Reservoir Hill and in Yamaguchi Park. The West Fork trailhead located east of Pagosa Springs offers more opportunities.

If you would like to improve your Nordic skiing or snowshoeing skills, 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 spots favored by locals, 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).



PAGOSA NORDIC CLUB

In addition, The Friends of the Pagosa Multi-Purpose Pavilion have a structure that can be assembled and disassembled each season. The group is raising funds for a permanent location, but in the meantime it will offer this temporary skating rink.

Last year the rink was on the Town Park athletic field, but you can check www.pagosapavilion.org to see where it will be located this year.

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.

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. 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 rail 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.

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Pagosa's Past

By John M. Motter

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 descrip-



tion 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.

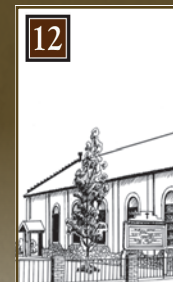
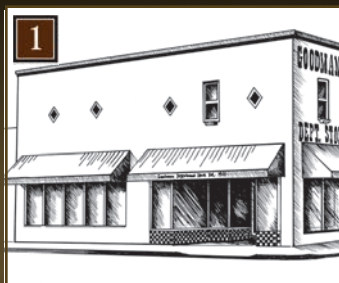
Colorado built a relatively modern highway over Wolf Creek Pass in 1916; trucks began to move most of the freight and telephones, electricity and central water came to town. Local folks were caught between the new and the old. Cattlemen continued to raise beef

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.



Downtown Historic Walking Tour

1. 402 Pagosa Street

Goodman's Department Store

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

2. 418 & 422 Pagosa Street

Metropolitan Hotel & Liberty Theatre

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

3. 426 Pagosa Street

Sparks Hardware

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

4. 452 Pagosa Street

The Hersch Building

Built by Alice Phillips in 1898 and owned by the Hatcher Brothers from 1905 to 1921, this build-

ing was purchased in 1921 and became Hersch Mercantile. The building operated as Hersch Mercantile until the 1970s and has held numerous social and business functions, as well as the law offices of former Colorado Attorney General Alonzo Hubbard.

5. 456 Pagosa Street

La Cantina

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

6. 468 Pagosa Street

Hatcher Hardware

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

7. 474 Pagosa Street

Citizens Bank

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

construction of the Wolf Creek Pass road. The original bank vault and Wells Fargo safe still remain inside.

8. 449 San Juan Street

Archuleta County Courthouse

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

9. 480 San Juan Street

Moorehead Garage

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

10. 468 Lewis Street

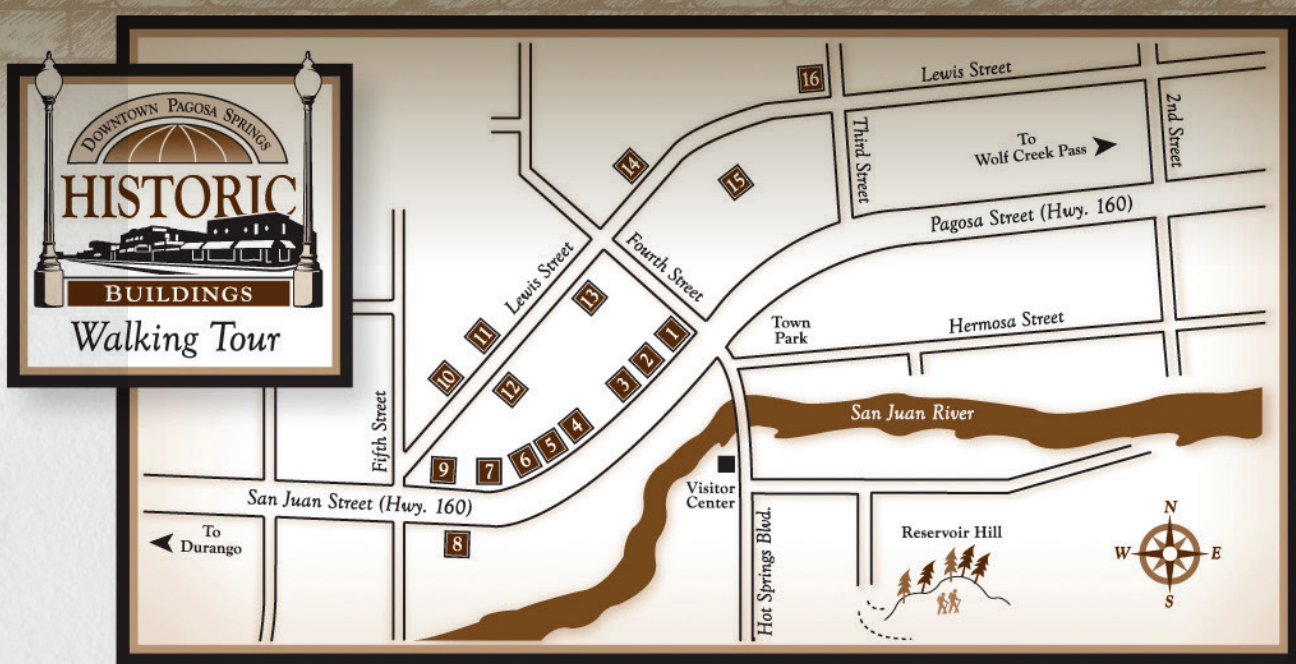
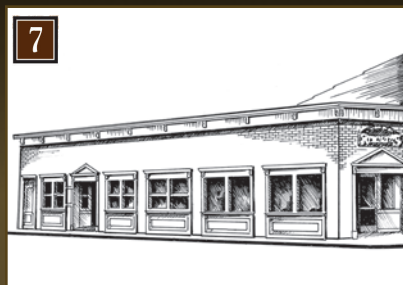
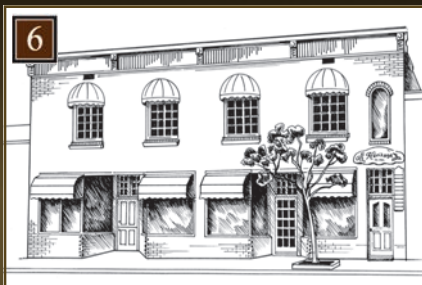
San Juan Supply

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

11. 444 Lewis Street

Sparks Residence

This ornamental concrete block building was constructed by Ethel Sparks in 1910. The home



ILLUSTRATIONS AND TOUR ©2007 TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

was purchased by Bryce and Julia Patterson in 1912. The Pattersons moved to town in 1904 and operated the Arlington Hotel and Bath House, which was across the street from the residence, until 1936.

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

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

**13. 409 Lewis Street
Ray's Hair Care**

Located where the old Fort Lewis military

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

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

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

**15. 338 Pagosa Street
Pagosa Springs Intermediate School**

Pagosa Springs' school was completely destroyed by fire in 1924. For a year, students attended school in churches, businesses and the Odd Fellows Lodge until this building, the new

school, was finished in 1925. The building was constructed to be totally fireproof, with ramps instead of stairs, which was thought to be safer. The school originally housed all grade levels; however, today the school accommodates only fifth- and sixth-grade students.

**16. 302 Lewis Street
Catchpole Residence**

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



RANDI PIERCE

Getting Here

Stevens Field Airport

Flying into Stevens Field, Archuleta County's airport, offers views not easily paralleled.

But those views are only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what the airport has to offer.

Stevens Field, a general aviation airport, has seen a great deal of improvement over the past several years, including a large parallel taxiway extension project that was just completed in the fall. The project improved safety for pilots using the facility.

Much of the major improvement work began in 2006, when workers widened and resurfaced Runway 1/19 and built a new fixed base operations terminal at midfield. Since, new hangars have appeared, an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) was installed and the FAA airport identifier became KPSO. 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 was put in at the north ramp.

Additionally, new, dedicated snow removal equipment was acquired, making winter operations smoother and more reliable.

In keeping with its commitment to Archuleta County and Stevens Field, the Federal Aviation Administration completed and published a GPS instrument approach for pilot use during nighttime and low-visibility landings.

Too, the FAA has funded up to 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 a portion.

The fully lit asphalt runway is 100 feet wide and 8,100 feet long. Located just 3 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, or to view webcams of the facility, visit www.stevensfield.com.

Fixed Base Operator

For aviation services or to visit Avjet Corporation, the fixed base operator, travel 3 miles west of town, then approximately 1 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 available on frequency 127.175 or by phone at (970) 731-0365.

Durango-La Plata Airport

The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers daily service with United, U.S. Airways and American Airlines. It also offers a full range of comfortable and convenient terminal services, including food, retail, 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 1 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



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-  Museum

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Rest & Relaxation



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

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

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

Inside, the Overlook also offers two private pools that can be rented by the hour by bathers who prefer to soak in a

more intimate setting; one of the two private pools also offers an attached private couple's massage room. Reservations are required for booking private pools and the massage room and the Overlook staff recommends at least 24 hours of lead time.

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

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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 hotel 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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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.



Play Outside

When adventure and empowerment collide

By Casey Crow

Stacy and Gregory Boone founded Step Outdoors seven years ago with the intent to empower women with knowledge and confidence in the outdoors.

The dynamic duo boasts over 30,000 foot miles of experience on the trails. Both have received Triple Crown Awards for the completion of the three renowned long-distance trails — the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail and Continental Divide Trail.

For Stacy Boone, backpacking has played a major role in moments of self-discovery throughout her life, an experience she aims to share with other women.

“It was designed with the idea that it would be for women who had not experienced something like this





before and had probably been told at some point in their life they couldn't."

Step Outdoors provides both short and long backpacking trips, including winter backpacking, day hikes, land navigation and guided snowshoeing.

Participants vary from complete beginners hoping to gain new knowledge of the outdoors, to those who have spent significant amounts of time in the backcountry but are hungry to learn more.

According to Stacy Boone, the program teaches participants to respect the public lands system and wildlife they might encounter, while challenging them to push their limits.

"People don't feel confident to go out there, so we give them the education and tools," she said.

The couple has five central goals for guiding. The first is to help participants gain confidence by learning how to best prepare for the desired hike. They also want adventurers to feel safe being outdoors by learning safety precautions, navigation skills and best hiking practices. Thoroughly enjoying time spent outdoors by learning about wildlife and landscapes is also important to the

Boones. Lastly, they want participants to achieve their personal goals and renew their spirit by challenging their bodies and being active in outdoor pursuits.

Stacy Boone has watched countless women challenge themselves and grow as individuals in the program. Some have gone on to conquer extensive trails, like the Pacific Crest or Appalachian, and others have encountered powerful moments of self-discovery.

"We've had women who have felt empowered enough to make some major life decisions with where they want to live, who their spouse is, or is not going to continue to be," she said.

Many women embark on the trail having lost pieces of their identity. It is so easy to invest one's identity in being a mother, co-worker or spouse, while somehow misplacing that essential individual identity.

Backpacking gives these women space to come to terms with such realities, and allows for redefinition or reacquainting with who they once were.

"Your responsibility outside is to find food, shelter and water,

STACY BOONE



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that's what you do every day, the rest is looking at your inner self and determining what is important, and you can make some huge decisions while you are out there because you don't have that chatter in the background. You can figure out what you are really made of," she said.

Boone speaks from experience, as one who has made those life-changing decisions in the outdoors.

Backpacking led to her decision to change careers, and showed her the value of working with children and adults.

"It helps people determine what their real value is and to also determine who they really are, because you face the good, bad and the ugly while you are backpacking."

It is evident that the Boones guide with more than just experience and fun, they do it with a whole lot of heart.

At the end of the day, if participants walk away with confidence in their ability to be outside, newfound admiration for the public lands system and an empowering sense of self, the Boones have done their job well.

According to Stacy Boone, "The skills that we provide, we want them to walk with feeling like they can do it on their own. Once they do that, it gives them a reason to stay outside and the confidence to stay outside."

If you are looking to test your boundaries with a two-day winter backpacking trip or guided snowshoeing, look no further.

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Wolf Creek Ski Area

WOLF CREEK SKI AREA

Wolf Creek Ski Area welcomes in the 2015-2016 winter season after a summer of frequent rainstorms and skies full of incredibly beautiful cloud formations.

The period between seasons was a busy one. A focus was placed on maintaining the changing treescape of Wolf Creek by removing hazard trees which were killed by the spruce bark beetle and transplanting small healthy trees and saplings into areas that will most benefit the landscape and watershed.

The biggest on-mountain project has been completing the Race Hutch building, which is integral to the operation of the Wolf Creek Fun Race Series. The Hutch has an observation area for the crew to view the racers and storage for poles, gates, safety fencing and banners. A full race schedule along with other events can be found on the Wolf Creek website WolfCreekSki.com.

A ski school online reservation system will be in the experimental stages this season by offering a sign-up for group and private instructions. A preregistration online is being offered to expedite

the registration process at the ticket windows. Guests will be able to have the convenience and ease of getting their information to the ski school through an online system that they can fill out at home prior to their trip. This new preregistration system will be more efficient over holiday periods, for guests as well as ski school directors.

Seniors, ages 65 to 79, are making a break from children this year with their own lift tickets and season passes. Splitting the seniors from the children is an effort to keep skiing affordable to families with children who could often use a financial break when vacationing.

To better serve seniors and baby boomers, Wolf Creek is offering more specially priced clinics and a full schedule of Local Appreciation days.

Wolf Creek is looking forward to a new season and strives to bring variety and quality services to every age group throughout the entire ski season. For more detailed information, please see WolfCreekSki.com.



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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Snowmobiling

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.

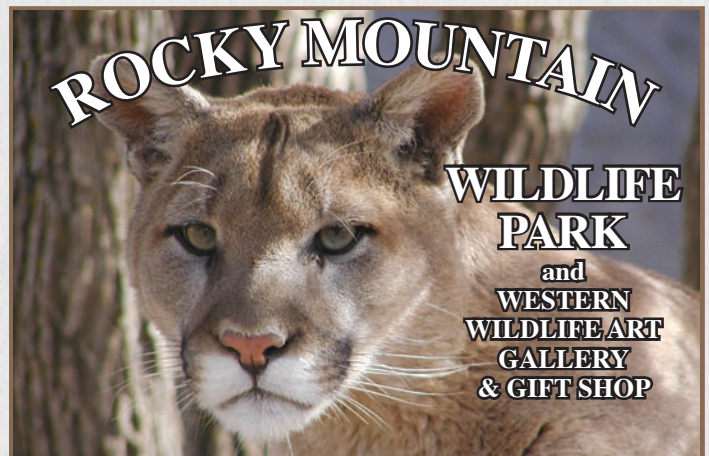
But not to worry, if you want to rev it up, snowmobiling might be the activity for you.

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 in 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-



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of-state residents who bring snowmobiles into Colorado must purchase a Colorado Non-Resident OHV permit. For more information, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife at (303) 791-1920 or www.cpw.state.co.us.

• Per Colorado law, it is unlawful to operate a snowmobile on some 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/Snowmobile-LawRegs.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 considerately 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 Ranger District Office

For maps and additional information, the Pagosa Ranger District 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 nonmotorized 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.

Grooming: Ungroomed.

Connections: Monument Trail.

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.

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 (CR 400, 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

This route follows Nipple Mountain Road (FR 665), located off of Mill Creek Road (CR 302). Nipple Mountain Road is gated in the winter, but is plowed for the first 2 miles by private landowners with inholdings further in the forest. Snowmobilers should exercise extra caution when travelling the plowed portion of the route due to the potential presence of other vehicles, and should avoid the route altogether if there is inadequate snow on the plowed section.

Length: 10.5 miles.

Trailhead: Along Mill Creek Road 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 within 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 nonmotorized.

North Side of the Pass

- The road to the Lobo Overlook is a designated snowmobile route.
- The remainder of the north side is for nonmotorized use.

Cross-Country Skiing



BETH TOLLEFSEN

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 Transportation 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 statuses 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 oppor-

tunities 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 for 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.

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 Alberta parking lot of Wolf Creek Ski Area and 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 Alberta 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 (County Road 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 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 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 water-proof 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 by calling (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).

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.

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Avalanche Awareness

Eleven people were killed by avalanches in the U.S. between Nov. 26, 2014 and May 17, 2015, including three in Colorado.

While avalanches are a serious threat to winter backcountry travelers everywhere, they are particularly so here. 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 essential for remaining safe while traveling in the mountains.

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 injury — 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 at avalanche.state.co.us 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 research:

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 39th winter in the field.

Mark offers a free Community Avalanche Awareness talk every year at the Ruby Sisson Library in Pagosa Springs. Look for announcements for this talk in The Pagosa Springs SUN and at local outdoor shops. This quick overview of the topic is free and only lasts a couple hours.

For something with a bit more substance, Sandy Kobrock offers a three-day Level I avalanche course. These classes are eight hours per day, for a total of 24 hours worth of instruction and will occur Dec. 26-28, Jan. 16-18 and Feb. 13-15.

Groups or individuals interested in avalanche safety may contact Mark or Sandy at (970) 731-2486.

"Snow Sense: A Guide to Evaluating Avalanche Hazard," by Jill Fredston and Doug Fesler (1988) is an excellent resource. It easily fits in a pack, is understandable and was written by two internationally acclaimed avalanche educators.

"The Snowy Torrents," by Nick Logan and Dale Atkins, Colorado Geological Survey (1996) is 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.



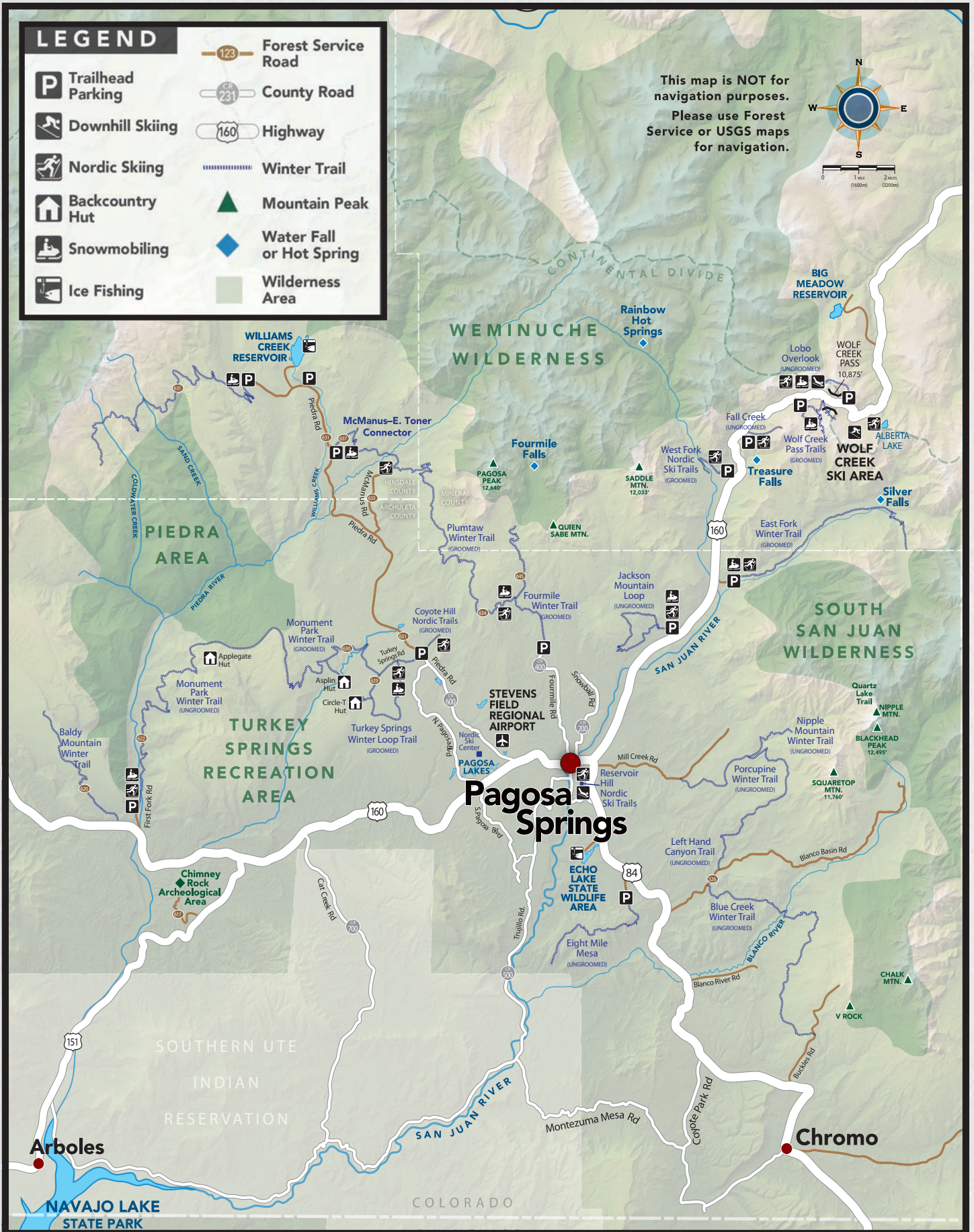
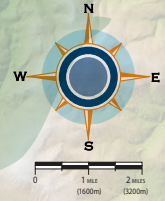
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LEGEND

- Trailhead Parking
- Downhill Skiing
- Nordic Skiing
- Backcountry Hut
- Snowmobiling
- Ice Fishing

- Forest Service Road
- County Road
- Highway
- Winter Trail
- Mountain Peak
- Water Fall or Hot Spring
- Wilderness Area

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





MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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.

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 www.colorado.gov/dola/colorado-outdoor-recreation-search-and-rescue-corsar-card 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 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>.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Rest Your Head

Pagosa Springs: Making the lists

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 No. 9 finish in Outside Magazine's "The 16 Best Places to Live in America: 2015" to a feature about Pagosa Springs as an adventure town by none other than National Geographic to news stations and lifestyle magazines touting our world-famous hot springs, public lands and majestic views.

"In the shadow of the San Juan Mountains, tiny Pagosa Springs is a microcosm of authentic Colorado," Outside Magazine states.

"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.

John Wayne was a well-known visitor to the area, both vacationing here and filming "The Cowboys" in Pagosa Country.

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 His-

panic explorers who made their way north to the area.

And, seeing as they enjoyed — and in some cases revered — the medical benefits of the mineralized hot springs water, we're pretty sure it would have topped 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 hot spring and what is now Chimney Rock National Monument — and provided 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, a steady stream of prospectors and supporters flowed 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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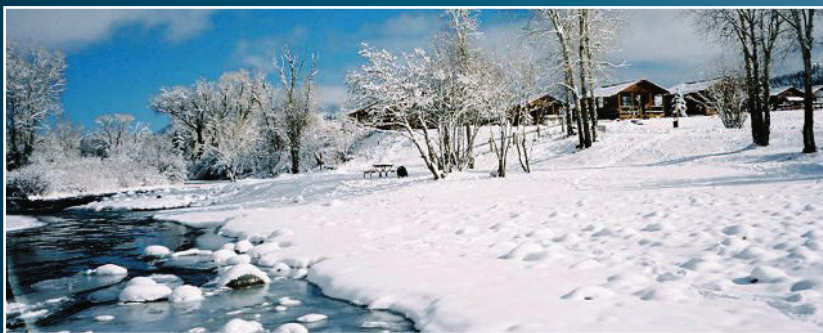


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Elkwood Manor Luxury Bed & Breakfast www.elkwoodmanor.com 970-264-9166	4		•			•	•		\$157 - \$175
Sunset Ranch Cabins & B&B www.sunsetranchcabins.com 970-264-0086	3	3	•	•				•	\$150 - \$200
Condos and Houses									
Alpine Mountain Getaway http://www.flipkey.com/p285848 970-946-1260	1	1				•	•		\$135 - \$185
Affordable Rentals by Team Pagosa www.lodgingpagosasprings.com 970-731-8599	125	125		•		•	•	•	\$75 - \$500
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Extra Holidays/Wyndham Pagosa www.extraholidays.com 800-438-6493	100+	100+		•	•	•	•		\$79 - \$250
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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
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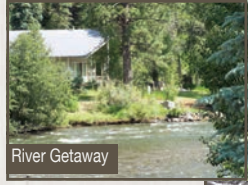
Hotels and Motels

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Alpine Inn of Pagosa Springs www.alpineinnofpagosasprings.com 970-731-4005	28		•	•			•	•	\$69 - \$89
EconoLodge www.chioce-hotels.com 970-731-2701	46		•	•	•	•	•	•	\$89 - \$149
First Inn of Pagosa, Inc. www.firstinn.com 800-903-4162	33		•	•		•	•		\$69 - \$89
Healing Waters Resort & Spa www.pshotsprings.com 800-832-5523	17	3		•	•	•	•		\$80 - \$150
High Country Lodge & Cabins www.highcountrylodge.com 800-862-3707	31	10	•	•		•	•	•	\$89 - \$169
Hillside Inn www.hillsideinnpagosa.com 970-731-5101	60		•	•	•	•	•	•	\$79 - \$99
Mountain Landing Suites & RV Park www.mountainlanding.net 970-731-5345	13	13		•	•	•	•	•	\$64 - \$180
Pagosa Springs Inn & Suites www.PagosaSpringsInnSuites.com 888-221-8088	86		•	•	•	•	•	•	\$75 - \$190
Pinewood Inn www.pinewoodinn.com 888-655-7463	25	5	•					•	\$59 - \$95
Quality Inn www.qualityinn.com 970-507-8703	79		•	•	•	•	•	•	\$119 - \$159
Quality Resort & Suites www.qualityinn.com 970-731-4141	99		•	•	•	•	•	•	\$89 - 159
San Juan Motel & Cabins www.sanjuanmotel.net 800-765-0250	32	14	•	•		•	•	•	\$74 - \$145
Sky Ute Casino Resort www.skyutecasino.com 888-842-4180	140			•	•	•	•	•	\$90-\$150
Sky View Motel www.skyviewpagosa.com 970-264-5803	13	2	•			•		•	\$57 - \$90
Springs Resort & Spa www.pagosahotsprings.com 800-225-0934	79	8		•	•	•	•	•	\$199 - \$619

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L Bar Z Ranch Cabins www.Lbarzcabins.com 970-264-5548	2	2						•	\$135-\$145
Mountain Landing Suites & RV Park www.mountainlanding.net 970-731-5345	30							•	\$40
Pagosa Riverside Campground www.coloradodirectory.com/pagosariversidecamp 888-785-3234	86				•			•	\$24 - \$42
San Juan Motel & Cabins www.sanjuanmotel.net 800-765-0250	32	14	•	•		•	•	•	\$74 - \$145
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By Casey Crow

If ever you find yourself searching for that eclectic and unique gift to carry back from your trip to Pagosa Springs, look no further than the poop section at The Choke Cherry Tree.

Moose Poop, Elk Poop, Deer Droppings and Bear Piles are just a few of the items available for your enjoyment. Don't be alarmed, these wild confections are some of the tastiest treats you'll find in Pagosa Country.

Bill Goddard, fondly known as Grandpa Bill, was only 14 years old when his grandmother taught him how to make strawberry jam, an art he would master over the years along with other culinary innovations.

His first enterprise in Pagosa Springs was a small fruit stand at the bottom of Put Hill. From the leftover fruit, he would create jams and jellies of all flavors. Eventually, his creations became more popular than the fruit, and in 1999 Grandpa Bill and Connie Bunte opened the doors to The Choke Cherry Tree.

In the beginning, the shelves were stocked with Bill's wildly popular jams, jellies, butters and homemade syrups, but it wouldn't be long until the duo expanded into uncharted territory.

That first winter in Pagosa was a dry one. It didn't snow until New Year's Day, and without any snow, Grandpa Bill had no customers to sell to. Instead, he bought a candy book and began experimenting to pass the time. The world will forever be grateful for that winter, because The Choke Cherry Tree's famous caramels were the result.

These melt-in-your-mouth morsels will make their way from your palette to your heart before you can protest, especially as you watch the staff prepare them in an open kitchen in the shop.

Combine the soft, warm caramel with hand-blended milk and dark chocolate and your choice of almonds, walnuts, pecans or even espresso beans, and before you know it, your pantry will be filled with poop of all kinds.

According to current owner Jenelle Syverson, "They had

a 15-year-old working for them, and had everything covered in chopped nuts. As she was digging stuff out of the chopped nuts, she made the comment ‘Do you know what this looks like?’ Hence all the poop names.”

The Choke Cherry Tree also offers a variety of chocolate truffles and toffees made with the highest-quality ingredients. If you don't have a sweet tooth, or by some feat of magic, have not developed one after your first caramel sample, you will find shelves stocked with delicious vinaigrettes, salsas, spices and gourmet sauces.

Syverson worked under Grandpa Bill's guidance for over a decade, learning his cooking techniques and accepting the baton when he passed away seven years ago.

Now her goal is to present the community, and its visitors, with tasty treats made from the finest ingredients and crafted with lots of love.

Above all, The Choke Cherry Tree values quality.

“I'm definitely not going to feed someone something I won't feed my own family,” Syverson said.

If you are looking for seasonal classics, try the pumpkin butter. Are you sweet with a little bit of spice? The raspberry jalapeno jam is for you. And don't forget your New Mexico green chile, which, as anyone in the Southwest will tell you, is at the top of the food pyramid.

No doubt The Choke Cherry Tree can satisfy all your cravings, and they will treat you like a professional taster as you discover your favorites.

The Choke Cherry Tree is more than a caramel-chocolate wonderland, for many it brings a sense of home. The friendly staff will take you in with smiles on a snowy afternoon, as heavenly scents drift from the back kitchen.

Take a moment to breathe, have a conversation, savor a caramel and, like Grandpa Bill would, explore the possibilities.



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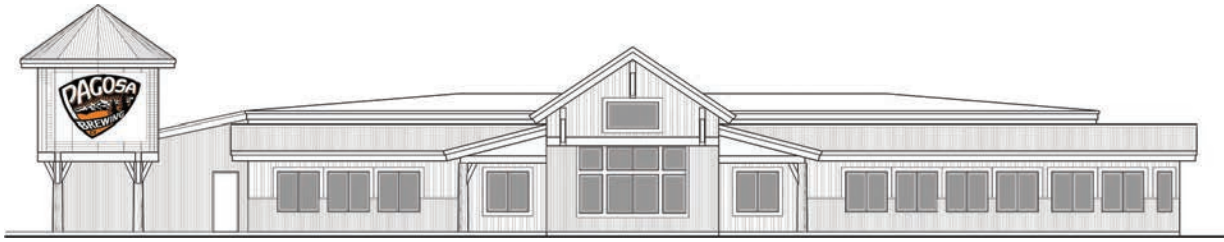
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Shopping Pagosa's historic downtown: Celebrating history, cultures, nature and more

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 multiple 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 as 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 make 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



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

Shopping Pagosa's historic downtown, though, can be a treat in and of itself, especially in the fall and winter, when the surrounding flora takes on a festive flair, creating the perfect mood for browsing cozy shops with a warm beverage in hand.

From cabin decor to signs that embody your views on life, natural products of all sorts, on-trend apparel and quirky T-shirts, western wear and goods that epitomize the western way of life, handmade jewelry with a south-western flair, antiques, art and seasonal sporting goods, you'll find it and more in historic downtown Pagosa Springs.









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 yourself!). Even if you've been to a shop before, it's likely to be an adventure next time, too, since business owners like to keep things fresh and new (well, maybe not the antique stores, but they tend to always have something you've never seen before or haven't seen in years).

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


And while you're walking in between shops, you can admire and explore parts of Pagosa's past — like the former hotel that now house shops and offices and the historic movie theater that's still in operation — just check for signs around the buildings indicating their historical significance.

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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Real Estate & Home Guide



Tiny Homes

A tiny lesson in entrepreneurship

By Casey Crow

The up-and-coming craze for tiny homes has hit Pagosa Springs, and Justice Ministries is using the trend to empower those in need with opportunities in entrepreneurship.

Tiny houses have become so popular in recent years that they have sparked what some people call the “tiny house movement.” Tiny homes of all shapes and styles are making their way onto Pinterest boards, as well as two popular shows on HGTV.

According to Tiny Life, a website promoting the ideals behind tiny homes, the tiny house movement is a social movement where people are downsizing their living space and simplifying their lives.

The most popular reasons for joining the movement include minimizing one’s environmental impact of living, affordability and the freedom that comes with tiny living and a portable space.

Aside from these incentives, the tiny home movement advocates for self-sufficiency, where most homes can function without an RV park, and run off solar power and propane.

In the U.S., a typical regular-sized house averages out at about 2,600 square feet, whereas a tiny home is usually between 100 and 400 square feet.

According to Forbes, regardless of income level, Americans’ single greatest expense is housing. The average American household spends one third of their annual budget on this alone. For some, tiny homes are the answer to affordable housing.

People across the country are joining the tiny living movement, from 20-somethings fresh out of college, to adventurous retirees who intend on living somewhat nomadically anywhere they see fit.

Now the movement has made its way into Pagosa Springs. There are currently two tiny homes being built in Pagosa.

One tiny cabin is located on 1.25 acres in Aspen Springs. The home is 336 square feet, including the loft, and has a 6 by 12 covered front porch.

Todd Hagerty, who co-owns the cabin, says the original idea came from watching the popularity of tiny homes move across the country.

“The concept is simple,” he stated, “a tiny house is easy to maintain and affordable, off the grid, so it is inexpensive and self-sufficient, and green.” In this case, the cabin is built from dead-standing timber and Ponderosa on the exterior, and beetle kill pine on the interior, which adds to its value from an environmental standpoint.

“The idea is to provide affordable housing to a large segment of the population,” Hagerty said.

The second tiny home currently under construction in Pagosa is part of a project conceptualized by Justice Ministries.

The nonprofit organization aims to function as a link between people with needs and those who have a desire to help. The ministry’s latest endeavor includes constructing a tiny home as a means of teaching entrepreneurial skills.

The tiny cabin is the first of many projects Justice Ministries plans to implement within their entrepreneurship program.

According to Mark Disbrow, who is heading the project, the tiny cabin is much more than a small living space.

Disbrow says the tiny home serves as an opportunity to teach people important entrepreneurial skills, from developing the initial idea for a business, to budgeting, marketing, advertising and networking.

It also helps further Justice Ministries’ goal of promoting volunteerism, as well as gives people a place to do community service. Disbrow says that the ministry is not starting a tiny home enterprise, but wants to inspire someone else to do so.

“We’re not going into the tiny cabin business, but we want to show someone how to do it, and help them launch it,” he said.

One problem Disbrow wants to address through the entrepreneurship program is employing people who cannot pass background checks to obtain work.

“There are a lot of people with drug or criminal backgrounds who cannot get jobs, but they can start their own business. We want to chip away at that problem in the community.”

So far, the tiny cabin has seen about 10 volunteers, and the program already recognizes encouraging results.

From the pool of original volunteers, one has started his own painting business, and another landed a job doing welding.

“... He helped build the homemade trailer and helped with the welding. He was unemployed when he started, and now he is making \$15 an hour as a welder,” Disbrow reported.

While not every volunteer wants to go into the tiny home

business, oftentimes the cabin serves as a conversation-starter and draws people into the program.

Disbrow said the cabin has successfully attracted people with a wide range of ideas that fall into entrepreneurship, from social entrepreneurs, or those wanting to work in the nonprofit sector, to individuals hoping to start businesses in sewing and human resources.

The cabin will be self-sustaining, using solar power and propane. The team does not have a deadline for completing the project, and Disbrow says slowing down on construction has actually proved beneficial in regard to the collaborative environment the Ministry wants to cultivate.

“I’ve seen a lot of benefit of slowing down; more people are coming in with different ideas,” Disbrow said.

The organization’s enthusiastic entrance into the tiny home movement is addressing two problems simultaneously — unemployment and affordable housing. It benefits those who utilize the important life skills being taught, as well as puts a roof over the head of someone who might not otherwise afford one.

Justice Ministries already owns a second trailer awaiting a tiny home. It may stay within the Ministry’s program, or it may go to the first entrepreneur ambitious enough to take on the tiny home business permanently.

Either way, this tiny project is bound to make a big difference.



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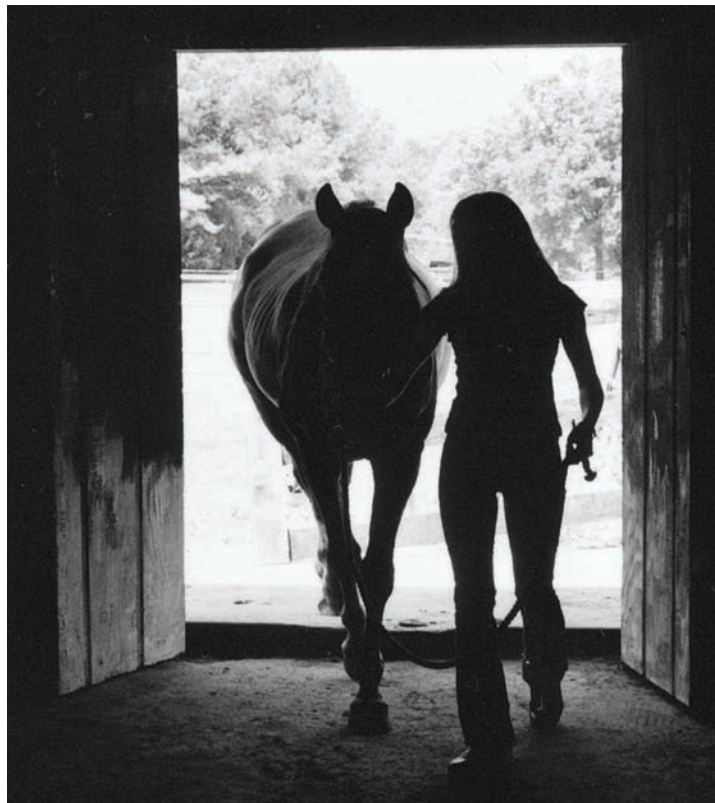
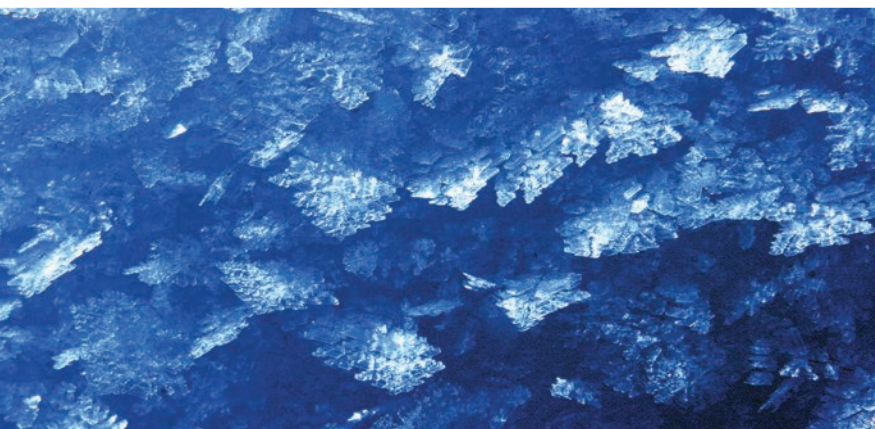
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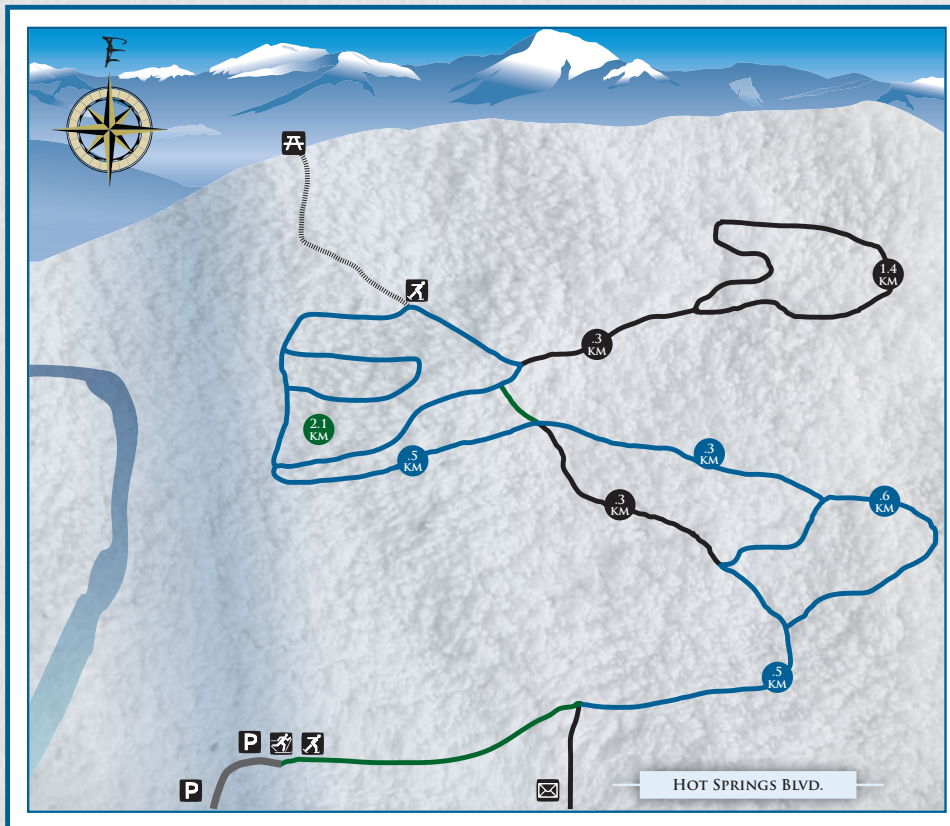
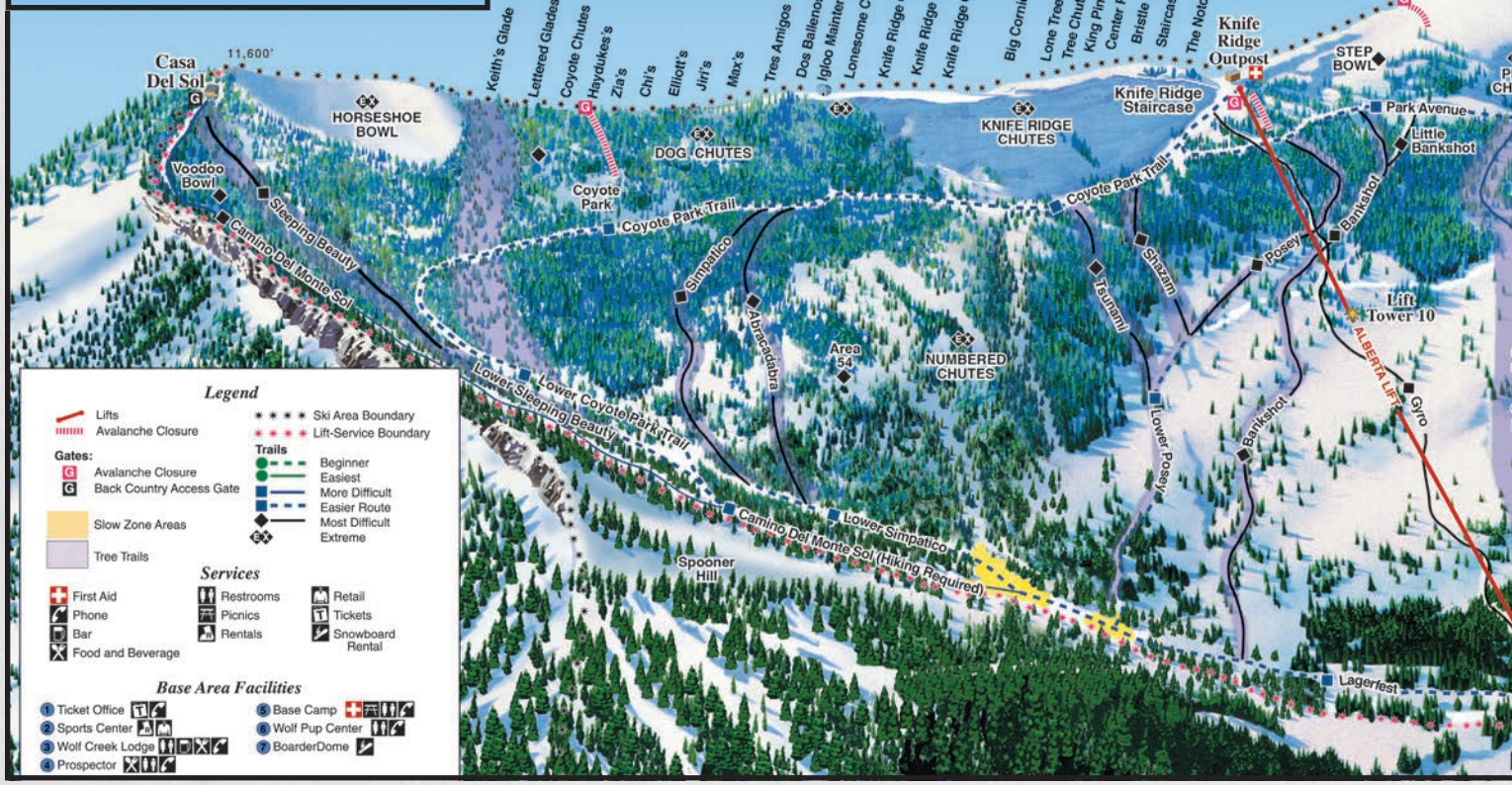
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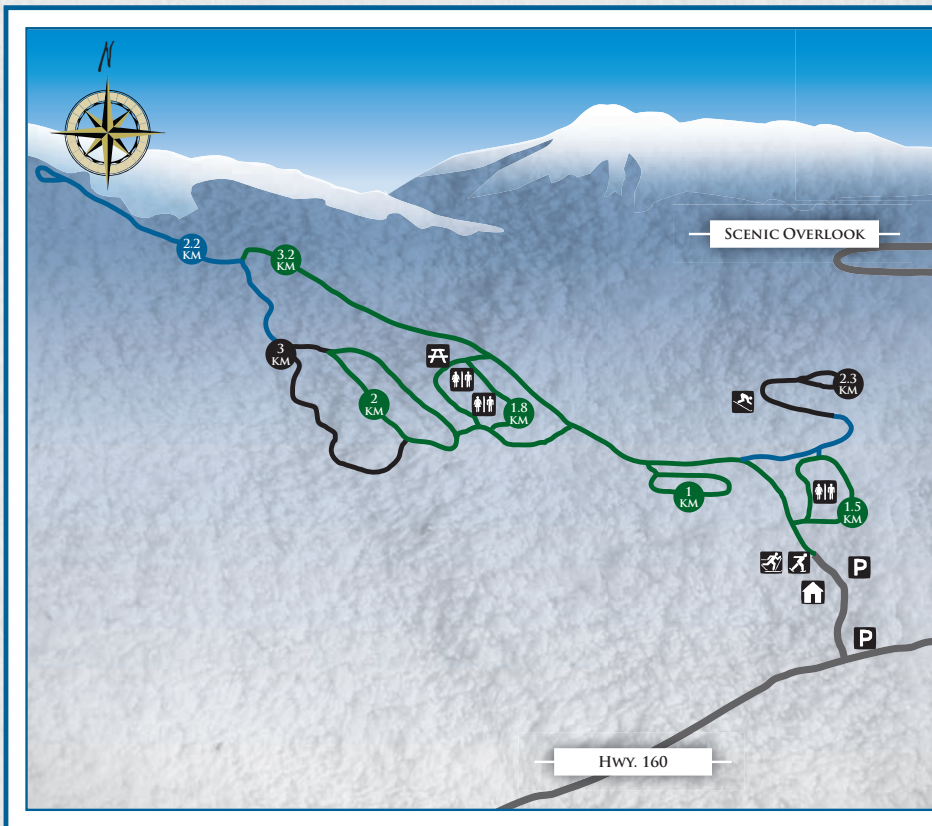
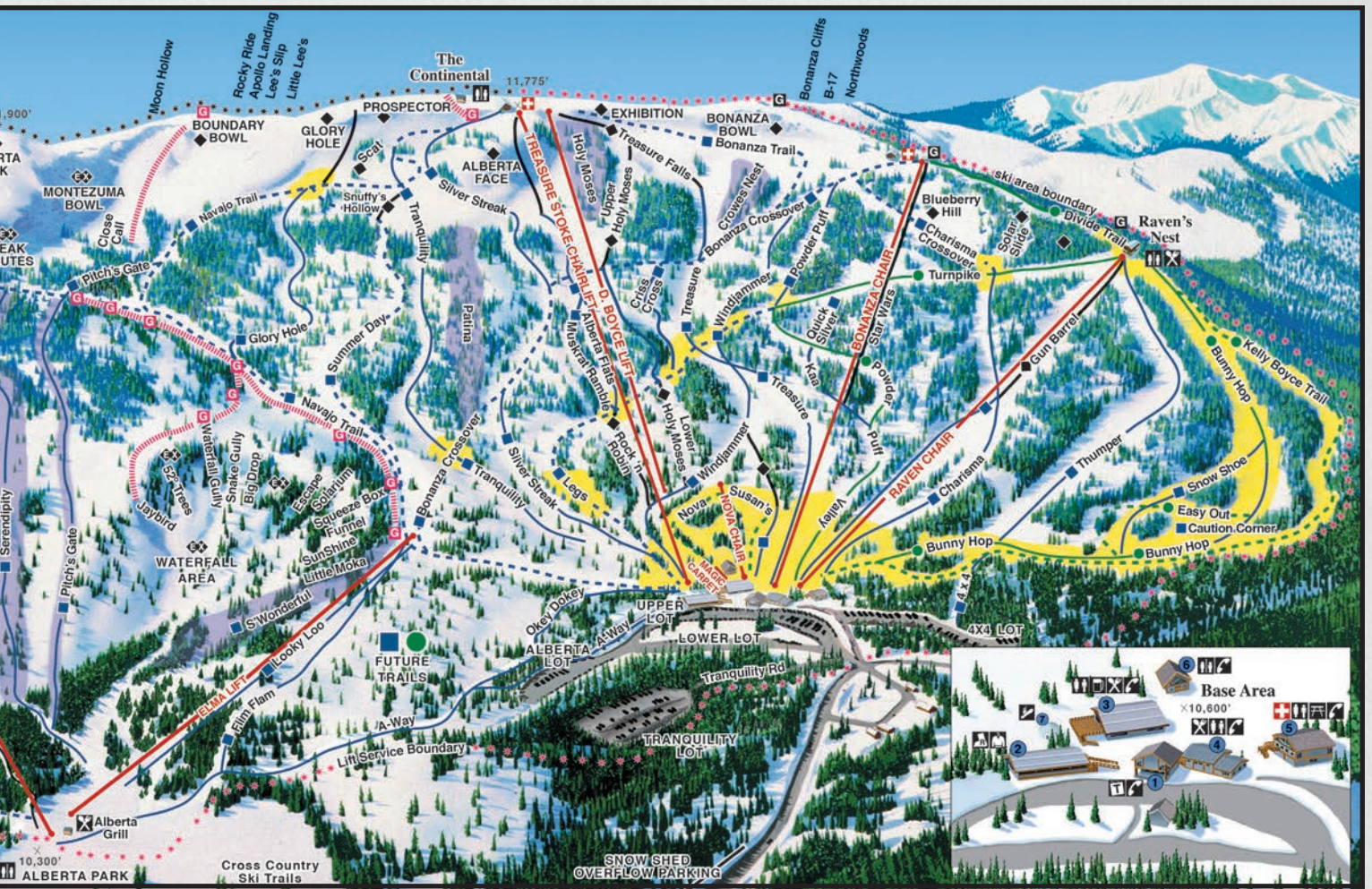
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Judy was fantastic! The Swedish massage felt so good that she put me to sleep twice! Best massage ever ☺
♥ Dayton



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