

# PAGOSA SPRINGS OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™



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

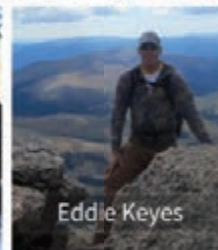
FREE • WINTER 2019-2020 • A PUBLICATION OF THE PAGOSA SPRINGS SUN

# Live The Pagosa Lifestyle

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*Statistics based on volume sales per PSAAR MLS Data in cooperation with other Brokers.*



\$7,250,000

Listed By Kim Brown

**SADDLEHORN RANCH | 761207**  
105 Acres ~ Custom Home ~ Massive Views  
Barndominium/Guest Home ~ 3 Ponds  
Seasonal Creek ~ Horse Facilities ~ Fencing



\$3,995,000

Listed By Layne Panna

**CROSS BELL RANCH | 758519**  
136+ Acres ~ Custom Home + Guest Home  
Extensive Horse Facilities ~ 2 Lakes  
Water Rights ~ Views ~ Pasture



\$2,744,000

Listed By Steve Crow

**NAVAJO PEAK RANCH | 723938**  
180 Acres ~ 2 Sides Nat'l Forest ~ Custom  
Home ~ 5 Ponds ~ Huge Mountain Views  
Detached Garage & Bunkhouse



\$1,750,000

Listed By Stan Zuege

**KNOLLS RANCH BEAUTY | 759932**  
37+ Acres ~ Beautiful 4,857 SF Home  
Gated Ranch Community ~ 4 Decks  
Main Level Master ~ Views ~ Idyllic Setting



\$1,395,000

Listed By The Keyes Group

**MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY | 753493**  
35 Acres ~ Custom 3,865 SF Home  
Exquisite Interiors ~ Huge Views  
Oversized Garage ~ RV Pad w/Hook-ups



\$1,295,000

Listed By Diane Burnett

**UPPER BLANCO BEAUTY | 758691**  
38.9 Acres ~ 4 BR ~ Overlooks Blanco River  
Borders Nat'l Forest ~ Shop ~ Views  
Guest Apartment w/Separate Entrance



\$935,000

Listed By Bill Kinsley

**CHRIS MOUNTAIN RANCH | 756301**  
40 +/- Acres ~ 4,616 SF Home ~ Views  
3,000 SF Barn ~ Main Level Master  
Covered Outdoor Living ~ Ag Tax Status



\$849,500

Listed By Phil McAdams

**CABEZON CANYON | 742121**  
Borders Nat'l Forest/Chimney Rock  
160 Acres ~ Big Views ~ Gravel Road  
Electric/Phone to Build Sites



\$769,000

Listed By Juli Morelock

**LAKEFRONT ESTATE | 762510**  
3 Acres ~ Beautiful 2,436 SF Home  
Mtn & Lake Views ~ Main Level Master  
Private Dock ~ Toy Shed ~ RV Hookups



\$699,500

Listed By Team Christians

**INCREDIBLE PAGOSA VIEWS | 761522**  
5.6 Acres ~ Elegant Modern 3,785 SF Home  
2 Main Level Masters ~ Remodeled 2018  
Pre-inspected ~ Priced Below Appraisal



\$382,000

Listed By Lindy Moore

**DOWNTOWN OPPORTUNITY | 762526**  
1 Block N. Of Main Street ~ 1,818 SF  
Mtn. Views ~ Corner Lot ~ Parking  
Potential: Café, Offices, Residential, Retail

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Colorado Real Estate  
With The Area's  
Leading Team Of  
Realtors®

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Colorado's most unique location, with  
23 temperature-regulated geothermal pools.  
Your destination for relaxation and rejuvenation.**



[PagosaHotSprings.com](http://PagosaHotSprings.com)

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CHRIS RAPP

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for a better quality of life

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**Dr. James Pruitt,**  
**Pine Ridge Medical Director**  
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Ross Cunningham



Todd Starr



Paul Grant



When a Texas Corporation purchased a ranch in the valley, the first thing they did was try to close off access. A group of local neighbors retained Cunningham Swaim and the road is now public. **UPDATE:** The Texas Corporation's request for immediate relief from the Colorado Court of Appeals was denied as our clients continue to win on every level.



When the neighbor's dog came over and bit our client on the hand, she came to us just hoping to get her \$1,200.00 medical bill paid. Three months later she cashed a check for over \$50,000.00.



When the pharmacy received a notice of investigation from the Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs, they turned to us for guidance. Despite some challenging facts, our lawyers who specialize in government affairs were able to quickly solve the problem.



## CUNNINGHAM SWAIM

Pagosa Springs, Colorado • 262 Pagosa Street, Suite 103 • (970) 749-0807  
Denver, Colorado • 1801 Broadway, Suite 1400 • (303) 309-8167  
Dallas, Texas • 7557 Rambler Road, Suite 400 • (214) 646-1495  
Pasadena, California • 2 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 500 • (626) 765-3000

# 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.

Enjoy your time here, and return.

Scenic Tours • Fall Colors • Real Estate • Animal Spotting  
Tours starting at \$195 (\$20 additional passengers up to 2)

**Pagosa Air Tours**  
(970) 946-7604  
Flying out of Stevens Field  
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Your pilot  
Pat Ford

f Pagosa Air Tours

**TARA MANDALA**  
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Vast View • Open Heart

Tara Mandala is a beautiful retreat center on 700-acres of land nestled in the San Juan Mountains near Pagosa Springs. We offer:

- Beginner and advanced meditation and yoga retreats
- In-depth Buddhist teachings, trainings and programs
  - A wide array of teachers and spiritual traditions
- Beautiful lodging and meals in remote pristine land

Founded by internationally known Buddhist teacher Lama Tsultrim Allione, author of *Wisdom Rising: Journey into the Mandala of the Empowered Feminine*, *Feeding Your Demons*, and *Women of Wisdom*.

For more information, visit: [www.taramandala.org](http://www.taramandala.org)



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970.731.3700 | 95 South Pagosa Blvd  
pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.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](http://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](http://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 unquely 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. Jisson Memorial Library ..	(970) 264-2209
Rise Above Violence .....	(970) 264-9075

# URGENT CARE



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Pagosa Springs, CO 81147  
(Next to Tavern Le Boeuf)

Accepts all major insurance  
including Medicaid  
and cash options

[info@pagosamedicalgroup.org](mailto:info@pagosamedicalgroup.org)  
[PagosaMedicalGroup.org](http://PagosaMedicalGroup.org)



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, 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 Overlock Mineral Springs Spa located in the heart of the downtown historic district, which offers Victorian-style mineral baths and a rooftop pool with mountain views.

### Outdoor activities

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

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

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

If you've been here before, welcome back.



**Friendly, Knowledgeable Bud-Tenders**  
**Best Variety of Products in the Four Corners**  
**High Quality, Potent Flower & Great Prices**

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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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# 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  
Parish Hall

Early bingo 5:45 p.m., bingo 6-8 p.m. Con-  
cessions, cash prizes.

## October

Month of October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
Throughout the month, Pagosa will be the  
color purple in honor of survivors of domes-  
tic violence.  
riseaboveviolence.org

Oct. 5  
Naked Eye Astronomy  
7-8:30 p.m.  
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library  
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Thursdays, Oct. 10-Nov. 21 (not Oct. 31)  
Lifelong Learning Lecture Series  
5-6:30 p.m.  
Ruby Sisson Memorial Library  
Variety of topics.  
(970) 264-2209, pagosalibrary.org

October 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 at 7 p.m.,  
Oct. 13, 20, 26 at 2 p.m.  
"Men on Boats"  
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
By Jacklyn Backhaus: Pack your gear for  
this 21st-century telling of 19th century  
American explorer and one-armed Civil  
War veteran John Wesley Powell, who as-  
sembles a brawny band of soldiers, trappers  
and adventurers to explore the waterways  
of the American West. Inspired by Powell's  
actual travel log from 1869, Jacklyn Backhaus'  
nimble and ingenious script is provocative,  
laugh-out-loud theater, performed by a  
diverse cast of women who infuse America's  
historic myths of male conquest with a sly  
blast of subtext.  
(970) 731-7469, pagosacenter.org

Oct. 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 26  
Thingamajig Playwrights Festival  
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
We pull back the curtains from the play-  
writing process and give you an inside look

at how a play goes from ideas in a play-  
wright's head to words on a page and even-  
tually action on the stage. Enjoy as many  
dates that suit your schedule with individual  
tickets or join us for the entire festival with  
the all-inclusive festival pass.  
(970) 731-7469, pagosacenter.org

Oct. 26  
Halloween Carnival  
Noon-2 p.m.  
Yamaguchi Park  
(970) 264-4152

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, wood-  
winds, percussion and a sprinkling of  
strings. Admission is free; donations ac-  
cepted with gratitude.

Oct. 31  
Halloween Party and  
Pumpkin Carving Contest  
3-5 p.m.  
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library  
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

## November

Nov. 1  
Day of the Dead/Halloween Lock-in  
5-7 p.m.  
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library  
Ages 12-17.  
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Nov. 2  
Holiday Bazaar  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Pagosa Springs High School  
peggy@peggyandrews.com

Nov. 21-24  
Winter Musical "Willy Wonka and the  
Chocolate Factory"  
7 p.m. evenings, Sunday, 2 p.m.  
Pagosa Springs High School auditorium  
curtain:suppagosa.org

Nov. 30  
Pagosa Springs Humane Society  
Art for the Animals  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
PLPOA Clubhouse  
A holiday event for local artisans offering  
custom creations of many kinds. AFTA is  
hosted by and benefits the Humane Society  
of Pagosa Springs and Pagosa Springs Arts

Council. In addition to local artists' amazing  
creations, AFTA offers shoppers live music,  
free parking, gift wrapping, holiday decora-  
tions, food and drinks.

## December

Dec. 6  
Festival of Trees  
5:30 p.m.  
Ross Aragon Community Center  
(970) 264-4152

Dec. 6-7, 7 p.m., Dec. 8, 4 p.m.  
Pagosa Springs Community Choir  
Christmas Concert  
Pagosa Springs High School auditorium  
An evening full of secular and sacred Christ-  
mas music performed by the community  
choir and select jazz ensemble. No admis-  
sion, but donations gratefully accepted.

Dec. 7  
St. Patrick's Christmas Tea  
Tickets available after Thanksgiving.

Dec. 10  
Hot Chocolate Hullabaloo  
4-6 p.m.  
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library  
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Dec. 13, 14, 23, 24 at 7 p.m.,  
Dec. 15, 22 at 2 p.m.  
"A Very Perry Christmas: A Seasonal Song-  
book"  
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Perry and Amelia Harper bring their very  
special holiday show to Pagosa Springs  
for the first time. Performing a multitude  
of holiday standards, the Harpers have  
assembled some of Pagosa's favorite local  
musicians and singers to personalize the  
show like only they can. Perfect for the  
whole family, "A Very Perry Christmas" is the  
ideal way to ring in the season.  
(970) 731-7469, pagosacenter.org

Dec. 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 at 7 p.m.,  
Dec. 29 at 2 p.m.  
"A Grand Night For Singing"  
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts  
Music by Rodgers, Richard, lyrics by Oscar  
Hammerstein II, conceived by Walter  
Bobbie. A breathtaking musical that pays  
homage to the remarkable cannon of work  
by the Tony Award-winning team of Rodgers  
and Hammerstein. This fresh and innova-  
tive musical review includes 30 legendary  
songs including, "I'm Gonna Wash That  
Man Right Outta My Hair," "Honeybun" and  
"Kansas City," to name a few. It's been said  
that Rodgers and Hammerstein's songs are

# Calendar of Events

like snowflakes — no two are alike. We can't think of a better way to celebrate the Great American Songbook.  
(970) 731-7469, [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org)

## January

Jan. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 at 7 p.m.,

Jan. 5, 12 at 2 p.m.

**"A Grand Night For Singing"**

**Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts**

Music by Rodgers, Richard, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, conceived by Walter Bobbie. A breathtaking musical that pays homage to the remarkable cannon of work by the Tony Award-winning team of Rodgers and Hammerstein. This fresh and innovative musical Review includes 30 legendary songs including, "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair," "Honeybun" and "Kansas City," to name a few.  
(970) 731-7469, [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org)

Jan. 4

**Learn to Cross Country Ski Clinic**

Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons

9:30 a.m. start

**Cloman Nordic Park**

[PagosaNordic@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaNordic@gmail.com)

Jan. 10

**Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social**

**Sunset**

**Cloman Nordic Park**

[PagosaNordic@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaNordic@gmail.com)

Jan. 11

**Pagosa Nordic Season Opener Race and the Southwest Nordic Race Series (SWNRS) opening freestyle event**

9 a.m.-noon

**Cloman Nordic Park**

Freestyle ski: Competitive 20k (SWNRS race),

Citizens 5k, Youth 3k

Classic ski: Citizens 5k, Youth 3k.

KidK race.

[PagosaNordic@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaNordic@gmail.com)

Jan. 24-26

**WinterFest**

A number of activities are slated for the weekend where people can participate or enjoy the festivities through spectating.  
(970) 264-2360, [pagosachamber.com](http://pagosachamber.com),  
[admin@pagosachamber.com](mailto:admin@pagosachamber.com)

Jan. 25

**Pagosa Mountain Sports WinterFest**

**Fat Bike Race**

8:30 a.m.

**Yamaguchi Park**

16k, 8k, KidK

Benefits DUST2.

(970) 507-7886

[www.pagosamountainsports.com](http://www.pagosamountainsports.com)

**WinterFest Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic**

Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons

10 a.m.-noon

**Cloman Nordic Park**

[PagosaNordic@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaNordic@gmail.com)

Jan. 26

**WinterFest Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon**

16k competitive/4k citizens-youth/KidK

Super fun race for all ages and abilities.

9:30 a.m. start

**Yamaguchi Park**

[PagosaNordic@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://riseaboveviolence.org)

Feb. 1, 6, 7, 8 at 7 p.m., Feb. 2, 9 at 2 p.m.

**"The Texas Homecoming Revolution of 1995"**

**Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts**

By Jennifer Falletto. It's the Friday before Homecoming in a suburban high school and a scandal emerges. Crystal Anderson has committed an unspeakable act with the Texas state flag. In a culture where legacy and tradition often go unquestioned, one student changes the consciousness of her community. This hilarious script, from Thingamajig's 2018 Playwright Festival, will take the audience for a laugh out loud visit to the stalls of a Texas high school bathroom, where all the secrets unfold.  
(970) 731-7469, [pagosacenter.org](http://pagosacenter.org)

Feb. 7

**Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social**

**Sunset**

**Cloman Nordic Park**

[PagosaNordic@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaNordic@gmail.com)

Feb. 8

**Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic**

Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons

10 a.m.-noon

Location to be announced.

[PagosaNordic@gmail.com](mailto:PagosaNordic@gmail.com)

Feb. 14

**Anti-Valentine's Lock-in**

5-7 p.m.

**Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library**

(ages 12-17)

(970) 264-2209, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

Feb. 22

**DUST2 Fat Bike Race**

9 a.m.

**Wolf Creek Pass, FS Road 725**

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](http://www.dustx2.com)

Feb. 23

**Lanes and Links for Literacy**

1-4 p.m.

**Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library**

(970) 264-2209, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

## March

March 19

**Cookie Cook-off**

4-6 p.m.

**Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library**

(970) 264-2209, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

## April

**Month of April**

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**

Events all month.

[riseaboveviolence.org](http://riseaboveviolence.org)

April 22

**Earth Day at the Library**

4-5 p.m.

**Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library**

(970) 264-2209, [www.pagosalibrary.org](http://www.pagosalibrary.org)

April 24

**Denim Day**

Noon

Join us in a walk around Pagosa Street in support of victims and survivors of sexual assault. Wear your jeans with a purpose: Support survivors and educate yourself and others.

[riseaboveviolence.org](http://riseaboveviolence.org)

**Be sure to check  
The Pagosa Springs SUN  
and PREVIEW for up-to-date  
information.**



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 comprises 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  
2018 Estimate — 13,765

## Newspaper

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

## Housing and Income

Median value of housing — \$274,000  
Households — 5,553  
Persons per household — 2.24  
Per capita money income — \$29,344  
Median household income — \$48,016  
Persons in poverty — 11.7 percent

## Taxes

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

**Lodgers Tax:** A 4.9-percent tax is collected from the lodging industry. 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](http://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](http://www.archuletacounty.org)  
Three county commissioners elected for alternating four-year terms.

## Tourism and Business Development

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp.  
[pagosaspringscdc.org](http://pagosaspringscdc.org)  
(970) 264-2360  
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce  
(970) 264-2360  
[pagosachamber.com](http://pagosachamber.com)  
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board  
(866) 438-4917  
[visitpagosasprings.com](http://visitpagosasprings.com)

## Related Web Site Links and Info

Pagosa Springs Area Association of Realtors  
(970) 731-4015, [pagosaspringsrealtors.com](http://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](http://www.fs.fed.us)  
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library  
(970) 264-2209, [pagosalibrary.org](http://pagosalibrary.org)  
Stevens Field Airport  
(970) 731-3060, [www.stevensfield.com](http://www.stevensfield.com)  
AWOS frequency 127.175, (970) 731-0365  
FBO (970) 731-2127  
Durango-La Plata County Airport  
(970) 382-6050  
<http://www.durango.gov.org/202/Airport>

## Road Conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation  
(303) 639-1111, [cotrip.org](http://cotrip.org)  
New Mexico Road Report  
(800) 432-4269, [nmrcads.com](http://nmrcads.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](http://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](http://www.colorado.gov/marijuana).

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# Wolf Creek Ski Area Events

Nov. 1 .....	Tentative Opening Day	Feb. 1 .....	Camp Robbers
Nov. 3 .....	College Day	Feb. 2 .....	Local Appreciation Day
Nov. 6 .....	Local's Day	Feb. 2 .....	Super Bowl Fun Race
Nov. 8-10 .....	Veterans' Weekend	Feb. 3 .....	Ms. Monday
Nov. 11 .....	Ms. Monday	Feb. 4 .....	Forever Young Clinic
Nov. 13 .....	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 8 .....	Camp Robbers
Nov. 14 .....	Conditions Clinic	Feb. 9 .....	Fun Race
Nov. 16 .....	Cosmic Mountaineering Race	Feb. 12 .....	Local Appreciation Day
Nov. 19 .....	Tuesday Turns	Feb. 13 .....	Conditions Clinic
Nov. 20 .....	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 16 .....	Presidents' Day Race
Dec. 3 .....	Forever Young Clinic	Feb. 18 .....	Tuesday Turns
Dec. 4 .....	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 23 .....	College Day
Dec. 5 .....	Conditions Clinic	Feb. 23 .....	Mardi Gras Fun Race
Dec. 8 .....	College Day	Feb. 29 .....	Leap Day Fun Race
Dec. 9 .....	Ms. Monday	March 3 .....	Forever Young Clinic
Dec. 10 .....	Tuesday Turns	March 6 .....	Jane and Pitch Tribute Day
Dec. 11 .....	Local Appreciation Day	March 6 .....	Local Appreciation Day
Dec. 14 .....	Fun Race	March 7 .....	Spring Fling Fun Race
Dec. 24 and 25 .....	Santa Visits Wolf Creek	March 14 .....	St. Patrick's Day Fun Race
Jan. 5 .....	Fun Race	March 21 .....	Fun Race
Jan. 7 .....	Forever Young Clinic	March 22 .....	College Day
Jan. 9 .....	Conditions Clinic	March 23 .....	Ms. Monday
Jan. 11 .....	Camp Robbers	March 25 .....	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 12 .....	Fun Race	March 26 .....	Conditions Clinic
Jan. 13 .....	Ms. Monday	March 28 .....	Fun Race
Jan. 15 .....	United Way Day	March 29 .....	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 19 .....	Martin Luther King Jr. Race	March 31 .....	Tuesday Turns
Jan. 21 .....	Tuesday Turns	April 1 .....	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 25 .....	Camp Robbers	April 4 .....	College Day/ Wolf Creek Super G Race
Jan. 25 .....	Wolf Creek Giant Slalom	April 5 .....	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 29 .....	Local Appreciation Day	April 5 .....	Tentative Closing Day

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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 2020 is set for Jan. 24-26, giving 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. 25 and 26. Both mass ascensions will take place 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 include the Sledz on Rez Face, hosted by the Build Pagosa construction vocational group, where homemade sleds “race” down Reservoir Hill located downtown. 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 as the sledders wield 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 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.

For the athletically inclined, there are several activities to participate in over the weekend. The DUST 2 group will host the annual Fat Tire Bike Race in Yamaguchi Park on Saturday morning. Enjoy a warm crepe as you cheer on the cyclists as they brave the cold and complete their laps in the snow or participate in this 8km, 16km, or KidK course. The Pagosa Nordic Club will host on Sunday, Jan. 26, the Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon which 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 kid course. Each skier shoots at targets, with BB guns provided, three times between ¼ ski distances. Since WinterFest activities are dependent upon the whims of Mother Nature, the locations of the Nordic events are not yet determined.

New this year to the WinterFest activities will be the action-packed skjoring. This rapid-paced event will take place in the downtown area on Hot Springs Boulevard on Saturday and Sunday. Watch as horses pull skiers through an obstacle course and jumps while at a full-out run. This event will definitely keep your blood pumping.

Be sure to check The Pagosa Springs SUN and [www.PagosaSUN.com](http://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 MULTI PURPOSE PAVILLION

## Pagosa Springs Multi Purpose Pavilion: Plenty of family fun on ice

*By Chris Mannara*

Pagosa Springs' winters offer a lot to locals and tourists alike. For those who may not want to just sit at home during those cold months, there are several activities families can take part in that will surely satisfy.

At the Pagosa Springs Multi Purpose Pavilion (PMP), not only are there opportunities to play hockey and free skate but the facility, located at South Pagosa Park on the corner of South 8th St. and Apache Street offers ice-related fun for the whole family.

Games such as broomball and curling are all available at the PMP with times and dates varying depending on the year, according to PMP Executive Director Brian Collabolletta.

"There's no experience necessary. No skill necessary. All we require is a helmet," he said, describing broomball as hockey without contact.

Collabolletta clarified that this version of curling is more so like shuffleboard on ice.

"Real curling is very expensive, but it gets people out and just gets them to experience something different," he added.

For broomball, brooms are provided for those interested in playing. This is in addition to various other loaner equipment available at the PMP for available activities.

Private figure skating lessons are also available at the PMP, he added.

The PMP, in its sixth year of operation, has grown every

# Thingamajig Theater



year and is considered a success by the community. Collabolletta explained, adding that the PMP has had its facilities added to every year to make the experience better for all.

"We've added a 900 square ft. garage for our equipment," he explained.

A skate-warming shed that was built by local high school students was also recently added to the PMP, he explained.

The first few years of the PMP involved a learning curve, Collabolletta acknowledged, but with its place in the community now cemented, he explains that every year has been a progression.

"We've got a venue that's just giving the public something else to do in the winters besides going skiing," Collabolletta said, describing the PMP as being family friendly.

Oftentimes, the winter evenings in Pagosa Springs can provide little to do for those in town, but the PMP is offering some more choices for those who want to get out on the ice, Collabolletta explained.

"It's just a safe environment for people to recreate," he said.

In addition to providing family fun, it's also cost-effective for the whole family, he noted.

"It's not expensive. For a family of five to come and skate it's very cost-effective to come out for two hours. It's not like we're Disney World," he said.

So for those who may be looking to crash the boards and play some hockey, or take part in the ever-thrilling sport of curling right here in Pagosa Springs, just bring the family and fun; PMP will bring the ice.

## SKI SOAK PLAY

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# Magical Moments

GEORGE HUNYADI

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 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://wclfcreekski.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.pagosahun.com](http://www.pagosahun.com)), call the library at (970) 264-2208 or visit [pagosa.colibraries.org](http://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 mahjong, the center is open to the public and many programs and classes are free. Check The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN ([www.pagosahun.com](http://www.pagosahun.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.



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# Something for Everyone

PAGOSA NORDIC CLUB

Whatever your soul seeks — skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, fishing, snowmobiling, soaking in the hot springs, shopping, sleeping and satiating your appetite for food or drink — Pagosa Country offers choices that are sure to please you and everyone in your family or group.

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

## Alpine skiing

Wolf Creek Ski Area, considered by many as one of the best-kept secrets in Colorado, offers skiers and snowboarders an abundance of powder and packed powder on sun-drenched slopes. Guests love it because the lift lines are short, 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](http://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 complex, ice skating is available to visitors and locals alike on the lower west-end pond at The River Center Park.

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

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 an annual shopping extravaganza. This year the Holiday Hoopla will take place from about mid-November to mid-December. Shopping and dining deals abound around town. Visitors are encouraged to take advantage of the great deals while taking home a unique item from Pagosa. Stop in at a local retail store and get your Hoopla Pledge Card to be entered into a drawing for various prizes and participant discounts. 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 also be seen all over town during the holiday season. He listens to Christmas wishes while children and parents enjoy the different festivities around town. He stops off at the Visitor Center every Saturday afternoon during the month of December.

While in town, take in a live holiday theater show at the Pagosa Center for the Arts. Considered one of the best live theaters in Colorado, the Thingamajig Theatre Company will entertain you with holiday performances of "A Very Perry Christmas: A Seasonal Songbook." The winter season also brings the Thingamajig Playwrights Festival, "Men on Boats," "The Texas Homecoming Revolution of 1995" and "A Grand Night For Singing" 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. 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. 6, with the public viewing set for Dec. 5.

As the winter season progresses, the community welcomes visitors for WinterFest, which is set for Jan. 24-26.

WinterFest blows the blahs out of everyone as challenging sports, fun games, contests and antics are held all over town. Colorful hot air balloons decorate the blue skies with a background of snow-capped mountains on Saturday and Sunday mornings from the west side of town. Enjoy the Sledz on Rez 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. If you are a cyclist, try your hand at the fat tire bike race. This year introduces the inaugural Skis and Saddles Skijoring event. Watch the fast-paced action as riders on horseback take skiers through an obstacle course all while being timed. It is a family-fun weekend where you can participate or spectate.




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# PAGOSA SPRINGS COLORADO

## Downtown Recreation Map

<b>TH</b> Trail Head	Restroom	Popular Fishing Area	Hot Springs Facility
<b>P</b> Parking	Picnic Area	Rafting, Tubing & Kayaking	Geothermal Facility & Greenhouse
Visitor Center	Playground	Wave Features	Ross Aragón Community Center
Road or Highway	Library	Mountain Biking	Park
Graded Path	Museum	Disc Golf Course	River/Pond
Unpaved Trail	Post Office	Climbing Rock	Snowshoeing & Nordic Skiing
Pedestrian Bridge	School	Wind Harp	Ice Skating
	Forest Service	Sports Complex & Skate Park	Sledding

MAP BY TOR ANDERSON / TRUENORTHDESIGNWORKS.COM

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# Rest & Relaxation



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

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

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, and steam showers. Snacks and drinks (including beer, wine and champagne) are available for purchase to 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

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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.

The resort offers 100 percent mineral water in its hot springs amenities, which include separate men's and women's indoor hot baths.

Across the street, The Springs Resort and Spa offers luxury hotel rooms, The Barefoot Grill, The Cafe, two bars, a full-service spa with facial and massage services and 23 soaking pools (the most in Colorado) on the banks of the San Juan River.

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.

A variety of therapeutic pools have temperatures ranging from 83 to 114 degrees, with waterfalls, mineral formations and other unique features. There is also a swimming pool of geothermal water with a temperature in the high 80s to low 90s.

The geothermal mother spring is located on the property and has been deemed the world's deepest hot spring, with the well reaching more than 1,002 feet down.

Guests of the resort receive exclusive 24-hour soaking privileges, though the resort is open to the public during set hours.

While the mother spring'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.

**Warm up... Pagosa Style!**

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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

## Ski the Wolf

Celebrating its 80th anniversary, 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, despite the fact that, by Easter Sunday of 2019, the ski area had a year-to-date total of almost 500 inches.

For the past six years, Wolf Creek has been in a construction phase, with the summer of 2019 focusing on fine-tuning the mountain, base-area facilities and finishing up a few projects that, by summer's end, were near completion.

The recent years of construction started with the Treasure Stoke, which debuted in the 2013-2014 season. The previous Ctec Triple Treasure Chair was then transformed the following season to become a refurbished beginner and intermediate lift named Elma, with its purpose of assisting guests in returning to the base area and providing access to an area of the mountain that was previously under-

utilized. The Lynx, a covered conveyor lift, followed and helped redesign and compliment the novice skiers' first day at Wolf Creek by transporting guests to the Lynx Adult Learning Center. The induction of the Charity Jane Express to the Wolf Creek Lift System came in December of 2018, with the high-speed detachable quad benefiting all ability levels and bolstering a previously underutilized 55 acres. Beginner Ski Packages now include access to the Charity Chair, making five beginner lifts available to those enrolled in beginner lessons.

Wolf Creek also has an ongoing, eco-friendly campaign of reducing the dead trees from spruce beetles within the ski area permit, with that work benefiting ski area users in the form of Orion's Beltway — a new trail cut and constructed this summer. The trail will be for strong beginners and intermediates and will be accessed via Pitch's Gate or Serendipity.





SAMUEL BRICKER COURTESY OF WOLF CREEK SKI AREA



# Wolf Creek Ski Area

ROSANNE PITCHER

Too, Wolf Creek is celebrating its second anniversary of going solar, with the ski area becoming the first solar-powered ski area in November of 2018. This ski season is the 14th the ski area has used a form of renewable energy year-round for 100 percent of the mountain, both day and night use.

The ticket office's point-of-sale system is not only eco-friendly in cutting down on the amount of paper used, but also allows guests the luxury of arranging and paying for their lessons from the comfort of their home prior to their trip.

To further make the process easier for beginners, guests enrolled in the First Day Beginner Ski Package will now have the option of going directly to the Lynx Building, bypassing the ticket office and rentals, simplifying the process and helping to make the day more enjoyable and less overwhelming.

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 home-made 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](http://www.WolfCreekSki.com) or by calling (970) 264-5639 or 1(800) SK-WOLF.

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Image of Larry Fisher, founder of Ski and Bow Rack, front-flipping off of the Wolf Creek Pass Snowshed.



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 and be respectful of the other trail users such as bikers, skiers, walkers and snowshoers you'll see out on the groomed trails.

## 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.



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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, ungroomed Forest Service roads closed to most vehicles except snowmobiles.

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

The forest service roads listed below are enjoyed and shared by people on skis, snowshoes and snowmobiles. Check with the Pagosa Ranger District Office in downtown Pagosa Springs or go to [PagosaNordic.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.avalanche.org) and [www.avalanche.state.co.us](http://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](http://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](http://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 668). Drive to the end of the road (.25 miles). Park on the side of the road where it is plowed. The trails are groomed exclusively for cross-country skiing. Walkers and snowshoers are prohibited on the groomed trails.

## 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.

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 20 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-five people were killed by avalanches in the U.S. in the winter of 2018-2019, including eight in Colorado.

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

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

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

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

Travelers should move singly in avalanche terrain to reduce stress on the snowpack, while possessing the equipment and the skills necessary to successfully affect an avalanche rescue. Because a victim buried just 30 minutes stands less than a 35-percent chance of survival, time is of the essence. To aid in location and rescue efforts, each well-

equipped party member should carry an electronic avalanche beacon, probe pole and lightweight shovel. In too many cases involving unintentional slides, ignorance, arrogance, fatigue or peer-group pressure can result in backcountry travelers ignoring obvious warning signs.

Backcountry travelers caught in an avalanche may not fare well. Whether being buried alive and deprived of oxygen for several minutes or being carried over cliffs, into trees, rocks or other large objects, serious injury — or worse — can result. Therefore, an immediate rescue is essential to increasing a victim's odds of survival. An individual's beacon helps companions locate him or her quickly, while a probe pole and shovel allow individuals to pinpoint and uncover companions buried in the snow. Backcountry enthusiasts can purchase this equipment from various recreational retailers in Pagosa Springs.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center provides daily mountain weather and avalanche hazard forecasts available on the Web at [avalanche.state.co.us](http://avalanche.state.co.us). Daily forecasts begin in early November and continue through most of May. 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.

Good books on avalanches are available at the library or check information available online at [avalanche.state.co.us](http://avalanche.state.co.us) and [avalanche.org](http://avalanche.org).



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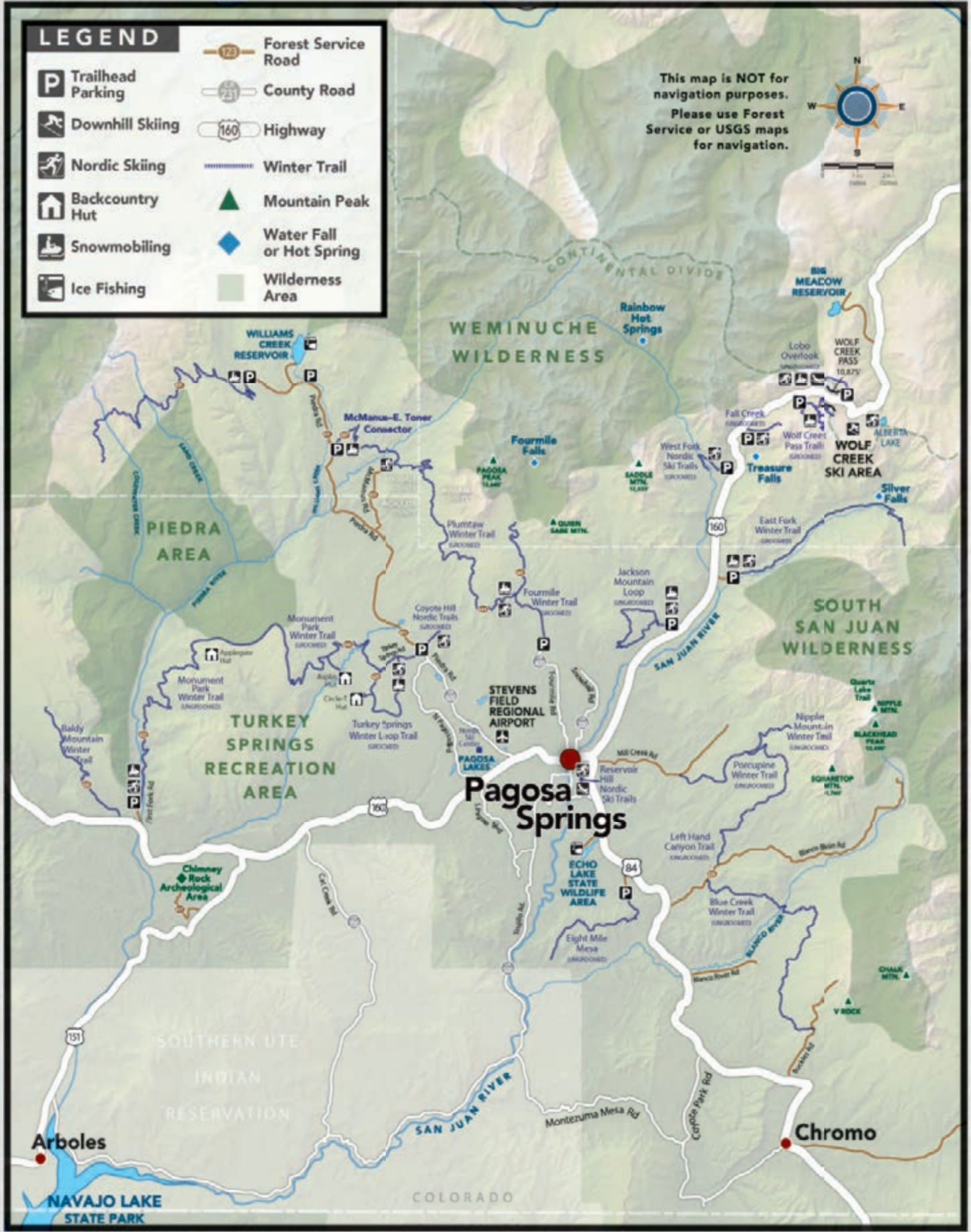
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- County Road
- Highway
- Winter Trail
- Mountain Peak
- Water Fall or Hot Spring
- Wilderness Area

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



Play Outside



# 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

# Rest Your Head

## Let Pagosa Springs Visitor Center help enhance your vacation experience

The Pagosa Springs Visitor Center is here to help you get the most out of your Pagosa Springs vacation.

You will find information on lodging, restaurants, area activities and a genuinely local perspective on all things Pagosa Springs at the Visitor Center.

Located along the banks of the San Juan River just across the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge in downtown Pagosa Springs, the Visitor Center features picnic tables along the river, free Wi-Fi, free area maps and a wealth of area information.

A team of fantastic staff and volunteers are available daily to assist you in making the most of your visit. 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. For after-hours information, multiple brochures are available on the front porch and near the back door.

Visitor Center staff and volunteers regularly tour area businesses in Pagosa Springs to ensure they know all of the latest news and happenings to share with inquiring visitors.

When vacationing at 7,100 feet above sea level, staying hydrated is essential. Free, reusable water bottles are available at the Visitor Center in addition to a filtered water fill-station ensuring no one leaves with an empty bottle.

While parents gather information about Pagosa Springs, children can be entertained in the Visitor Center play corner with puzzles, games, coloring books and more. For the adventurous, pick up a Kid's Activity Book from a volunteer, with free crayons. Children who complete the activity book during their stay can redeem it for a fun and unique Pagosa Bear.

The Visitor Center also runs a "bike planter" scavenger hunt year-round. Local businesses host flower planters that look like old bicycles. Follow the map, write down the letters, unscramble the clue to complete the phrase, and spin the wheel for a chance at several awesome prizes.

You can reach the Visitor Center by calling (970) 585-1200 or (800) 252-2204. To learn more about Pagosa Springs, visit [www.visitpagosa-sasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosa-sasprings.com).

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PEAK DELI

# Flavor of Pagosa

## Peak Deli: A journey for your taste buds

*By Chris Mannara*

There's an inherent art in taking a simple meal and making it more than just that. Making it an experience, a journey which your taste buds will never forget. At the Peak Deli they aim to do just that with their selection of sandwiches, soups and deserts.

Most anyone can make a sandwich, but for Peak Deli owner Andy Stern, the idea for the deli came from wanting something more from the local cuisine scene.

"I used to be a carpenter and for years I sat around wishing there was a good place to get a sandwich in town," he explained. "And, while pushing wood through machines quite often on a daily basis, I conjured up this brilliant

idea of a deli downtown in Pagosa."

Eventually, the Peak Deli found itself a permanent location, at 362 Pagosa St. and Stern's idea of a high-quality sandwich place became a reality.

What can you expect from the Peak? Stern explained that he tries to serve food that he would like to eat.

Behind that concept of better food includes better products, which Stern admits he doesn't mind the additional cost of the high-quality ingredients, explaining that's what it's all about.

Through the use of Boar's Head meats and cheeses as well as top tier bread, buns and rolls, the Peak Deli has cemented itself as the go-to place to eat in Pagosa Springs.

"Handcrafted stuff. Making different spreads in-house; making soups from scratch. Doing it a little different than what was going on," Stern said. "I didn't want to do the same thing. You know, anybody can open up a shop and serve burgers and fries and you're probably going to do OK."

Stern admits that there were some restaurants that were providing solid sandwich options, but as he describes, "Competition breeds a little bit better product ultimately."

Whether you're a local or a visitor from out of town, the Peak Deli aims to give everyone that same friendly vibe, Stern explained.

"I think it makes people feel better when they walk into a place and they're recognized and their food is known and they know what they're getting every time," he said.

That consistency is important for Stern as he explained that no matter who is cooking your food, you're going to get the same tasty experience each time.

But when it comes down to making a choice on what to feast on, for the first-timers, Stern offered up a suggestion with a little secret-menu twist.

The southwest Philly cheesesteak sandwich is a little twist on the Peak Deli's regular Philly cheesesteak sandwich but includes green chiles and chipotle mayonnaise, he described.

"It's not on the menu, but you can ask for it. We sell it fairly regularly," he said.

In addition to hot and cold sandwiches, the Peak Deli offers a variety of breakfast options ranging from breakfast burritos to bagel sandwiches, among other things.

The Peak Deli also offers vegetarian options and various soups, salads and dessert options, Stern added.

"I think we have a pretty expansive menu as it is now," Stern said.

So for those who are looking for a high-quality take on a long-standing classic in the sandwich, look no further than this local spot. The experience is always better at the Peak.



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# Retail Therapy

## Shop owners go above and beyond for customers

*By Randi Pierce*

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

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

Instead, Pagosa grew into a mountain town better known to many for its natural resources and wealth of

public lands than its former industries.

Thanks to the varied history and natural beauty and resources in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County, Pagosa — the county seat — now not only stands firm, but is packed with character, much of which is reflected in the goods you'll find for sale throughout town.

Shopping in Pagosa Springs, though, can be a treat in and of itself.

From cabin decor to signs that embody your views on life, natural products of all sorts, on-trend apparel and quirky T-shirts, unique pajamas, western wear and goods that epitomize the western way of life, handmade jewelry with a southwestern flair, antiques, art and seasonal sport-





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ing goods, you'll find it and more in Pagosa Springs.

And that's part of the fun: heading into a shop not knowing what might be around the next corner or what perfect gift you'll find for a loved one (or for yourself!). Even if you've been to a shop before, it's likely to be an adventure next time, too, since business owners like to keep things fresh and new (well, maybe not the antique stores, but they tend to always have something you've never seen before or haven't seen in years).

And, in true small-town style, you won't often find the people working the stores (often the owners themselves) simply waiting at the register for you to bring them money. Instead, they're often striking up conversations, finding that shirt in just the right size for someone, or letting someone know that if they don't have what you want, where in town will. In short, they're usually going above and beyond to make the shopping experience the best it can be for their customers.

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

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



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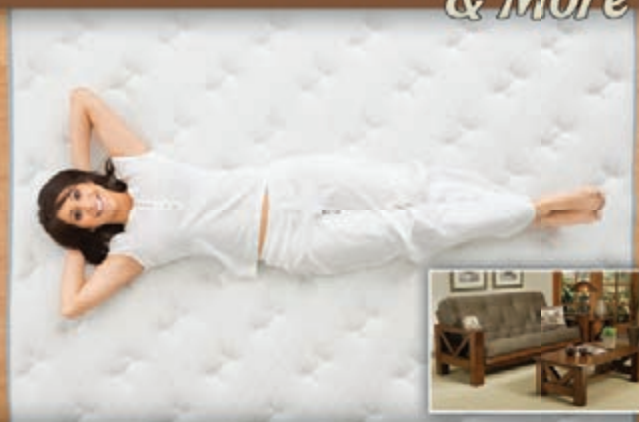
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ASPEN HOUSE

## A safe place and home: Aspen House to build a home for those in need

*By Chris Mannara*

Aspen House, a group formed by dedicated parents to create a home for adult children with developmental disabilities, has taken a big step forward in purchasing land.

That land is 0.69 acres and is located within the Pagosa Lakes Property Owners Association area, the organization's fundraising manager, Kate Simmons, noted.

"We have land. And now we're finally, after years and years, able to move on to the next step of constructing the home and making this more of a reality," Simmons explained.

According to the Aspen House website, the structure will be designed to house eight to 10 adults with two support staff in the home at all times.

The home will have eight to 10 bedrooms, private bathrooms, kitchen and dining room, as well as space for indoor and outdoor activities.

The Aspen House website also notes that the board of directors will oversee the construction, operations and staff of Aspen House.

However, following the design of the land and the zoning of the property, there is a possibility that two homes could be built on the property, Simmons explained.

"If it's two homes that we can fit on that lot, then there will

probably be about eight people in each home," she said.

If that is not a possibility, the goal is to focus on just one home, she added later.

Moving forward, Aspen House will be holding a capital campaign for the cost of construction, she explained.

One positive of actually securing the land is that now Aspen House can qualify for grants through the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other foundations, she added.

"We're super grateful for the reception that we've had from Pagosa. It's been awesome," she said.

Tentatively, Aspen House hopes that it has 75 percent of its funds raised by May of 2021, Simmons explained.

"That's when we hope to break ground and we're estimating, according to our construction committee, we're estimating a year in construction," Simmons said. "So, we're hoping to get people moved in summer 2022."

Simmons explained that much of the Aspen House board is made up of moms who have adult children with developmental disabilities.

This fueled those moms' desires and passion to secure land and create a space for not only their children, but for other families who may be going through the same thing.

"The waiting list to get services — not even housing, but

just to get services — is astronomical,” Simmons said.

Two of the Aspen House board members have had their children on waiting lists for over a decade, with one waiting for 14 years, Simmons noted.

When these adults turn 22, they are kicked out of school with no solid transition programs in place for them within Colorado, Simmons explained.

“So, they’re pretty much stuck living with their parents until they come off of this waiting list,” she said.

Even when families do find a home for their children, they aren’t always close to home, Simmons noted, with some of these homes being across the state in places like Ouray.

“What child, no matter what’s going on, really wants to be living with their parents into their 30s and 40s with no end in sight?” she asked.

Having independence is important for everyone, which was another driving factor behind Aspen House, she stated.

As the parents of these adults age, they have no idea what’s going to happen to their children, leading to them wanting to have that sense of security that their children can live somewhere comfortably in the future, Simmons explained.

“If these individuals are successful and thriving and as independent as they can be, then they’re an untapped workforce in the community,” she said. “They are community members because they’ve grown up here and they love it here and they want to stay here.”

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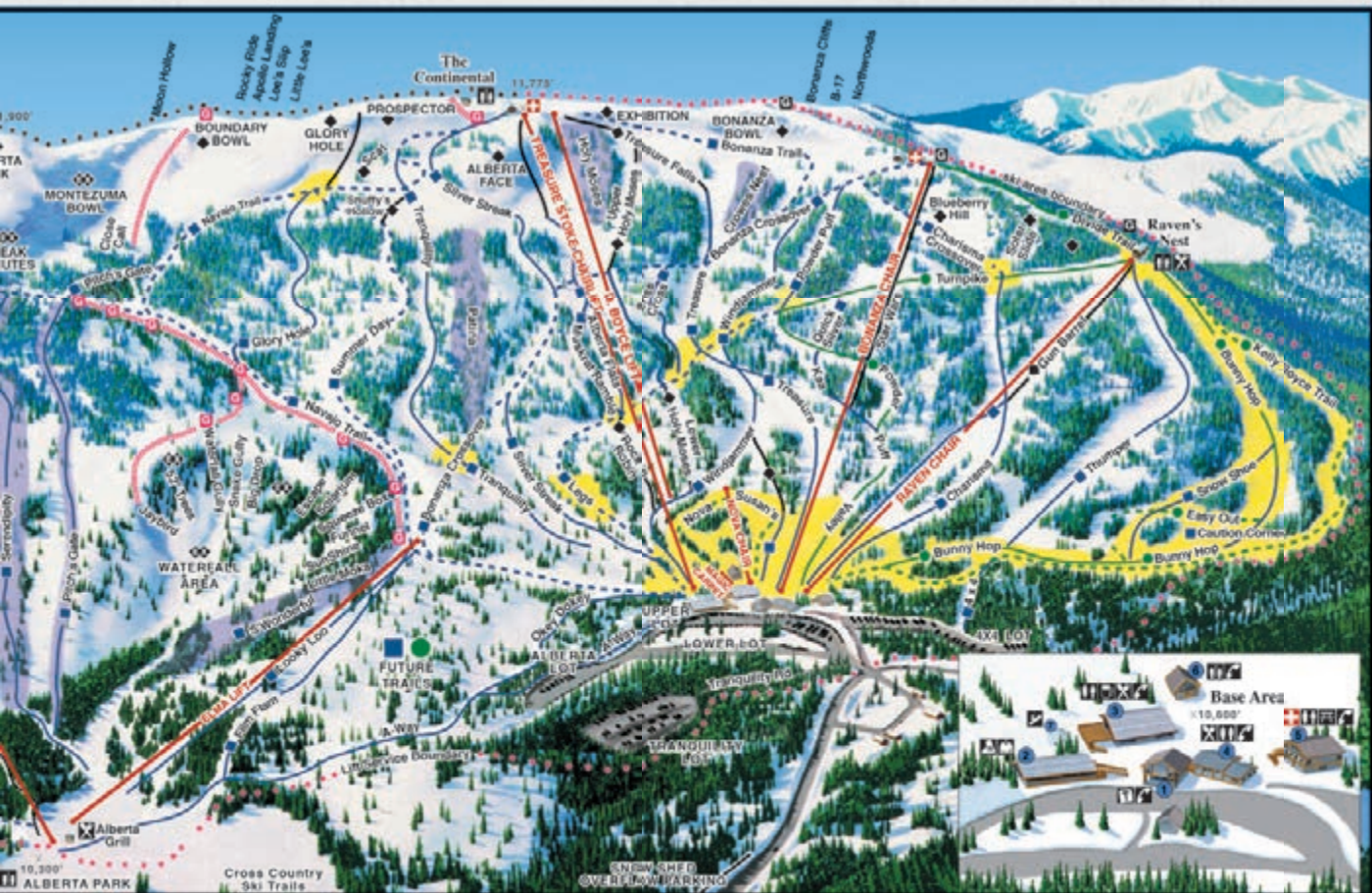
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RANDI PIERCE

# Getting Here

## Stevens Field Airport

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

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

The airport has seen a great deal of improvement over the years. In 2006, workers widened and resurfaced Runway 10/19 and built a new fixed-base operations building at midfield to provide fuel and services to local and visiting aircraft. In 2008, a new 3,000-foot parallel taxiway was 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 property also boasts a private, on-site maintenance shop in one of the hangars.

For more information on the airport, visit [www.archuletacounty.org](http://www.archuletacounty.org) or [www.stevensfield.com](http://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.

## Fixed-Base Operator

For aviation services or to visit Avjet Corporation, the fixed-base operator, travel 3 miles west of town, then approximately 1 mile northwest on Piedra Road (CR 600). Turn right (northeast) on Cloman Boulevard and proceed to 61 Aviation Court.

The FBO offers a number of amenities, including restrooms, telephone, shower fa-

cilities, 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.

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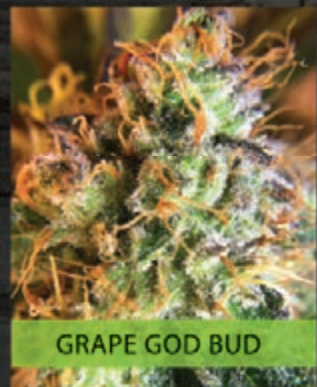
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Lewisburg, OH

Scott + Katie Parker  
Dallas, TX



This is our first time at this place & can't believe it took so long! so excited!!

Absolutely LOVED every aspect about this lovely place. ♡ Austin, TX Ari, Monica, Alexa

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

Bryce & Trent  
Roes & Cell



Love love love Overlook Hot Springs!  
Will definitely be back! See you!  
Paul & Sue  
Phoenix, AZ

I am a man of many words... Perfect.  
Andrea + Garrett

Recommended by **Sunset Magazine!**

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