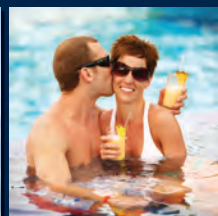


2017-2018

FREE

PAGOSA SPRINGS

REAL ESTATE & RELOCATION GUIDE



Published by The Pagosa Springs SUN



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining our community. Whatever has attracted you to this area — the scenery, the climate, the recreational activities or a specific job, we know you will find Pagosa Country to be a friendly, pleasant place to live, work and play.

This guide has been developed to provide an abundance of pertinent information about the area.

Our community is surrounded by over three million acres of national forest and wilderness areas. That means you will find a variety of outdoor activities here — hiking, biking, rafting, back country exploration, skiing, sledding, cross-country skiing, fishing, hunting and many others. You will also find other activities to keep you busy such as our charming shops, historic sites, museums, Chimney Rock National Monument and a variety of artisans.

Please indulge the pleasure of soaking in our geothermally heated waters. The giant spring in town issues forth from a mighty aquifer, providing Pagosa Country with some of the most relaxing and restorative waters anywhere in the world.

There is also an abundance of networking opportunities and special events to enhance the work and living environment for residents and business owners.

Members of our community are actively involved in many volunteer, leadership and business ventures.

Whether a home-based business or a growth company, Pagosa Springs has the resources available to help businesses succeed.

Archuleta School District, along with alternative educational services, offers many diverse programs to all students, including distance-learning opportunities.

The area's hospital — Pagosa Springs Medical Center — has recently undergone an expansion project. It operates a 24/7 emergency room, lab and diagnostic services, diagnostic imaging and mammography exams, a surgical staff, orthopedic surgery, primary care physicians and more.

Look through these pages and learn for yourself — Pagosa Springs is a great place to live, work, create, move or expand your business, raise a family or retire.

Welcome to Pagosa Country.



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Making the Move

Pagosa Country is a pretty place — no doubt about it. We have mountains, meadows, rivers, lakes and more — scenery galore. It is the ultimate outdoor playground, year-round, and a surprising number of cultural opportunities exist.

It's a place that's easy to fall in love with.

But making a home, and a life, somewhere requires more than just pretty.

It likely requires not only establishing a residence and home life, but a work life as well — be it joining an existing business, relocating an existing business or, perhaps, starting a new business.

But, how do you go about creating that life in Pagosa Country?

What is here that would lead you to choose this as a place to live, and to do business?

What are the options for business? What kind of market exists here for your services or products? What kind of labor force exists that could support your enterprise? What is the state of the necessary infrastructure? What educational institutions exist to

train workers? What support services are available to the owner of a business or light industry?

What opportunities exist for you and your family?

The Pagosa Springs Real Estate and Relocation Guide seeks to give you answers to many of your questions and, when the answer is not obvious, it directs you to sources that can give you what you need.

This publication results from a cooperative effort, with several area organizations and local government agencies contributing to the information in this guide.

The Pagosa Springs Real Estate and Relocation Guide was awarded first place at the Colorado Press Association's annual convention with the judge commenting, "Every U.S. county should be so lucky as to have a re-location guide this helpful. In an exceptionally competitive field, this entry is the winner."

And, when it comes time to make one of the most important decisions you face, know you will be welcome here in Pagosa Country — a great place to live, to raise a family and to do business.

Photo Terri House

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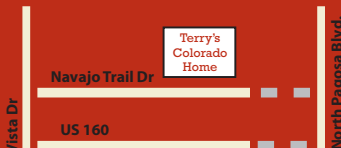


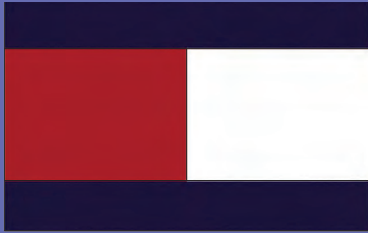
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Retail sales: Pagosa Springs far exceeds Colorado towns of similar size

Region 9 Economic Development District report

The Pagosa Springs community is showing itself to be a regional shopping and tourist center based on the retail data released by the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado (Region 9).

As a State Data Center Affiliate, Region 9 has updated Retail Data for each of the five southwest Colorado counties since the year 2000. These reports measure how each community's retail sales compare to other communities of similar size across the state.

"Bayfield and Pagosa Springs and Durango in particular are showing significant retail sales and compare positively to other communities their size," said Laura Lewis Marchino, executive director of Region 9. "Cortez and Ignacio are also trending well."

In 2015, as in preceding years, actual sales in Pagosa Springs far exceeded expected sales (a whopping 542%).

One reason is the town serves the larger population in the unincorporated areas, as well as seasonal visitors and second-home-owners.

Pagosa Springs also serves the larger region, including portions of the San Luis Valley, northwestern New Mexico and the nearby Jicarilla Apache Reservation.

The data is determined by looking at estimates of the sales level a town would achieve if it were performing on par with Colorado towns of similar size. It includes the population, state per capita sales, the index of income and the median pull factor. The median pull factor for medium sized towns in this analysis (population

1,000 to 5,000) is 0.82; the pull factor for Pagosa Springs is 3.95.

This report also looks at retail trade sectors to determine whether sectors such as food/beverage or health care products as examples, are drawing in shoppers for these items from outside of the area, or showing leakage (purchases of these goods are being made outside of the county). By looking at trends over time (2003, 2005, 2011 and 2015) several sectors (including motor vehicles and parts, furniture, electronics and appliances, and clothing), are consistently not meeting their potential. However sales of these items, with the exception of motor vehicles, are likely occurring in the Walmart Supercenter and other general merchandisers and cannot be calculated by sector.

Pagosa Springs benefits from tourism as seen through gas stations, food services and lodging sales. Non-store outlets (catalog and Internet sales) are also doing exceedingly well, providing goods or services way beyond what might be expected from local demand.

A closer look at retail trade sectors can identify opportunities for new businesses or expansion of existing businesses. This report along with other economic data covering Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County are available under regional data at www.scan.org. If you have any questions, please contact Region 9 at (970) 247-9621.

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Region 9 Economic Development District

Creating access to capital & entrepreneurial infrastructure

The Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, Inc. (Region 9 EDD) is a nonprofit economic development organization that promotes and coordinates economic development efforts throughout southwest Colorado.

Its mission is to work cooperatively with the private and public sectors to enhance the economic conditions in the area, and improve the region's economic prosperity.

Region 9 EDD serves the counties of Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma and San Juan, the 10 cities and towns within those counties, as well as the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian tribes. Its board of directors includes representatives from each of those governmental jurisdictions as well as nine representatives from the private sector.

Among Region 9 EDD's programs, the largest is providing loans to businesses creating or retaining jobs, or needing "gap" financing in partnership with banks. Region 9 EDD, through its micro-loan program, provides smaller funding amounts not always available through traditional financial institutions. Staff also cites that Region 9 EDD is the lender of "first resort" for start-up businesses that haven't yet established a track record.

In addition to loan programs, Region 9 EDD administers the Southwest Colorado Enterprise Zone, a state tax credit program; provides

administrative support to the Four Corners Film Office supporting production work in the region; provides technical assistance to county-level economic development groups; and helps to facilitate and leverage state and federal funding into the region.

Region 9 EDD partners with community organizations, governments and the private sector to assist in the development of special projects that result in job creation/retention and the economic enhancement of the region. Region 9 EDD is currently assisting with the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation; and participating in the Southwest Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs (SCAPE), which provides in-depth mentoring to entrepreneurs planning to grow their business enterprises in Southwest Colorado.

Region 9 EDD is also a State Data Center and consistently publishes a variety of regional economic sector data reports that provide citizens and policy-makers access to reliable, unbiased and timely information. This includes the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that assists local communities with economic development strategic planning and identifying viable economic projects and initiatives.

If you should need further information or resources, call Region 9 EDD at (970) 247-9621 or go to www.scan.org. Region 9 EDD is located at 295 A Girard St. in Durango, Colo.

DREAM BIG

Tabitha Zappone, nurse practitioner and owner of Alpine Medical and Specialty Practice, believes in personalized care.

Region 9 helped Tabitha open her patient-centered clinic in Pagosa Springs that expands primary care offerings in Archuleta County.

Region 9 Economic Development District provides loans, gap financing, and technical assistance in southwest Colorado.

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Opening a business

In the Town of Pagosa Springs

The Town of Pagosa Springs requires an annual business license for all businesses located and/or conducting business within the town's boundary. This includes special events, vendors, seasonal/temporary businesses, vacation rentals, retail and service businesses, building general and subcontractors, home-based, nonprofit entities, etc.

It is recommended that you contact the town planning and building department at the beginning of your planning process and prior to determining a location for your business. There may be zoning restrictions and building code requirements for particular businesses that you should know about before you get too far along in your planning process, and certainly before you lease or purchase a property.

This will help eliminate surprises and very costly oversights along the way.

In addition, a sign permit is required for all permanent and temporary signs (banners). Again, you should contact the planning department prior to designing or manufacturing a sign to ensure you meet the town's code requirements and prevent any costly mistakes.

Town staff is available to help guide you through the process of opening or relocating a business in Pagosa Springs. Applications are available on the town's website, www.townofpagosasprings.com, or at Town Hall. Contact town government at: 551 Hot Springs Blvd., P.O. Box 1859, Pagosa Springs, CO 81147, (970) 264-4151.

TAX BURDEN 2012

State	Rate	Ranking (1 Highest)	Per Capita Paid to State	Per Capita Taxes Paid to Other States	Total State & Local Per Capita Taxes Paid	Per Capita Income
Colorado	8.9	36	2,968	1,336	4,303	48,314
Texas	7.6	46	2,332	1,008	3,340	44,081
New Mexico	8.7	38	2,170	971	3,141	36,051
California	10.9	7	4,126	1,111	5,237	47,808
Arizona	8.8	37	2,283	992	3,276	37,012
Wyoming	7.1	49	2,056	2,351	4,407	61,708
Nebraska	9.2	31	2,930	1,267	4,197	45,485
U.S. Average	9.48	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44,178

Source: www.taxfoundation.org/

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES PER CAPITA 2009

	RANK	Amount
Colorado	48	1,532.26
Texas	50	1,368.45
New Mexico	17	2,102.88
California	9	2,391.65
Arizona	41	1,673.57
Wyoming	2	2,973.87
Nebraska	18	2,082.27
U.S. Average		2,049.20

Source: http://www.statemaster.com/graph/eco_tot_tax_bur-total-tax-burden-per-capita

SELECTED STATE TAX COMPARISONS 2009 (PER \$1,000 INCOME)

	Colorado Rank	Colorado Tax	U.S. Average
Total Taxes	49	\$40.89	\$58.50
Sales and Use	44	\$10.89	\$19.68
Individual	28	\$20.74	\$20.12
Corporate	42	\$1.55	\$3.29
Motor Fuel	32	\$2.90	\$2.89
Liquor	43	\$0.17	\$0.44
Tobacco	35	\$1.02	\$1.37
Severance	12	\$1.34	\$1.10

Source: www.colorado.gov

Business ORGANIZATIONS & LICENSING

Colorado Workforce	(970) 247-0308	www.yourworkforcecenter.com
Better Business Bureau	(505) 346-0110	bbb.org/new-mexico-southwest-colorado
Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce	(970) 264-2360	www.pagosachamber.com
Region 9 Economic Development	(970) 247-9621	www.scan.org
Southwest Colorado SBDC	(970) 247-7009	www.sbdcfortlewis.org
Colorado Secretary of State	(303) 894-2200	sos.state.co.us
Town of Pagosa Springs	(970) 264-4151	www.pagosasprings.co.gov
Archuleta County	(970) 264-8300	www.archuletacounty.org
Archuleta County Clerk & Recorder	(970) 264-8350	www.archuletacounty.org
PS. Community Development Corporation	(970) 264-2360	www.pagosaspringscdc.org



Grow your business with the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber Of Commerce

By Mary Jo Coulehan

Executive director, Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce

Incorporated in July of 1976, the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce is currently celebrating its 41st year supporting Pagosa area businesses.

The Chamber of Commerce is a member-based organization that promotes and supports the local community through various educational programs, a resource and referral system, business advocacy, economic gardening and special event promotions. With over 450 members, it is known for consistently having one of the highest per capita memberships in the state of Colorado — an honorable achievement for a small mountain community.

The Pagosa Springs Chamber stays current with the technological age utilizing tools including a mobile website, social media and educational opportunities for local businesses. Popular networking events such as the Business After Hours, Business Bites luncheons, targeted trainings and Maximizing Your Membership sessions are a great way to stay current with area activities and to hone and expand your business. The Chamber offers confidential consulting services, connections to other important business service centers and numerous ways to help you grow your business.

If you are looking to expand your established business, you might want to think about involving yourself in a Growth Company Initiative, *continued on next page*

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Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation

Improving our economic climate

By Jason Cox

President, Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation

The Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) coordinates economic development initiatives that aim to enhance the economy in Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

Born of the former Archuleta Economic Development Association (AEDA) which formed in the late 1980s, the AEDA was tasked with improving rural economic development. Today, the CDC — a nonprofit corporation formed in the spring of 2010 — maintains the goal of enhancing economic vitality in Archuleta County. Supported by county and town government, utility groups, local banks and individual businesses, the CDC's mission is to help Pagosa grow, diversify and become more economically stable.

Recent projects the CDC has undertaken include the attraction and support of Parelli Natural Horsemanship World Wide Headquarters; assistance with the development of Growing Spaces — one of the top 50 Companies to Watch in Colorado in 2010 and support for SkyWerx Internet Services, another Colorado top 50 Companies to Watch in 2014. Other CDC efforts include assisting with alternative energy development projects in and around Pagosa Springs — including a major biomass project and power plant project — and supporting research and development of the geothermal cache in the area. With the current focus on alternative energy nationally, the CDC encourages individuals and companies interested in energy entrepreneurship to look no further than Pagosa Springs.

Better than a highway running through town, Pagosa Springs has the San Juan River flowing through town. With the Weminuche Wilderness and southern San Juan Wilderness in Pagosa Springs' backyard, out-

door equipment and accessory entrepreneurs are finding that Pagosa Springs offers an ideal research, development and testing lab for their products.

Technology has changed the way we do business and companies that need broadband Internet services for large data transmission or jobs that offer telecommuting opportunities are a perfect fit for the community. The CDC is currently spearheading improvement of broadband services in the area.

The CDC provides a wealth of resources including a rapid-response team to assist companies interested in opening or relocating a business to Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County. The CDC maintains close ties to the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce, the Southwest Small Business Development Center at Fort Lewis College in Durango and Region 9 Economic Development District. These relationships help provide businesses a leg up on coming into the community through consultation services, educational opportunities and financial assistance. The CDC can help interested parties develop a business compatible with the area, locate available space, help smooth the business transition and create a win-win situation for new businesses and the community.

Contact the CDC's administrative office at (970) 264-2360 or visit www.pagosaspringscdc.org.

Chamber

continued from previous page

which supports both emerging and existing businesses that are in an enhanced stage with over nine employees and higher-end sales. This peer network and mentoring group shares business resources, expertise, time and access to capital. Most of the growth companies are past the initiation phase of a business and are looking to expand their products, market and workforce. The Chamber of Commerce, along with the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, the Alliance Economic Development Center in Durango, the Small Business Development Center at Fort Lewis College and the Region 9 Economic Development District are poised to help you take your business to the next level.

If you are moving into the area and setting up a storefront or home-based business, or if you are an individual interested in staying connected to the business pulse, the Chamber offers many options and informational outlets to assist you.

A Chamber membership is a voice in supporting the business community. We encourage our membership to achieve collectively what could not be possible individually. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at www.pagosachamber.com or by calling (970) 264-2360.

ECONOMIC PARTNERS

Archuleta County	www.archuletacounty.org	(970) 264-8300
Town of Pagosa Springs	www.pagosasprings.co.gov	(970) 264-4151
Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation	www.pagosaspringscdc.org	(970) 264-2360
Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce	www.pagosachamber.com	(970) 264-2360
The Pagosa Springs SUN	www.pagosahun.com	(970) 264-2100
Southwest Colorado SBDC	www.sbdccfortlewis.org	(970) 247-7009
Region 9	www.scan.org	(970) 247-9621
Office of Economic Development and International Trade	www.choosecolorado.com	(303) 892-3840



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Elementary School

Pagosa Family School

Educational enrichment courses for Archuleta County home-school, private school and public school kids

By **Randi Pierce**

Pagosa Family School (PFS) works to bring Archuleta County home-school, private school and public school kids together for educational enrichment courses.

According to PFS Director and Shared Schooling Liaison Jane Parker, PFS began with Archuleta School District (ASD) Superintendent Linda Reed and the previous shared schooling liaison, Blue Lindner, asking the question, “What are the educational needs of the home-school and private school community and how can Archuleta School District help reach those needs?”

“Input from an advisory committee of homeschool and private school leaders, conversations, and surveys showed that homeschool and private school students would benefit from educational electives, as they tend to be expensive or hard to find,” Parker explained in an email. “Then, work began to develop and fund the program to launch in the fall of 2016.”

That launch was successful, and PFS, an outreach of the ASD, now offers Spanish, art and choir, with each class meeting two afternoons per week during the school year.

And the best part? It’s free to every student — no matter if they’re part of ASD schools or not.

“Pagosa Family School offers a dynamic educational environment connecting homeschool, private school, and public school families as they learn together in enrichment courses,” the program mission statement notes.

PFS currently employs one choir teacher, two art teachers and two Spanish teachers, as well as a number of educational aides, who, during the 2016-2017 school year, worked to serve 144 students, including 56 home-school students and 88 public school students.

The PFS choir serves middle school-aged students (in the fifth through eighth grades).

The art classes allow students to “work toward a mastery of art skills

while exploring their unique personal creativity,” the course description notes.

In addition to encouraging creative thinking, the course works to instill an appreciation of art history and world cultures.

The Spanish courses immerse students in a Spanish-language environment that uses experiences such as music, games, stories, drama, role-play, art, chants and rhymes. Additionally, the students learn about Spanish-speaking cultures throughout the world.

But, beyond providing educational opportunity for the area's students, Parker wrote of another benefit: “It also has helped promote a positive growing relationship between the various educational communities in Pagosa and has been successful as a result of that positive cooperation.”

Too, the parents of those enrolled in PFS are also pleased, with Parker gathering numerous positive testimonials during the program's first year.

“I love the students at family school. Seeing students interact in conversations while doing art projects or playing on the playground makes me feel like we have become a family. My own girls love the content and warm atmosphere provided by the other teachers. They are becoming better singers, Spanish speakers, and artists. But most of all, they are becoming more confident by gaining new skills in a fun environment.” one mother said.

Another said, “My daughter loves her Spanish class through Pagosa Family School! She comes home speaking Spanish afterwards. I think it is wonderful that she has been given this opportunity in our small town. She also loves her teacher, Mrs. Kurz.”

“I am SO grateful for the extra educational opportunities that Pagosa Family School has provided for my children!” another wrote. “They are learning SO much, and LOVE PFS (so much so, that they're bummed if they have to stay home sick because they 'don't want to miss Family School!'). My kids are talking to each other in Spanish all the time (and this is their 1st year taking any Spanish ever, and the year hasn't even ended yet!), and teaching me Spanish too! My son is always excited about the new techniques he's learning in Art class, and [my] daughter is singing all the songs she learns in Choir, at home. It's definitely enriched, not only their lives, but mine as well! And, at no extra cost to me! (As otherwise, I don't know if they'd be able to take advantage of this opportunity). We are truly BLESSED by the PFS, [its] staff and teachings. ... I can only imagine the way it's blessing the community in the way of the students and families it's touching.”

And the program plans to survey families involved in the program each year to determine ongoing needs for electives, Parker explained, “We have big dreams of being able to build our program by adding a wider variety of courses, in addition to our core of Spanish Art & Choir, to allow more and more students in Archuleta County to be involved in the program. We hope to be able to offer electives that may not be offered in the mainstream classroom, thus adding extra opportunities for all students in Archuleta County.”



Education Options Private & Homeschool

While Archuleta School District offers excellent educational opportunities, some people relocating to Pagosa wish to enroll their children in a private school or would like to homeschool their children. Pagosa Springs offers several private educational options.

An estimated 50-plus families homeschool their children in and around Pagosa Springs. Pagosa Valor Academy, for example, is a primary education school for kindergarten through ninth grades. It combines the best traits of home education with the best traits of public school education. It is a family-oriented school with the core purpose of teaching kids from a biblical perspective while preparing college-ready young adults.

Some homeschooling options follow the traditional school schedule, while others work year-round, offering a diversified schedule based on chores at home, jobs, training, vacation schedules and other variables. Families interested in homeschooling need to register their intent with the Archuleta School District 14 days before homeschooling and every school year. For more information on homeschooling rules and regulations, some useful websites are the Christian Educators of Colorado, www.chec.org/index.php or Homeschool World at www.home-school.com.

Pagosa Family School is a state-funded educational outreach program offered, for the first time in the 2016-2017 school year, to all Archuleta County students K-8. This program is for homeschool, private school and public school students. PFS offers Spanish, choir and art classes. Please visit Pagosa Family School on Facebook, visit the school district website at www.MyPagosaSchools.com or contact the Shared School Liaison at (970) 264-2228.

GOAL Academy is accredited by the Colorado Department of Education, serving ages 14-21. GOAL Academy maintains a blended learning format with online courses and drop-in centers with individuals to help with any questions or problems. Visit online at www.goalac.org.

Our Savior Lutheran School: This early childhood school offers three preschool classes, Kindergarten, first, second and third grades in which every discipline is taught from the Christian worldview. All classes are taught using a Classical Christian Curriculum, which includes such classes as Latin, cursive, traditional math (no common core), phonics-based English, science, art and music. The school is located on three acres, complete with six self-contained classrooms, a gymnasium and two playground areas. Information is located at www.oslcpagosa.org.



Engaging Students

Proud Partners Program

By Randi Pierce

The Archuleta School District is in the midst of launching a new effort, known as the Proud Partners Program, which aims to bring the Archuleta County business community and individuals together with the district's schools, to the benefit of everyone involved.

Appropriately, the idea for the program was born out of community meetings held by the school district a few years ago. Those meetings primarily included business representatives, but also individuals.

According to the program's director, Doug Hershey, "The Pagosa Proud Partners Program was created through a collaborative effort by the school board, school district staff and community members in order to help the community better support student success. It's a way to better connect businesses and individuals who are interested in helping our students and teachers."

And while the program is still being formed and the full breadth of it has not yet been determined, Hershey indicated that the program will have several facets to support everyone involved.

Among them are expected to be volunteers working in the schools and directly with students, community volunteers and businesses donating time and skills to help the school with proj-

ects that might otherwise be expensive and time-consuming for the schools, and placing students in businesses to gain job experience and skills.

Some of those things include, for example, community members helping to run clubs within the schools or provide tutoring.

Teachers can also put out requests for things they need volunteers to help with.

One business has volunteered to maintain the bikes used for an after-school health program at the middle school, with the possibility of that growing to involve students working alongside the professionals to learn the skills.

The program also aims to help students gain employment, both over summer breaks and to help them gain experience for future careers. The school has initiated as part of its course offerings a school-to-work program, which Hershey said will intertwine with the Proud Partners Program.

That not only helps employers with an immediate need for help, but also helps to provide workforce training and helps students explore possible fields to enter.

Too, the program is working with the Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce on a number of projects, including having young



professionals come in and help students with things such as interview skills beyond what they already learn in the course of school.

This spring, the program worked with the Chamber to help students work for summer employment. That was accomplished by arranging to have a students-only portion of the job fair take place prior to the fair being opened to the general public.

Hershey also noted the program will “be a way to recognize our community partners who have done so much to help our schools. It will be a way to both acknowledge our partner contributions and to spread the word to others who are interested in helping out.”

“Like small rural schools across Colorado, we are in a perpetual budget crisis,” he wrote. “We work really hard and have phenomenal

success. However, individual volunteers and businesses can be a great help in our efforts to find ways to provide the best possible education to our kids. We are always looking for partners to volunteer in classrooms and after school programs. We also need business sponsors for students looking for on the job work experience. And, donations of any size are always welcome.”

To see some of the possible ways to help Archuleta County schools, interested individuals and businesses can visit the Archuleta School District website, <http://www.mypagosaschools.com/>, and look for the heart-shaped volunteer tab. There you will find the Teachers Volunteer Want Ads as well as online forms to get started as a Proud Partner.

Skills USA

By Becky Guilliams
and Jesse Morehouse

VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America) was formed in 1965. Its purpose was to motivate students at the high school and collegiate levels to understand and value opportunities present in America’s skilled workforce.

In 2004, VICA became Skills USA. In 2006, the Pagosa Springs High School Skills USA chapter was founded, and it continues to grow each year. Now, Skills USA includes more than 312,000 students nationally. The organization conducts state, national and global competitions at which Pagosa Springs High School students regularly compete.

At Pagosa Springs High School, students have access to subjects such as crime scene investigation (CSI), auto technology, auto

refinishing, welding, motorcycle mechanics, firefighting, computer programming, digital photography and web design.

Pagosa Springs High School funds the students’ attendance for regional and state competitions, while students who qualify for national competitions must raise their own funds to attend.

There are over 88 different competitions available to students. This year, Pagosa Springs sent students to state in three competitions. In two of the three competitions teams were entered in, they achieved podium finishes.

Skills members volunteer at the 9Health Fair for setup and take-down of the event, as well as helping out with the local antique auto show. This provides students and community members a chance to get to know each other outside of the high school setting while raising money for incidental costs at events.



Public schools offer multitude of reasons for living in Pagosa

By Linda Reed
Archuleta School District

For families with children who are interested in moving to Pagosa, there are a multitude of reasons, many of them found in our schools.

Archuleta School District's Strategic Framework, which emphasizes Whole Student Education, exemplifies what we believe is important. We believe in order for our students to be successful in life, they need to develop more than just their academic competencies. They also need to develop personal, professional, entrepreneurial and civic competencies.

In order for them to accomplish these, we provide many atypical opportunities for our students. In addition to an outstanding academic program, our schools offer many co-curricular activities for students of all ages.

The district was created in 1950 and consists of three campuses: Pagosa Springs Elementary School (kindergarten through fourth

grades); Pagosa Springs Middle School (fifth through eighth grades) and Pagosa Springs High School (ninth through 12th grades).

The motto at Pagosa Springs Elementary School is "Care Reigns Here" and the staff believes that creating respectful and caring relationships is the foundation for learning. From this foundation, kids engage in learning a rigorous curriculum. We focus on strategic and purposeful lessons in the Seven Habits/Leader in Me curricula.

Pagosa Springs Middle School takes great pride in offering a dynamic, well-rounded educational experience. Our mission is to empower students to navigate the future through learning and problem solving. Our highly trained and caring staff engages students in relevant and dynamic ways to meet and exceed the Colorado Academic Standards. We embrace our community values and spectacular location in our academic pursuits and often venture outside the classroom to learn and explore. Student health and wellness is a top priority at Pagosa Springs Middle School. As a two-time Healthy

School Champion, we have been recognized for our well-developed, systemic approach to embedding best practices at all grade levels.

Additionally, our middle school develops a strong positive school culture through a daily advisory program. Through this program, staff and student build a strong rapport and purposefully make those human connections that provide the foundation for our educational program. Students engage in team building, fun activities and develop socially while having an advisory teacher to guide them through the middle school years.

Pagosa Springs High School has implemented changes to the master schedule in which students take eight year-long classes. An advisory period is aimed at establishing strong meaningful relationships between students and teachers. Research shows if students feel like they belong and have strong relationships, their achievement in academics is greatly improved. The high school also uses the advisory period to improve school spirit, develop character and help students plan for their lives after graduation.

In the fall of 2016, Archuleta School District, in partnership with a variety of home and private school groups, began Pagosa Family School. This unique opportunity provides elective classes of Spanish, art and choir to home and private school students during the regular school day as well as an after school program for public, home and private school students. With guidance from an advisory board and under the skilled leadership of Jane Parker, this program provides a rich opportunity for students to embody the motto of “Growing Together.”

On the playing field, Pagosa Springs is a 3A school, and is consistently competitive at the state level in a number of team sports. The Future Business Leaders of America, Skills USA and FFA organizations consistently produce top finishers in state competition and multiple Destination Imagination teams have qualified for Global Finals.

Pagosa Springs High School also takes great pride in the arts. The high school offers a wide variety of music programs including traditional band and choir as well as guitar and the Americana Project, which is a beginning song writing course. Students can also enroll in a drama class in addition to after-school drama productions.

Head Start and Seeds of Learning work hand in hand with the district through the Colorado Preschool Program, which also offers assistance to at-risk preschool students. The district provides bus services to the majority of the district’s students.

For more on our schools, visit our website at www.mypagosaschools.com.

EDUCATIONAL CONTACT NUMBERS

Archuleta County Education Center
theacec.com

Archuleta School District 50 JT
(970) 264-2228
www.MyPagosaSchools.com

Childcare Resource and Referral Program
(970) 247-5960
earlychildhoodprograms.org

GOAL Academy
(877) PRO-GOAL
www.goalac.org

Our Savior Lutheran Preschool (K-2)
(970) 731-3512
oslcpagosa.org

Pagosa Family School (K-8)
(970) 264-2228
www.MyPagosaSchools.com

Pagosa Peak Open School (K-4)
(970) 264-2228
pagosapeakopenschool.org

Pagosa Springs Elementary School (K-4)
(970) 264-2229
www.MyPagosaSchools.com

Pagosa Springs Middle School (5-8)
(970) 264-2794
www.MyPagosaSchools.com

Pagosa Springs High School (9-12)
(970) 264-2231
www.MyPagosaSchools.com

Mardel Gallegos Center (Head Start)
(970) 264-2484
tchs4c.org

Pagosa Valor Academy (K-9)
970-264-4782 (4PVA)
pagosavaloracademy.org

Community Connections, Inc.
(970) 259-2464
communityconnectionsco.org

San Juan Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES)
(970) 247-3261
sjboces.org

Sonrisas Spanish School
(970) 264-9288
sonrisasspanishschool.com

Seeds of Learning Early Care and Education Center
(970) 264-5513
growingseeds.org



Pagosa Peak Open School: Community's first charter school opens in the fall of 2017

By Randi Pierce

Opening its doors for the first time in the fall of 2017, the Pagosa Peak Open School (PPOS) is the community's first charter school.

PPOS aims to serve students in kindergarten through fourth grade in its first year, then adding one grade level each school year, building up to offering kindergarten through eighth grade.

The public school is tuition-free and is chartered through Archuleta School District, but is governed by its own volunteer board of directors and boasts an educational model different than the district's other schools.

PPOS offers an educational model that incorporates project- and place-based learning, as well as experiential learning, for a hands-on

approach.

"Students at Pagosa Peak Open School will learn through doing, and by reflecting and discussing what those experiences have taught them. Students will develop knowledge, skills, and values from direct experiences, both in and out of a conventional academic setting," the website states.

To better accommodate its project- and place-based education, including a focus on outdoor education and gardening/horticulture, the school will operate on a year-round schedule.

The school is based out of the Parelli Natural Horsemanship headquarters.

For more about PPOS, visit www.PagosaPeakOpenSchool.org.



Photo courtesy Pagosa Springs Elementary School

Elementary school's 100 Mile Club: Making memories and logging miles

By Laura Mijares

Pagosa Springs Elementary School's 100 Mile Club hosted a snowshoe adventure at Sonlight Camp last winter, featuring great snow, blue skies, camaraderie and a hot dog roast.

Students and parents were able to try out new skills in managing snowshoes while accumulating miles that go to individual and collective totals. Coaches Lindsey Kurt-Mason, Michelle Ziegler and Nicole Jones taught skills while making sure that all students had a great time.

The new club was implemented at Pagosa Springs elementary and middle schools as a fitness challenge to students. This challenge, called The 100 Mile Club, is part of a national program that is sponsored locally by the San Juan Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).

The 100 Mile Club presents students with a straightforward goal: run, jog or walk 100 miles over the course of the school year.

At the elementary school, participating students and parents

are encouraged to log miles before and after school in a variety of contexts.

Miles are tallied daily and charted on a graph for the school community to see. Currently, the collective miles total over 1,900, more than it takes to get to Philadelphia from Pagosa Springs.

The program is adaptable to the resources and needs of individual students, and may be implemented in many different ways throughout the school day.

Making the program unique are life lessons in goal-setting, determination and team spirit delivered alongside exercise. Rather than compete against each other, students at the elementary are members of the 100 Mile Club "team," where every student has the opportunity to be successful.

Whether they run, jog or walk toward their goal, the 100 Mile Club inspires students of all abilities — athletic, nonathletic, learning disabled, challenged — to be active in an accepting, positive environment.



Continuing Education

Southwest Colorado Community College

Learning technical skills, achieving a higher level of education and earning an associate degree and/or technical training certificate is a very real possibility while living in Pagosa Springs.

What once was a smattering of vocational, technical and online studies has now been gathered under the umbrella of Southwest Colorado Community College (SCCC), a division of Pueblo Community College (PCC).

Based in Pueblo, Colo., PCC has been offering community outreach education and training programs in the area for over 30 years.

SCCC, a comprehensive two-year college, has two campuses: the West Campus is located in Mancos, just one mile west of the Mesa

Verde National Park turnoff and the East Campus is located in Durango at The Commons Building.

SCCC operates its two campuses with the aid of a regional advisory board with representatives from local counties, including Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata and Montezuma. The diverse regional representation assists SCCC in highlighting the needs of local communities, such as workforce demands and education interests.

Courses can be taken on campus or online and all classes are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Efforts are also being made to broaden the accessibility of classes. To find out more about classes online or on campus, visit the Southwest Colorado Community College website at www.pueblocc.edu/SCCC/.

Fort Lewis College & Adams State University

Pagosa Springs is situated between the sites of two higher learning establishments: Fort Lewis College in Durango and Adams State University in Alamosa.

Fort Lewis College

Serving southwest Colorado for over 100 years, Fort Lewis College is a selective, public liberal arts college located approximately 60 miles west of Pagosa Springs in Durango.

Smaller classes (18:1 ratio of students to faculty with 97 percent of classes smaller than 50 students) is a hallmark for FLC.

There is a diversity of studies offered, with specially accredited programs in business, chemistry, engineering-physics and music. With over 70 student organizations, including NCAA Division II sports (in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference, RMAC), Fort Lewis prides itself in not only community activities, but national and international activities through their Study Abroad and Village Aid programs. Fort Lewis College also offers internships, service learning and undergraduate research programs.

Durango marries the educational requirements with the accessibility of the natural playground in which it is located. Community members can enjoy the museum and research library at the Center of Southwest Studies and a wide variety of performances at the Community Concert Hall at Fort Lewis College. Travel to FLC from Pagosa Springs is just an

hour. Persons interested in pursuing an education through FLC should check out the school at www.fortlewis.edu.

Adams State University

Adams State University is located in Alamosa, approximately 90 miles east of Pagosa Springs. ASU is a comprehensive institution offering bachelor degrees in over 60 areas of study, in addition to 11 master's-level programs and one doctoral program.

Adams State is distinguished by caring professors and a diverse, yet close-knit community. The average class size is 18.

Adams State was Colorado's first four-year higher education institution to be federally designated a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), with 35 percent of undergraduate students identifying as Hispanic.

With about one-third of the student body participating in athletics, the Adams State Grizzlies compete in the NCAA Division II and the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC). Adams State has over 40 student clubs and organizations.

The Adams State campus has been transformed through \$104 million worth of recent improvements. An intimate campus with treed-lined walkways, state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, supportive programs, and vibrant student life await Adams State students.

For more information about ASU, visit www.adams.edu.



Photo courtesy Jeff Laydon/Pagosa Photography

Early Childhood Education

Seeds of Learning

Seeds of Learning, a NAEYC-accredited early care and education center 501(c)(3) organization in Archuleta County, is a quality early childhood education facility serving preschool children ages 2.5 to 5 years old. The center encompasses early education, childcare, parenting classes and staff in-services.

The center piloted and currently provides the Incredible Years Program, which brings children, their parents and their teachers together in a proven prevention strategy that has been shown to reduce child behavior problems, promote positive discipline and improve school performance.

They are also contracted by the Archuleta County School District to implement the Colorado Preschool Program, which serves children in need of language development and helps reduce the risk of school failure by providing support through early childhood education.

Seeds of Learning provides a hot lunch every day, along with breakfast and afternoon snack. Tuition is offered on a sliding scale.

Seeds of Learning is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is open year round. The center is located close to the downtown area and provides an educational, nurturing environ-

ment for children and parents.

More information can be obtained by visiting the website at www.growingseeds.org.

Tri-County Head Start

Tri-County Head Start has provided quality early childhood education programs at 10 sites throughout Southwestern Colorado for over 40 years. Participation in the Mardel Gallegos Center Head Start program in Pagosa Springs is no cost to income-eligible families and free or low-cost extended day services are also available.

Each year, over 50 enrolled children from ages 3-5 in the Pagosa Springs region benefit from daily activities helping them grow mentally, emotionally, physically and socially.

Head Start program services also include health screenings and assessments, disability services and family involvement. Visit the Head Start website at www.tchs4c.org for more information.

Private Schools and Day Care

There are private organizations that offer early childhood learning and day care services. A list of providers can be obtained by contacting Archuleta County Human Services at 264-2182 or Seeds of Learning.



Pagosa Springs Medical Center: Compassionate community care

By Jesse Hensle

Pagosa Springs Medical Center has been providing superior healthcare to the Pagosa Springs area since 2008. Community residents and visitors have access to quality health care services including primary care, specialty services, emergency medical services, 24/7 emergency room, general and orthopedic surgery, lab, diagnostic imaging and infusion therapy — all closer to home.

Primary care and outpatient services at Pagosa Springs Medical Center (PSMC) begin in the facility's new clinic, completed in April of 2017. Here you will find the medical center's clinic with family physicians, internists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and behavioral health specialists. The clinic also has specialty lines such as orthopedic surgery, general surgery, cardiology, gastroenterology and gynecology, with more specialty services continually being added. The clinic offers appointments for personal, comprehensive, continuing care, in addition to acute care for minor ailments. There is often same-day appointment availability and walk-ins are ac-

cepted on Saturdays.

As the premier health care provider for the greater Pagosa Springs community, the medical center realizes its responsibility to not only treat patients but to promote the importance of health and wellness. The sense of community pride resonates throughout the medical center and is best captured by Brad Cochennet, CEO of Pagosa Springs Medical Center: "We embrace the belief that it is our privilege to fulfill the community's need to have access to health care. The dignity bestowed upon us not only to provide that access but also to continually elevate our level of care is something we hold in high regard."

Another step in elevating health care to the region was completed in early 2017 with the addition of the new clinic. The expansion will help meet the demands of our growing community by providing additional exam rooms, more specialty services and increased waiting space. While the completion of the expansion marked a milestone moment for the community and medical center, there are still ad-



Illustration courtesy Boulder Associates, Inc.

ditional remodels this year to improve services to the community; in addition, there are future expansion phases included in the facility's master plan.

The 11-bed hospital at Pagosa Springs Medical Center offers both inpatient and outpatient services. General and orthopedic surgery is available. The medical center can accommodate many surgical procedures including, but not limited to laceration repair, laparoscopic surgery, gallbladder surgery, hernia repair, excision of lymph nodes, thyroid surgery, GI services including endoscopy and colonoscopy, and therapeutic procedures. PSMC also provides women's health procedures such as breast ductectomy, lumpectomy and mastectomy, and tubal ligation.

Orthopedics and Sports Medicine is lead by Dr. William Webb. Through his services, community members are able to receive total joint replacement for hips and knees, arthroscopy for shoulders and knees, ACL reconstruction and ligament repair. PSMC orthopedic services also include carpal tunnel release, trigger finger release and pain management. Many patients are often surprised at the number of services offered for a rural hospital and it is not uncommon for patients to travel long distances to have their procedures done by the physicians at PSMC.

The hospital also features a radiology department with industry-leading equipment, including a GE 128-slice CT scanner and a new

MRI system that produces images in superb quality. The medical center also has x-ray, ultrasound and digital radiography. In the H. Pat and E. Nancy Artis Mammography Suite, patients can get mammography and bone density screenings in a comfortable and intimate setting.

When you are in need of emergency medical services, you want to know you are in good hands. In 2014 the Pagosa Springs Medical Center's EMS team was awarded Colorado EMS Ambulance Service-of-the-Year, an honor that is awarded to the EMS team that demonstrates leadership in patient care, medical control, quality assurance, public education, public access, and training and education. The medical center's 24/7 Emergency Department has obtained a Level IV designation for trauma care by providing injured patients with advanced trauma life support, 24-hour laboratory coverage, stabilization, diagnosis and surgical services. This designation allows the medical center to have transfer agreements to Level I and Level II Trauma Centers for patient care after stabilization at PSMC.

The Pagosa Springs Medical Center believes in being a supportive establishment for the community and surrounding area. As the largest employer in Archuleta County, you do not have to look far to find someone connected to the organization.

For more information about the Pagosa Springs Medical Center, visit pagosamed.org.

Alternative Treatments Plentiful in Pagosa

Throughout the centuries, people of all cultures have come to regard the hot mineral waters in Pagosa Springs as having healing properties.

Whether they were used to soothe sore muscles, to deal with breathing issues or just for simple relaxation, the hot mineral baths have played a key part in the development of Pagosa Springs.

Pagosa is also home to the famous Dr. Mary Fisher — our own “Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman” — who, back in the late 1800s, graduated medical school as a doctor of homeopathy and surgery. She brought her healing skills, tenacity and tenderness to Pagosa Springs at the turn of the century, becoming a legend and the namesake for the Dr. Mary Fisher Foundation, a nonprofit that exists to assist, benefit and support the district that oversees the local hospital.

Perhaps because of the healing waters, the thought that Pagosa is founded on a vortex, or just because of the natural assets of the flowing rivers, cascading waterfalls or glorious mountains, those providing many forms of healing have been drawn to our community.

Pagosa abounds in talented therapists qualified in a variety of massage techniques. Traditional massage, cranio-sacral, Swedish, deep tissue, sports, neuromuscular, axial tonal alignment, kinesiology, energy work and reflexology are but some of the modalities practiced by trained therapists. Therapists work out of several spas in the community, stand-alone businesses, out of their homes and, with their massage tables, will travel to your home. Massage therapy is definitely one of the industries that is prevalent in Pagosa — good for the therapist and for those who need and want this body work.

A comprehensive aquatic wellness program with therapeutic water exercises is offered for adults with chronic health conditions or healthy individuals who just wish to improve their fitness level.

Traditional medical practitioners in the area focus on and offer preventative and wellness programs to help individuals achieve a healthy, active lifestyle.

Pagosa also has its share of qualified chiropractors. There are a variety of chiropractic treatments available, serving a wide range of

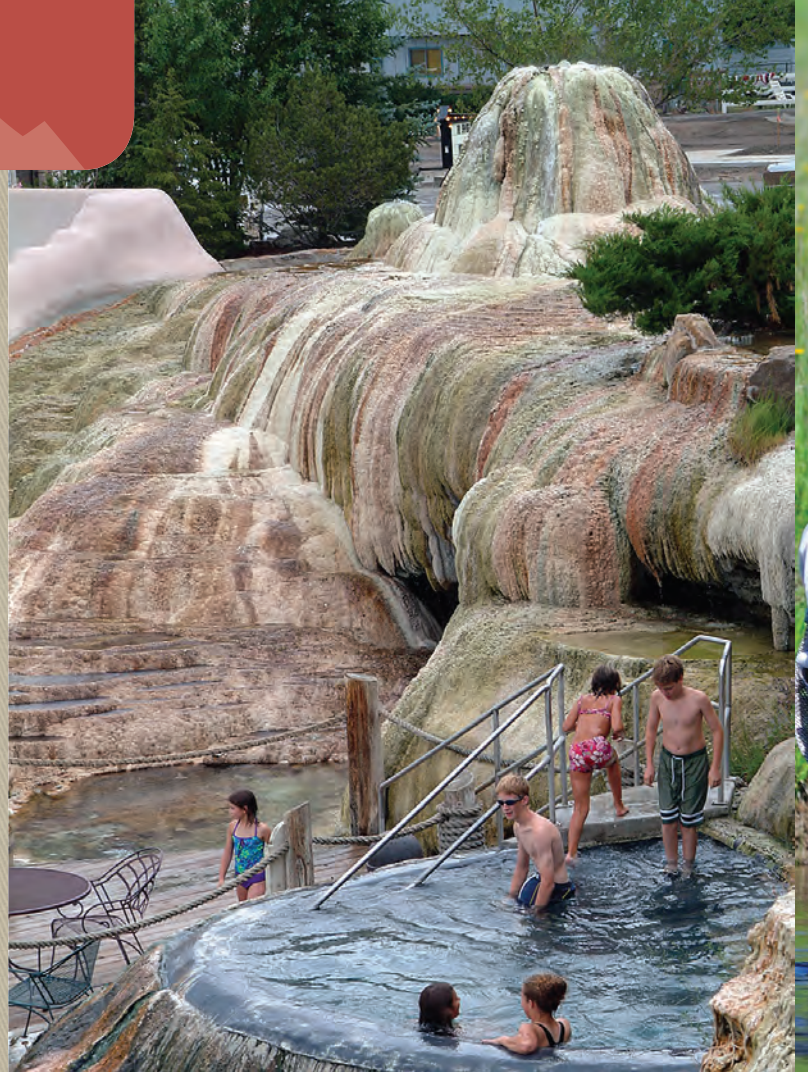


Photo courtesy The Springs Resort

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where you *Live Play*

24/7 ER with Trauma Level IV Designation, Primary Care,
Orthopedic Surgery & General Surgery

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needs. Treatments include the Gonstead technique, focusing on the whole person, not just the area of pain. With the active lifestyles in our community, sports medicine treatments, using traditional adjustment methods and non-force techniques are also widely available. Keeping up with new technologies, Pagosa chiropractors also utilize techniques such as scio biofeedback, cold laser therapy, aqua chi detox and spinal decompressions. Whether a resident of Pagosa or someone interested in opening a practice, there is certainly room to explore this industry.

If you are looking to improve your life through conscious and inner awareness, Pagosa is home to a number of well-trained therapists, including hypnotherapy practitioners. Several practitioners who had very successful businesses in the “big city” have chosen to move to a smaller community, and have made Pagosa their home, now sharing their expertise with the community by setting up shop here in the mountains. Some therapists still travel, but make Pagosa their home base. Whether experiencing a life change, a choice of a place to raise your family, downsizing or even semi to full retirement, Pagosa welcomes alternative and experiential therapists.

With the resurgence in natural or holistic products in recent years, Pagosa Springs is also home to a variety of businesses producing

natural-based products. Some of the businesses operate from storefronts, offering spices, tinctures, oils, teas, soaps and many other selections. Other businesses are home-based and Internet-driven. Body and facial care products, soaps and cleaning products are produced locally, but marketed globally. As the market for holistic and natural products increases, talented practitioners are finding our community conducive to producing and marketing these products right here in Pagosa Springs. Pagosa, with one of its eyes on the holistic, is a perfect place for businesses of this nature to set down roots and grow.

Our community is a wellspring of traditional and alternative solutions to health care. With lodging and conference facilities, mineral hot springs in town and the great outdoors as our backyard, Pagosa Springs is an attractive site for wellness seminars educating the outside world to the benefits of alternative methods of treatments and holistic products. There is still room for the “alternative” community to come together and better promote our area to the outside world. The Chamber of Commerce would be happy to assist businesses interested in expanding this alternative arena. Pagosa exemplifies a healthy way of life through its active lifestyle and open-mindedness to alternative contributions to health care.

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Pagosa Health and Wellness	(970) 731-2218	
Alpine Medical Specialty Practices	(970) 507-3030	alpinepagosa.com
Alcoholics Anonymous	(888) 333-9649	aadistrict18.org
San Juan Basin Health	(970) 264-2409	sjbhd.org
Archuleta Integrated Health	(970) 264-2104	axishealthsystem.org
Hospice of Mercy	(970) 731-9190	hospiceofmercy.org
Southwest Safehouse	(970) 259-5443	voacolorado.org
Mercy Hospital	(970) 247-4311	mercydurango.org
Durango VA Medical Clinic	(970) 247-2214	
USJ Health Service District (EMS)	(970) 731-5811	pagosaspringsmedicalcenter.org
Pine Ridge Extended Care Center	(970) 731-4330	pagosanursinghome.com
Axis Health System	(970) 259-2162	axishealthsystem.org
Archuleta County Department of Human Services	(970) 264-2182	archuletacounty.org

ELDER CARE SOURCES

Pine Ridge Extended Care Center	(970) 731-4330	pagosanursinghome.com
Hospice of Mercy	(970) 731-9190	hospiceofmercy.org
Pagosa Springs Senior Center	(970) 264-2167	psseniors.org
Housing Solutions for the Southwest	(970) 259-1086	swhousingolutions.com
San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging	(970) 264-0501	sjbaaa.org
Archuleta County Department of Human Services	(970) 264-2182	archuletacounty.org



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Illustration courtesy Bauen Group LLC

Axis Health System: A new integrated health care facility

On Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2016, 65 people turned out to watch Axis Health System and local elected officials dig in to a new construction project just northwest of City Market at 52 Village Drive.

The Durango-based Axis Health System will bring increased health care options to Pagosa Springs in a new facility on Village Drive behind the City Market. The new clinic will follow Axis' "integrated" health care model, providing primary care and other services in a single location.

Opening of Archuleta Integrated Healthcare is targeted for June of 2017.

"This is phenomenal that we are all here for this purpose, because this is a cause that is absolutely near and dear to my heart," said Pagosa Springs Mayor Don Volger at the ground-breaking ceremony. "This is more than just kind of cool. This is darn near miraculous.

"We have been dreaming about having something like this in Pagosa Springs for years," he said. "This facility will complement our phenomenal hospital. It's my prayer that we go forward in this

healthcare community with hands held with the hospital, with private practices and with Axis."

"We are so proud to be here and put shovel to ground, and kick off the start of a fully integrated clinic," said Axis Chief Executive Officer Bern Heath. "It will provide primary care, mental health and substance use treatment. We've also designed it for — and we're working to get funding for — oral health care."

For more than 40 years, Axis has been known in the region for providing care for mental health concerns. Archuleta Integrated Healthcare is the next step to expand services through the integrated care model, which combines primary care, behavioral healthcare and oral health care in a one-stop shop.

"Axis has embraced a new idea called integrated health, but I'm not sure people understand how innovative that is. It is amazing," said Volger. "When you can go in, and somebody cares about the whole person: They don't just care about the complaint that you came in with. They care about you."



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Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

Growing food and community with local energy

By Leslie Wustrack

A remarkable all-volunteer community project, the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP), began in 2009 as the idea of a small group of community members and local officials. This idea ignited a passionate movement to build three greenhouses that would draw their energy from the town's pride and joy, the deepest geothermal pool in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

The GGP's mission is to educate the community in sustainable agricultural practices by producing food year-round using local renewable energy.

As visitors stroll along the San Juan River Walk in downtown

Pagosa Springs, it's impossible to miss the first of the three greenhouses, the Education Growing Dome. The geodesic dome sits on a beautiful .78 acre site in Centennial Park, leased to the nonprofit by the Town of Pagosa Springs, along with 100-gallons-per-minute of geothermal water.

In 2010, the project was heralded by state representatives, senators, the Colorado governor and national energy officials. Major grants have included the Laura Jane Musser Fund, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs award and a Colorado Water Conservation District award. In 2013, the GGP was selected by the Colorado Environmental Film Festival to officially host a mini-festival, or caravan, to serve the community with education and entertainment,



Photos courtesy Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

which financially benefits the GGP.

By 2016, the first greenhouse, the Education Dome, and the adjacent amphitheater were built. Much of the on-going labor and needed materials have been donated by Pagosa Springs businesses and community volunteers. Local school sports teams donated their time to fill all the beds with soil. A section of the beds within the structure is managed by the nonprofit's all-volunteer Seeds, Soil and Water Committee and is dedicated to supporting the project.

Visitors can see GGP's volunteers in action at least two workdays each week.

As its name suggests, the first dome's main purpose is education. Growing beds within the dome are dedicated largely to youth, and the GGP's Programming Committee collaborates with local schools and Colorado State University 4-H to bring the youth programs into the dome.

The GGP is also offering six Lifelong Learning Workshops in 2017 to explore varied topics from greenhouse growing to birds on Pagosa's River Walk to cooking with native foods.

A membership-based organization, the nonprofit christened its outdoor amphitheater in 2016 with a special thank you party for all

its contributors.

The outdoor amphitheater also served as the site of its signature fundraiser, Breakfast with Balloons. It's the perfect viewing spot for the balloon ascension of the community's annual ColorFest celebration. The GGP's first gourmet breakfast with champagne was a sold-out event.

What's ahead? The year 2017 should bring more grant awards and plans are in the works for the second dome, the Community Garden Dome. This greenhouse will be made available to local community organizations whose objectives address community needs. The third greenhouse will be dedicated to innovation. Fundraisers, including live outdoor concerts and workshops, will be held at this perfect location on the San Juan River.

As you stroll by the domes, if doors are open, please come in. The volunteers will share more about the GGP with you and your family.

Grab a lunch at a local restaurant and enjoy the Pagosa Springs sunshine at the GGP amphitheater.

Growing food and community with local energy, the domes are a true community collaboration meant to be enjoyed by all. Visit pagosagreen.org for all the latest information.

ARCHULETA COUNTY DEMOGRAPHIC & INCOME PROFILE			
Summary	2000	2010	2015
Population	9,898	12,084	12,854 (2016)
Households	3,980	5,267	5,334
Families	2,872	3,561	
Average Household Size	2.47	2.27	2.25
Owner Occupied Housing Units	3,057	3,947	
Renter Occupied Housing Units	923	1,320	
Median Age	40.7	48.4	49.6

POPULATION & POPULATION GROWTH			
	2015	2000	1990
State of Colorado	5,540,545	4,301,261	3,294,394
State of Colorado: 104,093.57 Sq. Miles			
Population Density (People per Sq. Mile):	53.2	41.5	31.8
Median Age (Years):		34.3	
Average Household Size (People):	2.49	2.53	
Archuleta County			
Archuleta County: 1355.48 Sq. Miles			
Archuleta County Population	12,854 (2016)	9,898	5,345
Population Density (People per Sq. Mile):	9.48	7.3	3.9
Median Age (Years):	49.6	40.8	
Average Household Size (People)	2.25	2.5	2.7
Renter Occupied Apartments			
Per Capita Income (PCI):	28,930	21,683	19,156
Median Household Income:	53,889	43,259	
Cost of Living Index	96.3 (2016)		

Sources: <http://www.census.gov/>
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/>
www.city-data.com/county/Archuleta_County-CO.html

www.townofpagosasprings.com/colorado.gov
factfinder.census.gov

ARCHULETA COUNTY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (2014)	
Population 25 years & over	9,043
Less than 9th grade	2.4%
9th to 12 grade, no diploma	5.3%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	26.9%
Some college, no degree	23.2%
Associate degree	6.8%
Bachelor's degree	22.9%
Graduate or professional degree	12.4%
High school graduate or higher age 25+	92.3%
Bachelor's degree or higher age 25+	35.3%

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (2015)	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	4.6%
Construction	12.9%
Manufacturing	2.6%
Wholesale Trade	0.1%
Retail trade	11.0%
Transportation and warehousing, utilities	4.2%
Information	2.7%
Finance, insurance, real estate, rental, leasing	6.9%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste management services	12.1%
Educational, health care, social assistance	17.3%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	13.6%
Other Services, except public administration	7.2%
Public administration	4.1%
Unemployment — County (March 2017)	3.0%

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FY 2017 Colorado FMR Metropolitan Area Summary

Metropolitan Area Name	Efficiency	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Boulder	\$905	\$1,021	\$1,240	\$1,763	\$2,065
Colorado Springs	\$603	\$737	\$950	\$1,383	\$1,674
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood	\$844	\$1,031	\$1,305	\$1,896	\$2,196
Fort Collins	\$719	\$817	\$996	\$1,450	\$1,755
Grand Junction	\$588	\$601	\$799	\$1,163	\$1,408
Greeley	\$599	\$693	\$897	\$1,306	\$1,581
Pueblo	\$599	\$603	\$802	\$1,149	\$1,305
Teller County	\$697	\$779	\$1,003	\$1,425	\$1,767

FY 2017 Colorado FMR Local Area Summary

Locality Name	Efficiency	1 Bedroom	2 Bedroom	3 Bedroom	4 Bedroom
Alamosa County	\$568	\$572	\$715	\$1,041	\$1,096
Archuleta County	\$619	\$623	\$808	\$1,104	\$1,201
La Plata County	\$706	\$786	\$967	\$1,408	\$1,607
Montezuma County	\$563	\$590	\$681	\$991	\$1,200
Ouray County	\$683	\$830	\$1,076	\$1,524	\$1,650
Rio Grande County	\$563	\$590	\$681	\$951	\$1,135
San Miguel County	\$826	\$980	\$1,302	\$1,629	\$1,892

source: www.huduser.org

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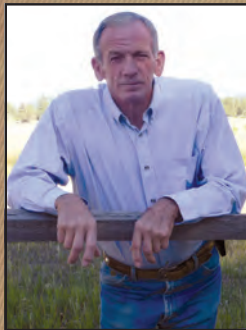
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Home-Based Businesses

So, you've decided to move to Pagosa Springs.

Now, it's decision time: Do you have employment with an existing industry in Pagosa, are you relocating an existing business or opening a branch, starting a new business, telecommuting or creating a home-based business?

The options are extensive, but you need to do your homework.

With the Internet and broadband capabilities, Pagosa Springs is a perfect place to work from home. Many major companies that rely heavily on the Internet are allowing employees to live where they choose, so long as they are able to "commute" via the Internet. Pagosa offers several high-speed Internet options, allowing residents to telecommute. Currently, broadband capability in many areas of town is available; however, check with the providers to determine the correct broadband capabilities you will need to make sure you can telecommute effectively. There are already numerous residents who choose to live in Pagosa Springs and enjoy the slower-paced lifestyle, and who can take time off during the day to ski, hike, bike, hunt or volunteer, all due to the wonder of telecommuting.

While there is a range of office rental or purchase space opportunities available in Pagosa Springs at very reasonable rates, many business owners have decided to base out of their homes.

Marketing via the Internet or e-commerce is the rage, and shopping via the Internet only grows in popularity. Many homes in Pagosa offer heated workshops or space in which to set up an office. Holistic products, piecework or general or sub-contracting businesses, including woodworking, plumbing, electrical, concrete or rock-work trades, can easily be established at your home base. If you purchase a home in an area that is governed by a property owners association, it is a good idea to check and make sure if there are any home/business restrictions.

Small manufacturing companies are also growing in popularity in Pagosa Springs. The Chamber of Commerce can assist interested parties with business development consultation, workforce development, workspace consultation and business training. More and more smaller manufacturing businesses are choosing Pagosa Springs as a home base that affords their employees a better quality of life, yet they distribute their products all over the world.

As you can see, Pagosa Springs is a fantastic community in which to marry choice of lifestyle with work. With the advance of technology, telecommuting is ever more popular and possible. Choosing where your home-based business is located becomes easier and a choice, not a necessity. Should you need to

commute to another part of the country, the La Plata County Airport is only one hour away, making connections with DIA, in Denver, and the world.

The Chamber of Commerce and Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation (CDC) are poised and ready to help you work through the pros and cons of locating a home-based business here in Pagosa Springs. We look forward to helping you become that "Lone Eagle" entrepreneur. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at www.pagosachamber.com or the CDC at www.pagosaspringscdc.org.

If you have any questions about obtaining a business license, please contact the Town of Pagosa Springs at (970) 264-4151.

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HOUSEHOLDS BY INCOME	2000		2014		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<\$15,000	648	16.2%	518	9.7%	524	9.9%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	563	14.1%	689	12.9%	824	15.4%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	573	14.4%	652	12.2%	616	11.5%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	839	21.0%	903	16.9%	899	16.9%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	729	18.3%	988	18.5%	931	17.5%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	306	7.7%	620	11.6%	558	10.5%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	165	4.1%	657	12.3%	632	11.7%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	63	1.6%	118	2.2%	159	3.0%
\$200,000+	103	2.6%	187	3.5%	200	3.7%
Median Household Income		\$38,333		\$48,186		\$46,646
Average Household Income		\$53,743		\$70,257		\$65,299

POPULATION BY AGE	2010		2014		2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0 - 4	519	4.3%	616	5.1%	597	4.9%
5 - 9	874	7.2%	613	5.1%	584	4.8%
10 - 14	1,124	9.3%	573	4.7%	572	4.7%
15 - 19	1,562	12.9%	680	5.6%	730	6.0%
20 - 24	996	8.2%	607	5.0%	645	5.3%
25 - 34	867	7.1%	1,086	9.0%	1,059	8.7%
35 - 44	820	6.8%	1,295	10.7%	1,241	10.2%
45 - 54	1,297	10.7%	1,738	14.3%	1,643	13.5%
55 - 64	2,248	18.5%	2,507	20.7%	2,544	20.9%
65 - 74	1,118	9.2%	1,552	12.8%	1,680	13.8%
75 - 84	570	4.7%	636	5.2%	706	5.8%
85+	141	1.2%	229	1.9%	183	1.5%
Total	12,136		12,132			

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Listing & Selling Properties in Pagosa Springs

Where is Pagosa Springs?

Pagosa Springs sits at 7,079 feet in southwest Colorado at the base of the Continental Divide. Featuring rushing rivers and streams, lakes galore, hiking and biking trails, spectacular fall colors, ancient ruins, deep powder in the winter at nearby Wolf Creek Ski Area, incredible hunting, amazing wildlife, clean air and 3 million acres of National Forest surrounding the area, Pagosa Springs offers plenty of opportunities for our valued visitors, any time of year.

Who can I contact for info?

The Town of Pagosa Springs Tourism website at www.visitpagosasprings.com will link you to the Visitor Center, or call their vacation line at (866) 438-4917. Visitor information can also be found at www.ExplorePagosa.com.

Keep up on the news and events with The Pagosa Springs SUN, the community's weekly newspaper, with daily updates online at www.PagosaSUN.com.

What is it like at that altitude?

Regardless of physical fitness, Acute Mountain Sickness can strike anyone not acclimated to Pagosa's 7,000-foot elevation. To guard against altitude sickness:

- Drink three to four quarts of water per day.
- Avoid overexertion, while keeping caffeine and alcohol intake moderate for the first few days.
- Seek medical attention if persistent headache, fatigue, poor coordination or shortness of breath occur.

What is the weather like?

Archuleta County is located in the "Colorado Sunbelt," just north of the New Mexico border and along the Western slope of the Continental Divide. This combination of high desert plateau and dramatic Rocky Mountains to the north and east creates an unusually mild climate compared with much of the surrounding Southwest. We are favored with some 300 days of sun each year, as well as four distinct seasons. With low wind and warm sunshine, residents can enjoy a variety of year-round recreational activities.

Average Temperatures and Precipitation:

Average Days of Sunshine: 300 per year

Annual Precipitation: 20.97 inches/year

Annual Snowfall: 104 inches/year

Month	High	Low	Precipitation	Month	High	Low	Precipitation
Jan.	37°F	1.4°F	1.48"	Jul.	83°F	45.2°F	1.81"
Feb.	43°F	7°F	1.52"	Aug.	80°F	44.6°F	2.77"
Mar.	49°F	15.9°F	1.63"	Sep.	74°F	36.6°F	2.26"
Apr.	59°F	23.9°F	1.64"	Oct.	64°F	26.3°F	2.26"
May	68°F	30.2°F	1.15"	Nov.	50°F	15.4°F	1.87"
Jun.	78°F	36.3°F	.88"	Dec.	40°F	5°F	1.7"

Is there a medical facility?

Pagosa Springs Medical Center includes a critical access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. The Pagosa Springs Medical Center Primary Care Clinic is at the same location.

The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Phone (970) 731-3700. Dial 911 for emergency services.

Important phone numbers:

EMERGENCIES DIAL "911" (Ambulance, EMT, Fire, Police)

Non-emergency ambulance, fire, EMT or Law Enforcement, dial (970) 731-2160

GENERAL

Emergency Medical Services	(970) 731-5811
Pagosa Springs Police Dept	(970) 264-4151, Ext. 228
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office	(970) 264-8430
Pagosa Fire Protection District	(970) 731-4191
USFS Pagosa District Ranger	(970) 264-2268
Pagosa Springs Town Hall	(970) 264-4151
Archuleta County Commissioners	(970) 264-8300
The Pagosa Springs SUN	(970) 264-2100
Pagosa Springs Post Office	(970) 264-5440
Senior Citizens Center	(970) 264-2167
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library	(970) 264-2208
Archuleta School District 50 Joint	(970) 264-2228
Navajo Lake State Park	(970) 883-2208
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	(970) 563-0100
Stevens Field Airport, manager	(970) 731-3060
Airport Flight Base Operations	(970) 731-2127
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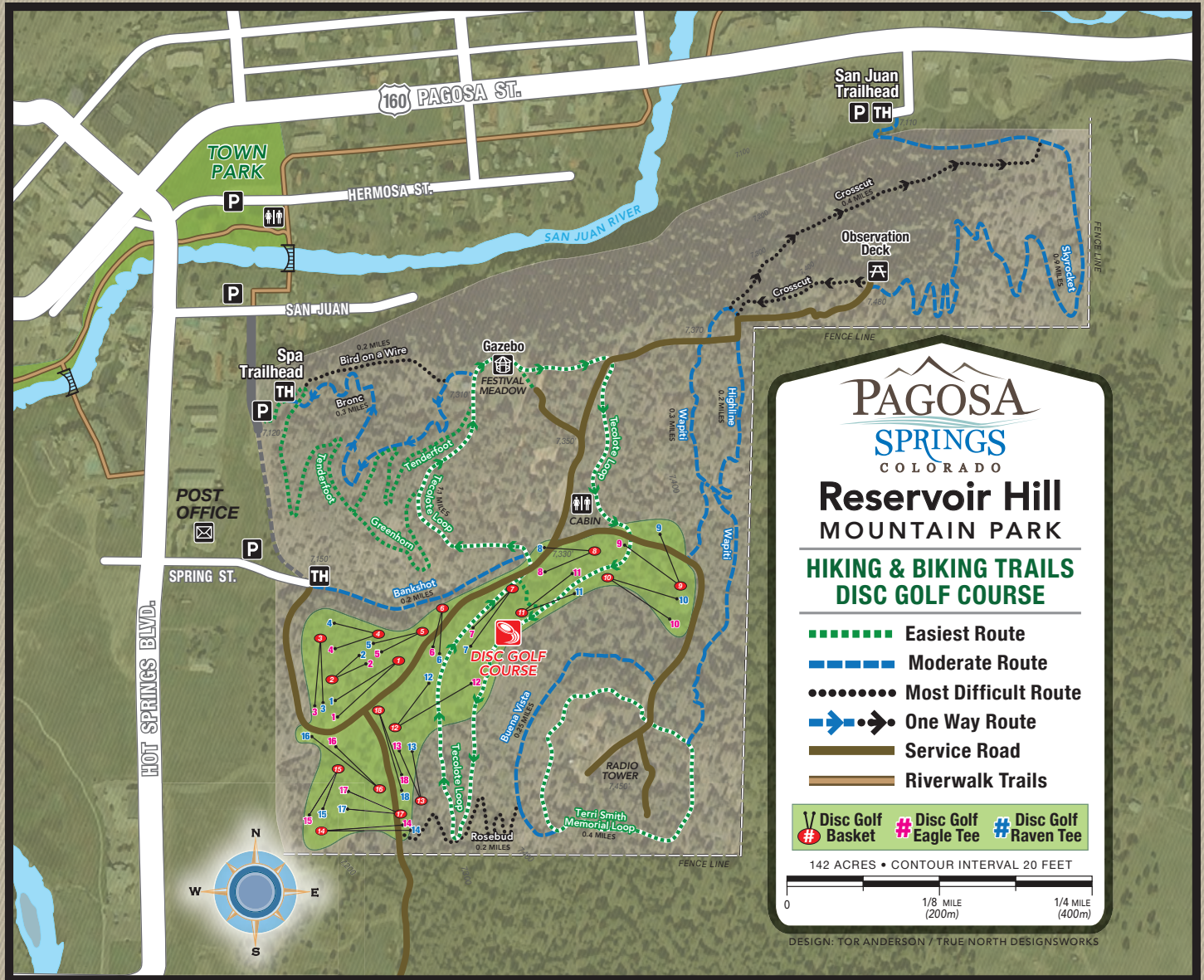


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Reservoir Hill

A gem in downtown Pagosa Springs

Reservoir Hill — a wooded, public park overlooking downtown Pagosa Springs — is considered a local gem and the flagship of the Pagosa Springs parks system.

The all-season park boasts more than 120 acres of mostly ponderosa-pine covered land and overlooks downtown Pagosa Springs and its world-famous mineral hot springs.

Included on the hill is an extensive trail system for hiking, mountain biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing that has been improved over the years. Trailheads are located behind the San Juan

Motel and off of San Juan Street behind the Healing Waters Resort and Spa. Parking is available by Town Park off of San Juan Street and at the trailhead behind the Healing Waters Resort and Spa, with parking availability at that location expanded in recent years.

In addition to its many trails, the hill is home to a “festival meadow” with a gazebo that is home to two longstanding and well-known music festivals — the Four Corners Folk Festival, which has been running for upwards of 20 years and takes place over Labor Day weekend, and Pagosa Folk N’ Bluegrass, which occurs in June and is now in its

11th year. Both festivals bring world-class entertainment to Pagosa Springs in a setting that's hard to beat so close to amenities.

Reservoir Hill is also home to one of Archuleta County's two disc golf courses. The 18-hole disc golf course was installed in recent years and is well-used by both residents and visitors, even playing host to tournaments.

Further adding character to the forested park are wood sculptures scattered on the hill and the endangered Pagosa skyrocket flower, which is endemic to Archuleta County (meaning it's found nowhere outside of Archuleta County). Reservoir Hill is one of the few public places the plant can be found—although it can be tricky to spot.

In the winter, when snow permits, the trailhead behind the Healing Waters Resort and Spa is home to a sledding hill. Year-round, the area has a picnic table perfect for taking in the view of the beautiful surroundings.

The hill is also home to a water reservoir. The hill took on its Reservoir name around 1900, when the town installed its first community water system. Prior to that, the hill was known as Robidoux Hill, named after a trapper named Antoine Robidoux. Near to the water reservoir is a large, locally crafted metal star that is lit up during the winter holiday season.

In addition to being well-loved and hosting numerous events, Reservoir Hill has been the center of attention several times over the years, with last summer and this spring being no different as several new improvements were made to the hill.

In 2015, a pump station for potable water was installed, making fresh water available seasonally for things such as refilling water bottles.

Too, the first phase of an observation deck was completed by the Friends of Reservoir Hill — a grassroots organization formed in 2012 to offer ideas for developing Reservoir Hill that were in line with its natural beauty.

The observation deck is the Friends' first undertaking and was funded by members of the public through a crowdfunding campaign.

Another Reservoir Hill project involves tree-thinning to improve the health of the forest — which also provided free firewood to the community for a time. That project was paid for through grant funding.

The thinning process took more than a year to complete due to the weather and the need to not damage the hill with machinery needed to thin some larger trees. In addition to machinery, crews from the Southwest Conservation Corps camped out on the hill during the summer of 2015 to complete hand-thinning efforts.

If all of the amenities and improvements show anything, it's that Reservoir Hill is a treasured aspect of Pagosa Springs and will continue to be for years to come. And, as history has proven, it will continue to be well protected by Pagosa Country citizens who want only the best for their cherished hill.

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Photos courtesy Pagosa Skaters Coalition For Concrete

The Parks of Pagosa

The employees of the Pagosa Springs Parks and Recreation Department take great personal pride in their stewardship of the town's facilities and amenities.

The parks of Pagosa Springs run the gamut from the wild and natural pine forest on Reservoir Hill to the well manicured fields of Yamaguchi Park. What follows is a list of each park and a description of what it has to offer.

Reservoir Hill

The most prominent physical feature of the downtown area, Reservoir Hill towers over the south bank of the San Juan River and is distinguished by the large green water tank visible from U.S. 160. This park is featured on the previous two pages of this guide.

Town Park

On the southeast corner of the U.S. 160/Hot Springs Boulevard intersection, Town Park connects to Centennial Park via the Riverwalk and contains a wind harp, bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a playground, two special-event 200-amp electrical services, a performance space with stage and a white-water feature in the adjacent river. The park and the athletic field across Hermosa Street host several events throughout the year, including the Fourth of July Park 2 Park Arts and Crafts Fair, ColorFest and the Mountain Chile Cha Cha.

Yamaguchi Park

Located on South 5th Street between Pagosa Springs High School and the river, Yamaguchi Park is home to a favorite hang-out for local kids — the Pagosa Skate Park. The Skaters Coalition for Concrete, a local grassroots organization formed over a decade ago, raised funds and added a full-sized bowl to the 4,500 square-foot concrete terrain at the park.

The park was designed to appeal to skaters of all ability levels and includes several plaza elements and a bowl feature.

The park is open from dawn to dusk throughout the year, provided the skating surface is free of ice and snow in the winter months. To learn more about the skate park, or to find out when the annual skater competition and fundraiser will take place, visit www.skaterscoalition-

forconcrete.com.

Another amenity of Yamaguchi Park is the kayak/raft launching facility and two whitewater features, complemented by the paved Riverwalk to facilitate viewing activities on the river.

A heated year-round restroom, drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills and picnic shelter allow for family gatherings, while a state-of-the-art playground and beautiful soccer and softball fields give plenty of room for the kids to play. A special-events and performance venue with electrical service is also available.

South Pagosa Park

A true neighborhood park located on the south side of town on Apache Street between 7th and 8th streets, South Pagosa Park has bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a picnic shelter, horseshoe pits, a playground and a basketball court. The park is well used by local families.

Centennial Park

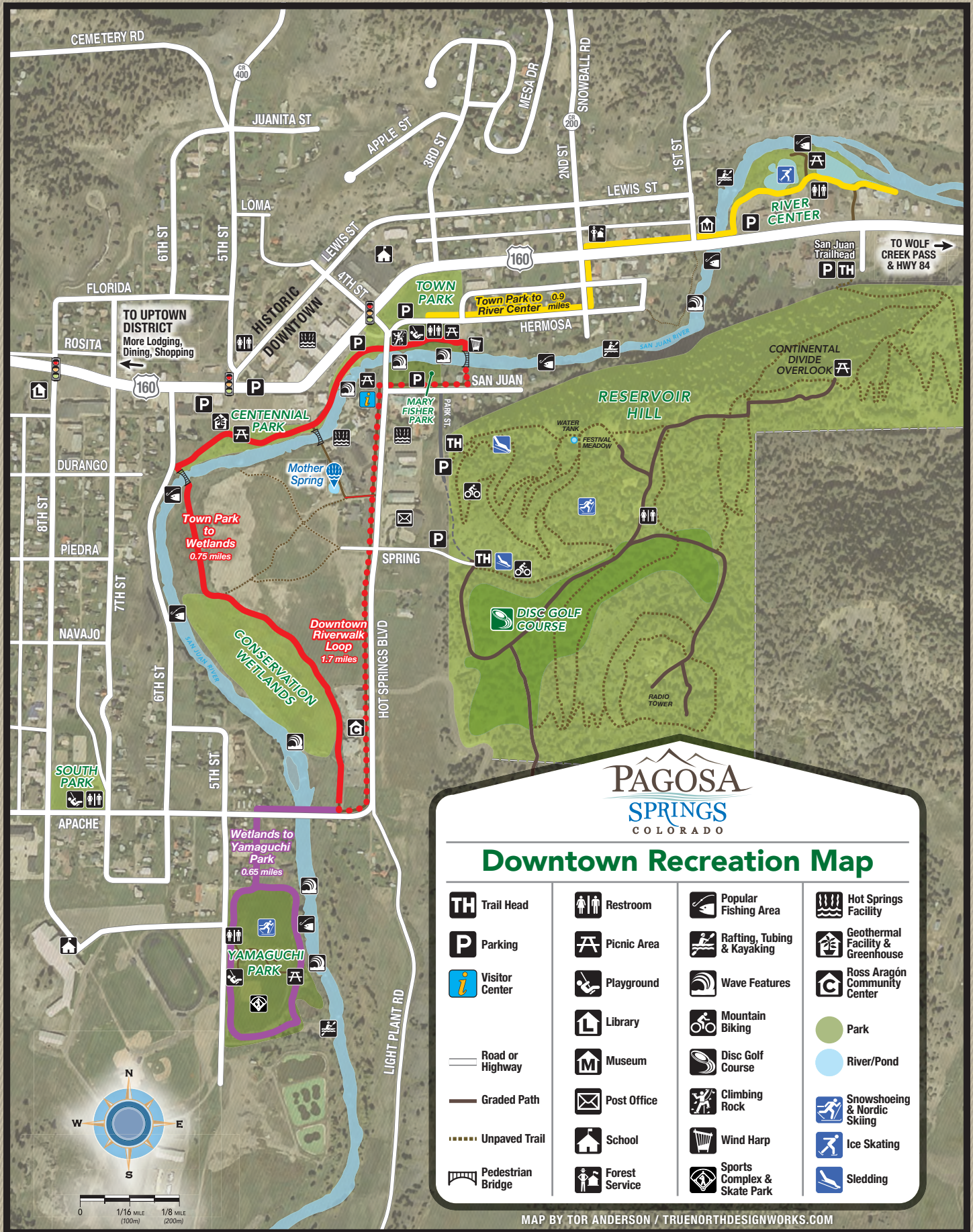
Centennial Park stretches along the river behind the Archuleta County courthouse, and includes several tables for enjoying a family picnic while watching the activities in the river and hot springs. A pedestrian bridge provides a continuous connection for the Riverwalk that winds through the wetlands behind Town Hall and the Ross Aragon Community Center. A pedestrian bridge at the other end of the park connects to The Springs Resort and Spa. This park is also the site of the Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership's growing dome and amphitheater.

Mary Fisher Park

Along the south bank of the San Juan River directly across from Town Park, and connected to it by another pedestrian bridge, Mary Fisher Park contains several picnic tables, as well as a changing screen for kayakers and inner tubers to use before hitting another one of the new whitewater river features.

River Center Park

Nestled behind the River Center shops on the east end of town (from U.S. 160 go behind the River Center buildings), the River Center Park contains two small fishing ponds with a handicap-accessible pier and access to the river for launching rafts and kayaks.





Photos courtesy Elise Soniat/Source Of Light Imagery

Pagosa Springs: The Best of Both Worlds

Are you worried that relocating to Pagosa Springs and the surrounding community in the heart of the beautiful San Juan Mountains might leave you without the basics and the luxuries you've come to rely on?

Let those worries fade away: Pagosa Country offers the best of both worlds — a wonderful, small-town environment and shopping and dining opportunities that will satisfy your needs and cravings.

There's not much you'll want or need that you can't get in Pagosa.

A wide variety of businesses, from small to large, serve up goods from hardware to luxury lighting, from clothing (everyday and fancy) to sporting equipment, from gear for the horse owner to motorized off-road vehicles.

Looking for furniture, either utilitarian or high-end? You can find it in Pagosa. Appliances? Electronic goods? You'll find them here.

What about dining? There's plenty in Pagosa to satisfy even the most discriminating palate. Pagosa has about as many eating establishments per capita as any town you can think of, with the options spanning the spectrum in terms of styles of cuisine and price.

Want a down-home breakfast? No problem. Looking for a muffin or croissant, specialty coffees and espresso drinks? We have those.

When dinner calls, you need only to determine what kind of cuisine you're in the mood to sample: continental, American, French, Thai, Chinese, Italian, barbecue, steaks and chops, Mexican, seafood, breweries with classic pub fare, burgers and fries, a menu with plenty of options for the kids. You name it, you've got it. In all price ranges.

A night out, with a meal at a favorite restaurant, is one of Pagosa's great pleasures. Take advantage of it whenever you can.

In need of some entertainment? Fear not, you can find it in Pagosa. Local bars and pubs regularly feature music and, on any given night, one can choose from jazz, rock, blues and others. Art galleries provide art lovers with opportunities to indulge their passion. Or, how about a rodeo? A play? We have those, too, and other organizations hold events year-round that can keep anyone busy and having fun.

Pagosa is small, yes. But Pagosa packs a lot onto its small frame. That's part of the joy of living and working here — you are in the heart of an environment that appeals to even the most discerning outdoor enthusiast, but you have the dining, shopping and cultural amenities you need to indulge your whims. It's a great place to be!



Home to Outdoor Enthusiasts

Pagosa Springs has the privilege of enjoying four distinct seasons, each one playing host to myriad activities. Participating in outdoor activities is like being a kid in a candy store, with appealing options no matter the season. Groups like the San Juan Outdoor Club and Gray Wolves offer activities all year long in a group setting. Face a challenging hike up Pagosa Peak or head out on a hut-to-hut excursion with like-minded enthusiasts and capitalize on the over 3 million acres of national forest and wilderness areas surrounding Pagosa.

When the days begin to warm up, resident activities exemplify the phrase “spring fever.” Walking around town or taking a quick trip up Reservoir Hill on your lunch hour gets everyone in the mood for summer. As the snow begins to melt and the river rises, kayak and rafting enthusiasts hit the river. The San Juan River boasts several developed water features downtown along the Town Park and Yamaguchi Park. There is also improved fishing access and ongoing habitat improvements along the river through town. Fish are plentiful in Pagosa waters, with species including catfish, bass, pike and a variety of trout. Hikes in the lower elevations, perhaps around the Piedra River Trail, are a great way to break in the season and relish the beauty of the first signs of spring. Usually by April cyclists abound, enjoying moderate rides together to get in shape for the season. Spring also brings out birding enthusiasts who tag and identify which species have returned to beautiful Pagosa.

Summer brings out the athlete in us all with warm days, cool nights and typically excellent weather conditions. Summer is perfect for just about every sport, especially hiking, mountain and road biking, and running. Summer also means motorcycle rides, offroading and camp-

ing in gorgeous locations. Pagosa Springs boasts a wonderful 27-hole golf course, two 18-hole disc golf courses located on Reservoir Hill and at Cloman Community Park and one nine-hole disc golf course in Aspen Springs. Boaters enjoy cruising on Navajo Lake, which spans the Colorado and New Mexico border. Horse enthusiasts head to the Western Heritage Event Center to compete in team roping and rodeo events.

Many of the activities of summer continue into the fall. Athletes get to enjoy the stunning hues of changing leaves as they add another layer of clothing in the evenings. The temperate weather mixed with the gorgeous colors is just another incentive to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

Winter is just as active as the other seasons. For the alpine skier, Wolf Creek Ski Area is just 24 miles away and is known for its radical powder days. The volunteer Nordic Club has developed and grooms an extensive system of trails for classic and skate skiing. Enjoy one of their monthly Sunset/Moonrise free ski socials at various locations around the area. Snowed-over hiking trails become excellent snowshoeing trails in the winter. If you feel the need for speed, the Wolf Creek Trailblazers snowmobile club is out and about enjoying the hundreds of miles in the backcountry. Consider taking a dog sled ride, ice skating on the frozen pond behind the River Center or checking out the plethora of sledding hills in the area.

Pagosa has outdoor activities to enjoy all year long! It is no wonder that so many people choose to live in this stunning mountain town overflowing with natural wonders for individuals of all ages and abilities. Explore on your own or join up with one of the many organizations that will happily show you the ropes and introduce you to the wonders of Pagosa's outdoors.



Photos courtesy Pagosa Nordic Club

Local Groups Share the Outdoors

Pagosa Springs and the outdoors go hand-in-hand; in fact, being able to enjoy the outdoors year-round is one of the benefits of living in this mountain paradise. There are a number of groups that are passionate about their sport and are willing to share their enthusiasm.

The San Juan Outdoor Club is devoted to providing outdoor activities such as backpacking, hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, fishing, cycling, etc. The club also performs community services. The club's primary goal is to get outdoors and have fun together. The organization is open to families and individuals. For more information on member application and fees, visit their website at www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org.

The Gray Wolves Ski Club is more than just a senior ski club; it's a group of skiers and outdoor enthusiasts who are interested in socializing, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, hiking, golf, etc. The club started in 1984 to promote skiing, other outdoor sports and fellowship through organized activities for people 50 years of age or older.

Regular ski days are held during the winter months to promote fellowship, with discounts for members. The Gray Wolves hold various functions throughout the year, such as potlucks and gatherings. For more information, visit their website at www.graywolfskiclub.com.

The Pagosa Nordic Club strives to enhance winter recreational opportunities by maintaining and grooming winter trails for cross-country and skate skiing and snowshoeing enjoyment for all ability levels. Throughout the winter months, the club holds free Moonrise/Sunset Ski Socials at various groomed trails. You can find out more about this

group at www.pagosanordic.com.

The Wolf Creek Trailblazers Snowmobile Club grooms forest service trails for use by snowmobilers, cross-country skiers and snowshoers. The purpose of the club is to have a great time riding snowmobiles while operating an active trail-grooming effort.

The Pagosa Trail Riders is an ATV club with members who love to ride the trails and roads of southwest Colorado. Along with promoting education of responsible ATV/OHV use, they work with the forest service, BLM and other user groups to maintain trails for everyone's outdoor pleasure. Visit their website at www.pagosatrailriders.com.

The Pagosa Area Trails Council is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to planning, building and maintaining trails and trail-related facilities around Pagosa Springs. They also work with the Southwest Youth Corps and other organizations to accomplish their tasks of trail maintenance and improvement of trail use and accessibility.

The Weminuche Audubon Society programs provide opportunities for visitors and residents to explore our local environment through bird walks, nature and science presentations, and collaborations with other outdoor and nature-based organizations. They have ongoing monitoring projects, monthly meetings and field trips. Visit their website at www.weminucheaudubon.org.

There are numerous organizations that tend to our natural playground for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. Visit the Pagosa Springs Chamber website for more information about these organizations and other outdoor groups.

Senior Living in Pagosa

“To support seniors in living healthy, vibrant and independent lives” is the purpose of the Pagosa Springs Senior Center.

The Senior Center has an array of activities and services for the young at heart, along with supportive services for those in need of more assistance. The center schedules various outings and games for fellowship and fun.

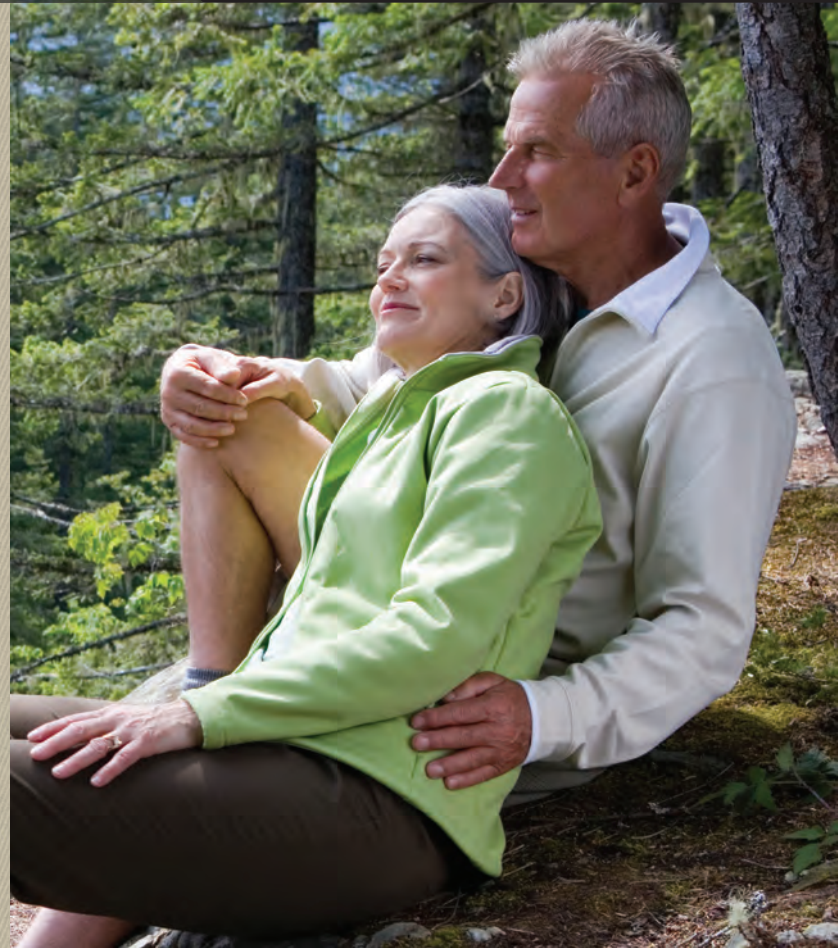
The center offers delicious lunches, including a fabulous salad bar, Monday through Friday. Weekly menus are printed in The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper. Seniors interested in dining at the center can make reservations by calling 264-2167. Home-delivered meals are available to qualifying home-bound individuals.

Flu shot clinics are offered in the fall as well as free screenings through the San Juan Basin Health Department twice a month, free blood pressure checks weekly, and a wellness clinic once a month.

The center also collaborates with Mountain Express to provide bus transportation for attending lunches, going to the post office, pharmacy, grocery store and other necessary errands. Arranging transportation can be completed by contacting Mountain Express at 264-2250.

Additionally, the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging offers a wide range of supportive informational and referral services. Services include Medicare counseling, legal assistance and Alzheimer’s support programs, to name a few. Their telephone number is 264-0502.

For more information about the Pagosa Springs Senior Center and the San Juan Basin Area Agency on Aging, visit their offices, located in the Ross Aragon Community Center at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. Call 264-2167, or go online to www.psseniors.org. Staying active and engaged in Pagosa Springs is easy with organizations like the Senior Center.



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Relocating your animals

health and vaccination records on hand so that when you choose a local veterinarian, you can provide your new vet with your pets' medical histories.

There are many Internet sources of information available on how to safely move your pets, as well as great tips on how to help your dogs or cats acclimate to their new home. A site that offers a good overview of both is www.healthypet.com.

Losing a pet can be nerve-wracking. The Humane Society of Pagosa Springs (HSPS) operates the only animal shelter in the area, located at 465 Cloman Blvd. The shelter is open seven days a week. A call to the animal shelter, (970) 731-4771, should be one of your first steps in finding a lost pet.

The HSPS website (www.humanesociety.biz) hosts detailed information on what to do if you and your pet become separated. The website also has information on adoptions, spay/neuter voucher programs and other services. The HSPS offers low-cost spay and neuter programs.

To aid in finding a lost pet, make sure that your pet has a secure collar with a sturdy identification tag attached. The ID tag should contain your name and contact information, including information on rabies vaccination. If you are moving, make sure the tag has your current cell phone number. Secondly, have a microchip inserted in your pet. This aids identification if your pet's collar is lost or removed. The Humane Society animal shelter scans every incoming pet for a microchip. Make sure you have registered your animal's chip and updated your contact information with the chip company.

If your pet does not have a microchip, the HSPS can provide you one at low cost. If your pet already has a microchip, it would be a good idea to stop by the shelter and provide the staff with the chip number and your updated contact information.

Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County do not require licensing for dogs or cats at this time. You are, however, required to have a current rabies vaccination for your pets. While Archuleta County does not have a leash law, Pagosa Springs does. You are required to have your dog under control at all times. If you want to exercise and play with your dog in a safe, controlled environment, there is a community-accessible dog park at the animal shelter.

If you are purchasing property in Pagosa Country, make sure you check for additional pet regulations or restrictions in the covenants of your property owners association. Keep in mind, too, that regardless of where you live, some homeowner insurance policies have certain dog breed exclusions, so check your insurance policy for pet restrictions.

Pagosa Springs is one of the most animal-friendly places that you will find in Colorado.

Moving to a new town with your pets can be an exciting adventure with many new discoveries. It can also be a bit stressful for you and your pets leaving behind the familiar. Before moving, it is important to know any information dealing with pet regulations.

Before you move, make sure that your pets are healthy and up to date on their vaccinations. If you are moving from out of state with dogs or cats, Colorado requires that you have a certificate of veterinarian inspection that is no more than 30 days old. If your cat or dog is three months or older, they must also have had a rabies vaccination within the preceding 12 months. For livestock requirements, visit the Colorado Department of Agriculture website (www.colorado.gov/ag).

Part of moving involves gathering all your important personal documents. Make sure you do the same for your pets. Have all of their

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Volunteer opportunities

In addition to the wondrous beauty, plentiful wildlife and an active outdoor lifestyle that you will enjoy in Pagosa Springs, there are tremendous opportunities for enriching your life by volunteering in the community. No matter what your level of involvement has been in the past, you will find wonderful ways to share your interests, talents and abilities.

Pagosa Springs has traditional civic clubs, churches and organizations that you will find in almost every community. There are two Rotary clubs that are very active. The churches and nonprofit community have a wide variety of projects and activities year-round. Loaves and Fishes provides a free hot meal every Thursday with different organizations adopting a week of service. Habitat for Humanity builds and renovates homes using both local and national volunteers.

There are also multiple organizations supporting Pagosa's youth. Big Brothers Big Sisters provides mentors for boys and girls who need an active role model. GECKO (Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors) promotes getting off the couch and getting outside and provides scholarships for youth outdoor education. 4-H, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts help keep our youth involved in positive activities, including the Archuleta County Fair.

For our veterans or active military, there are Veterans For Veterans and the American Legion Post 108.

The Democratic Central Committee and the Republican Women meet regularly and are involved in community affairs.

We also have many volunteer opportunities unique to our area. If you like outdoor activities, you can volunteer with clubs like the San Juan Outdoor Club, the Pagosa Nordic Club, the Gray Wolves Ski Club or the Back Country Horsemen. If you have a love of history, you can be a guide with the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association for Chimney Rock National Monument, volunteer with the Pagosa Springs History Museum (San Juan Historical Society) or be a guide at the Fred Harman Art Museum. If you love animals, you can be a volunteer at the Humane Society Shelter or Thrift Store, or LASSO horse rescue or other organizations.

In addition to paid professional staff, the Pagosa Fire Protection District relies heavily on volunteer firefighters. The San Juan Mounted Patrol assists with numerous community events and emergencies, as does the Sheriff's Volunteer Patrol.

To help people who need assistance in our backcountry or with emergencies, we have the Upper San Juan Search and Rescue, the Mounted Search and the Incident Management Group.

If the arts are your passion, we have Friends of the Library, Curtains Up Pagosa, the Thingamajig Theatre Company, Pagosa Community Choir and the Pagosa Springs Community Band. There is a garden club, quilting club, archaeology club and homemakers club. The Audubon Society has an active presence, as does the League of Women Voters and several other women's groups.

You can find out more about organizations that interest you on the Chamber's website at www.pagosaprschamber.com/stay-connected/community-volunteer-opportunities, or by calling the Chamber of Commerce. Volunteering can enrich your life, allow you to share your talents and pursue your passions!

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About the Area

Location

Archuleta County is located in southwest Colorado, situated at the junction of U.S. 160 and 84 at an elevation of 7,079 feet. The county seat, Pagosa Springs, is located 30 miles north of the New Mexico border, and 60 miles east of Durango. It is also near the Four Corners region where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet.

Physical Description

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

Population Archuleta County

Source: US Census Bureau State & County QuickFacts
2014 estimate — 12,244

Housing and Income

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

Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350
Persons per square mile — 8.9

Taxes

Sales and User Tax: 2.9 percent state, 4 percent county. County sales tax revenue is divided between county and town.
Lodger's Tax: A 4.9 percent tax is collected from the lodging industry and used for tourism promotion.
Primary Source of Town & County Revenue: Retail sales taxes, property taxes and charges for services.

Government

Town Government: www.pagosasprings.co.gov
Home Rule Municipality
Town council with elected mayor and six councilors elected for alternating four-year terms, town manager is appointed. Date of incorporation: 1891.
County Government: www.archuletacounty.org.
Three county commissioners elected for alternating four-year terms.

Media

Newspaper: The Pagosa Springs SUN
www.pagosasun.com (970) 264-2100
Radio Stations: KWUF AM-1400, FM-106.1
www.kwuf.com, (970) 264-5983
Television: Cable/Satellite available in certain areas.

Education

District 50 Joint Office (970) 264-2228
www.mypagosaschools.com
High School (970) 264-2231
Middle School, 5th-6th grades (970) 264-2256
Middle School, 7th-8th grades (970) 264-2794
Elementary (970) 264-2229
The Training Advantage (970) 264-5627
GOAL Academy (877) PRO-GOAL

Utilities

Electric La Plata Electric Association
(970) 247-5786, www.lpea.coop
Gas/Natural Black Hills Energy
(800) 563-0012
Telephone CenturyLink
(970) 264-0012, www.centurylink.com
Water Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation
(970) 731-2691, www.pawsd.org
Sanitation Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation
(970) 731-2691, www.pawsd.org
Sanitation Town of Pagosa Springs, (970) 264-4151
www.pagosasprings.co.gov
Trash At Your Disposal (970) 731-4892
Elite Recycling & Disposal (970) 731-2012
Waste Management (970) 264-5622
County Transfer Station, (970) 264-5660

Tourism & Business Development

Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp.
www.pagosaspringscdc.org
(970) 264-2360
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
www.pagosaspringschamber.com
(970) 264-2360, (800) 252-2204
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism
www.visitpagosasprings.com
www.explorepagosa.com
Region 9 Economic Development District
(970) 247-9621, www.scan.org
Fort Lewis College Small Business Development
(970) 247-7009
<http://sbdcfortlewis.org/>

Related Website Links & Info

Association of Realtors,
www.pagosaspringsrealtors.com
Pagosa Lodging Association,
www.visitpagosasprings.com
U.S. Postal Service, Hot Springs Boulevard,
(970) 264-5440
U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office,
(970) 264-2268, www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan
Colorado State University Extension Office,
(970) 264-5931, www.archuleta.colostate.edu
Ruby Sisson Memorial Library, (970) 264-2209,
pagosa.colibraries.org
Stevens Field Airport, (970) 731-3060,
www.stevensfield.com
AWOS frequency 127.17, (970) 731-0365
FBO (970) 731-2127
Durango-La Plata County Airport,
www.flydurango.com

Road Conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation,
(303) 639-1111, www.cotrip.org
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office Road Report,
(970) 264-5555
New Mexico Road Report, (800) 432-4269,
www.nmroads.com



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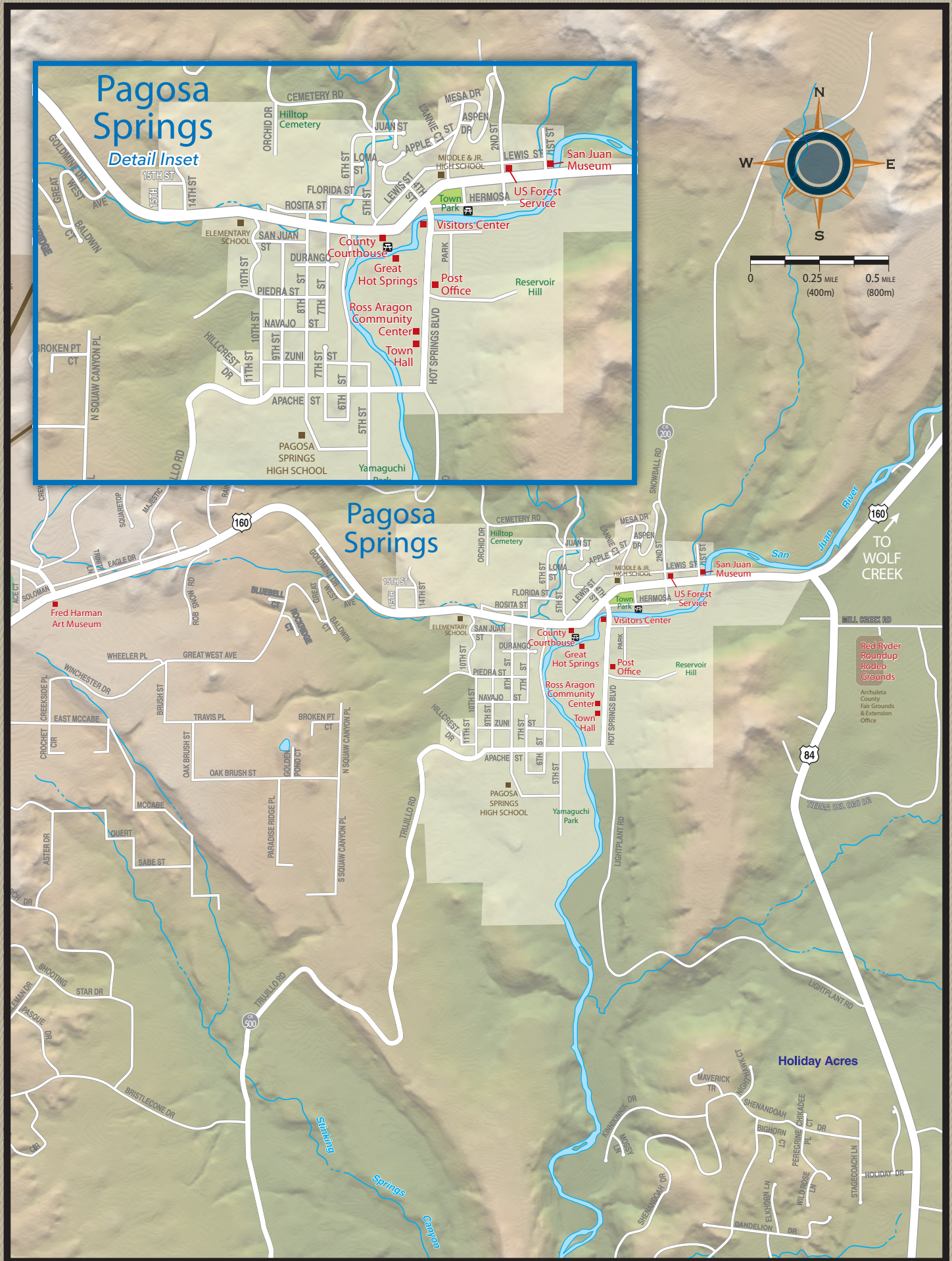
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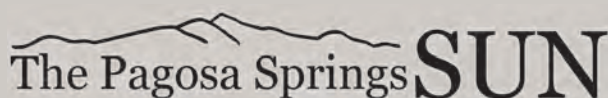


RELIGIOUS RESOURCES

Ahavat Adonai Messianic Jewish Congregation	(970) 946-5262
Amazing Grace Community Church	(970) 444-2111
Arboles Baptist Church	(970) 883-3630
Calvary Chapel Pagosa	(970) 507-0123
Centerpoint Church - SBC	(970) 731-2205
Church of Christ - Lewis Street	(970) 264-2552
Church of Christ - Community Center	(970) 264-4236
Church of His Glory	(970) 759-8441
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	(970) 731-2623
Community United Methodist Church	(970) 264-5508
CrossRoad Christian Fellowship	(970) 731-4384
First Assembly of God Church	(970) 731-5767
Grace Evangelical Free Church	(970) 731-6200
Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church	(970) 731-5744
Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness	(970) 731-5826
Our Savior Lutheran Church - LCMS	(970) 731-4668
Pagosa Baptist Church	(970) 946-5166
Pagosa Bible Church	(970) 731-3120
Pagosa Community of New Thought	(970) 749-9020
Pagosah Unitarian Universalist Fellowship	(970) 731-7900
Pope John Paul II Catholic Church	(970) 731-5744
Restoration Fellowship	(970) 731-2937
Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church	(970) 731-5801
Seventh Day Adventist Church	(970) 731-1005
Tara Mandala Buddhist Retreat Center	(970) 731-3711
Trinity Anglican Church - Orthodox Anglican	(970) 759-3845

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Voter & Vehicle Registration

Motor vehicles

In making your transition from another state to Colorado or from another Colorado county, we would like to help in making the registration of your vehicle as easy as possible.

Colorado law requires you to register your vehicles, trailers, motor homes, heavy equipment, etc. within 30 days of becoming a Colorado resident. Unfortunately, the law does not allow you to “run” on your out-of-state plates until they expire.

If you are currently a Colorado resident and are just moving here, you may call the Archuleta County Clerk’s office and they will help you change your registration address so you will receive a renewal notice from Archuleta County when your plates expire.

Some of the most obvious reasons that, by law, constitute becoming a resident are: obtaining a Colorado driver’s license, registering to vote, enrolling children into school or becoming employed. If you are retired and consider this your legal place of residence and intend to file your federal income tax with a Pagosa Springs address as your legal address, you need Colorado plates.

To obtain Colorado license plates, you will need:

1. A current registration or title from the state you are coming from.
2. Proof of Insurance (Must be Colorado).
3. A vehicle identification verification done by any law enforcement officer. The sheriff’s office is located in the courthouse (west end of the building) and charges \$10 (cash or check) for this service.
4. An acceptable form of ID.

Vehicle registration in Colorado is based on the year, weight and taxable value of the vehicle, when new. The taxable value is then depreciated according to the age of the vehicle. The office is located at 449 San Juan St., in the east side of the courthouse.

The nearest place to obtain a Colorado driver’s license is Durango, approximately 60 miles west of Pagosa Springs. The DMV is located at 305 S. Camino del Rio. You may contact their office at (970) 247-4591.

Please visit www.archuletacounty.org for more information. For any questions you may have, call (970) 264-8350.

Voter registration

You may register to vote or change your address online by visiting govotecolorado.com or sos.state.co.us and following the directions for Election & Voting. Should you have questions, please call (970) 264-8331 or (970) 264-8350.



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