

PAGOSA SPRINGS OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™



EVENTS • DINING • LODGING • SHOPPING • OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • MAPS • FAMILY FUN • HISTORY & MORE

FREE • WINTER 2018-2019 • A PUBLICATION OF THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN

Pagosa Springs. Let us help you make this your home.

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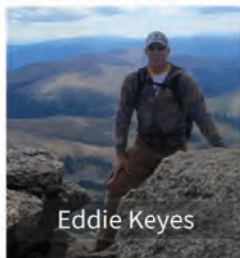
Ed Keyes Jr.



Layne Poma



Kim Brown



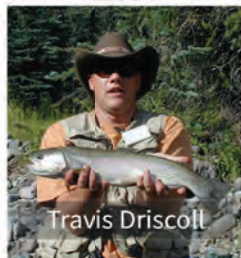
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Travis Driscoll



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Homes | Ranches | Land | Commercial

970.264.1250 | Info@GallesProperties.com

Downtown, Next To Theater | Uptown, City Market Center



\$1,875,000

PINE MEADOWS RANCH | 746973

80 Acres ~ Lush Meadows, Stocked Pond
Water Rights ~ 3,665 SF, 3 BR Main Home
Guest Home ~ Caretaker's Home
1,500 SF Shop ~ Prime Location
Between Durango & Pagosa Springs



\$1,295,000

SUMMIT VIEW | 746327

6.9 Acres ~ 6,090 SF ~ 5 BR/4 BA
Over-sized Heated 2-Car Garage
Covered Balcony ~ Gated Community
Impeccable Landscaping
Home has been Pre-Inspected



\$1,195,000

ROCKIN' R RANCH | 743769

35+ Acres ~ Horseman's Paradise ~
Custom 4,897 SF Home ~ Wrap-around
Decks ~ 4 Bed 4 Bath ~ Round Pen
5,000 SF, 8- stall Barn ~ 25 x 60 6-Bay
Equipment Barn ~ 2 Loafing Sheds



\$1,147,000

ELK VIEW RANCH | 743542

40.750 Acres ~ No HOA
4,322 SF Custom Home ~ Pond
Huge Heated 40x60 Garage
RV Pad w/Hookups ~ Lush Meadows
Located In Heart Of Chromo Valley



\$979,000

RUSTIC ELEGANCE | 746235

3,514 SF, 4 BR Log & Stucco Home
35 Acres ~ Multiple Fireplaces
Alpine Lakes Ranch
Stunning Mountain Views
Equipment Barn



\$975,000

CHRIS MOUNTAIN RANCH | 741416

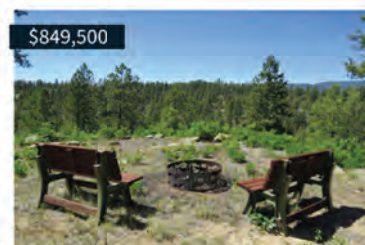
39+ Acres ~ 4,954 SF ~ 5 BR/3.5 BA
4-Stall 3,000 SF Barn ~ Workshop
Fenced/Cross Fenced ~ Great Pasture
Gated Community ~ Close To Town
Covered Deck ~ Panoramic Views



\$895,000

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT | 747075

7.8 Acres ~ Rio Blanco Valley ~ Adjoins
Nat'l Forest ~ Water Rights ~ Pond
Well ~ 2,833 SF 3 BR/2 BA Home
729 SF Guest House ~ 3,570 SF Barn
320 SF Workshop



\$849,500

CABEZON CANYON | 742121

160 Acres ~ Backs To National Forest
Next to Chimney Rock Nat'l Monument
Mature Ponderosa & Pine, Juniper & Oak
Underground Electricity & Phone
Wonderful Views



\$745,000

MOUNTAIN FARMHOUSE | 748500

3,607 SF Custom Home ~ 3 BR/3 BA
5 Acres ~ Pagosa Meadows
Open Floor Plan ~ Modern Upgrades
Heated 3-Car Garage ~ Radiant In-Floor
Heat ~ Fitness & Game Room



\$599,900

MEADOWS DREAM | 743566

5.35 Acres ~ 3,610 SF Custom Home
4 BR/4 BA ~ Irrigated Landscaping
Great Views - Large Garage & Craft Room
Adjoining 5 Acres Available
Separately For \$149,900



\$329,000

MOUNTAIN CHALET | 750580

1,567 Log Sided Custom Home
3 BR/2 BA + Loft ~ Pagosa Peak Views
Close To Nat'l Forest & Lake Hatcher
Very Private With Tall Pines
Paved Drive & Garage



\$68,000

MARTINEZ ESTATES | 745598

Beautiful 3.63 Acre Lot
Private Cul-de-sac ~ Great Build
Site in Martinez Mountain Estates
Wonderful Mountain Views
Surrounded by Pine Trees

MLS Statistics Based On PSAAR Volume Sales Data From 2006 Through September, 2018.

“ My very favorite time to soak was late at night and in the early morning. Under the moon and stars you can really find some inner peace surrounded by nature and hot steamy waters. ”



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PAGOSAHOTSPRINGS.COM



THE
SPRINGS
RESORT & SPA
PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO
800.918.3738



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OWNERSHIP**



CHECK OUT OUR NEW BISTRO!

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CHRIS RAPP, COURTESY OF WOLF CREEK SKI AREA




When your vacation
plans change ...
we have the care
you deserve, in the
mountains you love.

Walk-ins Welcome Mon-Sat 8am-4pm
Appointments Mon-Fri 7am-5pm
Emergency Room Services 24/7

PAGOSA SPRINGS
Medical Center

THE CARE YOU DESERVE, IN THE MOUNTAINS YOU LOVE

Primary Care Mon-Fri 7am-5pm | Walk-ins: Mon-Sat 8am-4pm 
970.731.3700 | 95 S. PAGOSA BLVD. | PagosaMedicalCenter.org

Leave your knee pain
in the dust.


ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY + SPORTS MEDICINE

Getting you back
to the activities you love

970.731.3700

PAGOSA SPRINGS
Medical Center

THE CARE YOU DESERVE, IN THE MOUNTAINS YOU LOVE

Primary Care Mon-Fri 7am-5pm | Walk-ins: Mon-Sat 8am-4pm 
970.731.3700 | 95 S. PAGOSA BLVD. | PagosaMedicalCenter.org



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 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

URGENT CARE



PAGOSA
Urgent Care

One-Call Phone System

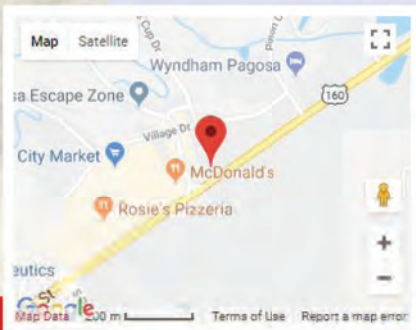
970-372-0456

Text, Call, or Just Walk In!

Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm

Saturday 9am - 6pm

- + MINIMAL WAIT TIMES**
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- + IN-HOUSE LAB**
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BEST

health care in our community



970-372-0456

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(Next to Tavern Le Boeuf)

Accepts all major insurance
including Medicaid
and cash options

info@pagosamedicalgroup.org
PagosaMedicalGroup.org

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 2.8 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 (866) 438-4917. 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: 20.97 inches/year

Annual Snowfall: 104 inches/year

Average Monthly Temperatures:

| Month | High | Low | Month | High | Low |
|-------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|
| Jan. | 37°F | 1.4°F | Jul. | 83°F | 45.2°F |
| Feb. | 43°F | 7°F | Aug. | 80°F | 44.6°F |
| Mar. | 49°F | 15.9°F | Sep. | 74°F | 36.6°F |
| Apr. | 59°F | 23.9°F | Oct. | 64°F | 26.3°F |
| May | 68°F | 30.2°F | Nov. | 50°F | 15.4°F |
| Jun. | 78°F | 36.3°F | Dec. | 40°F | 5°F |

Is there a medical facility?

Pagosa Springs Medical Center includes a critical access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phone (970) 731-3700. Dial 911 for emergency services. There are multiple clinics in the community offering a variety of 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 |
| Rise Above Violence..... | (970) 264-9075 |



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Pine Ridge Medical Director
and Doris Wood, resident.

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Visit www.goodearthmeds.com for menus and directions | 600 Cloman Blvd. #1 Pagosa Springs | 970-731-3202 | Mon - Sat 10:00 - 6:00



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 Country'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 deepest 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,



REG LARKIN

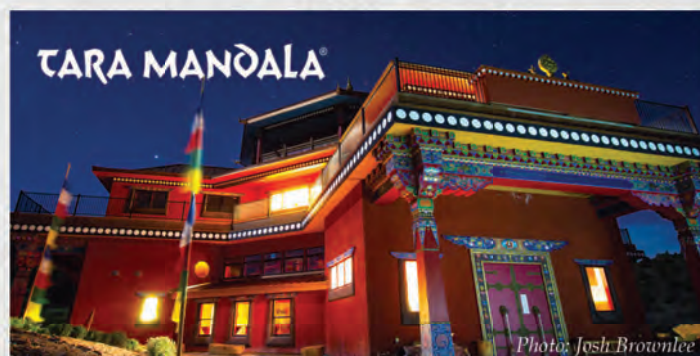
the Healing Waters Resort and Spa on the corner of San Juan Street and Hot Springs Boulevard also offers an outdoor swimming pool along with indoor mineral baths fed by a geothermal well that taps into the Pagosa Springs aquifer. Another good option for soaking is The Overlook Mineral Springs Spa located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

Outdoor activities

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

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

If this is your first time to Pagosa Country, make yourself at home in the midst of the most beautiful scenery and friendliest people in Colorado.



Tara Mandala is a beautiful retreat center on 700-acres of land nestled in the San Juan Mountains near Pagosa Springs. We host a variety of beginner and advanced meditation and yoga retreats throughout the year, with visiting teachers from around the world from many wisdom traditions.

Founded by internationally known Buddhist teacher **Lama Tsultrim Allione**, whose latest book, *Wisdom Rising: Journey into the Mandala of the Empowered Feminine*, is a true call to the return of the sacred feminine, providing a method of inner transformation and empowerment into wisdom and fierce compassion, for both women and men.

For more information, visit: www.taramandala.org

Calendar of Events

Weekly

Every Thursday
Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs
Noon

Pagosa Brewing & Grill
Come learn about what Rotary does in Pagosa Springs.
pagosaspringsrotary.org

Every Sunday
Bingo
6 p.m.

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

October

Month of October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Town and county proclamations; Clothes-line Project — T-shirts created by survivors of violence or in honor of someone who has experienced violence on display at the library and Town Hall.
riseaboveviolence.org

Thursdays, Oct. 11-Nov. 15
Lifelong Learning Lecture Series
5-6:30 p.m.
Ruby Sisson Memorial Library
Variety of topics.
pagosalibrary.org

Oct. 12-23
Thingamajig Playwrights Festival
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
Headlined by a full production of Dennis Elkins' new original "box." and two completely new plays that haven't found their way from paper to the stage before this 12-day intensive theater adventure. This will be a great intellectual journey for our festival goers. "box." is a comical, yet touching autobiographical one-man show that leads us through the journey of cleaning house after parents/children die when we must decide what to keep. Elkins gives voice to the sometimes prickly, yet pleasurable, process of packing and unpacking our prized possessions. Two playwrights with beautiful scripts will come to Pagosa to see their work come to life on stage for the first time and will be working frantically to rewrite and fine tune as they learn more about their scripts by watching them come to life. And you have the opportunity to watch the process happen. Festival passes include exclusive admittance into the two initial readings of the

plays, a working rehearsal for each play, as well as a final staged performance of each, so you can watch the works transform from words on a page to action on the stage.
(970) 731-7469, pagosacenter.org

Oct. 18
The Pink Party — Cancer Awareness Educational Event
5:30-7:30 p.m.
The Springs Resort EcoLuxe Lodge
Pagosa Springs Medical Center and The Springs Resort welcome you to join us for an interesting and educational event for anyone in your family who is facing cancer, celebrating survivorship or interested in more education and information about cancer and healthy living. Admission is free. Guest speakers will include members of our Cancer Care Team: Dr. Bill Jordan, Dr. Brenda Paris, Dr. Roy Tinguely, Dr. Virginia Tjan and Kelly Cesary, ANP-BC. Light hors d'oeuvres provided and a cash bar is available.
pagosamedicalcenter.org

Oct. 20
Rotary Jewels and Jeans Barn Dance
7-11 p.m.
Archuleta County Extension building
Tickets \$25, music by Country Thunder.
www.pagosaspringsrotary.com

Oct. 26
Halloween Lock-in
5-7 p.m.
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library
(ages 12-17)
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Oct. 27
Halloween Carnival
Noon-2 p.m.
Yamaguchi Park
(970) 264-4152

Oct. 27
Pagosa Springs Community Band
Fall Concert
7 p.m.
Pagosa Springs High School Auditorium
The Community Band is an all-volunteer concert band composed of brass, woodwinds, percussion and a sprinkling of strings. Admission is free; donations accepted with gratitude.

Oct. 31
Halloween Party and Pumpkin Carving Contest
3 p.m.

Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

November

Thursdays, Nov. 1-Nov. 15
Lifelong Learning Lecture Series
5-6:30 p.m.
Ruby Sisson Memorial Library
Variety of topics.
pagosalibrary.org

Nov. 10
Holiday Bazaar
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Ross Aragon Community Center
Fifty-five 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. 15-18
"Nutcracker the Musical"
Pagosa Springs High School auditorium
curtainssuppagosa.org

Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 7 p.m., Dec. 2, 4 p.m.
Pagosa Springs Community Choir
"It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas"
Pagosa Springs High School auditorium
An evening full of secular and sacred Christmas music performed by the community choir and select jazz ensemble.

December

Dec. 1, 7 p.m., Dec. 2, 4 p.m.
Pagosa Springs Community Choir
"It's Beginning to Look Like Christmas"
Pagosa Springs High School auditorium
An evening full of secular and sacred Christmas music performed by the community choir and select jazz ensemble.

Dec. 7
Festival of Trees
5:30 p.m.
Ross Aragon Community Center
(970) 264-4152

Dec. 14-30
"A Christmas Carol"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
Along a midnight clear, "A Christmas Carol" comes bounding along in December. Just in time to add to Christmas cheer to Pagosa. This Christmas classic adaptation by Dennis Elkins comes as close to the original book by Charles Dickens as you can get. With a majority of the text

Calendar of Events

coming straight from Dickens' pen, Elkins' adaptation stays true to the book while highlighting Scrooge's forgotten humanity. (970) 731-7469, pagosacenter.org

Dec. 21-Jan. 20

"Little Women: The Musical"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Based on the 1869 classic written by Louisa May Alcott by the same name, "Little Women" is the ultimate tale of sisterhood told through four sisters living and growing in the Civil War era. This heartwarming musical will have sisters, mothers, brothers and fathers captivated by these young women. (970) 731-7469, pagosacenter.org

January

Jan. 5

Southwest Nordic Regional Race Series opening event

Pagosa Nordic Skiathlon

Competitive 10k skate ski/10k classic ski, Youth 3k/3k and Kid K races.

9 a.m.

Location to be announced.
PagosaNordic@gmail.com

Jan. 11-13

Multi Purpose Pavilion Thomas Hayes Memorial 3 on 3 hockey tournament

The Rink at South Town Park, 8th St.

Featuring up to 20 teams of 3-6 players facing off in a pond hockey-style tournament. Spectators will be entertained with nonstop hockey action on the ice; off ice will feature local brews and entertainment on Saturday. Interested teams can contact Brian Collabolletta at skatepagosa@icloud.com.

Jan. 12

Learn to Cross Country Ski Clinic

10 a.m.-noon

Location to be announced.
Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons.
PagosaNordic@gmail.com

Jan. 18

Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social

Sunset

Location to be announced.
PagosaNordic@gmail.com

Jan. 19-20

Pagosa Paw Sled Dog Race

8 a.m.

Toner Ranch, 15.5 miles up Piedra Road
Events include both dog sledding and ski-

joring. Both competitive and sportsman events. Great for spectators.

Jan. 25-27

WinterFest

A number of activities are slated for the weekend where people can participate or enjoy the festivities through spectating. Hot air balloons, Sledz on Rez Downhill Sled Race, Penguin Plunge and more. (970) 264-2360, pagosachamber.com, admin@pagosachamber.com

Saturday, January 26

WinterFest Learn to Cross Country Ski Clinic

10 a.m.-noon

Location to be announced.
Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons.
PagosaNordic@gmail.com

Jan. 27

WinterFest Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon

9 a.m.

Location to be announced.
16k competitive/4K citizens-youth/KidK. Fun race for all ages and abilities.
PagosaNordic@gmail.com

February

Month of February

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Events throughout the month to promote awareness. Led by Youth Rise. riseaboveviolence.org

Feb. 8-17

"Cerebrotini: Stirred, But Not Shaken"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

Pagosa Springs legend Karl Isberg is back again with "Cerebrotini: Stirred, But Not Shaken." The same mind behind "Welcome to Siberia, Now go Home!" Isberg has an unparalleled comedic pen. "Cerebrotini" will take you on an evening's romp through the ICU and ask the ever-important question, "Are there cocktails in the afterlife?" (970) 731-7469, pagosacenter.org

Feb. 9

Learn to Cross Country Ski Clinic

10 a.m.-noon

Location to be announced.
Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons.
PagosaNordic@gmail.com

Feb. 10

DUST2 Fat Bike Race

9 a.m.-noon

Location and race lengths to be announced.

Registration and check-in 8:15-8:45 a.m. Fun for all ages and abilities. \$25/adults and \$20/18 and under.

Prizes: First place adult male/female, first place under 18 and best costume. (970) 398-1168, www.dustx2.com

Feb. 17 at sunset

Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social

Location to be announced.
PagosaNordic@gmail.com

March

March 16

Humane Society of Pagosa Springs Chocolate and Other Decadent Delights Auction

5:30 p.m.

Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association Clubhouse
(970) 264-5549, www.humanesociety.biz

April

Month of April

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Events all month.
riseaboveviolence.org

April (date to be determined)

Push-Up Challenge 2019

Push-Up victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Archuleta County. A fun, friendly, 30-minute competition where competitors raise money and complete as many push-ups as possible in 30 minutes. The individuals/teams earn points for each dollar raised and each push-up completed, all for ultimate bragging rights and a grand prize donated by local merchants. (970) 264-1129, riseaboveviolence.org

April 24

Denim Day

Wear jeans with a purpose, support survivors and educate yourself and others. riseaboveviolence.org

Be sure to check The Pagosa Springs SUN and PREVIEW for up-to-date information. An events calendar can be found at PagosaSUN.com.



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 — 9.1

Physical Description

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

Population Archuleta County

2010 Census — 12,084
2016 Estimate — 12,854

Newspaper

The Pagosa Springs SUN
Weekly newspaper with daily online updates at www.pagosasun.com.
Located at 457 Lewis St.
(970) 264-2100

Housing and Income

Median value of housing — \$268,400
Households — 5,382
Persons per household — 2.27
Per capita money income — \$28,649
Median household income — \$45,607
Persons in poverty — 12 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. 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
pagosachamber.com
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board
(866) 438-4917
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

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 if you plan on partaking 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 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 21 and older can purchase and possess up to 1 ounce of marijuana at a time in the state of Colorado. Having more can result in legal charges and fines.

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. For more information, visit www.colorado.gov/marijuana.



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Wolf Creek Ski Area Events

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Nov. 2 | Tentative Opening Day | Feb. 2..... | Camp Robbers |
| Nov. 4 | College Day | Feb. 3..... | Local Appreciation Day |
| Nov. 7 | Local's Day | Feb. 3..... | Super Bowl Race |
| Nov. 9-11..... | Veterans' Weekend | Feb. 4..... | Ms. Monday |
| Nov. 12 | Ms. Monday | Feb. 5..... | Forever Young Clinic |
| Nov. 14 | Local Appreciation Day | Feb. 6..... | Local Appreciation Day |
| Nov. 17 | Cosmic Mountaineering Race | Feb. 9..... | Camp Robbers |
| Nov. 26 | Local Appreciation Day | Feb. 10..... | Fun Race |
| Nov. 28 | Local Appreciation Day | Feb. 17..... | Presidents' Day Race |
| Dec. 2 | College Day | Feb. 24..... | College Day |
| Dec. 4 | Forever Young Clinic | Feb. 24..... | Fun Race |
| Dec. 5 | Local Appreciation Day | March 2..... | Mardi Gras Race |
| Dec. 10..... | Ms. Monday | March 5..... | Forever Young Clinic |
| Dec. 12..... | Local Appreciation Day | March 6..... | Jane and Pitch Tribute Day |
| Dec. 15..... | Fun Race | March 6..... | Local Appreciation Day |
| Dec. 24 and 25..... | Santa Visits Wolf Creek | March 9..... | Spring Fling Race |
| Jan. 6 | Fun Race | March 16..... | St. Patrick's Day Race |
| Jan. 9 | Forever Young Clinic | March 23..... | Fun Race |
| Jan. 12 | Camp Robbers | March 24..... | College Day |
| Jan. 13 | Wolf Creek Challenge Series | March 25..... | Ms. Monday |
| Jan. 14 | Ms. Monday | March 27..... | Local Appreciation Day |
| Jan. 16 | United Way Day | March 30..... | Fun Race |
| Jan. 20 | Martin Luther King Jr. Race | March 31..... | Local Appreciation Day |
| Jan. 26 | Camp Robbers | April 3 | Local Appreciation Day |
| Jan. 27 | Fun Race | April 6 | College Day |
| Jan. 27 | Local Appreciation Day | April 6 | Wolf Creek Challenge Series |

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WinterFest

RANDI PIERCE

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 2019 is set for Jan. 25-27, perfect for rounding out the Super Bowl weekend 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, dress warmly and capture the splendor as the balloons mass ascend on Jan. 26 and 27. 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 Sledz on Rez Race, hosted by the Young Professionals of Pagosa Springs (YPOPS), where homemade sleds “race” down Reservoir Hill located downtown. Decorated materials such as satellite dishes, wheelbarrows, kayaks or a crate are joined with skis or snowboards for imaginative sled creations. The crowd jeers and cheers the sledders 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 on Saturday 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 Riverwalk. Other events are in the works to enhance the weekends festivities.

For the athletically inclined, the Pagosa Nordic Club will also host some WinterFest events. On Saturday, Jan. 26, the WinterFest Learn to Cross County Ski Clinic runs from 10 a.m. to noon offering skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons.

On Sunday, Jan. 27, the Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon begins at 9 a.m. This event offers participants a cross-country course to fit your skill level. There will be an 16km competitive, 4km citizens-youth and KidK course. Each skier shoots at targets with BB guns, which are provided.

Since WinterFest activities are dependent upon the whims of Mother Nature, the locations of the Nordic events are not yet determined.

Be sure to check The Pagosa Springs SUN and 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

PAGOSA ESCAPE ZONE

Pagosa Escape Zone: Providing new meaning to family fun

By Chris Mannara

With all the outdoor activities offered in Pagosa Country, Pagosa Escape Zone makes the idea of being locked in a room for an hour a refreshing alternative.

In actuality, you're not really locked in a room against your will. At Pagosa Escape Zone you and your team are in a room for an hour, a room which you can leave at any time, and you are tasked with finding a way to "escape" the room.

Pagosa Escape Zone owner Antoinette Lucero-Rivas offered more explanation on the premise behind the escape zone.

"Basically, how I like to break it down is you and your group, of two to eight people, are put into a room and you're forced to work together to decipher different clues, codes

and puzzles in order to work your way out of the room in 60 minutes or less," Lucero-Rivas explained.

Lucero-Rivas likened it to living out a scavenger hunt or a real-life version of the board game Clue.

"I had done some research and found out how popular they were becoming. They originally started in Asia, got big in Europe and then are really big now in North America," Lucero-Rivas explained, on the creation of Pagosa Escape Zone.

The escape zone is perfect for team-building events and bachelorette parties, Lucero-Rivas noted that there has even been a wedding proposal in one of Pagosa Escape Zone's rooms.

Pagosa Escape Zone has offered two themes for its escape

rooms but this winter, the business will be in a new location that will provide enough space to have three different rooms, each with a different theme, Lucero-Rivas noted.

The two themes available currently are Treasure of the Rocky Mountains and a 1980s murder mystery.

Lucero-Rivas explained the process behind selecting a theme involves an idea along with more research.

Additionally, Lucero-Rivas checks to make sure that no other escape rooms are doing anything similar because as Lucero-Rivas explains, "I like to be different."

"I actually Googled interesting treasure stories in our region," Lucero-Rivas said, explaining the idea behind the Treasure of the Rocky Mountains theme. The website describes it as: "In 2010 an 86 year old multi-millionaire named Forrest Fenn buried over \$2,000,000 worth of treasure in the Rocky Mountains – the only clue to the location of this treasure is a riddle in the form of a poem... can you solve the riddle and find the treasure?"

For the 1980s murder mystery, Lucero-Rivas explained that the inspiration was due to her fandom of that time period.

The newest theme at Pagosa Escape Zone is tropical, Lucero-Rivas added.

"It's going to be Jimmy Buffett-based where you're looking for his lost shaker of salt," Lucero-Rivas said.

The website adds to that description: "You may not want to leave this tropical paradise once we lock you in."

The fastest time on record that a team has completed a challenge at Pagosa Escape Zone is 34 minutes and 40 seconds, Lucero added.

Pagosa Escape Zone's new location is at 175 Pagosa Street.



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FEBRUARY 8TH - 17TH

Cerebrotini: Stirred, But Not Shaken BY KARL ISBERG

IN RESIDENCE
AT THE PAGOSA
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FOR THE ARTS



Thingamajig Theater Company is in residence at the  PAGOSA SPRINGS CENTER for the ARTS 2313 Eagle Dr., Pagosa Springs, CO.



Magical Moments

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://wolfcreekski.com/wolf-creek-beginner-ski-school.php>. Equipment rental is not included in the ski school price.

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 addition, the Pagosa Multi-Purpose Pavilion Winter Ice Rink is located at South Pagosa Park on South 8th Street for ice skating, hockey, curling and broomball.

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. offers programs for young and old alike. From bridge to yoga, pick-up basketball games to mah-jong, the center is open to the public and many 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 LANER

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DOUG CHAPIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Something for Everyone

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.

Nested 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.

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 com-



PAGOSA NORDIC CLUB

plex, ice skating is available to visitors and locals alike on the lower west-end pond at The River Center Park.

The pond is usually groomed for skaters from about mid-December — just before the Christmas break rush — until mid-February (depending on weather conditions, of course).

In addition, the Pagosa Multi-Purpose Pavilion Winter Ice Rink is located at South Pagosa Park on South 8th Street for ice skating, hockey, curling and broomball.

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 with the annual "Parade of Stores." The event will take place Nov. 30 through Dec. 2, 2018. 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.

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 Colo-

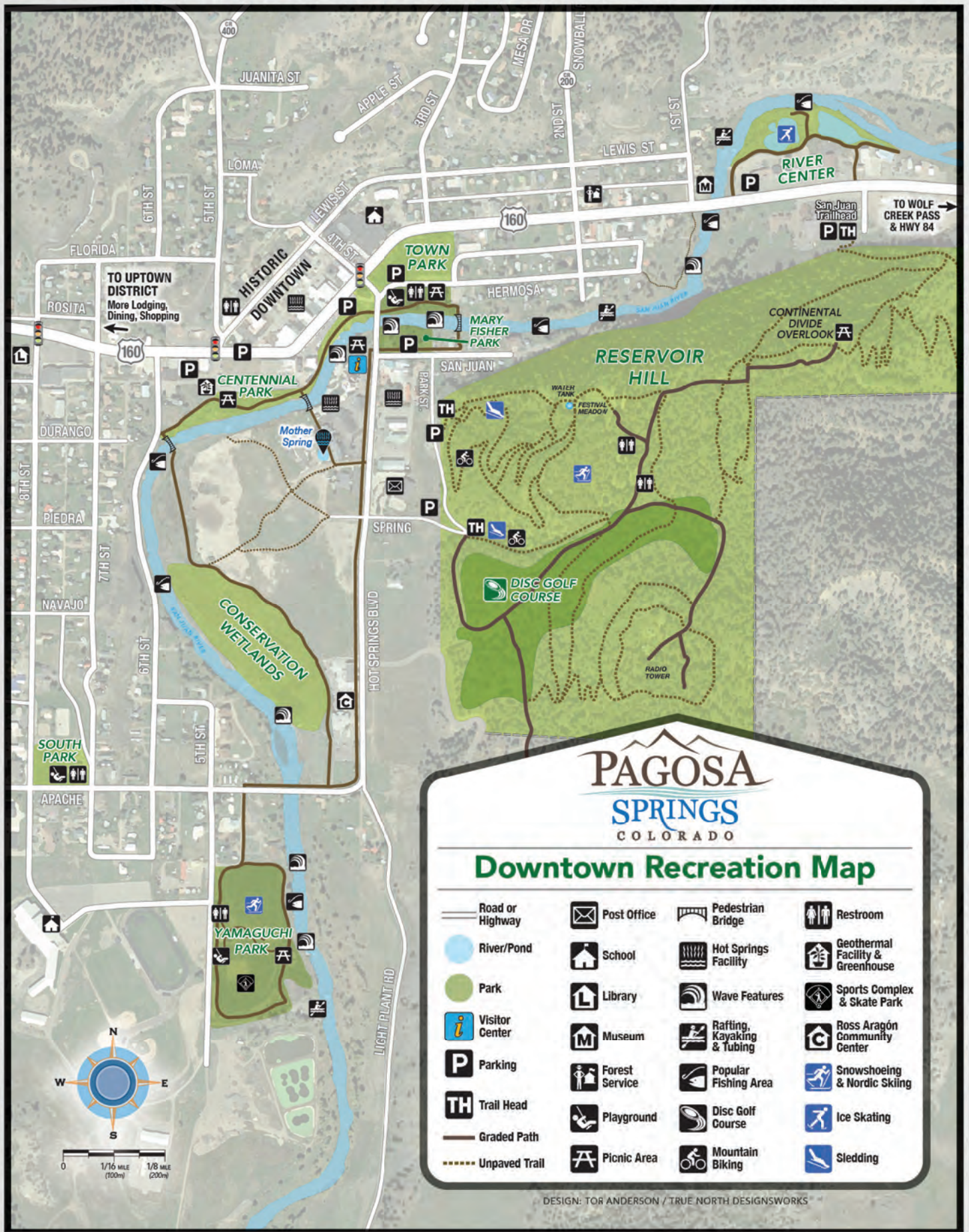
rado, the Thingamajig Theatre Company will entertain you with holiday performances of "A Christmas Carol." The winter season also brings the Thingamajig Playwrights Festival, "Little Women: The Musical," and "Cerebrotini: Stirred, But Not Shaken" to the stage. Don't miss the opportunity to take in one 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. This year's auction event is set for Dec. 7, with the public viewing set for Dec. 6.

As the winter season progresses, the community welcomes visitors for WinterFest, which is set for Jan. 25-27.

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.



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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.

To cap off your soaking experience, each facility also offers massage services.

Located on the main street of Pagosa Springs at 432 Pagosa St., the Overlook Hot Springs Spa offers soaking and massage services housed within old-world Victorian opulence.

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. There's also a sauna and geothermal tub.

The Overlook's 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 massage rooms, 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, hotel rooms, suites, cabins, and pull-through RV spaces with full hookups. The ambiance here is down home, western and friendly. Through long years of service, the hosts have learned to satisfy the needs of the most discriminating guest.

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

Across the street, The Springs Resort offers more than 79 lodging units and 23 tubs (two of which are jetted) to accommodate 300 visitors at a time. A 6,000-square-foot bathhouse, featuring 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 river's sound 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 beverages.

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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World's Deepest Hot Spring

SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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 deepest 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

Have an ice day

By Chris Mannara

Wintertime in Pagosa Country brings its own slew of activities: skiing, sledding, even snowshoeing. However, for those feeling a bit more adventurous, there is the added opportunity to ice skate.

The first location that comes to mind to go test your skills is the ice skating rink at South Park located at the corner of South 8th and Apache streets.

Pagosa Multi Purpose Pavillion Executive Director Brian Collabolletta explained that he has been involved with the ice rink since its inception about five years ago.

Collabolletta adds that before the ice rink was built in Pagosa, he and a group of friends would travel to Durango to play hockey.

"We were trying to figure out a way to make it happen so that we didn't have to drive to Durango anymore," Collabolletta explained.

"It's something that's just evolved over the years from just trying to do a little skating rink, something we could have fun with, to something that now is looking like, the future, could be a permanent ice skating facility here in Pagosa," Collabolletta said.

Right now, sports like hockey are not currently the

main draw for the rink, but the public skating sessions are, Collabolletta noted.

Currently, the ice rink has 400-500 pairs of skates to rent for those who wish to take part in the public skating sessions, Collabolletta added.

"Any given night over the holidays, the first month of January, all of January, we got 100 people skating out there in circles. It looks like NASCAR on ice," Collabolletta described further.

The ice rink provides something else for tourists, youth and locals to do, Collabolletta added later.

For those who may be novices at skating and might be a little anxious, Collabolletta offered some thoughts.

"If you're a first-timer we've got skate training aides. They're like little skate scooters," Collabolletta explained. "So we've seen a lot of people who have never done it, a lot of adults who have never done it. They go out there, they fall down once or twice and it's no big deal; they laugh and have a good time."

Additionally, the ice rink houses three-on-three hockey tournaments, Collabolletta added.

"As far as a league, until we have a full size rink it's really only big enough to play three-on-three," Collabolletta explained.



Other places to skate

Ice skating is also available at the River Center Park.

The River Center Park is located behind the River Center Shopping complex on the north side of U.S. 160 on the east side of Pagosa Springs.

“People can ice skate there for free. It’s just not groomed as often,” Town of Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis said.

Ice skating at the River Center Park depends on the weather as well, Lewis noted.

When skating on the pond, new safety risks come into play, Lewis noted that there are signs posted in regards to rules and regulations.

“It is at your own risk. We will put up signs stating that the pond is closed if for any reason the ice is too thin in the wintertime to skate on,” Lewis said.

The ponds at River Center Park are not always readily available for people to skate on during the winter due to weather conditions, Lewis added.

“It’s a winter sport. Obviously we have a great amenity with Wolf Creek, but here in town, you know, it’s a very affordable thing to go and do,” Lewis noted.

PAGOSA MULTI PURPOSE PAVILLION



ROSANNE PITCHER

Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area is known for having the most natural snow in Colorado, but don't expect the ski area to rest on those laurels.

Last summer, the ski area constructed its 10th lift. The new addition is a Doppelmayr high-speed, detachable quad chairlift named the Charity Chairlift, previously named the Meadow Lift.

The change of name is a salute to Charity Jane Pitcher, past owner of Wolf Creek Ski Area. The new Charity Lift is the third chairlift in the spacious, 900-acre Alberta Area.

In addition, the ski area is also launching a new point-of-sale system in the rental shops, sport shops and all restaurants mountain wide.

The ski area also recently went solar. Wolf Creek is an environmentally friendly area and has always been a leader in maintaining sustainable business practices.

The new features set to debut this winter join several other upgrades made prior to the 2017-2018 season.

Among those things was a new point-of-sale system in the ticket office, the Lynx Lift, a covered conveyor and interpretive center.

The ticket office's point-of-sale system allows guests the luxury of arranging and paying for their lessons from the comfort of their home prior to their trip. Private lessons will still need to be arranged through the ticket office or booked over the phone due to the many details. Once pass holders have their season pass card, they will go directly to lifts and skip the ticket office.

The Lynx Lift is a 290-foot covered conveyor that takes guests to the interpretive center, where instructors greet skiers enrolled in lessons. Students will be introduced to the sport, watch safety videos

and begin their lessons. 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 shuttle services for parking.

Wolf Creek 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. Finding an intermediate groomer to cruise down to start your day isn't hard to do, and tree skiing is endless.

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. The 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 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 or 1(800) SKI-WOLF



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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.

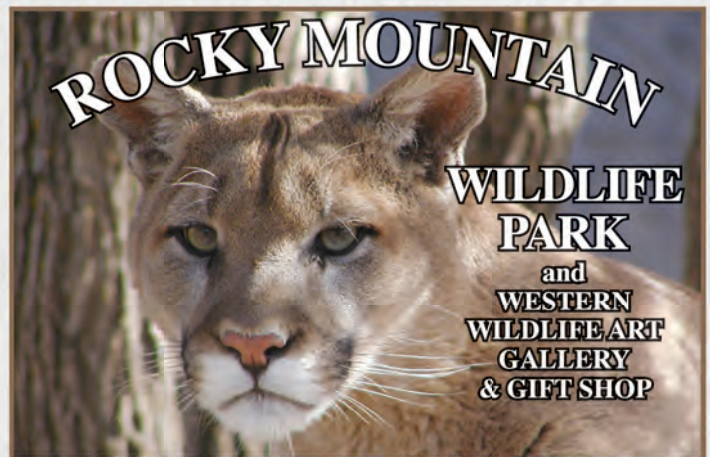
Pagosa Country offers plenty of opportunities for snowmobile adventures and travel. Thanks to the San Juan National Forest Pagosa Ranger District, among others, there is a wide selection of designated snowmobile routes. The routes follow unplowed forest roads and trails, many of which are groomed by 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.

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



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reference the area table for information about the location of areas where travel is restricted to designated routes.

- Each over-the-snow vehicle that is operated on public land in Colorado must be registered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Out-of-state residents who bring snowmobiles into Colorado must purchase 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 www.cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/SnowmobileLawRegs.aspx.

Pre-plan and prepare

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

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

Avalanche danger

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

Route finding

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

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

Parking

Parking areas may not be plowed; therefore, parking space is often limited and may not be available after snowstorms when snow removal is in progress. Please park 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.



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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, unroomed 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 types 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 (CORSAR) 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.

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.

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 cloth-

ing, especially next to the skin. You can be sure that you will get wet from sweat, from falling down, or from snow falling off trees. You may get cold if you stop for any amount of time. The weather may change dramatically if a front is coming in or if it starts snowing. In a group, some items can be shared.

Equipment and clothing

Skis, boots, poles — no-wax skis, maxiglide or other for sticking; waxable skis — waxes, cork, scraper and snow thermometer; sunglasses or glacier glasses; sunscreen; day pack or fanny pack; Swiss army knife; compass; maps; quart-size canteen or wide-mouth bottle filled with water; long underwear (polypropylene or other synthetic); intermediate layer — sweater (wool or synthetic) or shirt (wool or synthetic); windbreaker layer (nylon, 60/40 cloth, avoid garments that are heavily treated with waterproofing); pants or knickers (wool or synthetic, blue jeans are not recommended); socks (wool or synthetic); liner socks; hat (wool or synthetic) — you must be able to cover your ears; high-energy snacks and lunch, if appropriate; toilet paper and plastic bag for used paper; first aid kit; flashlight; vest (down or synthetic) or warmer jacket (down or synthetic); poncho and/or space blanket; extra hats, extra gloves; balaclava or ski mask; neck gaiter; ear band (knit-wool or synthetic); thin polypropylene or other synthetic gloves to operate equipment such as cameras; matches in a waterproof container; candle; whistle; duct tape; ski tip.

Be prepared for avalanche danger

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

Always check conditions with an avalanche forecasting group before going out. Daily avalanche forecasts can be obtained online at www.avalanche.state.co.us or 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.

Groomed Nordic Skiing Trails

Groomed Nordic ski trails are for classic cross-country skiing and skate skiing only. Other users should avoid groomed surfaces.

Visit PagosaNordic.com for full trail details.

Alberta Lake Nordic Loop

A beautiful 10km 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 20 percent, intermediate 50 percent, advanced 30 percent.

Special features:

- The Wolf Creek Ski Area grooms up to 10km for skate skiing and classic cross-country skiing.

- 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.

Fall Creek Nordic Trail

(Forest Road 039)

Beginning at about 9,600 feet in elevation, this popular ski route climbs gradually for about 5.5km. Great early and late-season snow conditions. 5.5km groomed for cross-country skiing typically groomed 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 (Forest Road 39). Once cleared, there is a large parking area on the south side of the highway. Avoid parking along highway travel lanes.

West Fork Nordic Trail

With an abundance of flat, groomed and natural terrain, the West Fork area provides fantastic cross-country opportunities for beginners and families as well as experienced skiers. 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 15km 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 14km for skate skiing, with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing. The first level — just off the parking area — offers 3km of beginner, groomed trails. From the main trail, skiers can continue up to the second level for an additional 3km of intermediate terrain. The upper loop offers another 6km of intermediate terrain and 2km 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.

Cloman Park Nordic Ski Trail

10km groomed by the Pagosa Nordic Club for skate skiing with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing. Located 2 miles north of U.S. 160 on Piedra Road to Cloman Boulevard, then two miles to the trailhead (past airport and sawmill). Friendly dogs welcome, though some portions enter private property, which prohibits dogs. Snowshoeing allowed off of groomed ski trails please.

Ability levels: Beginner 40 percent, intermediate 40 percent, advanced 20 percent.

Special features:

- Close proximity to town and has recently been expanded. Please respect private property and stay on groomed trails. Good parking and portable toilet available.

Laverty Ranch Nordic Ski Trail

10km groomed by the Pagosa Nordic Club. One mile east of town at 2197 E. Hwy. 160.

Special features:

This area is for Nordic skiing only. Venue is private property and other winter uses are prohibited. No dogs allowed. Beginner terrain is accessible from the parking lot with plenty of intermediate and advanced terrain. Do not park on pavement during business hours Monday-Friday. Pagosa Nordic Club membership or trail-use fee required for this trail use.

Ability levels: Beginner 10 percent, intermediate 40 percent, advanced 50 percent.

Multi-Use Winter Trails

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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 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.

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).

Back-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing

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.

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 back-country 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 is 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.

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.

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.

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.



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Avalanche Awareness

Twenty-nine people were killed by avalanches in the U.S. in the winter of 2017-2018, including three in Colorado.

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

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

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

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

Travelers should move singly in avalanche terrain to reduce stress on the snowpack, while possessing the equipment and the skills necessary to successfully affect an avalanche rescue. Because a victim buried just 30 minutes stands less than a 35-percent chance of survival, time is of the essence. To aid in location and rescue efforts, each well-equipped party member should carry an electronic avalanche beacon, probe pole and light-weight 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 has worked over 40 winters 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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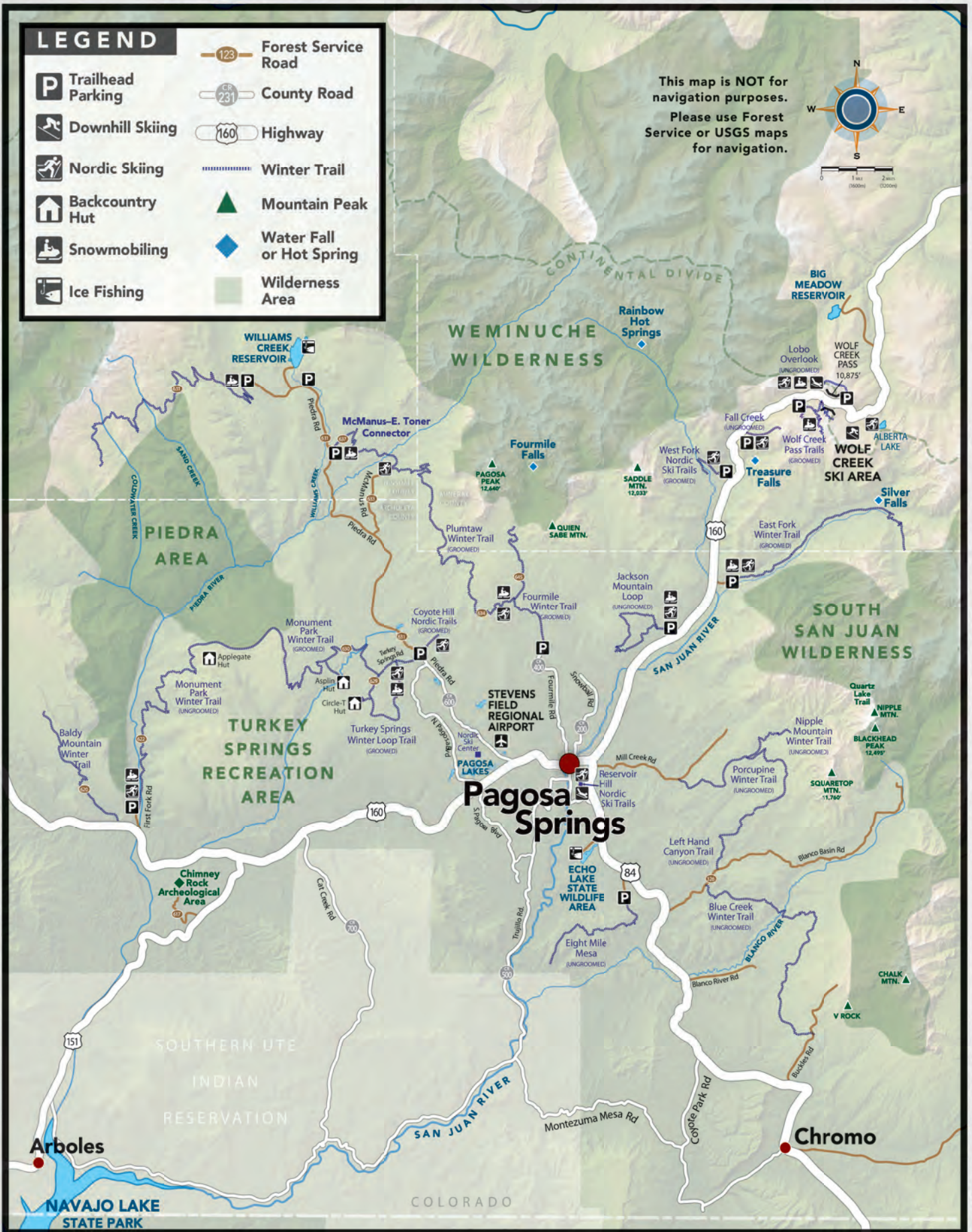
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This map is NOT for navigation purposes. Please use Forest Service or USGS maps for navigation.





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.

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RANDI PIERCE

Let Pagosa Springs Visitor Center help enhance your vacation experience

Whether you're looking for information on lodging, restaurants or area activities, you're likely to find it and much more by checking out the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center on Hot Springs Boulevard.

Located along the banks of the San Juan River, the Visitor Center features a nice park setting with free wifi, restrooms and a wealth of area information.

Staffed with a team of amazing volunteers waiting to assist you in planning your visit, the Visitor Center is open daily. During the winter, the Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition, there are multiple brochures outside of the Visitor Center for information after hours.

Each month, Visitor Center volunteers take tours and participate in scavenger hunts of the local amenities to ensure everyone has a wealth of experience and information to pass on to

area visitors.

To help our visitors stay hydrated, Visitor Center staff and volunteers also provide free water bottles, with a water bottle refill station available.

Also, to keep the young ones occupied while the parents gather information about their visit, a children's play corner is provided with puzzles, games and a chalkboard with colored chalk. As an added bonus, the kiddos can take activity books and crayons to help teach them more about historic sites and area wildlife. If they complete the activity book, fun prizes await them at the Visitor Center.

If the adults want in on the fun, too, the Visitor Center runs a bike planter scavenger hunt year-round, with businesses hosting the bike planters, offering another great way to explore town.

You can reach the Visitor Center by calling (970) 585-1200 or (866) 438-4917, or visit the website www.visitpagosasprings.com.



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Flavor of Pagosa

EVERY MARTINEZ

P.S. Chocolates: Local chocolate, global ingredients

By Avery Martinez

For Michele White, chocolate is an art form to be treated like any other medium, and enjoyed as delicately as wine.

“I feel like making the chocolate is just a new form of art for me,” White said.

White is the owner and chocolatier of P.S. Chocolates, Pagosa’s hand-made chocolate shop.

White believes that chocolate is a way to treat and nurture ourselves.

“What I think is really key in my business is that my chocolate is gourmet chocolate,” White said.

White calls it artisan chocolate because it is made fresh in small batches with quality ingredients.

The shop has different types of treats, including: dark,

white and milk chocolates, fudge, cookies, brownies, suckers, drinks and gift items. Sugar- and gluten-free options are available.

White has always loved chocolate, and started as a chocolatier when she was an intern for a chocolatier from New Mexico. Once she had the basics down and some recipes, she jumped in and opened the shop.

White attended the Art Institute of Chicago, and was previously an art teacher.

“I come from that artistic background, and I guess I’ve always been an artsy person,” White said.

White artistically experiments with decorating the chocolate. Splattering color on the chocolate is how she abstractly paints on the chocolate.

She also has experience in business and White believes that the shop is a merge between her business and artistic practices.

This is the shops' third year in business. Much of what goes on at P.S. Chocolates involves experimenting with the media of chocolate. White's teenage daughter also helps with creations.

Experiencing gourmet chocolate is a process of slow savoring involving smell and letting chocolate melt on your tongue.

Some mass-market chocolate bars only contain 11 percent raw cocoa, and the rest of the bar is other ingredients, according to White. However, White's chocolate uses somewhere between 32 and 70 percent cocoa.

The shop's chocolate is globally sourced from places like Peru and Ecuador.

White can only make one pound of chocolate at a time.

"It's a hands-on approach," White said, and a laborious process.

Through a process called tempering, P.S. Chocolate's high quality chocolate is produced.

In the tempering process, raw chocolate is placed into a machine. The chocolate is melted, for dark chocolate the temperature is around 114 degrees. After the chocolate reaches 114 degrees, cold chocolate is inserted into the heated chocolate. Instantly, the temperature drops and the genetic structure of the chocolate changed.

After this, the temperature of the chocolate drops to around 88 degrees. As a result, well-tempered chocolate will snap when a piece is broken away.

White gets enjoyment from educating people about chocolate, which she blames on her teaching background.

For holidays, P.S. Chocolates does something special, like dipped strawberries for Valentine's Day. White makes realistic chocolate flowers, and at a distance, you may not be able to tell the chocolate from the real thing.

Dog treats dipped in white chocolate are available as a special treat for your pooch.

For cold winter days, artisan hot chocolate is offered. Scraps from the chocolate making are collected, melted and mixed with chocolate powder from France to make the drink. Fixings can be added to the hot chocolate, including drizzled chocolate, whip cream and sprinkles.

Be sure to stop by P.S. Chocolates to treat and nurture yourself.

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Out West Saddlery: Keeping a craft alive

By Avery Martinez

Out West Saddlery has been providing high quality, custom made saddles for years. This local saddlery produces custom pieces that are good for your horse and for you.

Bob Beecher, owner and saddlemaker, has been in the craft for over 20 years. Terri, Bob's wife, handles the business side of the saddlery.

But saddles aren't the only items you'll find at Out West Saddlery. Other items include chaps, holsters, leather cuffs, reins, shirts, phone cases and more.

Inside the saddlery, the store and workshop exist side by side. Items are shipped all over the globe.

Bob is a former boat builder with experience in motorcycle racing, house building, construction, cowboy-ing and more.

As Bob reached middle age, he began thinking of careers he could work at for the long-term and became interested in leatherworking.

"And I had never done it before," Bob said, adding that he had never even made a belt.

When Bob was trying to learn saddlemaking there were few opportunities; saddlemakers were unwilling to pass on secrets.

Bob eventually found a teacher who was willing to show him the craft. He was taught to make the foundation of the saddle and leatherworking.

Bob explained he learned a lot on his own.

Searching for more teaching, Bob went to other saddlemakers, in some cases he was kicked out of shops.

Bob explained from the beginning he wanted to pass on the craft.

Estella Ray wanted to learn that craft, becoming apprentice to Bob, and in turn, she is apprenticing another.

The shop's approach to making saddles is based on ways of making saddles dating back to the 1800s.

Style for the saddlery is niche; focusing on Vaquero-styled items, the clientele is not really rodeo people but more the working cowboy, according to Terri.

The Vaquero culture centered on horsemanship and doing

things with finesse, and not using the horse as a motorcycle, according to the Beechers.

The Vaquero arose from when the Spanish spread across America, and did not have access to much gear, so in turn, created their own.

Items such as horsehair and rawhide were the tools of the trade. This same gear is what Out West Saddlery decided to specialize in.

One unique aspect of the saddlery is a focus put on the rider sitting comfortably and healthily in the saddle, according to Terri.

"It's less pain, more balance and the same for the horse," Terri said.

Terri explained that the saddlery was providing an old-time look to fit the modern horse.

Another item is a special pad for use with the saddle. This pad is a tool that allows more or less cushioning to be added as needed.

A wire system is used, where the wire is shaped to the horse and placed in the bottom of the saddle to see if the angles match. If the angles do not match, then parts of the pad can be removed or added to help create an ideal fit.

"This can help even on somebody else's saddles," Terri said.

Many tools around the shop are as simple as hammers, sewing machines and hands, but other pieces of machinery are specialized for use.

A 25,000-pound press built in the 1940s is used to cut parts of the leather. The Beechers added several modifications to get it to 21st-century safety standards. Custom steel shapes that act like cookie cutters are used in the machine to cut a certain shape into leather.

Bob explained the press saved a lot of time.

"I still love working, and probably will do it until the day I die," Bob said.

Leather and saddle work are best done in quiet peace, which is why the saddlery is not located in the downtown area. If someone cares to tour the facility, they may, but scheduling a time to visit the business in advance works best.

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Real Estate & Home Guide

PAGOSA PHOTOGRAPHY

Through the lens: A photographer's perspective on Pagosa Country

By Chris Mannara

Known for his emphatic, joyful nature and his ability to capture beautiful sights around Pagosa Springs, Jeff Laydon, owner of Pagosa Photography, sat down for an interview to capture, much like his camera lens, the reasons as to why he chose Pagosa Springs as a place to roost.

Laydon began by explaining that before settling in Pagosa Springs, he had lived in Pueblo, Denver, Glenwood Springs and Dallas, Texas.

Laydon noted that his family initially visited Pagosa

Springs because his parents owned a timeshare in the area.

However, Laydon, his wife and their young twins weren't even able to make it into town during that initial visit due to stormy conditions on Wolf Creek Pass.

"So we actually moved here sight unseen," Laydon said.

Laydon and his family made Pagosa Springs their home in August of 1995.

"I didn't really miss a whole lot, personally," Laydon said about leaving the city life. "I adjusted pretty quick.

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When Laydon and his family travel outside of Pagosa Springs, they sure are excited to get back, he noted.

The first thing that he noticed in that summer of '95 was Pagosa's natural beauty.

It was a relaxed atmosphere in Pagosa Springs, Laydon explained.

Growing up with young children in Pagosa Springs, Laydon shared that finding things for his children to do was not hard.

In Pagosa Springs the simplicity and not "wanting the wants" of things in the city were recognized, Laydon noted.

"There's parks and rec, there's the ski area, there was all the outdoor activities that were available that were exciting to the kids," Laydon said.

Future residents

For those who are interested in moving to Pagosa Springs, Laydon offered some advice on why Pagosa Springs should be their home.

"Pagosa Springs has everything that Colorado offers," Laydon said. "We have the mountains, we have the wildlife, we have the rock, aspen, waterfalls, lakes, fishing, hunting. It's everything that Colorado offers."

Additionally, Laydon praised the fact that Pagosa Springs gets a "good, solid, four seasons."

"Expect a challenge. Be an entrepreneur. Be willing to work. People here respect integrity and good skills," Laydon said.

"There's many assets to the community. And there are setbacks as well, but I think the community is working hard to overcome those setbacks," Laydon said.

Laydon also expressed his love of winter season in Pagosa Country.

"The beautiful way that it snows here. When it comes down and it's the size of a half-dollar and it's feather like when it falls, that is so beautiful," Laydon said.

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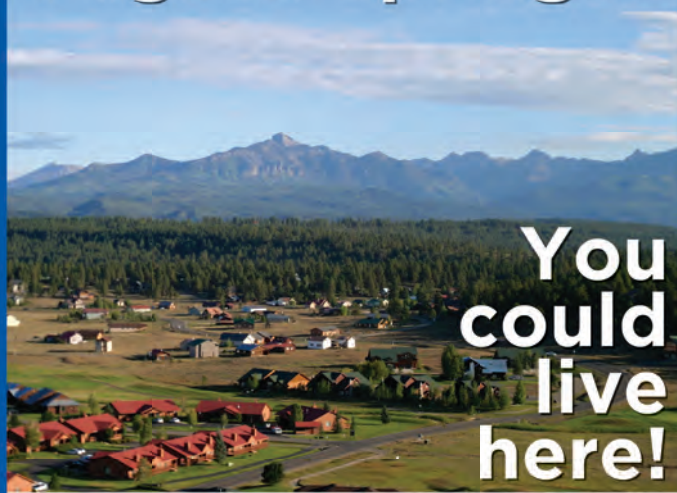


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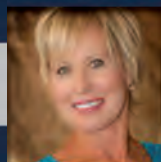
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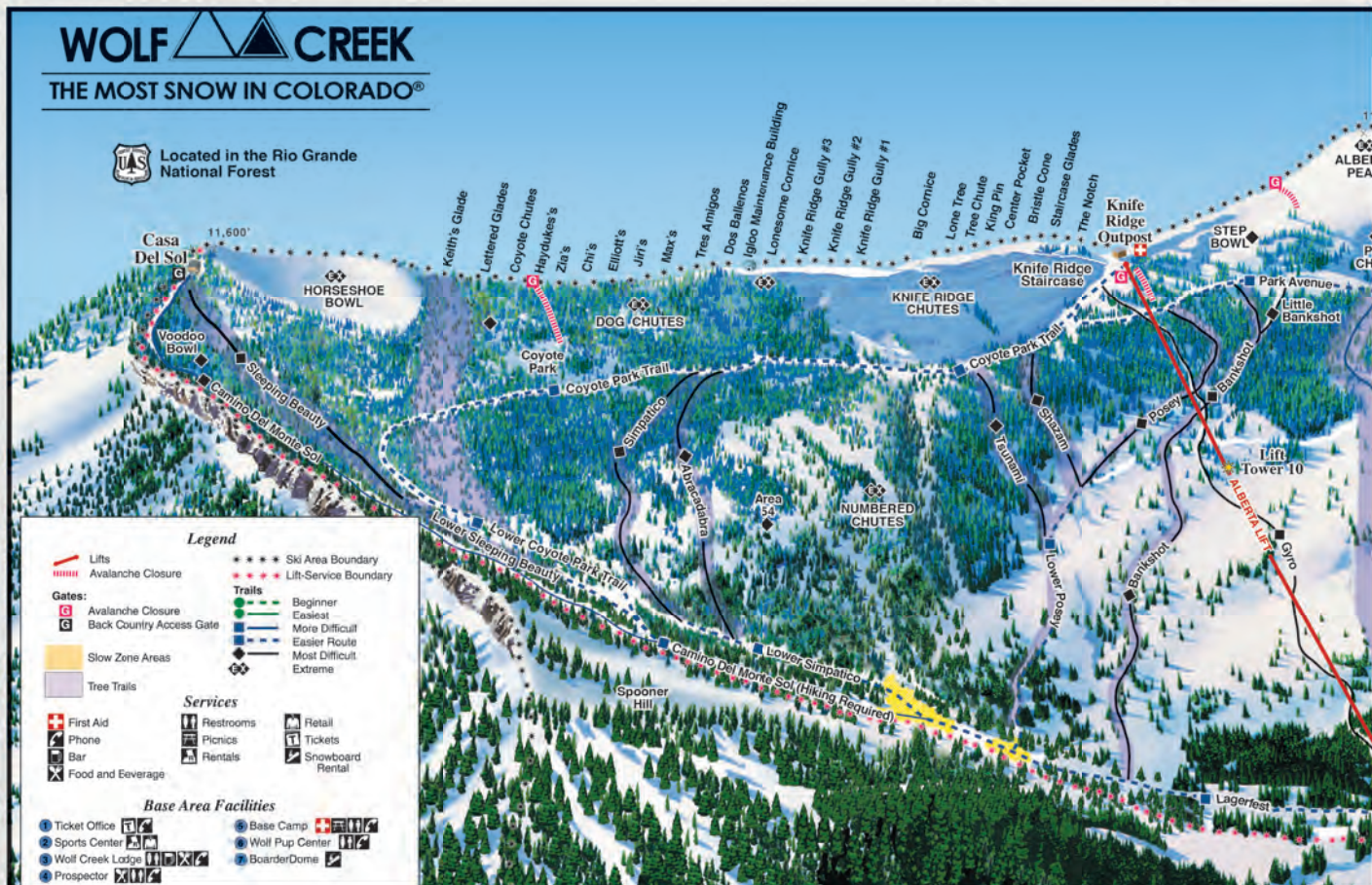
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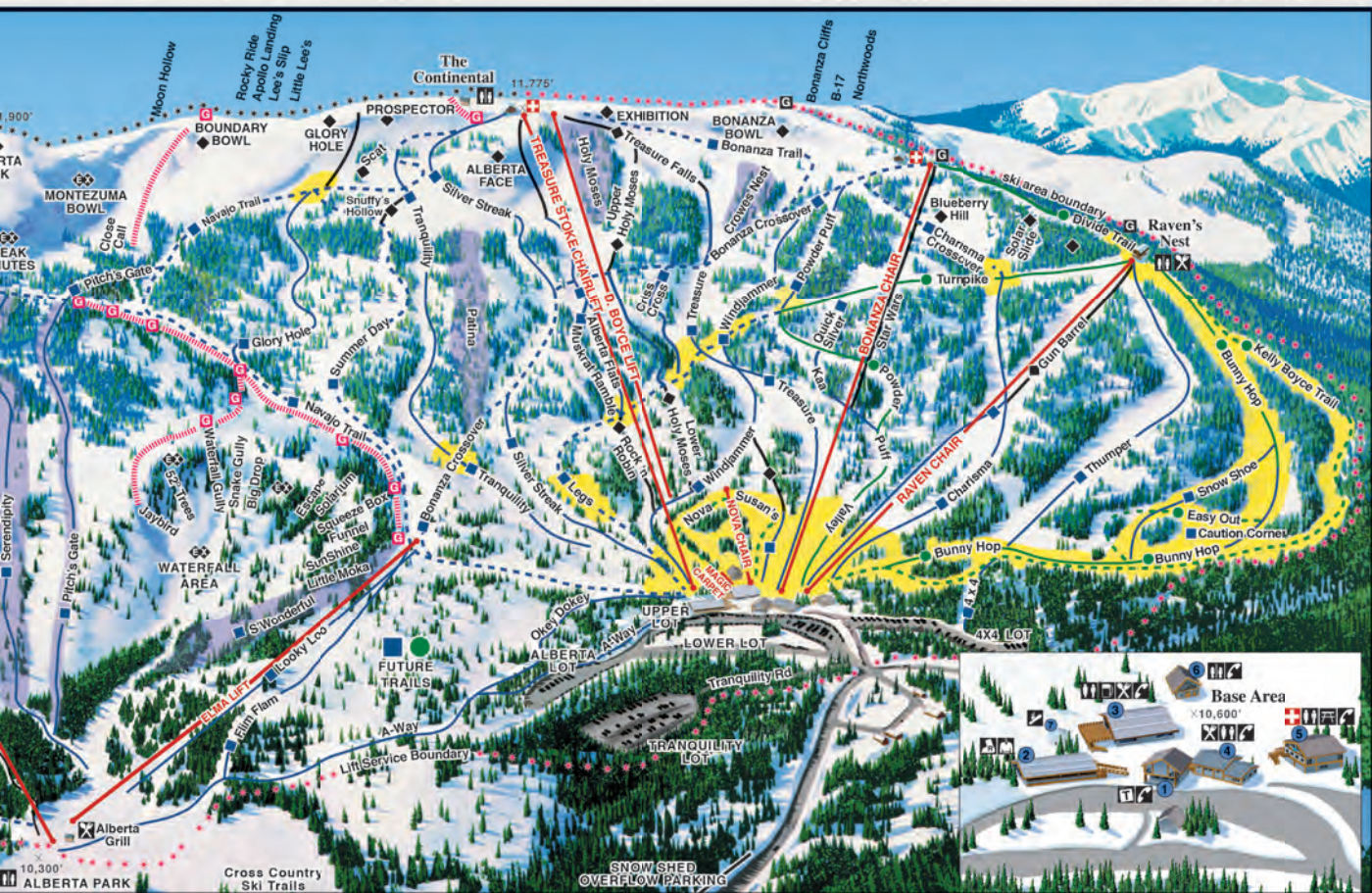
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The Pagosa Springs **SUN**



Getting Here

RANDI PIERCE

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 plus. 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 an 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 Springs has car rental agencies and transportation companies to help you get around.

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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.

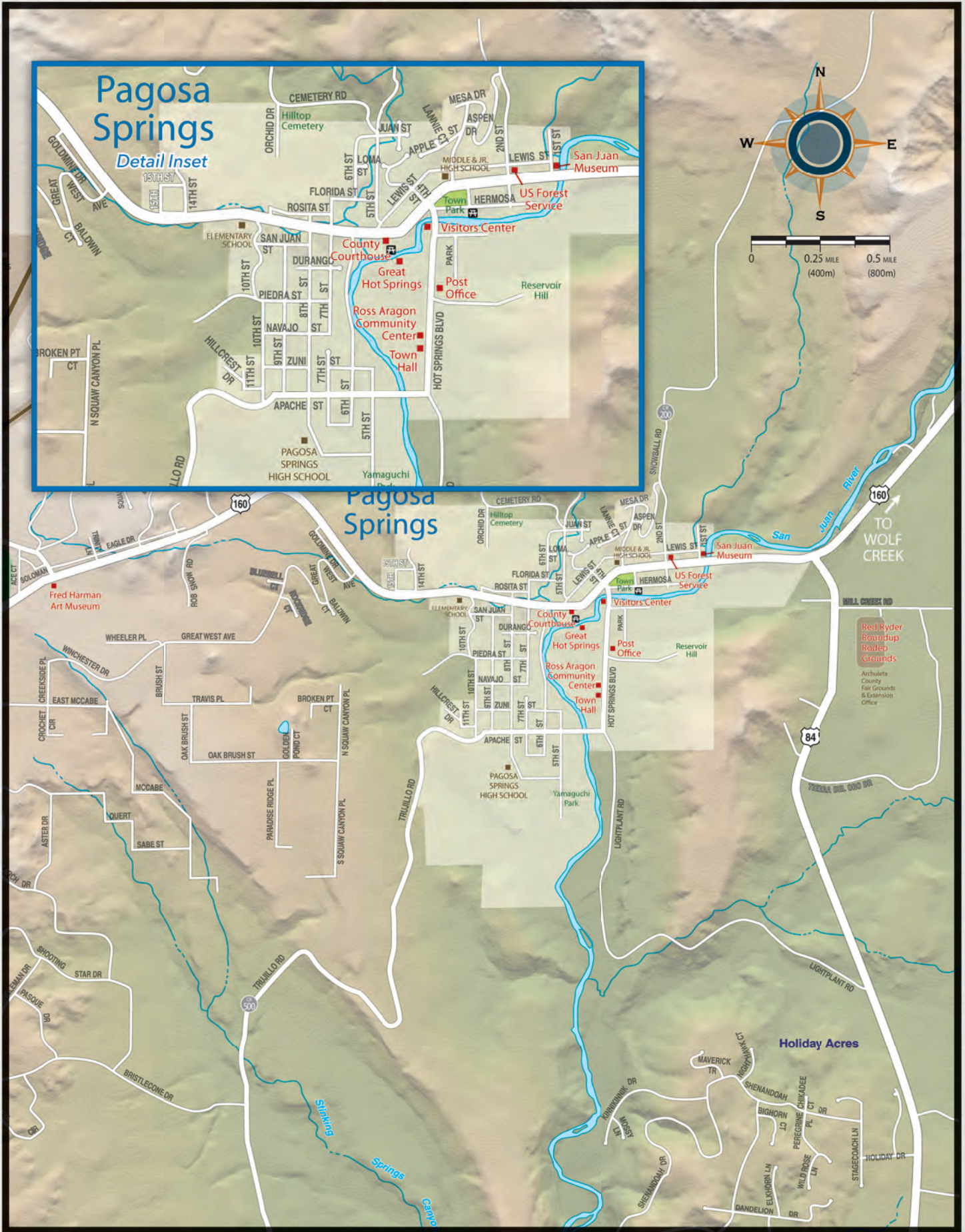
The airport is located 60 miles from Pagosa Springs at the intersection of Airport Road and County Road 309A, approximately 1 mile from County Road 309.

More information about flights and ancillary services is at www.flydurango.com.

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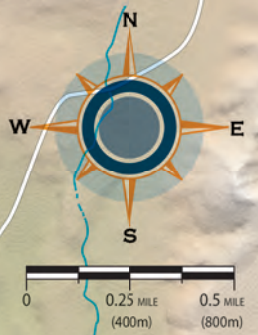
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Pagosa Springs

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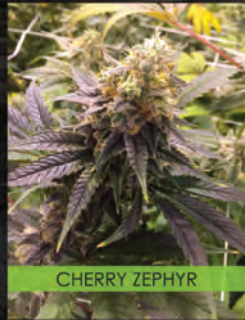


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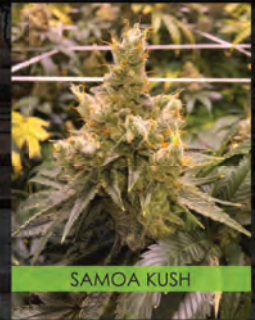
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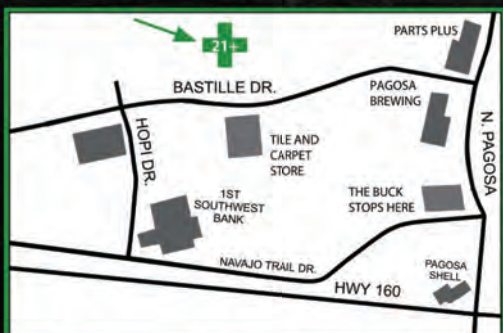
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