



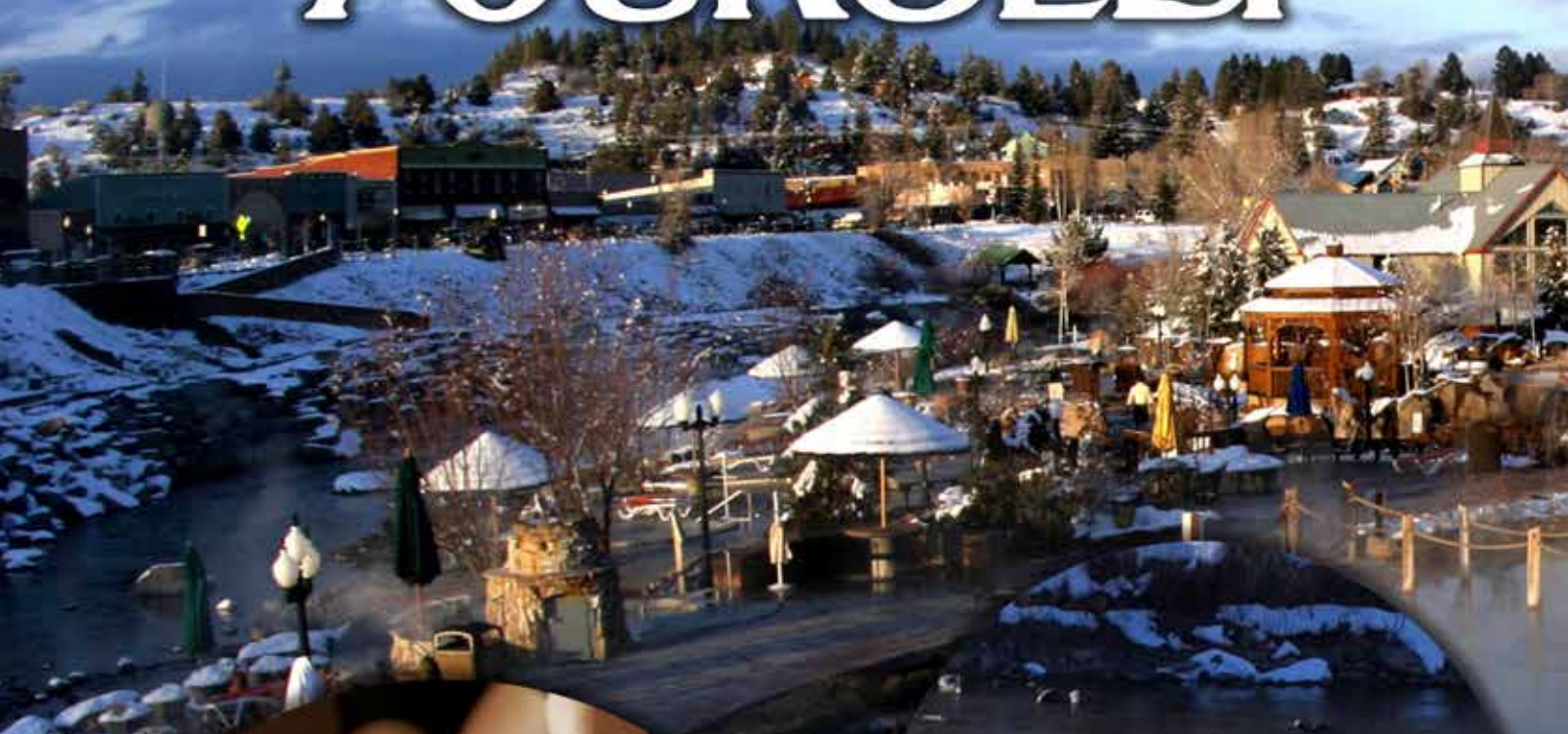
PAGOSA SPRINGS

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™

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OUTDOOR ADVENTURES • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • MAPS
REAL ESTATE & HOME GUIDE • FAMILY FUN • HISTORY & MORE

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NAVAJO PEAK RANCH

180 pristine acres bordered on two sides by National Forest with 2 stocked ponds plus 3 addtl. ponds that could be enlarged, creeks, springs and water rights to support irrigated meadows. Beautiful custom home, garage and bunk house. \$3,250,000. (723938)



DOUBLE KB RANCH

7,283 sq. ft., 8 bedroom custom log home on 50 acres bordering National Forest with views, lush pasture, pond, stalls/corrals and separate 640 sq. ft. cabin. Beautiful interiors include 3 Master Suites with rock fireplaces. Offered furnished. \$2,390,000. (722608)



HIDDEN VALLEY RANCH

Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired 4,125 sq. ft. home with refined finishes and stunning views on 35.58 park-like acres. Large deck, perennial creek, mature landscaping. Exclusive gated community, 55-acre lake, indoor riding arena & open space \$1,495,000 (705514)



SAN JUAN RIVER VIEWS

Dramatically overlooking the San Juan River with River & mountain views, this 4,142 sq. ft. home has main floor living with 3 bedrooms plus a full 2-bedroom downstairs apartment. Great rental potential-closest neighborhood to Wolf Creek Ski Area. \$769,900 (704654)



ALPINE LAKES RANCH

Lovely 2,882 sq. ft. custom home on 35.45 acres with 2 Masters, one on the main level, beautiful finishes and magnificent mountain views. Access to National Forest, private, stocked lake. Adjacent 35 acres available. Offered furnished. \$669,000. (718863)



STUNNING MOUNTAIN VIEWS

This 3,164 sq. ft. home with 3 bedrooms and 3 baths sits on 3 acres overlooking views of Navajo Peak and Banded Peaks. Nice finishes. Crowley Ranch offers 1300 acres of open space and private owner access to Hot Springs. \$632,800 (715797)



DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL

Three units currently leased through May, 2017. The main level features 832 sq. ft. of commercial space. There is a 2 bedroom apartment upstairs with living room & kitchen plus a separate 1 bedroom cottage with small kitchen & living area. \$419,000. (723497)



BEAUTIFUL TOWNHOME

3,114 sq. ft. Townhome with mountain views and nice finishes. 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2-car garage. Master offers a balcony overlooking 1.5 acre common park. Large living room with gas fireplace and second family area downstairs. \$379,500. (721429)



81-ACRE DREAM SITE

Beautiful large parcel with San Juan Mountain and Chimney Rock views. This gently sloping piece of property also has meadow land that has been carefully cleared and improved. Power is near and a 30 gpm well is in place. \$245,000. (718214)



12.67 ACRE TREED BUILD SITE

Multiple potential building locations with one of them being at the top of the knoll with wonderful mountain views. Mature trees abound and a primitive road was created to give an idea for a possible driveway location. \$89,900. (721675)

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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, fat bikers, 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

When your vacation plans change...
we're here to make it *better.*

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Primary Care 970.731.9545
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95 S. PAGOSA BLVD | pagosamed.org | 




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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
Black Hills Energy	(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



TERRI HOUSE

YOU HAVE ONE HOUR TO ESCAPE

Current Theme: Mr. Gibb Stevens is a CIA agent from New York City. He frequently travels to our town in order to get off the grid. This time while in Pagosa, he went skiing in the San Juan Mountains and never returned.

Work with your group to decipher clues and codes in an attempt to figure out what happened to Mr. Stevens and ESCAPE before time runs out.

You have 60 minutes.
Do you accept the challenge?

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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 & Spa 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 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 County, 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.



**WINTER
16/17**

GROUNDING

OCT 14 – 29, 2016
Thu – Sat at 7:00pm, Sun at 2:00pm

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DEC 9 – 29, 2016
Tue – Sun at 7:00pm, Sun at 2:00pm

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FEB 10 – 19, 2017
Thu – Sat at 7:00pm, Sun at 2:00pm

GOD OF CARNAGE

MAY 12 – JUNE 4, 2017
Thu – Sat at 7:00pm, Sun at 2:00pm



Thingamajig is in residence at  **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
2015 Estimate — 12,352

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 — \$264,300
Households — 5,343
Persons per household — 2.24
Per capita money income — \$28,506
Median household income — \$48,186
Persons below poverty — 14.7 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

It's now well-known, 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/enforcement/marijuanaenforcement>.

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. There are multiple licensed retail stores within the town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

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.

Too, any partaking should be done carefully and responsibly.

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Calendar of Events

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Library Storytime

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Great stories, fun songs and plenty of reasons to get up and move. All ages. pagosalibrary.org

Every Saturday, 9:05 a.m.

Baby Storytime

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

A short session of stories, songs and finger-plays for you and your little one. pagosalibrary.org

Every Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

Toddler Storytime

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Join us for fun stories, finger plays and more. Perfect for young children 12 months to 3 years and a parent or caregiver. pagosalibrary.org

Every Sunday

Bingo

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

Thursdays, Oct. 13-Nov. 17, 5:30-7 p.m.

Lifelong Learning Lecture Series

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Variety of topics. pagosalibrary.org

Oct. 21, 2 p.m.

Read with a Ranger — Bat-tastic!

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Join Ranger Brandon from the U.S. Forest Service as we learn more about the wonderful things bats can do for the forest and for us. First-fifth grade. pagosalibrary.org

Oct. 22

Halloween Carnival

Town park, weather permitting.

Oct. 28, 5-6:30 p.m.

Murder Mystery Lock-in

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Come solve the mystery. Teens are welcome to come and play a murder mystery game at the library. Permission slip required. pagosalibrary.org

Oct. 31, 2-3:30 p.m.

Halloween Party and Pumpkin Contest

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Pumpkins can be carved, painted or decorated. The library has a limited number of free pumpkins available for pick up on Monday, Oct. 24. Pumpkin artists will enter their pumpkins into the appropriate age category: preschool, ages 5-7, ages 8-11, ages 12-17 and adult. pagosalibrary.org

Oct. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at 7 p.m., Oct. 16 and 23 at 2 p.m.
“Grounded”

By George Brant. Rated PG-13

An unexpected pregnancy ends an ace fighter pilot's career in the sky. Reassigned to operate military drones from a windowless trailer outside Las Vegas, she hunts terrorists by day and returns to her family each night. As the pressure to track a high-profile target mounts, the boundaries begin to blur between the desert in which she lives and the one she patrols half a world away. A blistering one-woman show so good, we couldn't wait another season to share it with you. pagosacenter.org

Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

Pagosa Springs Community Band Fall Concert

The Community Band is an all-volunteer concert band composed of brass, woodwinds and percussion and sprinkling of strings. Admission is free; donations accepted with gratitude. Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium.

Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Holiday Bazaar

Ross Aragon Community Center. Fifty-two booths, assortment of locally made Christmas decorations, pottery, jewelry, fiber arts, and more. Sponsored by the Pagosa Springs Realtors Community Outreach. www.facebook.com/PSRCOR/

Nov. 17 - 20

“A Charlie Brown Christmas”

A musical for the whole family. Four performances only. Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. curtainsuppagosa.org

Dec. 1-4

Parade of Stores Shopping Extravaganza

pagosachamber.com

Dec. 2

Festival of Trees

Ross Aragon Community Center

Dec. 9, 10, 14, 16, 20, 22 and 29 at 7 p.m.,

Dec. 11, 17, 18, 23 and 28 at 2 p.m.

“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”

By Barbara Robinson, directed by Laura Moore. When the Herdmans, the worst kids in town, somehow wrangle the leading roles in the local Christmas Pageant, it seems everything that is sacred will be lost; and yet, through this motley crew of rough and tumble kids, the true meaning of Christmas is movingly rediscovered. pagosacenter.org

Dec. 10, 9 a.m.

Fourth annual Season Opener BB Gun Biathlon

Location to be announced.

Skiers will have three chances to shoot targets. Racers are invited to test their ski and target shooting skills in the 16 km competitive, citizens 6 km and KidK. Those 10 and older and of all ability levels are invited. Free entry; however, a donation is encouraged: \$25/16K, \$20/6 km and \$5/Kids. Great awards. pagosanordic.com

Dec. 15, 17, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28 at 7 p.m.
“The Santaland Diaries”

By David Sedaris, directed by Tim Moore.

What's the recipe for a hilarious Christmas Season? David Sedaris' hilarious, true story of working as a misguided elf at the Macy's flagship store in New York City. Add returning guest artist and popular Thingamajig actor James Scott. Sprinkle in inherent cynicism, gleeful wickedness and an elf outfit. Bake at 420 degrees. pagosacenter.org

Dec. 17, Jan. 14 and Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-noon.

Free Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinics

Location to be announced.

Skate ski and classic cross-country ski basics will be shared by some of Pagosa Springs' best skiers, all free of charge. Bring your ski gear: skate skis or classic kick and glide. The clinic is free, however, donations of \$5-\$10 per person are encouraged. pagosanordic.com

Dec. 18, 3 p.m.

The Heralds of Christmas Brass Concert St. Patrick's Episcopal Church

Sponsored by The Pagosa Springs Instrumental Music Society which oversees the Pagosa Springs Community Band. This special brass concert is in its third year. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted with gratitude.

Dec. 22, 4-6 p.m.

Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo

Ruby Sisson Memorial Library

Celebrate the holiday season with family fun for all at the Ruby Sisson Memorial Library. Build your own gingerbread house and enjoy the hot chocolate bar. pagosalibrary.org

Jan. 7, 8 a.m.

Plumtaw Ultra Nordic Ski Race

Race starts at the north end of Four Mile Road, 7 miles north of town from 5th Street. The Plumtaw Ultra 30 km/60 km Freestyle Nordic Race — a self-supported ultra-long ski race for hearty Nordic souls. The route

Calendar of Events

follows the southern and western base of Pagosa Peak with fantastic views. Choose the 30 km or 60 km course. Entry fee is \$40/60 km and \$30/30 km. Awards for top finishers. pagosanordic.com

Jan. 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 15, 22 and 29 at 2 p.m.
“Buyer & Cellar”

By Jonathan Tolins, directed by Melissa Firlit
 Alex More has a story to tell. A struggling actor in L.A., he takes a job working for beloved megastar Barbra Streisand. Streisand does indeed have a mall, with shops and all, in her Malibu mansion’s basement. It’s been compared to an Apple Store designed by your grandmother, complete with frozen yogurt counter, antique “shoppe,” vintage clothing boutique filled with “Gigi” and “Funny Girl” wardrobe pieces, a popcorn machine, and, yes, dolls. One day, the lady herself comes downstairs to play. It feels like real bonding in the basement, but will their relationship ever make it upstairs? An outrageous comedy about the price of fame, the cost of things and the oddest of odd jobs. pagosacenter.org

Jan. 14, 10 a.m.
Free Dog Harness Clinic

Location to be announced.
 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. This is a dry land clinic, no ski gear needed, just your canine harness. Donations are encouraged. pagosanordic.com

Jan. 21-22, 9 a.m.
Pagosa Paw Dog Sled, Canine Skijoring and Cani-Cross Races

Located at the Toner Ranch, 15 miles north on Piedra Road. 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 dog sled races, a skijor race (dog pulls you on skis), cani-cross race (dog pulls you on snowshoes) and a freight event. 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. pagosanordic.com

Feb. 10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 at 7 p.m., Feb. 12, 19 at 2 p.m.
“The Good Body”

By Eve Ensler, directed by Laura Moore.
 Eve Ensler turns her unique eye to the rest of the female form. Whether undergoing botox injections or living beneath burqas, women of all cultures and backgrounds feel compelled to change the way they look

in order to fit in. “The Good Body” merges cross-cultural explorations with Eve’s own personal journey coming to terms with her “less-than-flat, post-forties stomach.” pagosacenter.org

Feb. 4 and 5
WinterFest

A number of activities are slated for the weekend where people can participate or enjoy the festivities through spectating. Hot air balloons, Anything Goes Downhill Sled Race, Penguin Plunge and more. pagosachamber.com

Feb. 11, 9 a.m.
BB Gun Biathlon

Location to be announced.
 This is a super fun event for all ages (10 years and older). Whether you are a competitive racer, casual skier or kid, there will be a course that fits your skill level and everyone will have a great time. A free event; however, donations are encouraged. Great prizes. pagosanordic.com


April 22, 7 p.m.
Pagosa Springs Community Band Band-O-Rama


Features the Community Band alongside the middle school and high school bands. Pagosa Springs High School auditorium. Free admission.

May 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27, June 1, 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. and May 14, 21 and 28, and June 4 at 2 p.m.
“God of Carnage”


By Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by Melissa Firlit.
 Two upper-middle-class Brooklyn couples meet to discuss an incident of playground violence between their sons. Though the evening begins with polite pleasantries, it quickly descends into primal madness as tempers flare, loyalties shift and the parents devolve into children. Reza ferociously and hilariously strips her affluent, over-achieving characters down to their savage core. pagosacenter.org

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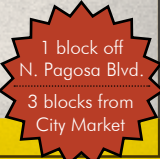




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Nordic club events

PAGOSA NORDIC CLUB

Free Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinics
Saturdays, Dec. 17, Jan. 14 and Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-noon
Locations to be announced.

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 clinic. The clinic is free; however, donations of \$5-\$10 per person are encouraged.

Fourth annual Season Opener BB Gun Biathlon
Saturday, Dec. 10, 9 a.m.
Location to be announced.

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 Saturday, Dec. 10, 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 16 km competitive, citizens 6 km and KidK. (Kids course will be set based on entries.) Those 10 and older and of all ability levels are invited.

Free entry; however, a donation is encouraged: \$25/16 km, \$20/6 km and \$5/Kids. Great awards.

Plumtaw Ultra Nordic Ski Race
Saturday, Jan. 7, 8 a.m.

Race starts at the north end of Four Mile Road, 7 miles north of town from 5th Street.

The Plumtaw Ultra 30 km/60 km Freestyle Nordic Race — a self-supported ultra-long ski race for hearty Nordic souls. The route follows the southern and western base of Pagosa Peak with fantastic views. Choose the 30 km or 60 km course.

Entry fee is \$40/60 km and \$30/30 km. Great awards for top finishers.

Free Dog Harness Clinic
Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.
Location to be announced.

A very popular clinic. 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. This is a dry land clinic, no ski gear needed, just your canine harness.

Donations are encouraged.

Pagosa Paw Dog Sled, Canine Skijoring and Cani-Cross Races
Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 21-22, 9 a.m.
Located at the Toner Ranch, 15 miles north on Piedra Road.

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 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 pagosanordic.com for event location and registration fees.

BB Gun Biathlon
Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 a.m.
Location to be announced.

This is a super fun event for all ages (10 years and older). Whether you are a competitive racer, casual skier or kid, there will be a course that fits your skill level and everyone will have a great time. An excellent family event with great prizes.

A free event; however, donations are encouraged.

Visit pagosanordic.com for event dates and details, trail grooming reports and trail maps, and see The Pagosa Springs SUN, www.PagosaSUN.com, for updated additional information on Pagosa Nordic events.

Wolf Creek Ski Area Events

Nov. 4	Tentative Opening Day
Nov. 5 & 6	Ski School Hiring Clinic
Nov. 6	College Day
Nov. 9	Local's Day
Nov. 11-13	Veterans' Weekend
Nov. 13	College Day
Nov. 15	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Nov. 16	Local's Day
Nov. 19	Cosmic Race
Nov. 28	Local's Day
Nov. 30	Local's Day
Dec. 3	Ladies' Clinic
Dec. 4	Telemark Clinic
Dec. 4	College Day
Dec. 6	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Dec. 7	Local's Day
Dec. 10	Fun Race
Dec. 24 & 25	Santa Visits the Ski Area
Jan. 7	Camp Robbers
Jan. 7	Ladies' Clinic
Jan. 8	Fun Race
Jan. 8	Local's Day
Jan. 10	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Race
Jan. 18	United Way Day
Jan. 21	Camp Robbers
Jan. 21	Ladies' Clinic
Jan. 22	College Day
Jan. 22	Fun Race
Jan. 25	Local's Day
Jan. 28	Telemark Clinic
Jan. 28	Camp Robbers
Jan. 29	Fun Race
Feb. 4	Camp Robbers
Feb. 4	Ladies' Clinic
Feb. 5	Local's Day
Feb. 5	Super Bowl Race
Feb. 7	Baby Boomers' Clinic
Feb. 12	Local's Day
Feb. 11	Giant Slalom Race
Feb. 11	Telemark Clinic
Feb. 19	President's Day Race
Feb. 22	Local's Day
Feb. 26	College Day
Feb. 26	Mardi Gras Race
Feb. 28	Baby Boomers' Clinic
March 1	Local's Day
March 4	Fun Race
March 4	College Day
March 11	Spring Fling Race
March 11	Ladies' Clinic
March 18	Fun Race
March 25	Telemark Clinic
March 25	College Day
March 25	Fun Race
March 26	Local's Day
March 28	Baby Boomers' Clinic
March 29	Local's Day
April 1	Super G Preliminaries
April 1	College Day
April 2	Super G Finals
April 2	Local's Day
April 2	Closing Day



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WinterFest

TERRI HOUSE

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 2017 is set for Feb. 4 and 5, perfect for a weekend getaway or to give the locals a little “umph” from the winter season. A number of activities are slated for the weekend where people can participate or enjoy the festivities through spectating.

A magical part of the weekend is the colorful hot air balloons that grace the winter skies — weather permitting. The snowy white mountains and the crystal blue skies make for a stunning backdrop to the multi-colored balloons. Bring your camera and dress warmly and capture the splendor as the balloons mass ascend on Feb. 4 and 5. Saturday’s mass ascension will take place in the downtown area next to the San Juan River. On Sunday morning, the balloons will ascend from various locations on the west side of town where you may see a balloon take a skip and a hop on the frozen lakes.

On Saturday, the festivities also include the Anything Goes Downhill Sled Race where homemade sleds “race” down Reservoir Hill located downtown. Decorated materials such as satellite dishes,

wheelbarrows, kayaks or a crates are joined with skis or snowboards for imaginative sled creations. The crowd jeers and cheers the sled-ders wielding their way down the hill.

Another highlight of WinterFest is the Penguin Plunge where hardy participants jump into the frigid San Juan River (approximately 32 degrees) as they raise money 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. Spectators can view the antics from the River Walk. Other events are in the works to enhance the weekends festivities.

For the athletically inclined, the Pagosa Nordic Club will also host a WinterFest event. Since WinterFest activities are dependent upon the whims of Mother Nature, the actual cross-country ski event is not yet determined.

Be sure to check The Pagosa Springs SUN, www.PagosaSUN.com, for up-to-date information closer to event time.

WinterFest is an interactive festival perfect for the family. You’ll not want to miss the fun.



Family Fun

Plenty of winter pastimes to choose from

By Jim Garrett

Chances are you know about skiing at Wolf Creek and soaking in the hot springs during a visit to Pagosa Springs. But there are plenty of other winter pastimes for families to enjoy in the area too, ranging from those traditional to generations of Americans, to others only newly gaining a foothold of widespread appreciation.

On the traditional side are sleigh rides. You can choose among tours over snowy landscapes of varying lengths, some with or without opportunities for a hearty meal included.

Ice skating is also offered in the town. An ice rink sponsored by a private nonprofit group is operated during winter months at South Pagosa Park on South 8th Street. Another option for ice skating is offered on ponds alongside the San Juan River, behind the River Center. The town Parks Department clears and maintains the ice. Skates can be rented from nearby businesses.

A winter activity long popular is dog sledding. The Pagosa area boasts a dedicated sledding company, with a substantial kennel of handsome, energetic and friendly Malamutes, that offers an array of rides to visitors, including families and groups.

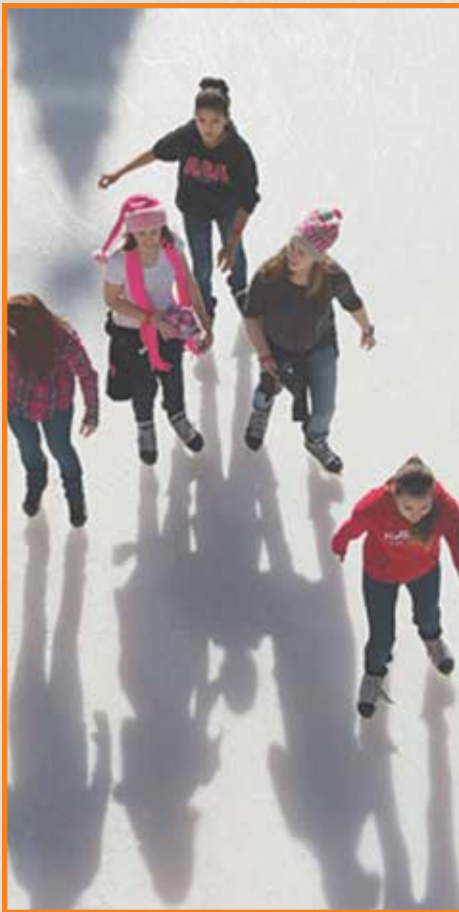
Additionally, a weekend of dog sled races known as “Pagosa Paw” is staged annually in Pagosa Country, usually in February. The event

is part of a series of races throughout Colorado sanctioned by the Rocky Mountain Sled Dog Club, and features expert competitors mushing with seasoned teams. Races are also held for recreational competitors and for novices looking to try their hand. Spectators enjoy watching competitors readying their eager teams for the start.

In addition to sled races, Pagosa Paw also includes additional races involving humans teaming with dogs. One race, called “skijoring,” involves a cross-country skier being pulled by one or two dogs. Another race, called “cani-cross,” consists of snowshoeing with a dog pulling. Both races are put on by the Pagosa Nordic Club.

The Pagosa Nordic Club is also an excellent source of information regarding the extensive opportunities for cross-country skiing in Pagosa Country. Many scenic routes wind through Pagosa Country’s forests, fields, hills and mountains, offering a broad array of choices ranging from challenging to relaxing, or some of both.

Trails at Yamaguchi Park, Reservoir Hill and Coyote Hill are extremely convenient to town. Others a little further away are also inviting. These include the West Fork Trail along the headwaters of the San Juan River (excellent for beginners) and Alberta Park near the Continental Divide (at Wolf Creek Ski Area), among others too numerous to list. Your opportunities are many. Enjoy!



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(ad-ven-sher) (ad-ven-shur) *noun: adventure; plural noun: adventures*

1. An unusual and exciting experience or activity; i.e- "riding an 1880's Narrow gauge Steam Train"; "riding a historic New Mexico Train"; **riding the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Train.**"

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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 (www.pagosasun.com), 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 and Spa) 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 (www.pagosasun.com) 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



Something for Everyone

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.



PAGOSA NORDIC CLUB

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).

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. This year, the rink will be located at South Pagosa Park on South 8th Street.

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 for the holidays, you're in for a treat. Merchants traditionally roll out the red shopping carpets the first weekend of December with the annual "Parade of Stores." Shopping deals abound around town and there are great prizes from the participating stores. Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the great deals while taking home a unique item from Pagosa.

If you don't make it to Pagosa over the Parade of Stores weekend, take advantage of the many store "open houses" and Christmas specials that go on throughout the month. Visitors can certainly take advantage of all the shopping festivities!

Santa can be seen all over town during the holiday season. He listens to Christmas wishes while children and parents enjoy the different festivities around town. You will find Santa hanging out at the Visitor Center every Saturday afternoon during December.

While in town, take in a live holiday theater show at the Pagosa

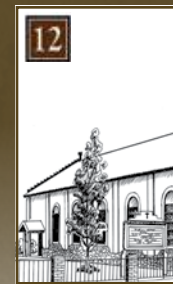
Center for the Arts. Considered one of the best live theaters in Colorado, the Thingamajig Theatre Company will entertain you with holiday performances of "The Santaland Diaries" and "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." The latter part of the winter season brings "Buyer and Cellar" and "The Good Body" to the stage. Don't miss the opportunity to take in one of the live performances.

The annual Festival of Trees hosted by the Ross Aragon Community Center benefits numerous nonprofits in Pagosa Springs. Even if you don't bid on a tree, attendees can marvel in the beautifully and creatively decorated trees, enjoy the music and delicious food and get caught up in the "bidding wars." It is certainly a festive night while benefitting our community nonprofit agencies.

As the winter season progresses, the community welcomes visitors for WinterFest over the Valentine's Day weekend, the second weekend in February.

WinterFest blows the blahs out of everyone as challenging sports, fun games, contests and antics are held all over town. Enjoy the Anything Goes Downhill Sled Race as homemade sleds "race" down Reservoir Hill. The Penguin Plunge brings the hardest or craziest plungers out to take a swim in the frigid San Juan River — all to raise money for their favorite charity. The Nordic Club puts on a course challenge for the novice or more experienced cross-country skier. It is a family-fun weekend where you can participate or spectate.

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 or holiday outing, a romantic getaway, a weekend to clear out the cobwebs or a quick shopping trip, come experience the panoply of never-ending winter activities and holiday specials. Savor the atmosphere of a cozy coffee shop or scrumptious fare at one of the local eateries. There's nothing like our cozy mountain town during the holiday season.



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

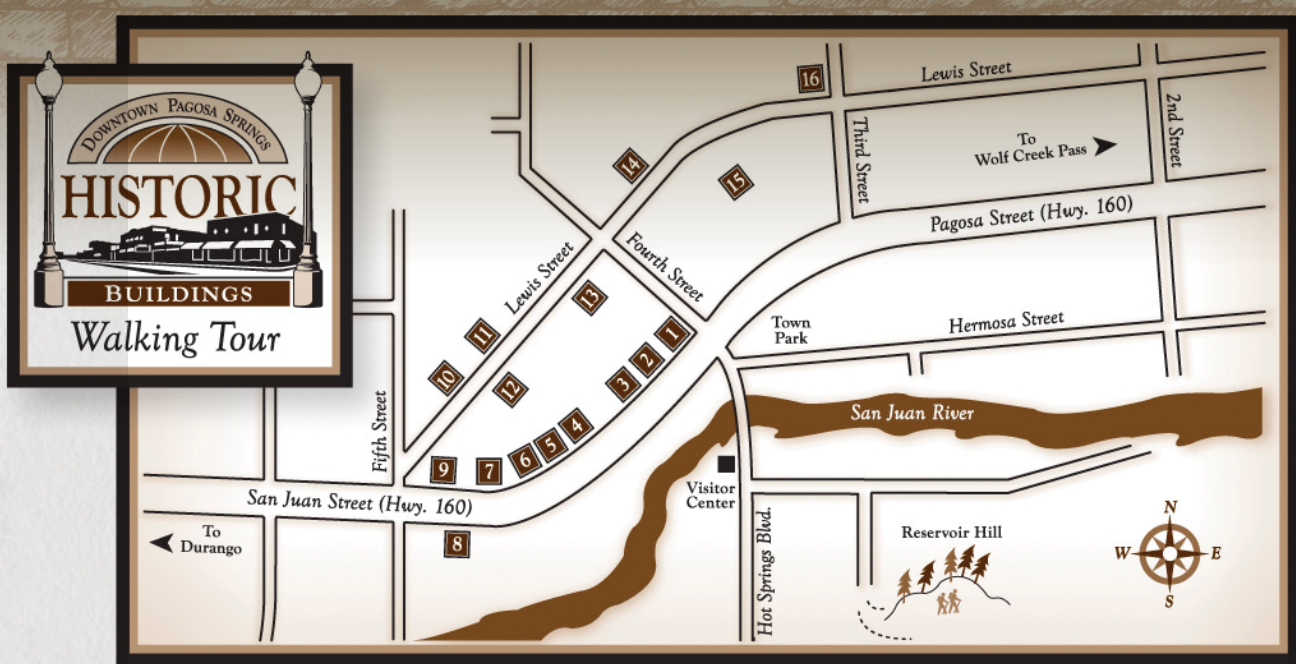
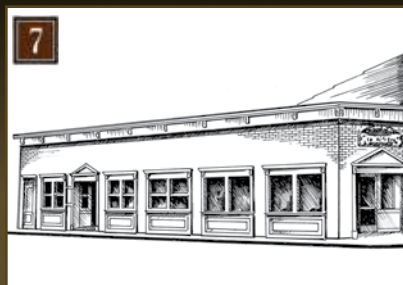
San Juan Supply

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



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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

Archuleta County's Stevens Field, located just 3 miles west of downtown Pagosa Springs, is one of the most scenic airports around.

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

The airport has seen a great deal of improvement over the last decade. In 2006, workers widened and resurfaced Runway 10/19 and built a new fixed-base operations building at midfield to provide fuel and services to local and visiting aircraft. In 2008, a new 3,000-foot parallel taxiway was constructed. In 2013, Archuleta County acquired additional snow removal equipment solely to be used at the airport. Alongside the other improvements, new hangars have appeared, an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) has been installed, and the airport identifier became KPSO.

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

In 2015, nearly \$6 million was spent to

extend the parallel taxiway and complete other associated projects, further increasing the efficiency of aircraft movement and safety.

Those improvements have not only increased safety, but have also helped solidify the airport's status as an economic driver for the community. According to a recent Economic Impact Study completed by the airport's advisory committee, for every dollar Archuleta County invests in the airport, the county receives a return of \$10.86.

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

For more information on the airport, visit www.archuletacounty.org or www.stevensfield.com. For specific airport management questions or concerns, call the airport manager at (970) 731-3060.

The AWOS system is available on frequency 127.175, or by phone at (970) 731-0365.

And once you've landed, Pagosa has car rental agencies and transportation companies to help you get around.

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 (CR 600). Turn right (northeast) on Cloman Boulevard and proceed to 61 Aviation Court.

The FBO offers a number of amenities,

including restrooms, telephone, shower facilities, a flight planning room, pilot snooze room, Internet, vending machines, concierge and catering services, coffee, a lounge area, heated hangar and more. Avjet also provides fuel, Avgas and Jet-A rated fuel.

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

Durango-La Plata Airport

The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers daily service with American Airlines and United Airlines. The airport offers a full range of services within the terminal to make your visit comfortable. The airport has short- and long-term parking, full rental car services and shuttle/taxis.

The airport is located 60 miles from Pagosa Springs at the intersection of Airport Road and County Road 309A, approximately 1 mile from County Road 309.

More information about flights and ancillary services is 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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| | Government Offices | | Forest Service |
| | Post Office | | Museum |
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Rest & Relaxation



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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 recently expanded Overlook Hot Springs Spa offers soaking and massage services housed within old-world Victorian opulence. Offering indoor and outdoor pools, including a private tub room, massage and a steam room, the Overlook provides bathers an opportunity to soak while escaping the elements, or to take in the sights while soaking.

Those sights are best soaked in from the pools located on the building's roof, which 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 staffers try to meet customer requests. There's also a sauna and geothermal tub.

The Overlook opened its courtyard in late summer 2016 — an enclosed outdoor area for those 18 and older. The courtyard features six individual tubs, as well as an eight-person Jacuzzi. Inside, there are four open pools and a private pool room that can be rented by the hour by bathers who prefer to soak in a more intimate setting. Reservations are required for booking the private pool and the massage rooms.

Additionally, the Overlook features three massage rooms (with another on the way), changing rooms with regular shower stalls, as well as steam showers. Snacks and drinks (including beer, wine and champagne) are available for purchase to completely sate the appetites of soakers who prefer to ease aching muscles with a tasty beverage and absent a grumbling tummy.

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

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

Across the street, The Springs Resort and Spa 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

By Marshall Dunham

Winter brings both good news and bad news for the outdoor extraordinaire in Pagosa Springs. The good news is that winter brings snow, which brings skiing and snowboarding and all the fun that comes with it.

The bad news is that winter brings snow, and the river toys and mountain bikes retire to the garage for the season.

But what if there was still a way to ride your bike in the winter months? What if there was even a way to ride your bike on single-track trails covered in snow? If you're saying it's too good to be true, then get acquainted with fat bikes.

In the past few years, fat bikes have been all the rage amongst mountain biking aficionados, mainly due to the fact that it allows those who adore the sport to pursue it all year.

Fat bikes have been around for more than 15 years, but have only recently begun to pick up traction in the mountain biking community due to its ability to ride terrain that a normal mountain bike couldn't.

A fat bike gets its name from its tire size. With the majority of standard mountain bikes, the wheel width is roughly two inches. A fat bike's tire size can be more than four inches wide. The wider tire allows the bike to gain more traction than a standard bike and prevents the bike from sinking on softer materials where it normally would, such as snow or sand.

In addition to width, the fat bike differs from standard mountain bikes because of how much air pressure each tire needs for a smooth ride.

For a regular bike, the recommended tire pressure is anywhere from 25 to 65 pounds per square inch (PSI).

A fat bike's tires can have tire pressure as low as 10 or 15 PSI. Lower tire pressure makes it easier for the bikes to





ride over unstable terrain like snow, sand and mud. It also allows for a softer ride when riding over larger obstacles because of the squishiness of the tires.

Fat bikes have already been used to make history in expeditions as well. In 2014, a man named Daniel Burton rode a fat bike roughly 775 miles across Antarctica to the South Pole.

So where can one ride a fat bike in Pagosa Springs? Unfortunately, many of the single-track trails in the Pagosa area are groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter and don't allow fat bikes on the trail.

The authority that grooms many of these trails, the Pagosa Nordic Club, has cited that the damage done to the groomed trail by fat bikes hurts the experience for cross-country skiers.

If it makes you feel any better, walking and snowshoeing on the groomed cross-country skiing trails is not allowed for the same reason.

A trail will be groomed to specifically cater to fat bikes at the Turkey Springs trail head located off of County Road 600 (Piedra Road,) right after the road switches from asphalt to gravel.

For those new to fat biking and are looking to try it for the first

time, the Turkey Springs trailhead is probably the best place to start.

Other excellent places to ride a fat bike include snowmobile trails, such as the ones in the Turkey Springs trail system or the trails on the Continental Divide section of Wolf Creek Pass.

When riding a fat bike on snowmobile trails, stick to the right side of the pathway and wear reflective clothes. A flashing beacon for the front and back of the fat bike can't hurt either.

Before riding a fat bike on a trail, always make sure that fat bikes are allowed on that trail, and never ride on private land without the permission of the landowner.

Another great place for riding fat bikes is on U.S. Forest Service roads.

Apart from being used by snowmobiles and the occasional cross-country skier, the U.S. Forest Service roads in the Pagosa area often don't see a lot of traffic due to the amount of snow on them, and are perfect for an isolated ride in backcountry.

When fat biking, always remember to bring layers and dress accordingly, and make sure to bring plenty of water.

As with any outside activity, if you are going alone make sure to tell someone where you are going and when you plan to be back.

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Wolf Creek Ski Area

ROSANNE PITCHER

Wolf Creek Ski Area has an exciting new addition to the Wolf Creek Lift System for the 2016-2017 ski season and has made improvements to the online reservation system, which now offers all rental packages for online reservations and includes payment of ski school reservations.

The new addition to the Wolf Creek Lift System is a new covered conveyor lift named after the Lynx constellation and endangered Canadian Lynx, which has been reintroduced to our area. The Lynx Lift is located behind the ski rental building linking the existing base area to a new teaching area.

The Lynx Lift does not only service beginner terrain, but also helps intermediate and advanced skiers access the Elma and Alberta lifts. The Alberta and Tranquility parking lots are accessible via the Lynx Lift by transporting guests up to Okey Dokey and then onto a trail that leads to parking. Free shuttles are made available to guests parked in the various free, paved parking lots at Wolf Creek.

Improvements to the online reservations system will better expedite guests' time at the ticket office, rental shop and ski school. The new improvements also allow guests visiting Wolf Creek to have the luxury of arranging and paying from the comfort of their home prior to their trip to Pagosa Country.

Other improvements at Wolf Creek include freshly painted buildings in the base area, additional paved parking and paving repairs, two new buses in the shuttle fleet and trail work around the Elma Lift.

Wolf Creek Ski Area is known for having an exceptional variety of

terrain, abundant snowfall and plenty of powder days. Wolf Creek has gradual sloping, wide green runs for beginners to excellent expert terrain that will give advanced skiers and boarders an in-bounds backcountry experience. Tree skiing is endless.

Cross-country and skate skiers have complimentary use of the Nordic Track at Wolf Creek. Exploring all varieties of terrain is simple with a refined lift system inclusive of nine lifts total, ranging from high-speed detachable quads and triple chairlifts to rolling conveyors.

Wolf Creek is unique in that the location of the ski area is in the beautiful Southern San Juan Mountains, eliminating the frustration of driving on a heavily trafficked corridor to ski. Wolf Creek Ski Area has the advantage of being located on U.S. 160 near the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, which is a beautiful and well-maintained mountain pass with consistent improvements to the three and four lanes of highway.

The low-density skiing experience at Wolf Creek Ski Area makes Wolf Creek a destination hot spot for powder hounds, families and new skiers alike. Wolf Creek stands out from other ski areas in Colorado not only for being family owned and operated, but for also having affordable lift tickets and lesson options. Adding to Wolf Creek's uniqueness is the phenomenal homemade food found in all eateries at Wolf Creek and convenient amenities that are at no cost, like paved parking and shuttle services.

Additional information can be found on www.WolfCreekSki.com or by calling (970) 264-5639.



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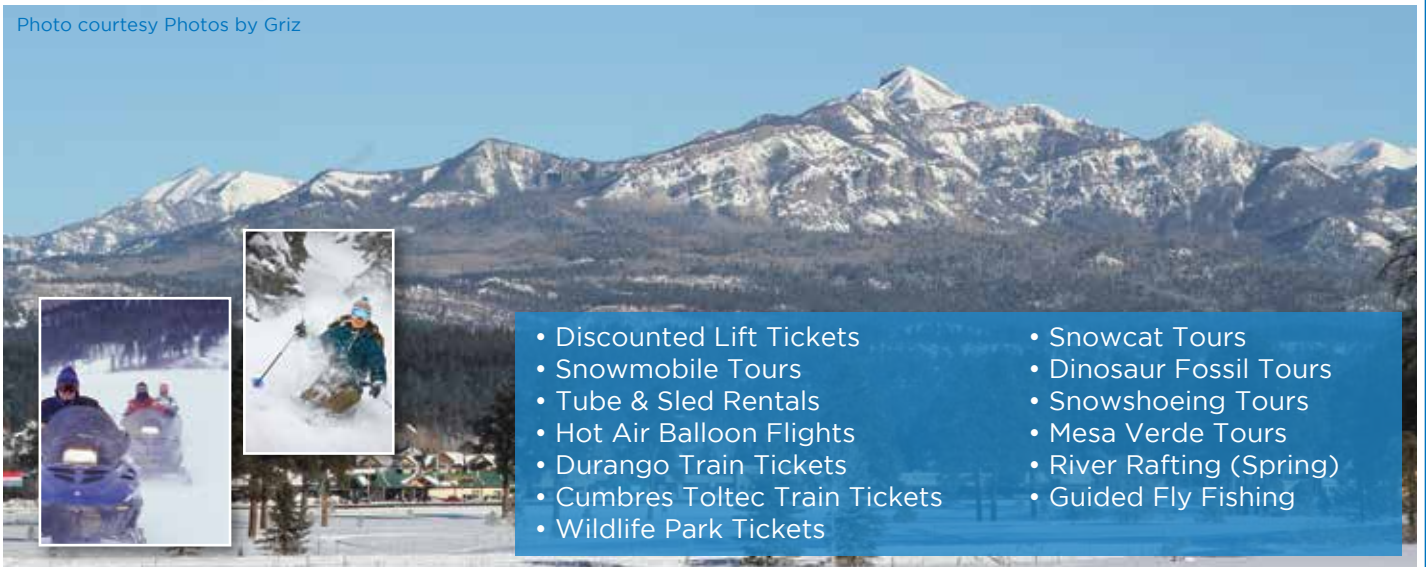
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Wyndham Adventure Center

Photo courtesy Photos by Griz



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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.

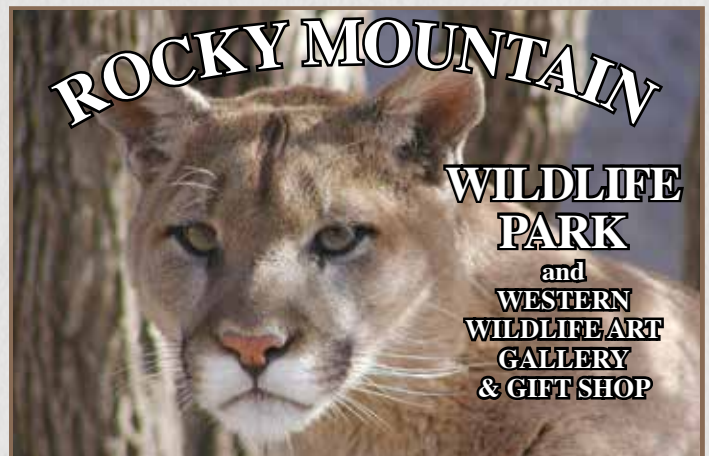
But not to worry, if you want to rev it up, snowmobiling might be the activity for you.

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 nonresident 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 traveling 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:

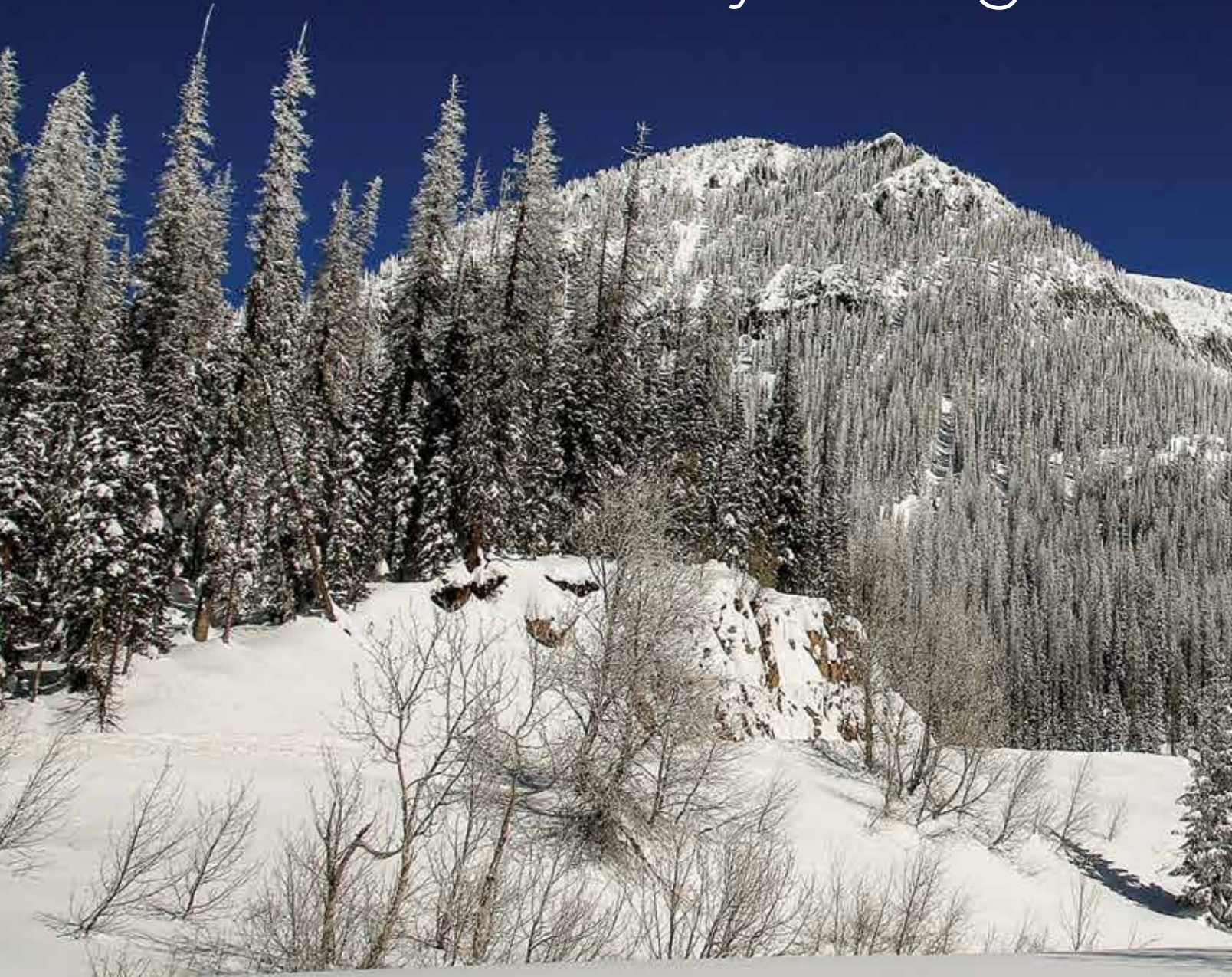
South Side of the Pass

- 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 ride fat bikes, 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; sun-glasses 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.

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Avalanche Awareness

Twenty-seven people were killed by avalanches in the U.S. between Nov. 5, 2015, and April 11, 2016, including four 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.

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 M. Sisson Memorial 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.

Helpful reading:

"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.

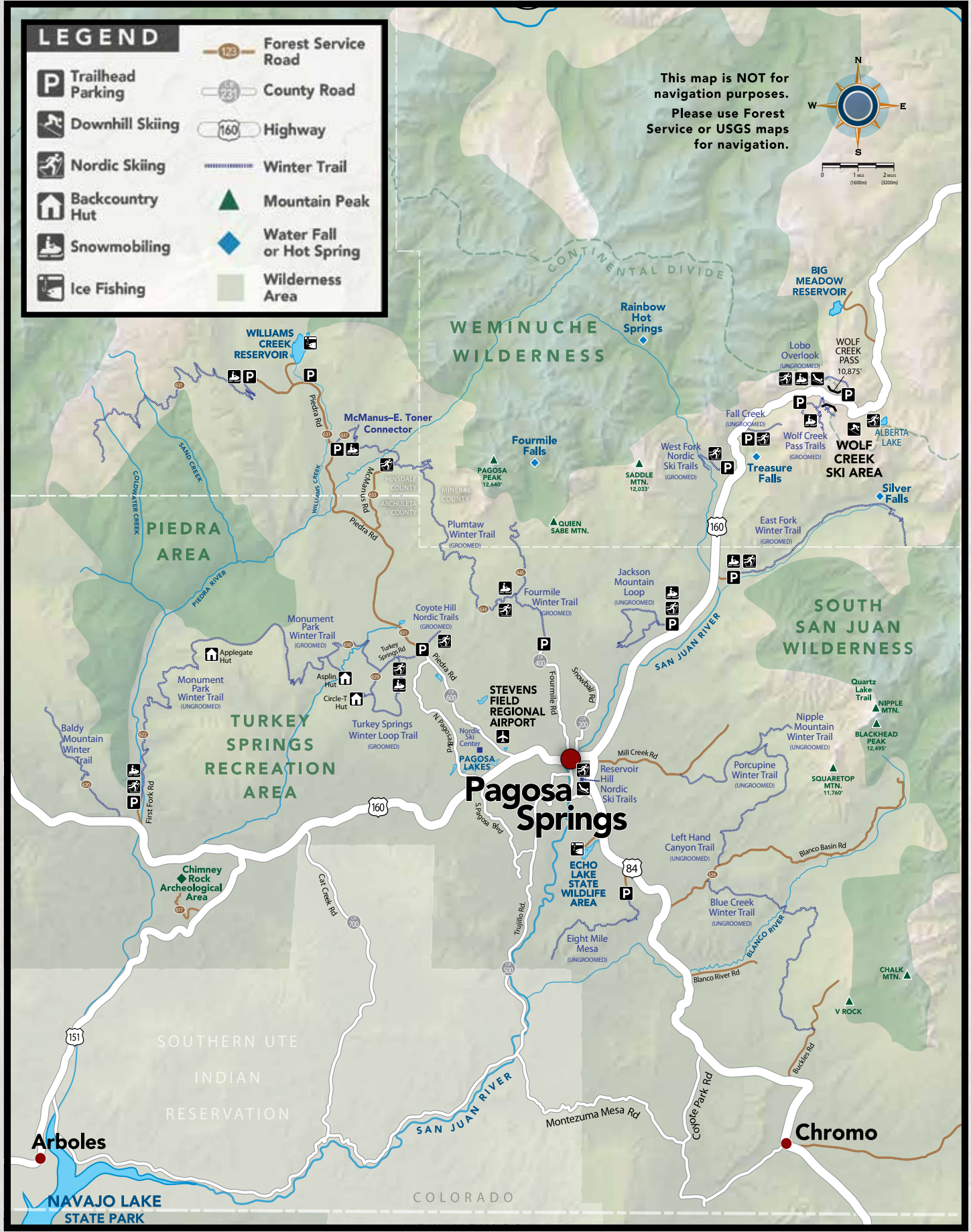
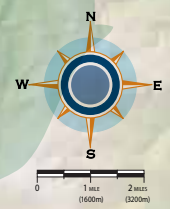


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- Downhill Skiing
- Nordic Skiing
- Backcountry Hut
- Snowmobiling
- Ice Fishing
- Forest Service Road
- County Road
- Highway
- Winter Trail
- Mountain Peak
- Water Fall or Hot Spring
- Wilderness Area

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





Why So Much Snow?

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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>.



Rest Your Head

Camping: It's not just for summer

By Marshall Dunham

When it comes to sleeping accommodations, there's no doubt that Pagosa Springs has some of the most prime camping spots in the state of Colorado.

Unfortunately, many people are under the impression that camping is an activity strictly reserved for the summer season.

This simply isn't the case. With a few changes in camping gear and the ability to be not deterred by a little snow, anyone can enjoy the activity of camping year round.

Local backpack guide and camping aficionado Winston Marugg explained that there are a number of ways people get out in the backcountry to camp during the winter months, but mainly drew attention to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and camping in RVs.

"In our area, people will drive up to Wolf Creek Pass and stay in the Lobo Overlook parking lot, and spend the night in their RV up there," said Marugg. "The next day, they'll go tubing or skiing."

A large majority of the gear used for camping in the summertime can still be used for the winter months, ex-

plained Marugg.

Marugg described how the biggest differences in gear for winter camping are typically the sleeping bag and the amount of clothing and layers someone brings along.

"In summer you might take a 20-degree bag, and in winter you'll probably take a minus-20-degree bag, which is bulkier and heavier to carry," said Marugg.

As far as pads for sleeping on are concerned, the thicker the pad typically means the warmer night of sleep.

Marugg explained that for the most part, tents used in the warmer months are usually fine to use during the colder ones.

"In the summer, the clothing you're wearing during the day is usually just two or three layers," said Marugg. "In the winter, it could be five layers of thicker clothing. In summer, you might take a fleece jacket. In the winter, you might take three fleece jackets and a down jacket."

Upon arriving to the campsite, Marugg placed emphasis on packing down the snow in the campsite, especially before setting up your tent.

This is typically easier for those who arrived to their

campsite via skis or snowshoes as compared to those who hiked in wearing normal snow boots.

Another option for shelter when winter camping is digging a snow cave, but Marugg explained the trouble with snow caves is that they can take all day to dig out, and when it's time for bed, the camper is still sleeping, essentially, in the snow.

Setting a campfire up can be tricky in the snow, said Marugg, explaining that if a campsite is on several feet of snow and a camper creates a fire on it, the fire will gradually sink down as it heats and melts the snow it's sitting on.

"You may start a campfire on top of the snow at four in the afternoon, and by nine at night it might be three feet down in the snow," said Marugg.

Marugg pointed out that winter brings with it longer nights, and winter campers should plan accordingly.

A good book, a good deck of cards and good conversation were Marugg's advice for combatting the long nights.

Another challenge campers face in the wintertime is getting water, with Marugg explaining that melting snow isn't as easy as it sounds.

"It takes a lot of gas energy to melt snow. If you fill up a kettle and melt snow, you'll probably get a half inch of water at the bottom, and that's not even a cup," said Marugg. "So if there's four of you, and you're trying to come up with water for hot drinks and to cook with, you have to melt a

lot of snow. It's not like you fill up a kettle and it equals a kettle of water."

Marugg pointed out an advantage of winter camping as having little-to-no impact on the surrounding environment.

During the summer months, a camper has to create a fire ring to contain their fire and be careful what vegetation they trample, but in the winter, those worries don't exist.

To stay warm at night, Marugg offered up the tip of putting warm water in water bottles and placing them in the camper's sleeping bag before they go to sleep. If the camper just boiled the water, they should let it cool down a bit before allowing it to touch their skin.

Using handwarmers can be used to achieve the same effect.

"One of the toughest things about winter camping, I think, is getting up in the morning," explained Marugg. "Your sleeping bag is warm, it's cozy and it's ten below zero outside and you have to get up."



Marugg had one solution to this problem that has served him well many times over: "Tough it out," he said. "Just get up and go."

He joked that for many people in the Pagosa area, their definition of winter camping is driving their RV down to Arizona in December.

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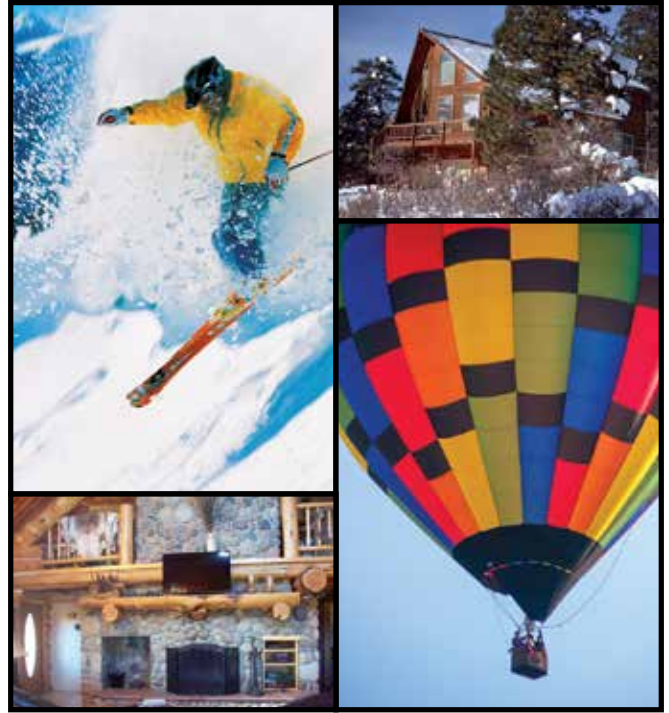
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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**



MARSHALL DUNHAM

Flavor of Pagosa

Mountain View Homemakers: Delicious food and a tight-knit sense of community

By Marshall Dunham

If you're in Pagosa Springs looking for delicious food and a tight-knit sense of community, you don't have to search farther than the Mountain View Homemakers.

The Mountain View Homemakers are a group of women in the Pagosa Springs area who selflessly support their community in a number of ways.

"The Mountain View Homemakers represent the spirit of women down through the ages. They make homes out of houses," reads the organization's Facebook page.

According to the Mountain View Homemakers' spokesperson, Cheryl Moore, "The Homemakers is a 53-year-old organization here in Pagosa. It started meeting in mem-

bers' homes, but as the club grew, we needed to find a place to accommodate 35-50 members at each monthly meeting."

Each Homemakers meeting begins with socializing amongst its members, with each member bringing a different food item that they've prepared to the meeting.

The result is one of the most grandiose and delectable potluck lunches to ever be witnessed or tasted in Pagosa Springs and quite possibly the universe.

After lunch, the Homemakers often listen to a speaker or presentation, and often work on projects to benefit the community.

Moore explained that in the past, the Homemakers have

made pillows for hospice patients and quilts for Thrive, the local pregnancy center.

Reads their Facebook page, “Their talents such as leadership abilities, political involvement, organizational, skill, teaching, singing, childcare, cooking, arts and crafts represent homemaking traditions that they shared to create a better community.”

Moore explained that the club is open to all women, and those who are attending for the first time aren’t expected to bring a dish to the meeting.

When someone attends a Mountain View Homemaker meeting for the second time, they are then considered a member and their name is added to the roster.

Moore explained that the Mountain View Homemakers have about 100 members on their roster.

“We always say that everyone is a homemaker... because these women understand that home means not only their homes, but also the community they live and work in,” explained Moore.

In addition to the sewing projects that the Homemakers put on, the group also purchases, cooks and serves a meal for Loaves and Fishes, an organization that provides a free meal to the public weekly.

“Whether it is teaching a baby-sitting course; leading a meeting; entertaining with a song or paint-brush these women share not only their talents, but also their unique joy of living,” reads the Facebook page. “This joy is their gift to the community of Pagosa Springs, Colorado.”



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RANDI PIERCE

Retail Therapy

The love of Christmas: Joy is found year-round at Colorado Christmas Shoppe

By Randi Pierce

The delicate smell of cinnamon greets you as you step in the door, and festive trees, lights and decor surround you, instantly transporting you to the season of family, goodies, gifts and good cheer. It's Christmas Eve every day.

And that's just how Bonnie Nyre wants it.

Nearly two years ago (it will be two years next spring), Bonnie opened the Colorado Christmas Shoppe, located in The River Center on the east end of the downtown area, for a few simple reasons.

The love of Christmas topped the list.

Next was that Bonnie often heard from people around town that they missed having a Christmas store in town, and missed Bonnie's previous Christmas store.

Too, she said she felt a calling that the time was right to

open another store of her own.

So, after a five-year hiatus from owning her own businesses (the break coming partly because she wanted to learn from Brenda Eaves, the owner of Rainbow Gifts), she again opened her own store.

Bonnie moved to Pagosa Springs from California about 16 years ago, shortly after marrying Chuck and after a career working for credit unions. Chuck, as fate would have it, is a craftsman, and Bonnie soon took on helping him sell his wooden cutouts at craft fairs.

About an hour into the first fair, Bonnie told her husband she wanted her own store one day, and she went to work in the local retail market. About three years later, she opened her first store.

Bonnie has had a Christmas nook, if not a full-blown



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Christmas shop, for about 10 of her 16 years in the local retail industry, so it's no surprise that she chose to surround herself with her favorite holiday season again.

"I love the feeling of the Christmas season, the happiness, the joy," she said, later adding, "Christmas warms my heart."

But the shop isn't just your run-of-the-mill Christmas store.

Like the name implies, the shop has a Colorado flare, allowing locals to have decorations that fit right in with the surroundings, and for visitors to take a part of Pagosa Country home with them to remember.

In the center of the store stands the Pagosa Springs tree, complete with hand-painted ornaments, and not far away is the Colorado tree, abounding with decorations of all things mountain, wildlife, fishing, cabins and more.

"I wanted them to think of the mountains when they put up their trees," Nyre said, adding that most people are looking for mountain-inspired ornaments when they enter her shop.

And many are handcrafted by local artists.

Continuing around the store, ornaments cater to all styles and tastes, from traditional glass ornaments to rustic and western. There's a snowman tree, a sled tree, gingerbread men, a Christian area and more.

Also popular is the baby nook, with numerous ornaments commemorating baby's first Christmas, many of which are hand-embellished by Bonnie.

So, what's Bonnie's favorite part of the store?

"It all is," she said, noting that she doesn't bring anything into the store she doesn't personally like.

Bonnie and her employees will also wrap anything for free, making it ready to be placed right under the tree.

And, word has it Santa himself drops by regularly most of the year, until things pick up at the North Pole, generally around the start of November.

The store also strives to be child-friendly, with Santa leaving good-shopper gifts behind for youngsters who are well-behaved.

"We treat every day in here like Christmas Eve," she said.

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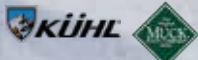
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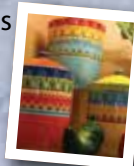
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SHARI PIERCE

Real Estate & Home Guide

LKM Valley View Ranch: A heritage alive and well

By Randi Pierce

Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County may be better known now for rest, relaxation and adventure than livestock and working the land, but that wasn't always the case.

In addition to the hot springs, Pagosa Springs has been best known at various times in its history for being home to an Army fort, timber and agriculture, among other things.

While Fort Lewis was moved and the sawmills closed, agriculture has remained firm in Archuleta County, tying in with the area's strong presence of public lands.

Several homesteading families still live in the area, ranches spot the landscape and cattle and sheep can often be found grazing in the national forest during the warmer months.

One example of Archuleta County's heritage being alive and well in Pagosa Country is the recent sale of the LKM Valley

View Ranch.

The LKM Valley View Ranch is a picturesque ranch sitting about 2 miles south of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 84. To locals and repeat visitors, it's best known for its blue barns and wide-open mountain views, serving as an informal gateway to the community.

When the ranch hit the real estate market, some wondered if the land would remain in its current state or be sold to a developer, with some marketing on the ranch stating its potential for development.

Other marketing for the ranch mentioned its ranching heritage, and that was apparently what spoke to new owner Greg King, of Texas — along with its iconic paint color.

"We're tickled to death to end up with the Valley View Ranch," King told The Pagosa Springs SUN in July, adding, "We just love the way the place looks."

King and his wife bought the 1,353-acre ranch last sum-

mer, about a quarter of a century after the couple first laid eyes on the property. At that time, the pair commented on the beauty of the ranch.

He called it fate that they would later purchase the ranch after “many, many” years of being in the market for ranch property in southwest Colorado.

“We come from a long-time ranching family from south Texas,” King said, noting that his grandfather started the family’s cattle ranch in 1881. King also owns a small oil and gas company in Texas.

The Kings plan to keep the ranch a working cattle ranch that will ultimately run close to 1,000 yearlings every summer (the ranch also holds a grazing permit for neighboring national forest land).

But beyond looking for ranch land to expand their operations into Colorado, the Kings were also looking for a place they could enjoy, and like the recreational opportunities the area provides, as well as the general atmosphere.

“Pagosa’s still a little bit of a cowboy town,” he said. “It fits us.”

The couple plans to fix up the historic ranch over the years, including remodeling the ranch house.

And one of the first orders of business the new owners undertook was putting a fresh coat of that blue paint on the barns.



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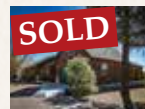
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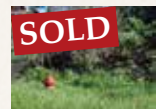
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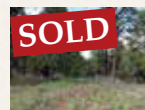
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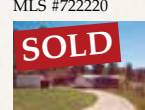
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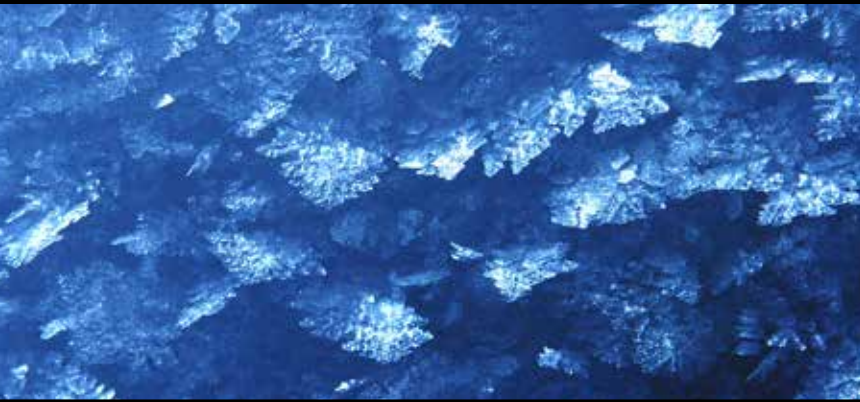
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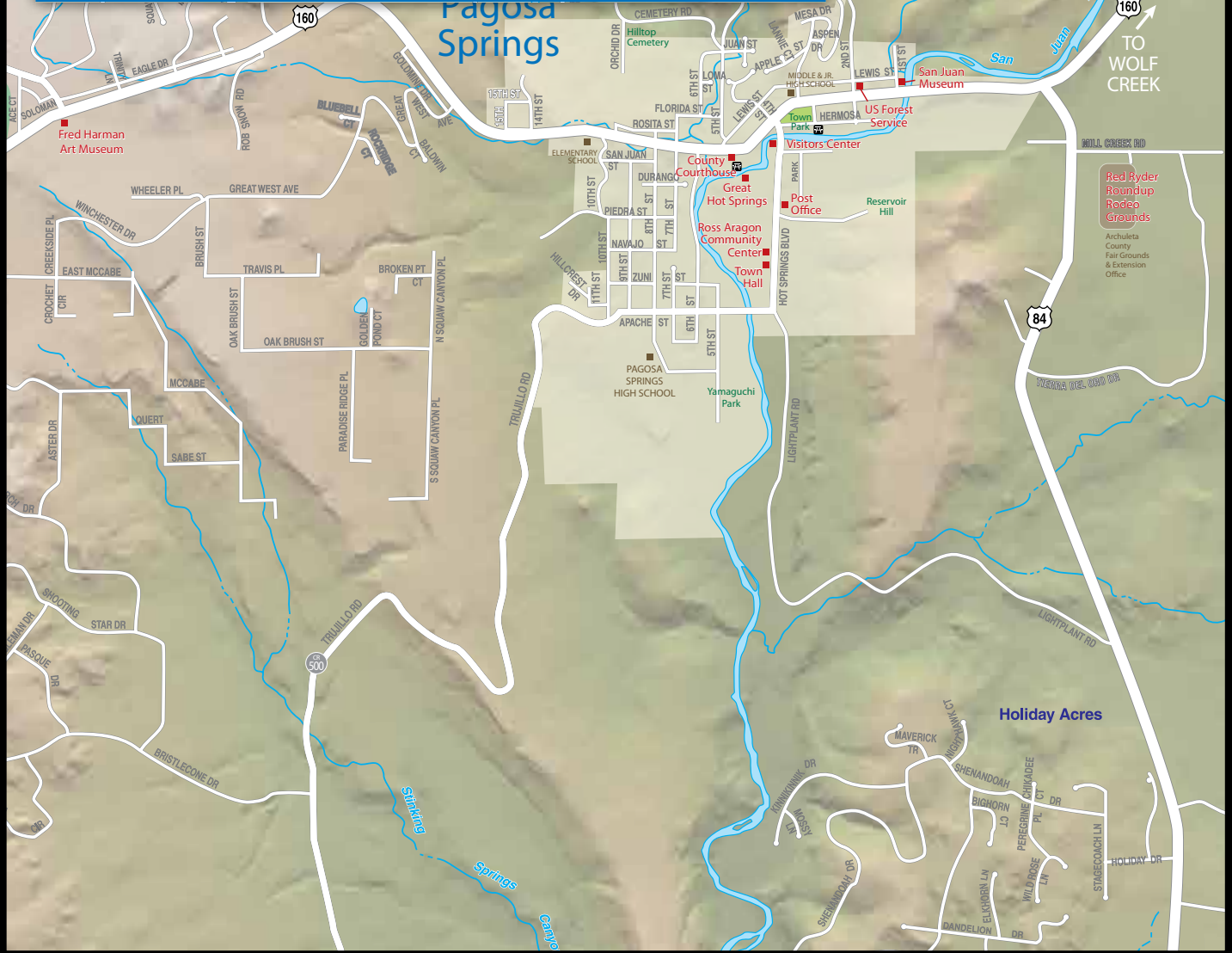
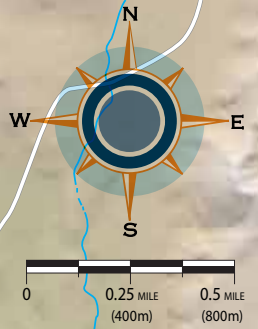
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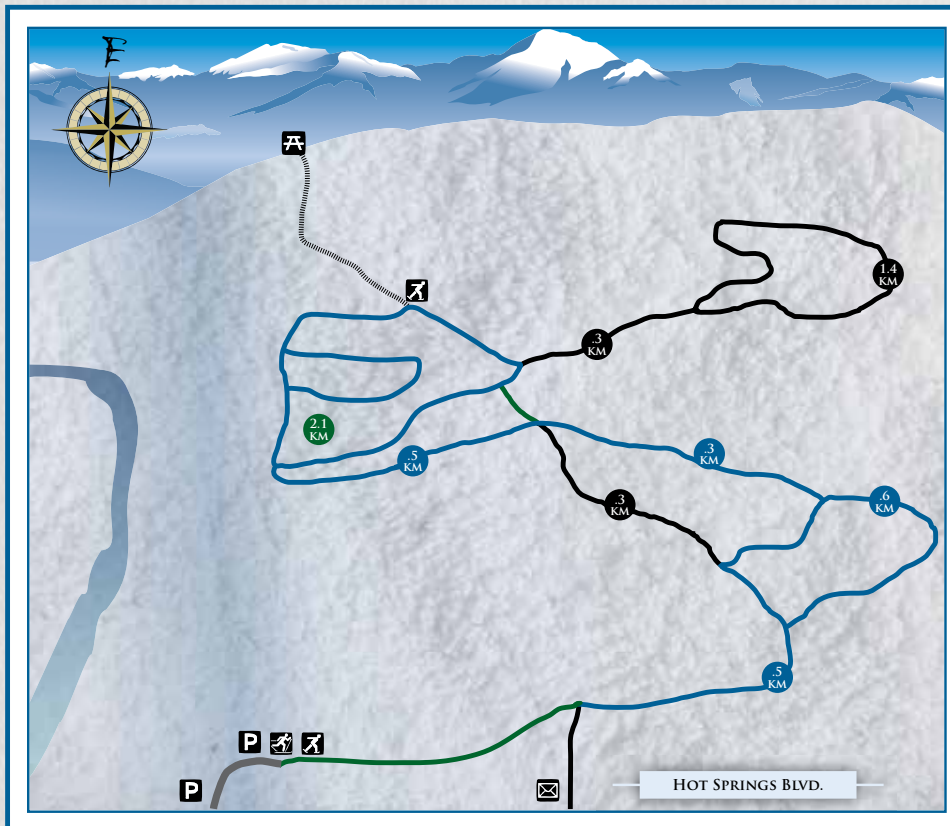
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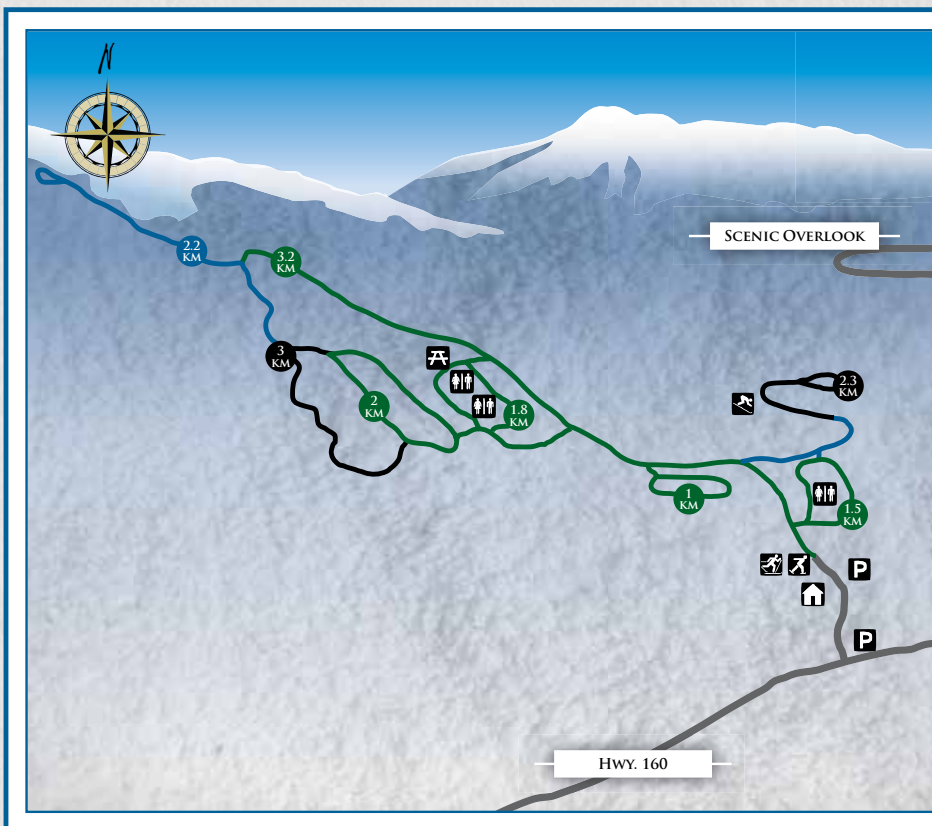
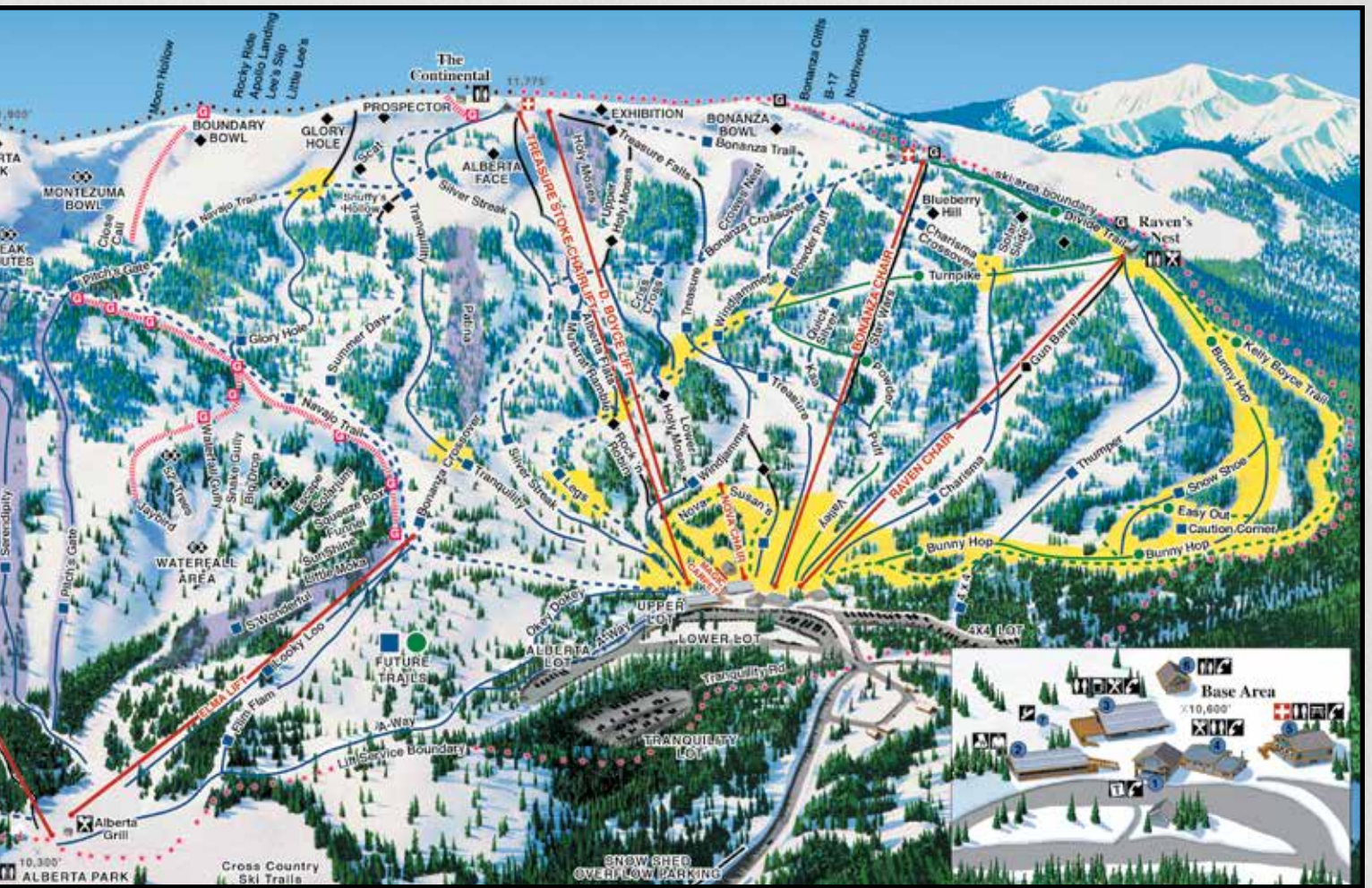




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