

PAGOSA SPRINGS

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE™

FREE

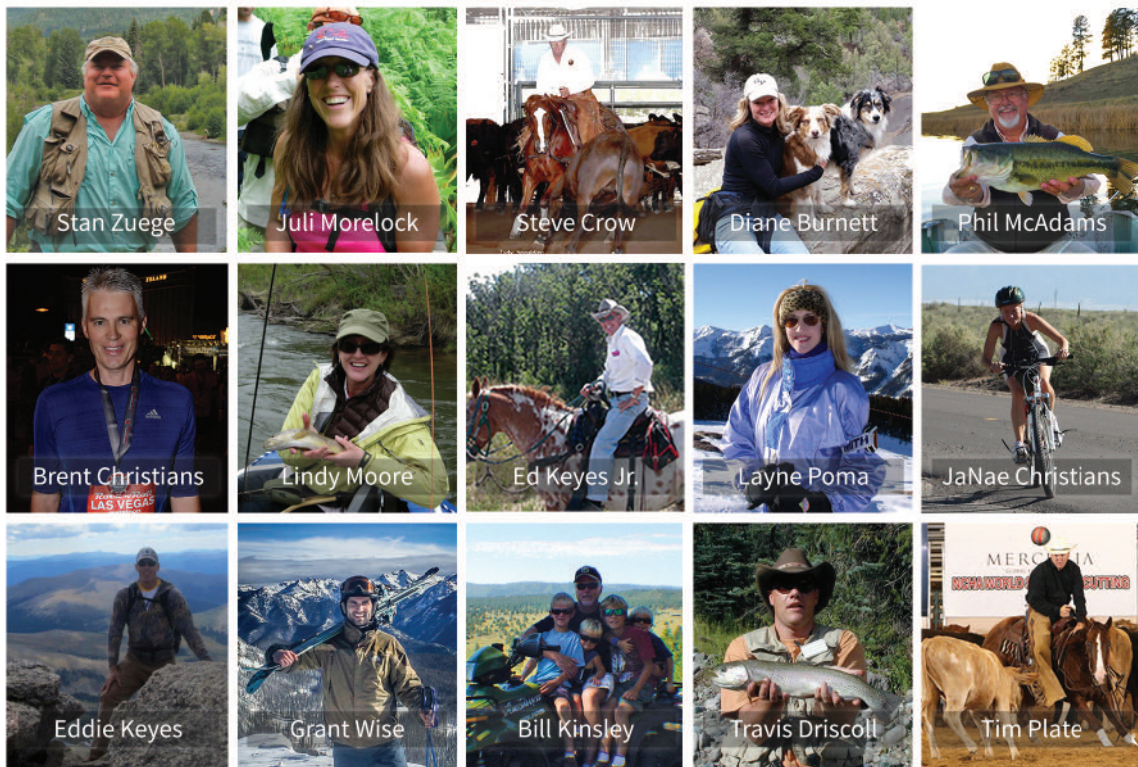


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12:00PM **PLAY**
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5:00PM **REVEL**
BAR & LOUNGE



8:00PM **UNWIND**
SUNSET SOAK





TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 6 About the Area**
- 10 Welcome**
- 12 Frequently Asked Questions**
- 16 Pagosa Springs**
- 18 Arboles & Navajo Lake**
- 20 Chromo**
- 21 Regional Excursions**
- 22 Getting Here From There**
- 23 Marijuana laws**
- 24 Chimney Rock National Monument**
- 26 Arts, Entertainment & Events**
- 27 19th Hole Concert series**
- 28 Local Event Calendar 2018**
- 34 Music & Theater**
- 36 Four Corners Folk Festival**
- 37 Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass**
- 38 The Car Show At Pagosa**
- 38 Archuleta County Fair**
- 40 Fourth of July**
- 40 Showdown on the San Juan River**
- 41 ColorFest**
- 41 Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival**
- 42 Mountain Chile Cha Cha**
- 42 Pagosa Farmers Market**
- 43 Cruise-A-Thong**
- 44 History & Heritage**
- 45 Pagosa Springs History Museum**
- 46 Downtown Historic Walking Tour**
- 48 Pagosa's Past**
- 50 Family Fun**
- 50 K.I.D.S. Summer Camp**
- 52 Town Parks**
- 53 Reservoir Hill Mountain Park Map**
- 54 Geocaching**
- 55 Downtown Recreation Map**
- 56 Rest & Relaxation**
- 58 World's Deepest Hot Spring**
- 61 Rest Your Head: Let Pagosa Springs Visitor Center help enhance your vacation experience**
- 66 Flavor of Pagosa**
- 67 Keeping it local: Locally sourcing ingredients for Pagosa's beer scene**
- 73 Guide Information**
- 75 Weddings, Reunions & More**
- 76 Retail Therapy:**
 - Finders keepers: How Upscale Resale changes the resale scene in Pagosa**
- 84 Play Outside**
- 85 Year of the Bird: #BirdYourWorld in 2018**
- 88 Fishing World Class Waters**
- 91 San Juan River Quality Fishing Project**
- 92 River Sports**
- 94 Mountain Biking**
- 98 Turkey Springs Trails System: Hiking, biking and ATV trails**
- 101 Endurance Events**
- 102 Hiking & Horseback Riding**
- 105 Big Game Hunting**
- 106 Scenic Drives**
- 108 Pagosa Springs Area Recreation Map**
- 109 Wildlife**
- 110 Waterfalls, Canyons & Rapids**
- 112 Golfing**
- 114 Real Estate & Home Guide**
- 115 Scholarships in Escrow**
 - Investing in the future: Scholarship program fuels students**
- 124 Pagosa Springs Map**
- 126 Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership**

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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
2016 estimate — 12,854

Housing and Income

Median value owner-occupied housing — \$268,400
Households — 5,382
Persons per household — 2.27
Per capita money income — \$28,649
Median household income — \$45,607
Persons in poverty — 12 percent

Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350
Persons per square mile — 9.1

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.pagosahun.com, (970) 264-2100
Radio Stations: KWUF AM-1400, FM-106.1, FM-102.5, www.kwuf.com, (970) 264-5983

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 School (970) 264-2229
Pagosa Peak Open School (970) 317-2151
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
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism
www.visitpagosasprings.com
www.explorepagosa.com
(970) 585-1200 or (866) 438-4917
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.pagosalodgersassoc.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, pagosalibrary.org
Stevens Field Airport
(970) 731-3060, www.stevensfield.com
AWOS frequency 127.175
(970) 731-0365, FBO (970) 731-2127
Durango-La Plata County Airport
www.flydurango.com

Road Conditions

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



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STUNNING LOG HOME pegged log architecture, 6+ acres, close to town, big views, multiple fireplaces, meticulous attention to detail. **CALL FOR PRICE.**



EAGLE'S NEST RANCH, Log Home, 52-acres, borders National Forest, nearly 6000 sf, outdoor kitchen, heated workshop, private fishing rights. **CALL FOR PRICE.**

MANAGING BROKER: **Mike Heraty**

EMAIL: heraty@frontier.net

PHONE: **970-264-7000**

ADDRESS: **286 Pagosa St** (next to Riff-Raff Brewery)



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www.PagosaRealEstate.com

Welcome

If you are planning your first visit to Pagosa Country, rest assured you will enjoy an incredible environment — one full of outdoor recreational opportunities the likes of which are rarely duplicated; one where our unique amenities in this paradise of geothermal waters, flowing mountain streams and alpine delights will satisfy your every need.

If you are returning to Pagosa Country, everything you enjoyed during previous visits remains, and there is even more to sample when you arrive.

In all cases, this will not be your last trip here.

If you are considering a visit, read this guide and get an idea of what awaits when you decide to travel here. You will not be disappointed when you do. You will find yourself in one of the most beautiful places imaginable.

When you are in Pagosa Country, you are in magnificent surroundings. Your task is to determine what you will do once you are here.

Pagosans are eager to help you. The friendly residents of Pagosa Country are ready to help you find great accommodations and, once you are settled in, to provide whatever you need.

We are ready to give you tips on the myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation. If there is anything Pagosa Country provides, it is access to fun in the high country during the summer season. Fishing, hiking, boating, rafting, floating, biking — it's all here, in spades. And our local businesses can outfit you for any and all of these pursuits. Don't miss the chance to indulge your passion for outdoor recreation; you are at the heart of it all. Of the best of it all.

We're here to feed you, and feed you well. It doesn't matter where your tastes lead you, chances are you can find the food and drink you desire. Our local establishments give the discerning diner a full range of cuisines and prices.

We're here to entertain you. We boast one of the Southwest's premier theater companies and a number of art galleries.

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.

Finally, shop for the mementoes that will remind you of your visit. Pagosa's shopkeepers can provide you with whatever you need that will remind you that you will return.

Welcome to Pagosa Country.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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

There are multiple primary care clinics in the community offering a variety of services.

Important phone numbers:

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

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

Emergency Medical Services	(970) 731-5811
Pagosa Springs Medical Center	(970) 731-3700
Pagosa Urgent Care	(970) 372-0456
Axis Integrated Healthcare	(970) 264-2104
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) 264-2209
Archuleta School District 50 Joint	(970) 264-2228
Navajo Lake State Park	(970) 883-2208
Airport Flight Base Operations	(970) 731-2127
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation	(970) 731-2691
Black Hills Energy	(800) 563-0012
La Plata Electric Association	(970) 247-5786

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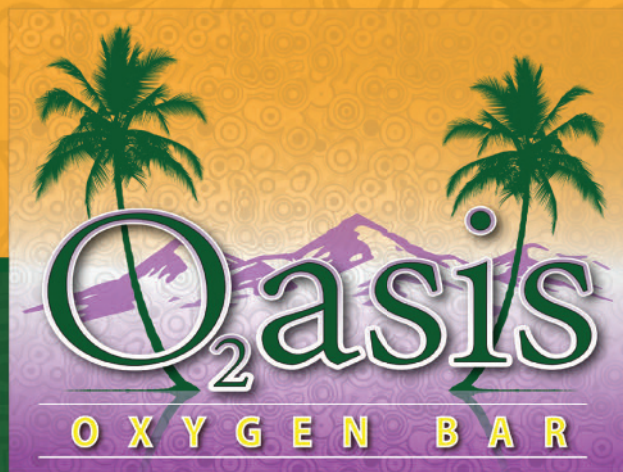
The practice of meditation reduces stress, improves concentration, increases happiness, slows aging, benefits cardiovascular & immune health.

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185 STEVENS LAKE RD
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684 ESTATES CIRCLE
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|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| Stephanie Hill
970-946-4593 | Mark & Denise Espoy
970-946-6658 | D. West Davies
970-398-0022 | Carol Ann Peterson
480-213-0511 | John Smith
970-946-3147 | Jon Johnson
970-946-3112 | Debra Zenz
970-946-1887 | Pam Barsanti
970-749-5123 | Harold Kelley
970-946-2118 | Renelle Bilazzo
970-456-2764 | Anita Bowles
512-214-7923 |

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473 CAPITAN CIRCLE
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32 WOODLAND DRIVE
3BR, 2.5BA, 1,932 SQFT, .54 AC | 739400 • \$375,000



117 LAGUNA PLACE
2BD, 2BA, 1,920 SQFT, .21 AC | 740183 • \$495,000



25 COUGAR CT
2BR, 2BA, 1,850 SQFT, 35.14 AC | 729141 • \$509,900



2605 MEADOWS DRIVE
4BR, 4BA, 3,608 SQFT, 6.94 AC | 718944 • \$540,000



599 OLD SAWMILL CIRCLE
2BR, 3BA, 1,520 SQFT, 4.34 AC | 736994 • \$384,900



2925 LODGE POLE DRIVE
4BR, 4BA, 3,514 SQFT, 35.09 AC | 733762 • \$995,000



351 COLLYER DRIVE
4BD, 4BA, 4,570 SQFT, 13.66 AC | 723790 • \$1,750,000

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PAGOSA SPRINGS... "The Colorado You've Always Dreamed Of"





Pagosa Springs

When John Denver sang “thank God I’m a country boy,” it’s hard to imagine he was talking about what you’ll find along the I-70 corridor today, but get away from the hustle and bustle and noise surrounding the bigger metropolitan centers, come down to the Four Corners area of southwestern Colorado, and you’ll find the kind of small-town charm people still sing about.

There’s plenty to fall in love with: warm sunshine, pristine rivers, abundant wildlife, stately stands of pine and aspen groves, verdant valleys and breathtaking vistas. It’s impossible to describe what it feels like to be sitting around a campfire at night, to look up through the pines at a clear night sky so full of stars it makes your heart race.

It’s just something you need to experience for yourself.

Pagosa Springs still represents the idyllic vision of what Colorado was always meant to be. While many resort towns have become so overrun by the glitz, glamour and flash of Hollywood that real people can’t afford to go there anymore, Pagosa Country has retained its Old West charm while still offering the amenities of the 21st century.

So small but so much!

With an excellent public library, art galleries, churches (including the Tara Mandala Buddhist retreat center), specialty shops and a digitized movie theater, Pagosa Springs provides more than enough to inspire the

mind and spirit, while offering everything to either heal or exercise the body.

If you need directions or information for any of these (or other) amenities, stop by the Pagosa Springs Visitor Center, which offers a wealth of information on everything from Wolf Creek Ski Area to Chimney Rock National Monument and beyond.

Like no other place on Earth!

Backpackers, campers, hikers, mountain bikers and other adventuresome souls will want to visit the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office located at 2nd and Pagosa streets, just two blocks east of Hot Springs Boulevard on U.S. 160. The staff there can provide a wealth of in-



BETH TOLLEFSEN

formation about hiking and biking trails, campsites, fishing spots and horseback riding, as well as various tours of the area including the ancestral Puebloan ruins at Chimney Rock National Monument.

Pagosa ROCKS!

Needless to say, there is plenty of rock climbing around Pagosa Springs, but once you rappel down, there's plenty of music to greet you. The Pagosa Folk and Bluegrass Festival happens in June, while the Four Corners Folk Festival plays out on Labor Day weekend.

Water, water everywhere ...

A short walk south from the Visitor Cen-

ter will take you to "The Great Pagosah — the Deepest, Hottest Spring in the World."

If you're a swimmer, the Healing Waters Resort and Spa at the corner of San Juan Street and Hot Springs Boulevard offers an outdoor pool and indoor mineral baths. The Springs Resort and Spa also offers an outdoor pool and outdoor geothermal hot tubs located next to the river. The Overlook Spa on Pagosa Street offers an opulent Victorian experience for soaking.

Nevertheless, and nearer still, Pagosa Springs provides ample opportunity to splash and smile. Late summer finds bathers and tubers alike taking to the river, to enjoy a tame — and refreshing — float down the San Juan River.

More to do than I have time for

Windsurfing? Navajo Lake awaits you. Ballooning? Golf? Tennis? It's all here, under the clearest blue sky you've ever seen.

For the earliest native inhabitants of the area, Pagosa was considered a land of healing waters. For today's vacationers, Pagosa is a land of invigorating experiences.

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

If you've been here before, welcome back. If you've never been here, come find out why so many have said, "The first time I came here, I fell in love with the place."



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Arboles & Navajo Lake

Pagosa Country is the place for fans of water fun. Navajo Lake is a summer recreation paradise for boating, camping, fishing, hiking, water skiing and wind surfing. The lake is less than an hour's drive from Pagosa Springs and extends 20 miles into New Mexico, with 15,000 surface acres of water.

Fed by the Piedra, San Juan and Pine rivers, Navajo Lake is a wonderful getaway for locals and visitors alike. Getting there is easy, via a relatively short and scenic drive through tall ponderosas and pinon pine country. From Pagosa Springs, travel west on U.S. 160 approximately 17 miles, until you see the spires of Chimney Rock, the site of ancestral Puebloan ruins, and turn south on Colo. 151. From that point on, enjoy the scenery as the 20-minute trip winds through the lower Piedra River Valley to the friendly town of Arboles and on to Navajo State Park. When you reach Arboles, turn left (southeast) on County Road 982, and it's a quick two miles to the park's Visitor Center.

Navajo Lake Marina has almost everything for boating and water skiing enthusiasts. The marina has boat slips and mooring buoys for rent as well as a restroom on the dock. A 200-foot breakwater protects one of the longest boat ramps in the state. Boat rentals are also available.

For information and reservations, contact the marina at (970) 883-BOAT (2628).

While campsite reservations are not required, campgrounds can fill up during busy summer weekends and holidays, so a reservation is never a bad idea. Campground reservations can be made no more than six months in advance on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website at cpw.state.co.us or by calling (800) 678-2267 toll-free.

A valid Colorado State Parks Pass is required for all motor vehicles entering the park and for travel in all park grounds surrounding Navajo Lake. Daily permits cost \$7-\$9 per vehicle. An annual pass is \$70 and Colorado seniors 64 and older can purchase an Aspen Leaf annual pass for \$60.

Whether you're camping, boating, fishing or just spending a sunny day by the water, be sure to visit the "Watchable Wildlife" observation deck, located where Colo. 151 crosses the Piedra River. From the deck, visitors may see mule deer, elk, foxes, coyotes, bears, rare river otters, bald eagles, waterfowl and migratory birds.

The lake itself contains a variety of cold- and warm-water game fish. Prized brown trout, rainbow trout and crappie thrive in the cold waters. Navajo has also become well known to bass fishermen throughout the southwest, since its

warm surface waters harbor largemouth and smallmouth bass. Bluegill and catfish are also plentiful.

Trotlines are allowed at the lake, but they must conform to Colorado fishing regulations.

The northern part of Navajo Lake lies in Colorado where valid Colorado fishing licenses are required for anglers. Colorado licenses are available at the Visitor Center. If anglers cross south into New Mexico, they need to have a valid New Mexico state fishing license, which can also be purchased at the Visitor Center. Anglers without a boat can access excellent fishing spots on the rivers feeding the lake. Ample parking is located within walking distance of many fishing spots. A fully accessible fishing area is located on the Piedra River just west of Colo. 151.

As a gateway to one of southwest Colorado's finest recreational waters, Arboles has a gas station, cafe, convenience store, motel and post office in addition to boat storage and RV parks.

Check The Pagosa Springs SUN for details about upcoming events and activities.

For additional information and updates on park improvements, call the Navajo State Park office at (970) 883-2208 or visit cpw.state.co.us.



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DIANE BIGLEY

Chromo

Part-time residents and fifth-generation natives. Mountain peaks and foothills. Cattle ranches and chicken farms. Majestic elk country and cougar territory.

Pagosa Country is a land of variety and contrasts — geographic and cultural.

And the little town of Chromo is a microcosm of the binary observances this land holds.

Chromo is not a far drive from Pagosa Springs; just take U.S. 84 south for 24 miles. And the drive, though short, is full of fun destinations and picturesque viewpoints.

About three miles south of town, you'll see Echo Lake on your right hand side with its exciting cold- and warm-water fishery. Drive only a couple of miles more, and look to your right. There will be a large sign for the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Park, home to an array of live animals typical of local wildlife, including black bears, a grizzly bear, mountain lions, wolves, coyote, foxes, bobcats and elk. Don't be scared; pull over and take the time to gander at

the wondrous creatures that call Pagosa Country home.

After leaving the wildlife park, if you continue south, you will pass the entrances to several side roads — many of them dead end, but all offer an opportunity for more spectacular Pagosa Country mountain vistas.

The turnoff for Forest Service Road 656 leading to the Upper Blanco River Basin is about 7 miles south of town, and about 10 miles south of town is Forest Service Road 652A leading to the Lower Blanco River Basin.

If you continue south along U.S. 84, you'll enjoy the winding drive through Halfway Canyon and on to wide-open Coyote Park. Much of this portion of the road retraces the pioneer stagecoach route into town. If you look closely, you'll see the bed of a narrow gauge railroad track long since abandoned.

You could turn right at Coyote Park onto County Road 392. This will take you to the historic rail hub of Edith. If you continue on, you'll make it to Lumberton in New Mexico,

the old stagecoach destination.

After leaving Coyote Park, you cross a small mountain range. At the top of the range is another dead-end road leading east to Buckles and Harris lakes. Finally, after driving past some awesome green horse pastures, you cross the Navajo River and find yourself in Chromo.

While in Chromo, drive a few miles up County Road 382 for a close look at Navajo Peaks, one of the most highly acclaimed camera points in Archuleta County.

Chromo is one of the best places in Pagosa Country for gaining access to the South San Juan Wilderness Area. During spring and fall, when elk and deer are migrating to and from the high country, a number of migration routes cross the road. Stay alert for elk or deer on the road, but also keep an eye out to the side to catch a majestic sight of the elk or deer running with their herd. If you get a chance while in Pagosa Country, visit Chromo. Allow plenty of time, because there is plenty to see.





YVONNE LASHMETT

Regional Excursions

Pagosa Country is perfectly located in the midst of some of the most interesting attractions and spectacular scenery in the world, and being here reminds a person what it means to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Sometimes the call of the open road becomes irresistible, and when the urge hits, a little road trip is just the ticket.

Driving south

Heading south from Pagosa on U.S. 84, your trip offers a wide variety of areas to explore through the mesa country of northern New Mexico.

Just 40-50 minutes away, one can explore the Cumbres Pass area by car or rail.

The car-bound can explore the rich history in Dulce, the center of the Jicarilla Apache Indian Tribe. Be sure to go for the mid-July Little Beaver Pow-Wow and Carnival celebration.

Traveling south on U.S. 84 to Taos (and Taos Pueblo) is a longer, beautiful drive across the scenic Brazos Mountains from Tierra Amarilla (home of Tierra Wools), arriving at a town of artistic notoriety. Likewise, Santa Fe is a three-hour drive south on U.S. 84, offering not only Native American arts and crafts sold near the Governor's Palace, but also numerous art galleries lining a plaza that includes historic churches and places of interest.

Also on U.S. 84 is the quaint and gorgeous town of Abiquiu, which inspired the painter Georgia O'Keefe. For those interested in exploring the spiritual roots of the area, a quick turn on Forest Service Road 151 not only offers views of the Chama Canyon, but will dead end at the Benedictine Monastery of Christ in the Desert. Built by famed Japanese architect George Nakashima, the chapel and original monastery show the simple elegance of southwest architecture. Since Benedictines have taken a vow of hospitality, they will be sure to welcome you with arms wide open. Make sure, though, to ring the bell loud!

Driving west

A short drive west of town leads to the Chimney Rock National Monument, which provides an introduction to the Ancestral Puebloan Indians who settled here over 1,000 years ago. This is a perfect complement to a day trip to Mesa Verde.

Continue south and east on Colo. 151 from Chimney Rock and you will pass through Arboles and Allison and make your way to Ignacio — the home of the Southern Ute Tribe. After checking out the casino, visit the spectacular Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum for a look into the history of one of the most storied tribes of the Southwest.

Mesa Verde National Park, our nation's third most visited national park, offers a look back in time at the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people who mysteriously disappeared from their spectacular cliff dwellings over 1,000 years ago. The Canyon of the Ancients National Monument is located northwest of Cortez and includes several smaller ruin sites for a quieter and more private experience. South of Durango, across the New Mexico state line, is Aztec Ruins National Monument.

Traveling further west beyond Mesa Verde on U.S. 160 is the Four Corners Monument at the junction of Colorado, New Mexico, Ari-

zona and Utah. Closer to Pagosa is Navajo State Park, just 30 miles from Pagosa on Colo. 151, offering camping, water skiing, sailing, fishing, boating and pretty much everything else.

For a more metropolitan experience, Durango is an hour west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 with Fort Lewis College on site and a vibrant historical downtown area.

Driving north

Directly north of Pagosa Country lies a vast roadless area known as the Weminuche Wilderness, so pretty much anything accessed from the north first requires a drive to the east or west.

From the east (up U.S. 160 to Lake City), a drive up the Alpine Loop Scenic Byway, a 65-mile, four-wheel-drive road over Engineer Pass toward Silverton and Ouray makes for a spectacular — and breathtaking — day trip. To the west, a trip up U.S. 550 from Durango to Silverton, and then on to Ouray (the Switzerland of America), is substantially less taxing on the rear axle.

Driving east

Almost no one visiting the area misses an opportunity to drive over Wolf Creek Pass. Aside from the opportunity to hike up Treasure Falls, view the Pagosa basin from the overlook, or the short drive up Lobo Overlook on the north side for access to the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, travelers are provided with some of the most breathtaking miles of road offered anywhere in the world. A swing by Big Meadow Reservoir, a few miles from the summit and on the north side of the highway, is well worth the diversion.

On the other side of the pass, South Fork offers the option of driving north on Colo. 149 on the Silver Thread Scenic Byway toward Lake City, or continuing east on U.S. 160 towards the Great Sand Dunes National Park.

If choosing Colo. 149 to Creede, an old mining town with a deep heritage, a visitor might enjoy the Mining Museum (at the far north end of Main Street) or a performance at the renowned Creede Repertory Theatre.

North from Creede (as mentioned earlier) and over Slumgullion Pass (named for the yellowish dirt that a mudslide uncovered a thousand years ago) is Lake City. With the natural dam forming beautiful Lake San Cristobal, the highest natural lake in Colorado, Lake City also proudly features the history of Alferd Packer, the only U.S. citizen ever charged, tried and convicted for the crime of cannibalism — where judge M.B. Gerry said, famously, "You son of a bitch. There were only seven Democrats in Hinsdale County and you ate five of them!"

Continuing east on U.S. 160 from South Fork takes visitors into the high desert (8,000 feet) and toward the Great Sand Dunes National Park, about 15 miles past Alamosa and left on Colo. 150.

At the base of the intimidating Sangre de Cristo range (four 14,000-foot peaks at Crestone, less than 20 miles northeast), the area has had millions of years collecting the sand of the San Luis Valley into dunes several hundred feet high, creating the backdrop for numerous Westerns and the awe of millions of visitors.

No matter which direction you choose, Pagosa Springs is the hub for a trip to a destination that promises to be both breathtaking and memorable, with amazing views to capture and a rich history left from those who settled in this area.



Getting Here From There

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Stevens Field Airport

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

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

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

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

In 2015, nearly \$6 million was spent to extend the parallel taxiway and complete

other associated projects, further increasing the efficiency of aircraft movement and safety.

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

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

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

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

And once you've landed, Pagosa boasts car rental agencies and transportation companies.

Fixed-Base Operator

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

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

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

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

La Plata County Airport

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

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

For more information about flights and ancillary services, visit www.flydurango.com.

Mileage from Pagosa

Durango, Colo.	61 miles
Cortez, Colo.	104 miles
Denver, Colo.	277 miles
Colorado Springs, Colo.	242 miles
Farmington, N.M.	101 miles
Santa Fe, N.M.	160 miles
Albuquerque, N.M.	212 miles
Phoenix, Ariz.	514 miles
Oklahoma City, Okla.	699 miles
Dallas, Texas	813 miles

Marijuana laws: remain responsible and legal

It's now well-known, marijuana — both for medicinal and recreational purposes — is legal in Colorado. But, while it may be legal, there are a few things you should know, whether you plan on partaking or not, to remain responsible and legal.

First, there are differences in the laws regarding medicinal and recreational marijuana. To obtain marijuana for medicinal purposes, you must be a Colorado resident with a state red card, which can only be obtained with recommendation from a doctor. With that red card, medicinal users can obtain marijuana from a licensed center, primary caregiver or can grow a limited amount themselves. For more information about medical marijuana, visit <https://www.colorado.gov/enforcement/marijuanaenforcement>.

To buy or possess retail marijuana for recreational purposes, you must be 21 or older. It's illegal to give or sell retail marijuana to minors.

Retail marijuana can be purchased at licensed retail stores. There are multiple licensed retail stores within the town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

Adults are allowed to possess 1 ounce or less of retail marijuana in the state of Colorado. Residents 21 and older can purchase

up to 1 ounce of marijuana at a time.

Marijuana, however, cannot be consumed publicly, on public land (including, but not limited to, the national forest), or be accessible to the public. It also cannot be consumed in any indoor, but public, areas — like restaurants, bars or common areas in buildings.

Private business owners, including lodging facilities, can choose whether or not to allow marijuana in their establishment. To determine if consumption is allowed in any lodging establishment or not, check with the company's staff.

Marijuana is permissible in cars, but cannot be in an open container or cross state lines (with neighboring states sometimes actively checking cars leaving Colorado). It is illegal to consume marijuana in vehicles or to drive while under the influence of marijuana.

Possession and consumption rules are the same no matter the form (edible or to be smoked), and violators are subject to prosecution, with penalties ranging from fines to possible jail or prison sentences. It should also be noted that marijuana, of all kinds, remains illegal at the federal level.

Too, any partaking should be done carefully and responsibly.

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Chimney Rock National Monument

Chimney Rock National Monument, a 4,726-acre archaeological site, preserves architecture and artifacts used by the ancestral Puebloan People. The ancestral Puebloans were an ancient culture that inhabited and traveled across areas of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado, and Chimney Rock is the northeastern gateway to their past world.

The Ancestral Puebloan people occupied the Chimney Rock area and the Piedra River valley approximately 1,000 years ago, from about 900 A.D. to 1150 A.D.

Ancestral Puebloan farmers lived in villages and on dispersed homesteads. An impressive testament to this life and community is the Great House Pueblo situated at an elevation of 7,600 feet, just below the Chimney Rock pinnacles. The Great House Pueblo is only one of 91 structures found at Chimney Rock thus far by researchers. Although Chimney Rock is an important link to an ancient culture, several Native American groups, notably the Puebloan Tribes, still have a special spiritual and traditional affinity for this place.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that runs the daily operations and interpretive program at Chimney Rock National Monument under a Participating Agreement with the USDA Forest Service/San Juan National Forest.

Details on all programs are available at www.chimneyrockco.org or by calling (970) 883-5359 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily from May 15 to Sept. 30 or (970) 731-7133 from Oct. 1 to May 14.

CRIA officially opens its 2018 season at Chimney Rock National Monument on May 15. The monument is located 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs and three miles south on Colo. 151. Visitors may choose among three types of daily walking tours: 1- and 2-hour guided tours, and audio-guided tours. The fees for guided tours are \$14 (adults) and \$7 (children ages 5-12). Audio-guided tours are \$10 (adults) and \$5 (children 5-12). All tours are free for children under 5. Visit www.chimneyrockco.org for an up-to-date schedule. All walking tours meet at the visitor center where fees are collected.

Archaeoastronomy programs

Full Moon

During this program, guests will learn about ancestral Puebloan ties to astronomy, Puebloan culture and more while watching the full moon rise from atop Chimney Rock Mesa. Cost is \$15. A package combining the Full Moon program with a guided tour of the Kiva Trail is also available for \$20.

Night Sky-Stars and Galaxies:

This program is timed for when the moon

is absent from the sky so visitors can enjoy the night sky in a dark environment and see fainter objects that the moon's light would normally obscure. At the high mesa parking lot, volunteer astronomers await with telescopes to provide a closer look at the wonders of the night sky. Cost for this program is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12.

Night Sky — Our Solar System

Timed for when the moon is present in the sky but not fully illuminated, this program enables visitors to enjoy the night sky unimpeded by artificial light or the brightness of a full moon, and see many of the brighter objects that are visible. Guests will learn about naked-eye astronomy of the ancestral Puebloans, the solar system and universe, and will enjoy night-sky viewing through telescopes from the upper mesa. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12.

CRIA's annual programs

Summer Sunrise programs

June 21 (Solstice), July 25, Aug. 22 and Sept. 22 (Equinox) — Watch the sun rise from the Sun Tower and Stone Circle sites while a volunteer talks about how the ancients may have lived and why celestial alignments with site geology may have been important to them.

Life at Chimney Rock Festival

This free festival, to be held July 21 and 22, includes interactive demonstrations of crafts and skills of the ancestral Puebloan people in addition to a Native American arts and crafts market. No reservations required.

Dances of the Ancients

On Saturday, May 26, Puebloan dancers will gather at Chimney Rock to dance in the Great Kiva, home to their ancestors. This culturally significant event will be both powerful and captivating. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-12.

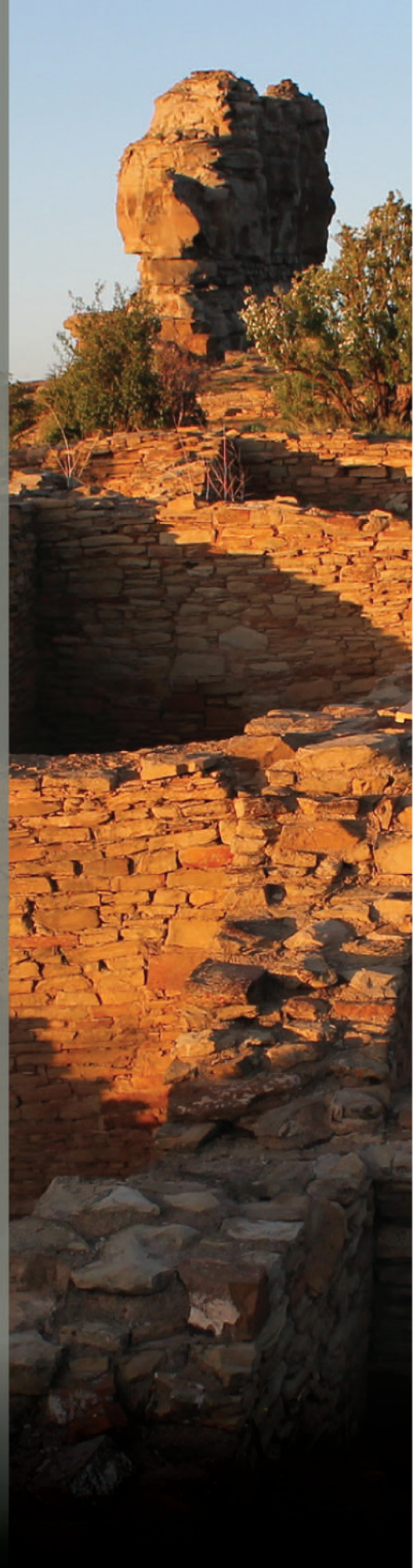
Stories at Sunset

On July 31 and Aug. 14 visitors will gather at the Great Kiva as sunset approaches to enjoy Native American stories told by tribal storytellers. \$15/adult and \$5/child (ages 5-12.) A package combining the Stories at Sunset program with a guided tour of the Pueblo trail is offered for \$20/adult and \$7.50/child.

Geology Tours

June 6, July 4 and Aug. 1 — This 1.5 hour tour explores local geology and its relationship to the daily lives of the ancestral Puebloans who lived at Chimney Rock. Tickets are \$15/adult and \$5/child (ages 5-12.)

All programs (except Life at Chimney Rock) require reservations and can be booked online at www.chimneyrockco.org or by calling (877) 444-6777. Walk-ins are accommodated if space allows.





MARK D. ROPER

Arts Entertainment Events



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



19th Hole Concert series

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SERVING SOUTHWEST COLORADO

Great music, great views, great for the community

Imagine kicking back at the end of a long summer day, views of Pagosa Peak in the distance, Pagosa Springs Golf Club stretching out before you, food and beverage at the ready, and musicians providing great music to relax or dance to.

Now add to that the knowledge that you're helping local nonprofit agencies provide services to the community. That, in a nutshell, is the 19th Hole Concert series, part of the Community Foundation serving Southwest Colorado's work to help nonprofits be sustainable.

In its first two years, the 19th Hole Concert series raised \$10,500, with that amount split between 12 nonprofits covering things such as Chimney Rock, education, youth mentoring, pregnancy support, veteran services, domestic violence awareness and victim advocates, the environment, and more.

This year's goal is \$7,500, again to be split between six nonprofit organizations. And, if the musical lineup is any indication, that goal won't be a problem. The lineup includes several local favorites, a Grammy nominee, someone who has taken the stage alongside some of the biggest names in the business and a variety of musical styles. That lineup is: June 14, Bob Hemenger; June 21, Brooks-i Band; June 28, San Juan Mountain Boys; July 5, 13th Hour; July 12, Songs of the Fall; and July 19, J-Calvin's Funk Express.

The Community Foundation launched its first summer concert series in Durango in 2015, the idea being to "create a fun summer social event while supporting both the nonprofit sector and the local music scene," explained Tracy Pope, who works in marketing and grants management for the foundation.

After the success of that series, the foundation decided to expand the effort to help Archuleta County's nonprofits and musicians, with the foundation's Archuleta Committee taking the lead locally.

Pope added, "These concerts are successful because who doesn't love the chance to spend a summer evening outdoors in Colorado, looking at Pagosa Peak and the rest of the beautiful San Juan Mountains, listening to talented local musicians, and supporting the great works of area nonprofits? It is win-win-win for everyone involved!"

"The 19th Hole Concert series served as not only an excellent opportunity to network with other local nonprofit organizations, but also as a means to work together as a team, developing marketing strategies and media outlets for the benefit of everyone involved in the series," said Keith Bruno from Audubon Rockies, a nonprofit selected to participate in 2017.

As part of their participation in the series, the benefiting nonprofits all work together to market the series. The six nonprofits then equally split all the proceeds.

"Songs of the Fall provided a stellar atmosphere and backdrop for the evening that Audubon Rockies was featured. More than 140 people showed up for the evening of music, food and beverage. This outdoor event is a wonderful opportunity for both community members and visiting families to submerge themselves in the visual beauty of Pagosa Springs, while supporting a local cause. If you're looking for an outdoor music venue, fun for the whole family, at a reasonable time on a summer night, this may be the best \$10 spent," said Bruno.

Local Event Calendar 2018

All events are correct as of press time.
Please check with event organizers for
updates before making travel plans.

MAY

May 3
San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting
PLPOA Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
(281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org

May 5
Pagosa Rotary Club's Kentucky Derby
Keyah Grande, 2-6 p.m.
(970) 507-0500, pagosaspringsrotary.org

May 16-Sept. 15
Pagosa Springs History Museum
opens with special quilt show
96 Pagosa St. (1st Street and U.S. 160)
www.pagosamuseum.org

May 18
Night Sky: Our Solar System Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 26
Dances of the Ancients
Chimney Rock National Monument, 10 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

May 29
Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Full Moon Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

JUNE

June 4-July 27
Summer Reading Activities
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

June 6
Geology Tour
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 7
San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting
PLPOA Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
(281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org

June 8
Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org



June 8-9
The 10th Annual Car & Motorcycle Show
Downtown
(970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

June 8-10
Folk 'N Bluegrass Festival
Reservoir Hill
(877) 472-4672, www.folkwest.com

June 14
19th Hole Concert Series: Bob Hemenger
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
www.swcommunityfoundation.org

June 15, 16, 17, 24, 29
"Legally Blonde"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

June 16-Sept. 15
Pagosa Farmers Market
Downtown, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(970) 264-5232, paulineb@centurytel.net

June 21
Summer Solstice Sunrise Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

19th Hole Concert Series: Brooks-i Band
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
www.swcommunityfoundation.org

June 22-24
Art for Arts Sake Pagosa Springs
Lewis Street, www.ps-artsCouncil.org

June 22
LEGO Contest
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Night Sky: Our Solar System Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 22, 23, 30
"West Side Story"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

June 27
Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:45 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Full Moon Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 27
Night Sky: Our Solar System Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

June 28
19th Hole Concert Series: The San Juan Mountain Boys
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
www.swcommunityfoundation.org

June 29, 30 and July 1, 5, 6, 7
"Children of Eden"
Curtains Up Pagosa, (970) 946-1500
www.curtainsuppagosa.org

June 30
Park-2-Park Arts and Crafts Festival
Downtown, 9 a.m. -5 p.m.
(970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

JULY

July 1-4
Park-2-Park Arts and Crafts Festival
Downtown, 9 a.m. -5 p.m.
(970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

July 1, 8, 18, 26
"Legally Blonde"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 4-6
Red Ryder Rodeo
Western Heritage Event Center Rodeo Grounds
Archuleta County Fairgrounds
(970) 264-2730, pagosarodeo.com

July 4
Geology Tour
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Rotary Fourth of July Parade
Downtown, 10 a.m.
(970) 507-0500

Community Band July 4th Concert
The Springs Resort back lawn, 2 p.m.
pagosagreen.org

Live Concert in the Outdoor Amphitheater
5th Street on the San Juan River
pagosagreen.org

Fireworks
Downtown, dusk

July 5
San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting Summer Party
Timber Ridge Clubhouse, 5 p.m.
(281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org



July 5
19th Hole Concert Series: 13th Hour
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
www.swcommunityfoundation.org

July 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 28
"West Side Story"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 6, 7, 11, 15, 21, 25, 28
"Thoroughly Modern Millie"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 12
19th Hole Concert Series: Songs of the Fall
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
www.swcommunityfoundation.org

July 13, 14, 20, 22, 27, 29
"Little Shop of Horrors"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 13
Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 14
Pagosa Duathlon, "The Dirty Du"
Monument Park/Turkey Springs junction
www.pagosaduathlon.com

Seeds of Learning
Dancing with the Pagosa Stars
Ross Aragon Community Center
(970) 264-5513, www.growingseeds.org

July 19
19th Hole Concert Series, J-Calvin's Funk Express
Pagosa Springs Golf Club, 5:30 p.m.
www.swcommunityfoundation.org

July 20
Night Sky: Our Solar System Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8:15 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 21
Cruise-A-Thong: Race for the Average Joe
Town Park, www.facebook.com/cruiseathong

July 20-22
"Annie Jr."
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

July 21-22
Life at Chimney Rock Festival
Chimney Rock National Monument, 9 a.m. -4:30 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Local Event Calendar 2018

July 22
Cruise-A-Thong: Hair of the Dog Disc Golf Tourney
Reservoir Hill
www.facebook.com/cruiseathon

July 25
Summer Sunrise Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 26-27
Cowboy Fast Draw Colorado State Championship
Town Park, 9 a.m.
(970) 731-9140, www.sanjuanshootists.com

July 27
Summer Reading Party
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 4:30 p.m.
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:45 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Full Moon Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:30 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

July 28
Pirate Plunge Mud Run
Yamaguchi Park and Pirate Hill, 10 a.m.
(970) 759-4419, www.pirateplunge.com

July 28-29
Cowboy Fast Draw Four Corners Territorial Championship
Town Park, 9 a.m.
(970) 731-9140, www.sanjuanshootists.com

July 31
Pueblo Trail Tour/Stories at Sunset Package
Chimney Rock National Monument, 4 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stories at Sunset
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:30 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

"Broadway Gala"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 6 p.m.
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

AUGUST

Aug. 1
Geology Tour
Chimney Rock National Monument, 8 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29
"West Side Story"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 1, 4, 9, 12, 17, 22, 25, 30
"Thoroughly Modern Millie"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 2
San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting
PLPOA Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
(281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org

Aug. 2-5
Archuleta County Fair
Archuleta County Fairgrounds, (970) 264-5931
www.archuletacountyfair.com

Aug. 2, 5, 10, 15, 18, 23, 26, 29
"Little Shop of Horrors"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 3, 8, 11, 16, 19, 24, 31
"Legally Blonde"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
(970) 731-7469, www.pagosacenter.org

Aug. 8
Mountain Light Music Festival
Community United Methodist Church
(409) 702-7445, katwad4@gmail.com

Aug. 10
Mountain Light Music Festival
PLPOA Clubhouse
(409) 702-7445, katwad4@gmail.com

Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:45 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 14
Pueblo Trail Tour/Stories at Sunset Package
Chimney Rock National Monument, 3:45 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Stories at Sunset
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:15 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 17
Night Sky: Our Solar System Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:45 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 22
Summer Sunrise Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org



Aug. 24
Humane Society Auction for the Animals
 Community Center
 (970) 264-5549, www.humanesociety.biz

Aug 25
Devil Mountain Ultra
 50k & 50 miles
 Turkey Springs, 6:30 a.m.
 (970) 398-0612
www.joingecko.org

Full Moon Program
 Chimney Rock National Monument, 6:15 p.m.
 (970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package
 Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:30 p.m.
 (970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Aug. 31-Sept. 2
Four Corners Folk Festival
 Reservoir Hill
 (877) 472-4672, www.folkwest.com

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5
San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting
 Blanco River Group Campsite — Annual Picnic
 (281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org

Sept. 7
Night Sky: Stars & Galaxies Program
 Chimney Rock National Monument, 7:15 p.m.
 (970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 14
Passport to Pagosa
Music Wine and Food Festival
 Town Park, 6 p.m.
 (970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

Night Sky: Our Solar System Program
 Chimney Rock National Monument, 7 p.m.
 (970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 15
Breakfast with Balloons
 5th Street on the San Juan River
 (970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

Sept. 15
Colorfest Mass Balloon Ascension
 Downtown, 8 a.m.
 (970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

Color Me Cray-Z Colorfest 5K Color Run/Walk
 Town Park, 8 a.m.
 (970) 264-9075, riseaboveviolence.org

Music and Micro Brew Festival
 Town Park, 3 p.m.
 (970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

Sept. 16
Colorfest Mass Balloon Ascension
 Uptown, 8 a.m.
 (970) 264-2360, www.pagosachamber.com

Sept. 19
Pirate Party
 Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 4-5 p.m.
 (970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Sept. 22
Mountain Chile Cha Cha Festival
 Town Park, 8:30 a.m.
 (303) 475-6053, www.joingecko.org

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Local Event Calendar 2018

Sept. 22

Autumnal Equinox Sunrise Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 6 a.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 24

Full Moon Program
Chimney Rock National Monument, 5:30 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Kiva Tour/Full Moon Package

Chimney Rock National Monument, 4:45 p.m.
(970) 731-7133, www.chimneyrockco.org

Sept. 29

Art Above Violence-Art Exhibit/Auction
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, 5 p.m.
(970) 264-1129, <https://artactivismduvproject.weebly.com/>

OCTOBER

Oct. 4

San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting
PLPOA Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
(281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org

Oct. 6

Seeds of Learning Little Black Dress
Ross Aragon Community Center, 5 p.m.
(970) 264-5513, www.growingseeds.org

Oct. 11-Nov. 15, Thursdays

Lifelong Learning Lecture talks
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library, 5 p.m.
(970) 264-2209, www.pagosalibrary.org

Oct. 20

4th Annual Jewels & Jeans Barn Dance
Archuleta County Extension Building 7-11 p.m.
(970) 507-0500, pagosaspringsrotary.org

Oct. 26

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

Oct. 27

Halloween Carnival
Yamaguchi Park, noon-2p.m.
(970) 2464-4152

Oct. 31

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

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1

San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting
PLPOA Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
(281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

DECEMBER

Dec. 1

San Juan Outdoor Club Meeting
PLPOA Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.
(281) 467-2379, www.sanjuanoutdoorclub.org

Dec. 7

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

The Pagosa Springs
SUN

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www.PagosaSUN.com for
up-to-date events and information.



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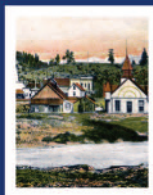
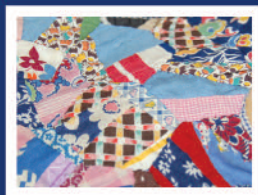
May 16 to September 15

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Pagosa Springs History Museum

96 Pagosa Street • Pagosa Springs, Colorado • (970) 264-4424 • pagosamuseum.org



Lama Tsultrim Allione



Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo



Shiva Rea



Drubpön Lama Karma

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

Upcoming Events: *Taming Our Wild Minds - An Introduction to Buddhist Meditation* with Drubpön Lama Karma: June 2-5. *Wisdom Rising - Journey into the Mandala of the Empowered Feminine Book Launch Celebration* with Lama Tsultrim Allione: June 8 - 10. *Mahayana Retreat* with Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo & Pieter Oosthuizen: June 27-July 4. *Prana Mandala Vinyasa Yoga* with Shiva Rea & Demetri Velisarius, September 19-23.

Open House & Meditation 101: Free for the public. Also includes guided tour and vegetarian buffet lunch.
Open House Dates: March 11, April 14, May 12, September 2, October 6. Please register online.

For more information, please visit our website: www.taramandala.org





DOUG CHAPIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Music & Theater

After a day of playing in the river, hiking a local peak, angling for that wall-worthy brown trout or stirring up some mud with the fat tires of a mountain bike, take advantage of the numerous opportunities in Pagosa for the musically minded and the theater lover.

The summer season opens up restaurant patios and beer gardens for local, regional and national talent, while area establishments host bands almost every night during the summer. Doors open wide to allow a refreshing blast of cool air for patrons and a taste of the excitement indoors for those strolling by.

More than that, area stages come alive with comedies, dramas and musicals, making Pagosa Springs a premier destination for theater.

Get your groove on

While nationally-renowned music festivals (listed in other pages in this guide) rightfully grab most of the glory, a quick glance at events listed inside the front page of The PREVIEW section (published

each week in The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper) will show that the local music scene ranges from acoustic performances to Zydeco — and everything in between.

Two stepping? Techno freestyle? Reggae? Good old rock 'n' roll? Area restaurants and bars offer excitement for everyone in the late-night crowd, while early evening usually offers more low-key performances under the stars.

Check out the “Flavor of Pagosa” section of this guide for phone numbers and addresses of establishments to find out what’s being offered on any given night.

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts

The Thingamajig Theatre Company in residence at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts (PSCA) has achieved a reputation for featuring Broadway-quality productions, earning the distinction as one of Colorado’s premiere venues for professional theater.

The award-winning Thingamajig Theatre Company brings in professional

talent from around the nation to perform in, direct and design its shows, as well as harnessing local talent.

PSCA offers five major musicals five days a week throughout the summer, as well as an ever-changing art gallery, and a summer theater camp for children.

For event and theater information or to purchase tickets, check out the PSCA website at www.pagosacenter.org or call (970) 731-SHOW (7469).

Thingamajig Theatre Company’s 2018 Summer Season will include “Proof,” “Legally Blonde the Musical,” “West Side Story,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and “Little Shop of Horrors.”

Curtains Up Pagosa

Pagosa Springs has an outstanding and unique community theater organization. Curtains Up Pagosa, established in 1989, presents two excellent productions each year under the direction of Dale Johnson, director, producer and choreographer and Robert Neel, acting music director.

Each production includes an audi-

tioned volunteer cast that is accompanied by a live pit orchestra of talented local and professional musicians.

This summer, Curtains Up Pagosa will be presenting "Children of Eden," a beautiful and powerful Stephen Schwartz musical for all ages.

Six performances are scheduled at Pagosa Springs High School at 7 p.m. on June 29, 30 and July 1 (2 p.m. matinee only) and July 5, 6 and 7.

Curtains Up Pagosa is a nonprofit organization and proceeds support young people in the performing arts. The organization strives not only to entertain residents and visitors with the very best of community theater in Pagosa, but also to support local public schools by providing funding for arts programs. That support manifests not only in its stage productions, with cast members ranging in age from those young to those better classified as young at heart, but also in the scholarships CUP awards for students going on to study performing arts after high school. This support includes local student scholarships for private voice, dance and instrumental lessons.

For more information about the show and tickets, watch The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper.

Pagosa Springs Community Band

The Pagosa Springs Community Band formed in 2011. The band includes talented community musicians and can be seen throughout the year.

Quickly becoming tradition, the band puts on a Fourth of July concert, as well as its annual fall and spring concerts. At Christmas, the organization presents The Heralds of Christmas chamber music concerts featuring The Pagosa Brass Quintet.

The spring concert, called Band-O-Rama, will be held on Saturday, April 21. This special concert features Pagosa Springs Middle School and Pagosa Springs High School bands in addition to the Community Band.

The Fourth of July concert will take place at 2 p.m. on July 4 on the back lawn of The Springs Resort. This is an outdoor concert, so bring a lawn chair or a blanket to relax on while you enjoy the performance of patriotic music.

THE THINGAMAJIG
THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

BROADWAY IN THE MOUNTAINS



JUN 15 - AUG 31
RATED PG-13



JUN 22 - AUG 29
RATED PG



JUL 6 - AUG 30
RATED PG



JUL 13 - AUG 29
RATED PG-13



JUL 7 - AUG 25
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SUMMER SEASON 2018

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23 years of folk

» Four Corners Folk Festival | Aug. 31-Sept. 2

This Labor Day Weekend, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, the 23rd annual Four Corners Folk Festival will take place on beautiful Reservoir Hill Park in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Thousands of people of all ages will once again converge from all around the country for three days of live performances, workshops, campground jams and a children's program that provide the backbone of the popular, music-filled weekend. Nationally and internationally acclaimed performers slated for 2018 (at press time) include Nahko And Medicine For The People, Amy Helm, We Banjo 3, the Jon Stickley Trio, Front Country, The Accidentals, Darling West, Tallgrass and many more will be announced.

The stellar music featured on the festival stages is most commonly labeled Americana, but includes a variety of influences — folk rock, bluegrass, Celtic, newgrass, alt-country, rockabilly, blues and everything in between. As the great Louis Armstrong once said, "All music is folk music. I ain't never heard no horse sing a song."

Rising above downtown from its prime central location, Reservoir Hill Park provides outstanding campsites located in the 140-acre ponderosa pine forest, just a short walk from the main venue. Many festival-goers choose to stay at one of Pagosa's many lodging establishments, taking advantage of the free shuttle

service up and down Reservoir Hill during the show throughout the weekend.

Campground jam sessions are a regular feature and a highlight for many attendees of the festival, and go on all day and well into the night. Other activities include late-night performances on Friday and Saturday, music workshops, a food court, beer and wine garden and vendor expo. The large performance tent provides shelter for the stage and seating for more than 1,300 people, plus there is ample room in the meadow outside the tent to set up tarps and low chairs. All seating is general admission, except for Festival Patron tickets, which include food and beverages and a special seating area under the tent.

The Four Corners Folk Festival is an extremely family-friendly event, offering free admission to children 12 and under (accompanied by an adult), as well as a free children's program with arts and crafts, family entertainment, special musical performances and workshops for aspiring young musicians and their families.

Tickets and additional information are available online at www.folkwest.com. Up-to-the-minute updates and information can also be found on the festival's Facebook page: facebook.com/fourcornersfolkfestival and you can follow the festival on Twitter, @4cornersfolk.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

» Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass | June 8-10

Music lovers of all ages will not want to miss the 13th annual Pagosa Folk 'N Bluegrass taking place June 8-10 on Reservoir Hill Park in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The music kicks off on the afternoon of June 8 at 5 p.m. and continues throughout the weekend — including performances at the Ponderosa Pavilion late night stage on Reservoir Hill on Friday and Saturday nights.

This year's stellar lineup for the weekend includes: Tommy Emmanuel, Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper, Rob Ickes and Trey Hensley, The Way Down Wanderers, The Giving Tree Band, The Luke Bulla Trio, Bonnie and the Clydes, Coral Creek, The Good Time Travelers, FY5, The Arcadian Wild, Tallgrass, Thunder and Rain, Sugar and the Mint and more.

This incredibly fun outdoor music festival is famous for its

beautiful on-site camping and ubiquitous campground pickin' circles, plus music workshops, a free children's program with arts and crafts and entertainment, plus beer, wine, food and crafts vendors. A large tent shelters the stage and provides first-come covered seating for some 600 people, with lots more space on the open festival meadow to set up tarps and low chairs. All seating is general admission and the festival is a rain-or-shine event.

Admission is free for children 12 and under who are accompanied by an adult. Tickets and full festival information, including performer bios and links to songs and videos, are available online at www.folkwest.com. You can also "like" the festival's Facebook page at facebook.com/pagosafolkbluegrass and follow the latest festival news on Twitter, @folkbluegrass.

www.folkwest.com | (877) 472-4672

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 JUNE 8, 9, & 10, 2018
 PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO

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MICHAEL CLEVELAND & FLAMEKEEPER
ROB ICKES AND TREY HENSLEY
THE WAY DOWN WANDERERS
THE GIVING TREE BAND
LUKE BULLA TRIO ★ BONNIE & THE CLYDES
CORAL CREEK ★ FY5 ★ TALLGRASS
THE GOOD TIME TRAVELERS ★ THE ARCADIAN WILD
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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

The Car Show at Pagosa

» June 8-9

Pagosa's summer season arrives with screaming engines for the 10th annual Car Show in Pagosa on June 8-9.

The event features antique vehicles, model category cars, 4x4s, trucks and motorcycles — all displaying plenty of classic style.

There will be awards for class winners, as well as special prizes for the Best in Show and People's Choice.

Festivities begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 8, in Town Park, with the "Party in the Park" including car registration, a welcome barbecue and concert for the participants and spectators. This is a great time

to get a sneak preview of many of the cars on display Saturday.

On Saturday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the vehicles will remain at the Athletic Field in Town Park for the "Show and Shine." This event gives spectators a chance to admire antique and custom cars close up and personal as well as speak to the owners of these works of art. Music, displays, activities for children, food, a beer garden and car-related vendors will be on hand to add to the festivities. If you can't make it downtown to the Car Show, after the show on Saturday there will be a car cruise on the west side of town.

www.pagosachamber.com | (970) 264-2360

» Archuleta County Fair | Aug. 2-5

A longtime tradition, the 67th annual Archuleta County Fair will take place Aug. 2-5, and it's always a party, so dust off those boots, break out your western wear and get ready to have a great time.

Fair days are full of fun in the sun with entertainers, games, exhibits and demonstrations. Gates open at 9 a.m. daily, closing around midnight on Friday and Saturday to ensure that you have the time to enjoy the festivities. The fair closes at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

4-H members will show their animals including horses, dogs, rabbits, goats, sheep, steers, chickens, pigs, turkeys, lambs and more during many livestock shows.

The Horseshoe Tournament and Ranch Rodeo will keep fairgoers busy on Saturday. After working up an appetite, head to the 4-H Chuck Wagon Dinner and then to the Livestock Tent.

The Junior Livestock Sale is the culmination of the hard work of 4-H members. The sale exhibits the long-standing livestock traditions and ranching roots of Archuleta County and supports 4-H youngsters who have dedicated themselves

to their projects throughout the year. 4-H members display and have their work judged at the county fair and may even get the opportunity to go to the Colorado State Fair. After a full day, two-step on over to hear some live country western music performed by the High Rollers under the Activity Tent.

The festivities continue into Sunday with the Kids' Rodeo and pie eating contest.

A petting farm for kids to enjoy will also be available each day. During the fair, the exhibit hall will be filled with different projects created by county residents including quilts, photographs, paintings, vegetables, flowers and baked goods. Vendors will also sell delicious fair food throughout the weekend.

The fair is held at the fairgrounds just south of town on U.S. 84. Everyone is invited. Admission is \$2 for kids and \$4 for adults. The full schedule of events will be published prior to the fair in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

www.archuletacountyfair.com | (970) 264-5931

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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

» June 30, July 1-6

The Pagosa Springs area is one of the busiest places in the Southwest during the Fourth of July holiday and Pagosa will be in full swing this year.

The annual Park 2 Park Arts and Crafts Fair will kick into gear on Saturday, June 30, and will run until Wednesday, July 4. There will be over 60 vendors at the festival. You'll find artwork, jewelry, woodcarving, glasswork, weaving, specialty foods and so much more at the fair. The location is conducive to shopping as you stroll through the parks enjoying the crafts and tasty food items. The fair opens every day at 9 a.m. and runs until 5 p.m. While downtown, don't miss out on the unique local shops located in the historic downtown area.

The "biggest small town parade" in the country, hosted by Pagosa Springs Rotary Club, will be held Wednesday, July 4, beginning at 10 a.m. Everyone loves a parade and Pagosa's is one of the very best. Arrive early for a seat along the route.

The Fourth of July fireworks will be held Wednesday night, July 4. The fireworks festivities will take place on the fields adjacent to

Pagosa Springs High School, on South 8th Street in the downtown area. To best view the fireworks, you can enjoy seating at the Pagosa Springs High School or at Yamaguchi Park, located on South 5th Street. Gather family and friends, bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the stellar display. The fireworks display typically begins at dark — around 9:15 p.m. This event is subject to fire restrictions and weather.

The 69th annual Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo, a legendary Fourth of July festivity, will be held three days starting July 4 and running through July 6. The rodeo will begin on Wednesday afternoon, July 4, at 2 p.m. The rough-and-tumble rodeo, with regional cowboys and cowgirls, will feature performances at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 5 and Friday, July 6. The Red Ryder Roundup Rodeo arena is just south of the intersection of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84.

There is still time between all these activities to enjoy a barbecue, a hike or a bike ride away from the bustle of town — or to partake in any of the other fun experiences available in the area. For more information, contact the Visitor Center at (800) 252-2204 or visit the website, www.visitpagosa.com.

» Showdown on the San Juan River | July 26-29

The San Juan Shootists, Pagosa Springs' local chapter of the Cowboy Fast Draw Association, will host the Showdown on the San Juan River, Thursday, July 26 through Sunday, July 29.

Thursday and Friday, July 26-27, you will find shooters competing for the 12th annual Colorado State Championship.

Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29, marksmen will participate in the 2018 Four Corners Territorial Championship.

All events will be held at the Town Park athletic field in downtown Pagosa Springs.

Spectators and participants alike have the opportunity to relive the history of the area and the romance and culture of the old west.

The San Juan Shootists' mission is to promote and teach safe and responsible firearm handling. Cowboy Fast Draw is a friendly sport that teaches and promotes courtesy, integrity, sportsmanship and the cowboy way.

www.sanjuanshootists.com | (303) 842-0408



ColorFest

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

» Sept. 14-16

ColorFest weekend rings in the fall season accompanied by a blaze of gold and red hues, complemented by the bright colors of hot air balloons.

The weekend also celebrates the harvest season with the Passport to Pagosa Wine and Food Festival and the Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival paying tribute to numerous local and regional foods, microbreweries and music.

Add the crisp and glorious Colorado autumn weather, and you have a weekend of fun, friends and unparalleled beauty Sept. 14-16.

On Friday, Sept. 14, the popular Passport to Pagosa: Wine and Food Festival fills the tent in Town Park. Paired with the delicious wines chosen for this event is the scrumptious food provided by many of Pagosa's superb restaurants and caterers. This event is certainly an epicurean delight and is often sold out.

Several nonprofit agencies also host noteworthy events during this weekend. Rise Above Violence will host their annual 5K ColorFest Color Run to begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 15, at Town Park. Get doused with color as you walk or run the designated trail in the downtown area where volunteers will welcome you with every color of the rainbow. You can view the hot air balloons as you navigate the course. Sign up at www.riseaboveviolence.org.

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership hosts Breakfast with Balloons at Centennial Park along the San Juan River directly across from the balloon launch site on Saturday, Sept. 15. Plans are to have two additional growing domes completed by ColorFest. Enjoy a gourmet breakfast and mimosas in the comfort of your ringside seat to the balloon launch. Start the morning off with live music, the morning balloon mass ascension and the splash-and-dash antics of the balloon pilots. Tickets are available at www.pagosagreen.org.

You will enjoy the magic of hot air balloons as they ascend around 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings. A mass ascension on Saturday, Sept. 15, will take place in the downtown area with the beautiful San Juan River in the foreground and the San Juan Mountains as a backdrop. The west side of town will host the balloon ascension

on Sunday morning, Sept. 17, with balloons ascending from near Pagosa's lakes offering fabulous photography opportunities.

The Saturday evening Balloon Glow will be held in the downtown area at the Town Park athletic field. Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews attendees will be able to continue their party while watching the silhouettes of glowing balloons adjacent to the festival as the evening grows dark.

All balloon-related activities are dependent upon the weather.

For more information about ColorFest, call the Chamber of Commerce at (970) 264-2360 or purchase tickets at www.pagosachamber.com. Balloon pilots interested in flying can download the pilot application at www.pagosachamber.com.

Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival

» Sept. 15

Celebrating the area's penchant for a well-crafted quaff and its commitment to good music, Pagosa Springs brings the annual Music and Microbrews Festival to Town Park the afternoon of Saturday, Sept. 15.

Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival is another opportunity to spend a fun time in Pagosa Springs during ColorFest while celebrating some of the region's best beers and breweries.

The festival is a chance for residents and visitors alike to raise some suds in a toast to the approach of autumn. Participants can enjoy samples from almost 20 regional, state and local craft breweries and dance to a variety of talented musicians.

While adults sample beers from the numerous breweries or wine that is also available, the kids (or alcohol-free attendees) can enjoy nonalcoholic beverages. With a food court and more activities offered to keep the attendees occupied, Pagosa Springs Music and Microbrews Festival is not just a celebration of the end of summer, good music and great beer, it is a family-friendly event in the tradition of small-town America. Weather permitting, the balloon glow kicks in as the brew festival winds down.

For more information, visit www.pagosachamber.com.



TRENT BONA

Mountain Chile Cha Cha

» Sept. 22

There are few better ways to spend an autumn day than getting some exercise, then kicking back for a day of food, music and fun in beautiful Town Park at the Mountain Chile Cha Cha.

The Cha Cha is a celebration of Pagosa Country's Hispanic heritage that spotlights the love of green chile and provides a cultural and culinary treat for locals and visitors alike, as well as an endurance event that benefits Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors (GECKO).

This year, the Cha Cha will take place Sept. 22 in Town Park, in downtown Pagosa Springs. Admission is free.

The day begins with burning muscles, thanks to a 5k, 10k (with a 700-foot climb in elevation) and half marathon beginning at 8:30 a.m., as well as a kids' run at 7:30 a.m. The run takes place

entirely off-road, using trails over Reservoir Hill and the Reservoir River Ranch.

After the races, the burn moves to the taste buds, at the annual Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic — a green chile cookoff and tasting (the public tasting beginning after judges have made their rounds) and ever-popular margarita contest. The event offers those in attendance the opportunity to sample dozens of delicious homemade green chiles, many made using recipes passed down through generations of local residents.

The event continues with a beer garden, fresh roasted green chile on site all day and fun activities for the kids. In the afternoon, enjoy live dance music, with performers to be announced. Winners of the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic will be announced between performances, with \$600 in prize monies, trophies, medals and bragging rights handed out to winners.

» Pagosa Farmers Market | June 16-Sept. 15

Just in town for the weekend? Making your stay in Pagosa Country an extended trip? Stop by the Farmers Market and pick up some local products to enjoy during your stay or take home with you as a unique token of Pagosa Springs.

The Pagosa Farmers Market is celebrating its 11th year of operation every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from June 16 to Sept. 15. The market is located on U.S. 160 on the east end of town.

Vendors bring to the market locally produced foods such as vegetables, grass-fed beef, pastured pork, cheeses, milk, eggs, breads, honey, pastries and canned goods. Other products include plants and plant starts as well as tree seedlings, natural skin care products and handmade articles of alpaca, mohair and wool.

The Small Growers Coop is a unique market feature where you can purchase vegetables from a backyard grower who sometimes has an excess of one vegetable or another.

Local products include those made in Pagosa Country with some raw materials from elsewhere given the limited availability of some resources in the area. As such, the market supports both local producers as well as regional sellers of raw products. The market is also a great place to meet people and learn about the agricultural livelihood of many local residents. This is the ideal place to put into practice the excellent advice, "Know your farmer, know your food."

The market is definitely a fun, colorful place to hang out on a Saturday as it brings local producers and community members together and is a relaxed place to socialize, get errands done and even enjoy live music played by area musicians.

In addition to accepting cash or credit cards, market vendors accept SNAP benefits for purchase of market food products.

www.sospagosa.org



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

Cruise-A-Thong

» July 21-22

You've got your big-time mountain marathons and you've got your highly competitive triathlons. The Type-A athletes who compete in these events strive to cross the finish line in first place, to win the award for being fastest, strongest, toughest.

But, what about the Average Joe? What about the person whose idea of competition involves showing up and having a good time?

If you are one of these people, don't despair: Pagosa offers this kind of "racer" a perfect event: the Average Jo(e) Race, part of CRUISE-A-THONg weekend, scheduled this year for Saturday and Sunday, July 21 and 22, in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The whole point of the weekend (besides supporting improvement and maintenance of the San Juan River and community parks in Pagosa Springs) is to relax, have some fun and spend some time outdoors.

On Saturday, break out the flipflops for a leisurely stroll, the bike or other human-powered transport for a pleasurable peddle, and whatever floatie you can locate for a slow trip down the San Juan River at the Race for the Average Jo(e). Historically, the average for the course is 2.13 hours. Aside from prizes for the most average time and the median time, a bevy of random awards are handed out for things like being an overachiever, having the best costume, pets, best flotation, best mode of transport and more. Too, Town Park is open to everyone for a party.

Sunday, the action moves to the disc golf course on Reservoir Hill for the Hair of the Dog Disc Golf Tournament. The tourna-

ment has a variety of divisions to cater to every skill level — Average Joe, Open, Advanced and Recreational, with cash and prizes awarded in all divisions.

The whole weekend is sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of the Upper San Juan River.

www.facebook.com/cruiseathong/



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

History & Heritage



at 14" below surface corner of Road #11
monument or pipe with cement filling and
side 4" S. of pipe line which is double.
to N. line of side walk and E. property
line 38.5' to S. side of side walk and E. property
line 41.14' ft.
Cross on cross walk N. side of Harrison
from monument, and from this point S. 51° W.
26' to + on side walk. 11' S. Harrison.
Round iron pipe filled with cement 14" below
surface is 4" S. of south side of Dit pipe
from monument N. 31° W. 25.75' to + on cross
walk on N. side of Harrison from which point

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

History Museum

For more than four decades, the Pagosa Springs History Museum has offered visitors and locals alike a glimpse back into the history of Pagosa County, at the same time preserving history and displaying precious artifacts from the past.

The museum, which is overseen by the nonprofit San Juan Historical Society, hosts a one-of-a-kind collection depicting early life and industry in the area. The majority of the items on display were found, used or produced in the area, including metal art; a gem and mineral collection; taxidermied bear, mountain lion and deer; and fossils of the extinct mosasaur, an aquatic reptile, that was discovered in Archuleta County.

A few of the exhibits available to view at the museum include logging and railroad, a plethora of old photographs, a general store, country schoolroom, ranching and textiles, and household exhibits, which include a wood-fired range, clothes washers that show the evolution of doing laundry, kitchen gadgets, sewing machines and even a convertible table/chair made out of redwood that was crafted in Archuleta County.

In addition to the museum's permanent textile exhibits, the museum will again include a special display of quilts this season. In the footsteps of the highly popular shows of the past several seasons, this summer's show will feature quilts made by local quilters. A redwork quilt set for display celebrates local organizations and features

the names of well over 100 locals who were involved in the making of our community. You'll also be able to view the friendship quilt "Pine Trees of Pagosa Springs," among others.

The museum is located a short walk from downtown Pagosa Springs at 96 Pagosa Street (the corner of U.S. 160 and 1st Street). It is partially housed in the old waterworks building constructed by the WPA in 1938.

While visiting the museum, guests are encouraged to browse the gift shop, where historical society members provide carefully selected items, which may be of particular interest to visitors of Pagosa County. Also available are handmade items from local crafters, making the perfect memento or gifts for friends back home.

The society has also compiled and published a 13-volume book series, "Remembrances," celebrating the people, places and history of Pagosa Springs and surrounding area.

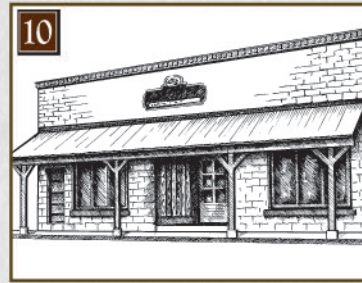
The museum opens for the season on May 16, and will be open four days a week, Wednesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. including holidays, through Sept. 15. Admission is free.

Donations are accepted to offset the operating expenses. The museum relies on private funding and grants to operate and all donations are greatly appreciated.

For updates or more information, visit www.pagosamuseum.org.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY



Downtown Historic Walking Tour

1. 402 Pagosa Street

Goodman's Department Store

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

2. 418 and 422 Pagosa Street

Metropolitan Hotel and Liberty Theatre

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

3. 426 Pagosa Street

Sparks Hardware

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

4. 452 Pagosa Street

The Hersch Building

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

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

5. 456 Pagosa Street

La Cantina

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

6. 468 Pagosa Street

Hatcher Hardware

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

7. 474 Pagosa Street

Citizens Bank

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

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

8. 449 San Juan Street

Archuleta County Courthouse

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

9. 480 San Juan Street

Moorehead Garage

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

10. 468 Lewis Street

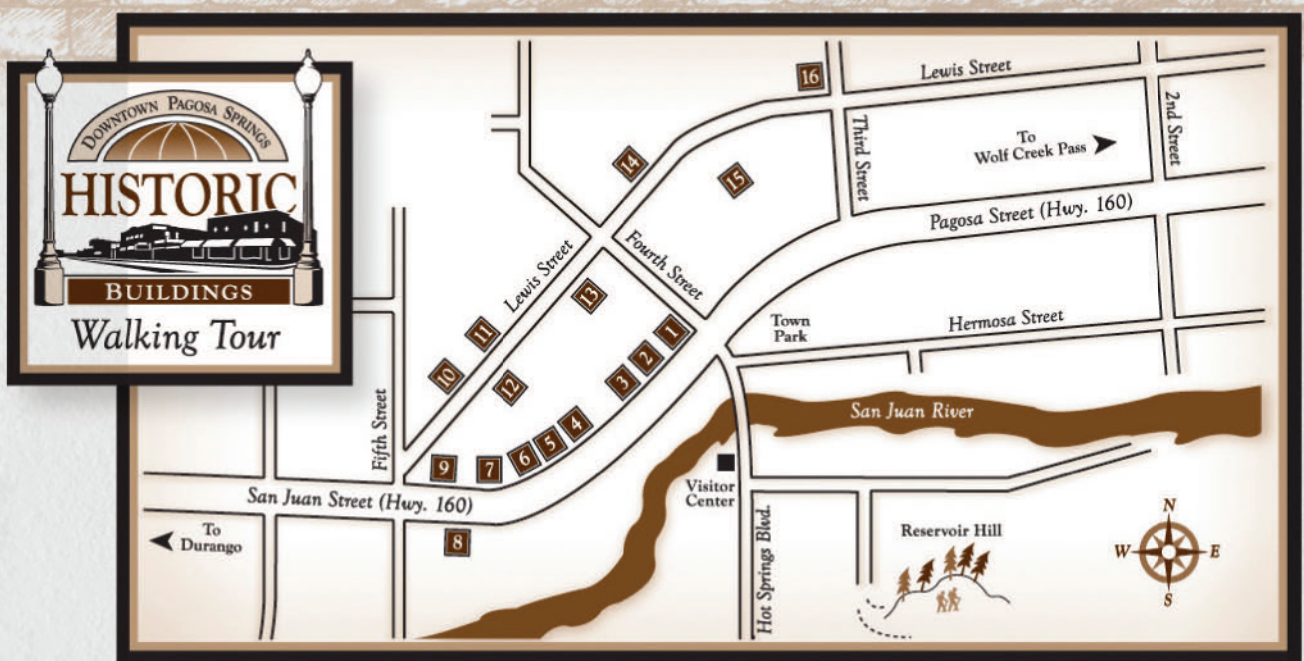
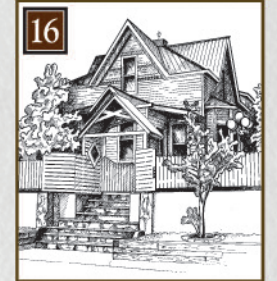
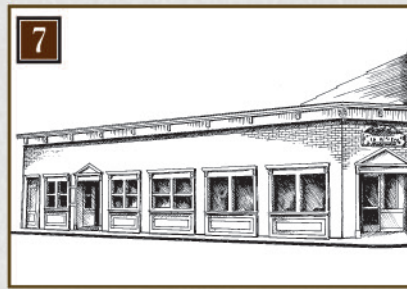
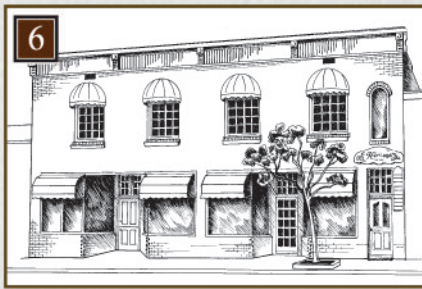
San Juan Supply

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

11. 444 Lewis Street

Sparks Residence

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



ILLUSTRATIONS AND TOUR ©2007 TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

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

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

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

**13. 409 Lewis Street
Ray's Hair Care**
Located where the old Fort Lewis military

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

**14. 380 Lewis Street
County Jail and Medical Office**
County records show the jail may have been located on this property prior to 1936. The existing residence was built in the mid-1930s for a local medical doctor. The residence's architecture exemplifies the use of local stone materials.

**15. 338 Pagosa Street
Pagosa Springs Middle School**
Pagosa Springs' school was completely destroyed by fire in 1924. For a year, students attended school in churches, businesses and the Odd Fellows Lodge until this building, the new

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

**16. 302 Lewis Street
Catchpole Residence**
This residence was constructed as a Queen Anne-style home by Fred and Mabel Catchpole in 1910. From 1996 to 2002, the home experienced extensive remodeling, including siding, shingles, doors, windows and roof. The Catchpoles were active community members, with Fred serving terms as county commissioner and county treasurer, and Mabel serving terms on the school board and Methodist Church board. The residence is no longer owned by the Catchpole family.



Pagosa's Past

By John M. Motter

"Bold and brash" best describes Archuleta County history, a saga of the Old West prescribed by rugged mountain remoteness and the distinctive characteristics of three proud cultures.

At least three national flags have symbolized ownership of Pagosa Country — claims not always recognized by the indigenous Native Americans who hunted and fished here long before Columbus crossed the Atlantic.

Those flags belonged to Spain, Mexico and the United States, and an argument could be made that France also claimed the area for a period of time.

Evidence of prehistoric human occupation in the San Juan Mountains, including Archuleta County, is fairly abundant. Later, but before white men followed Indian trails into the area, the ancestral Puebloans pursued a sedentary lifestyle near Chimney Rock and along the Piedra and San Juan rivers in the southwestern part of the county.

More recently, perhaps about the same time Hispanics arrived in New Mexico, Southern Ute, Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Indians found the fertile mountain valleys surrounding the Great Pagosa Hot Spring to their liking. They enjoyed, even worshiped, the medicinal benefits of the mineralized hot spring waters.

Hispanics wandered into Nuevo Mexico in the 16th century, hoping to fill their packs with gold. Even though they didn't uncover fabulous golden riches, they stayed and, in order to

survive, traded with the Indians. As a result, a trading party led by Juan Maria Rivera visited Pagosa Country in 1765. Not much later, in 1776, the priests Francisco Dominguez and Silvestre Escalante entered Archuleta County near present-day Carracas, intent on finding a path linking Spain's New Mexico colonies with those in California. After reaching the central valley of Utah, the intrepid explorers turned back. Nevertheless, for years, Pagosa Country hills echoed to the clip clop of mule trains trotting back and forth between California and New Mexico, along paths opened by these men.

By 1820, Pagosa Country acquired a new, if still foreign, ruling government. That is the year Mexico threw off the yoke of Spain and began administering her own affairs. Mexico's greater tolerance for Anglos encouraged a steady stream of fur traders to set their traps in the San Juan watershed.

By 1846, trapping was largely a thing of the past and even bigger changes loomed on the horizon. The United States went to war with Mexico. Following the war, the United States owned about half of Mexico's territory, including Pagosa Country.

Anxious to explore their new domain and to find a railroad route to California, the U.S. Army sent an expedition through Pagosa Country in 1859, headed by Capt. John Macomb. Macomb's party included a number of scientists who mapped the route and rendered exquisite line drawings of the Great Pagosa Hot Spring and Chimney Rock. Macomb's report is the first written description in



English we have of Pagosa Country.

Soon after Macomb's visit, in 1860, gold was discovered in the San Juan Mountains. For the next 30 years, a steady stream of prospectors and their supporters flowed through Pagosa Country. The growing number of settlers agitated the proud Southern Ute tribes, forcing the U.S. government to respond by sending troops into the area.

The San Juan River adjacent to the great Pagosa Hot Springs was chosen as a good point for locating troops. In 1878, Fort Lewis blossomed on one bank of the river, the town of Pagosa Springs on the other bank. Cattle ranchers chased their four-legged charges through the surrounding foothills.

Pagosa Country assumed all of the attributes of the Old West, with cavalry troops, cowboys and Indians, gunfights and barroom brawls, sheepmen and cattlemen, stagecoach holdups, all of the cherished traditions from which western movies are made.

Then, as suddenly as it had arrived, the Old West disappeared. Filling the void were railroads, lumber mills and loggers. Pagosa had its own narrow gauge railroad complete with a downtown depot. Nothing lasts forever and, after denuding much of the countryside, the railroad and logging industry moved out.

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

for the market. Small lumber mills hacked away at the remaining trees. Then came the Great Depression and World War II. Many of the rural people eking out a scarcely adequate living moved to town, or further away to work in defense plants. The war ended, but few of those who had abandoned Pagosa Country returned. Pagosa had no payrolls.

Along about 1970, a number of land developers, ears tuned to the insistent jingle of change in affluent America's pockets, began to subdivide and sell Pagosa Country land. Buyers responded enthusiastically, infatuated with the mountain panoramas, gurgling streams, seemingly endless ranks of mountain forests, and maybe with the idea that a little of the Old West lived on in Pagosa Country.

Since 1970, the population of Pagosa Country has increased dramatically. Shops have sprung up to meet the needs of new arrivals. Farsighted investors have developed the Great Pagosa Hot Springs and other natural attractions. But, even with change, Pagosa Country has remained unique — a beautiful, off-the-beaten-path refuge for resident and visitor alike.

The history of Pagosa Country, new and old, is etched in her people's dynamic response to change. Even though the Old West is gone, the Old West background of soaring mountains, strident streams and abundant wildlife continue to dominate life here. As it has been from the beginning, Pagosa Country, dominated by God-given natural resources, remains bold and brash.



Family Fun

TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

Born out of need, the K.I.D.S. Summer Camp uses local resources to find success

With activities such as hiking, fishing, games, science projects, arts and crafts, water days, youth Zumba, field trips and more, the K.I.D.S. (Kickin' It During Summer) Day Camp, hosted by the Town of Pagosa Springs, has no shortage of opportunities to create long-lasting, happy memories.

The goal of the camp, according to Parks and Recreation Director Darren Lewis, "is to provide a safe, fun, affordable and educational environment for children ages 5-12 and parents."

The program was also designed to benefit families with day care needs during the summer — a benefit extends not only to residents, but also to those visiting the area.

The idea for the summer camp was born a mere four years ago, when a pilot program called Summer of Exploring was implemented, Lewis explained. That program coincided with the Pagosa Springs Youth Center's summer program.

However, in the fall of 2015, the youth center closed its doors, creating a void in the community for day care for school-aged children in the summer months.

Following the closure, numerous parents contacted Lewis to see if the town could help by starting a youth program, and Lewis in turn sat down with staff at the Ross Aragon Community Center (also run by the town) to see what could be done.

What came out of those pleas and discussions was K.I.D.S., which opened in June 2016 with the blessing (and financial backing) of the Pagosa Springs Town Council.

That first summer was considered nothing short of a success, with a wide range of ages participating and positive community feedback and support. 2017 was also successful, leading the town council to put more money in to expand the program for 2018 and allow for more youngsters to attend.

The program's success comes in part from its many community partners. In addition to using local resources such as parks and rivers, the program explores Chimney Rock National Monument and partners with agencies such as the Division of Wildlife, EMS, Pagosa Fire Protection District, Weminuche Audubon Society, the Archuleta County Fair, school district and area businesses to provide unique content.

The K.I.D.S. Day Camp operates Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during the summer. Children may not be dropped off later than 9 a.m. nor picked up later than 5:30 p.m. There is a daily maximum of 80 participants (up from 50 in 2017).

If space is available, tourists and summer visitors may register children ages 5-12 for daily or weekly activities. Immunization records and registration forms must be completed prior to child participation. There is a onetime registration fee of \$15. The camp costs \$25 per day or \$85 per week, with a family discount available for siblings.

For more information, contact Traci Bishop at the Community Center by calling (970) 264-4152, ext. 532 or by emailing tbishop@pagosasprings.co.gov.

Create your own very special work of art!

Paint Your Own Ceramic Art in our Studio

We have built it, now you can paint it! Call us to schedule your time in our studio. Choose between commercial bisqueware, or studio artist-made stoneware bisque. After firing, you can pick-up your pottery, or we will ship to you.



Throw Your Own on the Potter's Wheel

Get a taste of throwing pottery on a potter's wheel! There are two sessions: In the first session, we will guide you through throwing on the wheel. Come back to decorate your pots. After firing, you can pick up your pottery, or we will ship to you.



Call us for more information and to schedule your session.

970.731.1619

Also, ask about our full schedule of classes, including painting and drawing. Private lessons available.



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Specializing in Handmade Sculptural Tile and Pottery

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Pre Show: Calf & Steer Riding



PAGOSA SKATERS COALITION FOR CONCRETE

Town Parks

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.

The park is accessible from three trailheads — located across the highway from the River Center, behind the Healing Waters Spa and next to the U.S. Post Office — and offers miles of hiking and biking trails ranging from gentle and peaceful to steep and technical.

A large meadow right next to the water tank is the home to two of Pagosa's largest musical events: The Folk 'N Bluegrass event takes place in early June and the Four Corners Folk Festival over Labor Day weekend. A large, wooden gazebo in the festival meadow is available to rent for special occasions such as weddings or reunions.

Located one-fourth of a mile east of the gazebo is an overlook that allows one to overlook the town and see stunning views.

Reservoir Hill is also home to one of the best disc golf courses in the region, featuring 18 baskets, 18 regular tee boxes and 18 alternative tee boxes for those experts looking for a bit more challenging game.

There are restrooms available on the hill.

Centennial Park

Centennial Park stretches along the river behind the Archuleta County courthouse, and includes several tables for enjoying a nice family picnic while watching the activities in the river and the hot springs beyond. 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.

Town Park

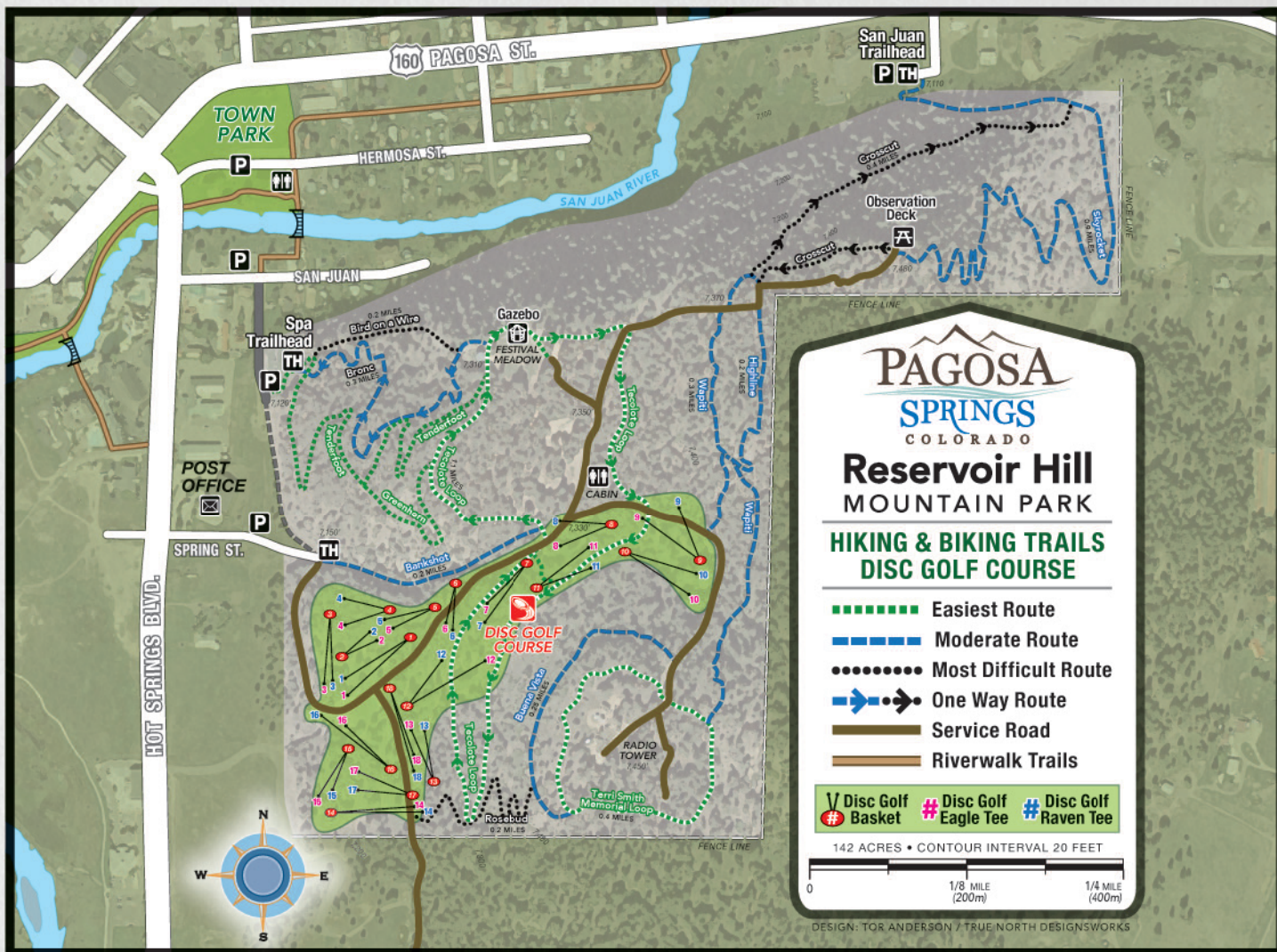
On the southeast corner of the U.S. 160/Hot Springs Boulevard intersection, Town Park connects to Centennial Park via the Riverwalk and contains a wind harp, bathrooms, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, barbecue grills, a playground, two special-event, 200-amp electrical services, a performance space 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.skaterscoalitionforconcrete.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 pump track was installed in 2017 south of the skate park for bicycle use and coming in 2018 will be an outdoor basketball court.

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.

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.

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 four pickleball courts. The park is well used by local families.



All are welcome to join the fun!

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Typically, the harder the cache is to find, the bigger the treasure inside is.

Treasure is the stuff of legends, and hunts for treasure the stuff of adventure and discovery. In Pagosa Country, there is the legend of Treasure Mountain — millions in gold buried by 300 Frenchmen under the rocks of the San Juan Mountains. Only one man allegedly made it back to France, with a tale and a map. To this day, no one has found that treasure.

These days, treasure hunting has taken on a decidedly more modern flare, in the form of geocaching, and makes treasure hunting a possibility even without the luck of finding a map from days gone by.

Geocaching is a form of hi-tech treasure hunting friendly to all ages, where the treasure is in the form of a cache — some kind of trinket, treasure, landmark, bit of history or otherwise. Sometimes, it is simply a paper on which you write your name, your reward being one of the few to find the cache. Others will have tiny treasures, from key chains to DVDs. Typically, the harder the cache is to find, the bigger the treasure inside is.

When you find the cache, you may take what is hidden inside, but geocaching etiquette suggests that you replace it with something else.

One popular type of cache includes a “travel bug” — an item that moves from cache to cache, often traveling tens or hundreds of thousands of miles as geocachers move it from site to site. Each time the travel bug is found, it is logged into the geocache tracking website (www.geocaching.com), keeping the originator and others apprised of the bug’s whereabouts and miles traveled, then deposited into another cache for the next treasure seeker.

With a handheld GPS or smartphone app, and a compass, anyone and everyone can get in on the hunt for a cache.

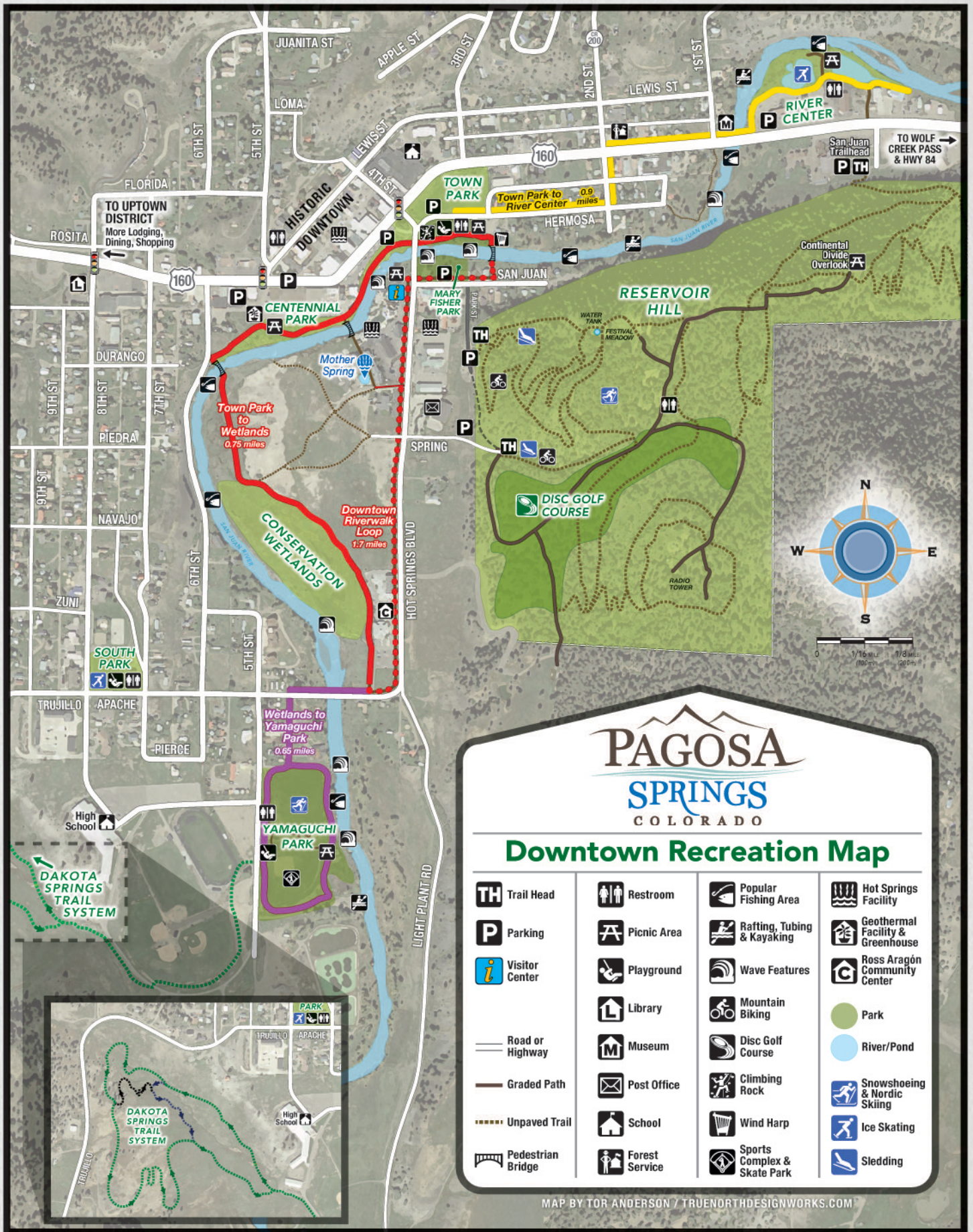
To start the search, hunters log on to the geocaching website, www.geocaching.com, and type in a location on the home page. For Pagosa Springs, dozens of caches appear. The site will give you coordinates, and you’re on your way.

From caches hidden in the mountains around Wolf Creek Pass to small caches that will take you around the downtown area, geocaching not only helps you learn your way around and find hidden treasure, but may even lead to the discovery of a beautiful site or view that may have been otherwise overlooked.

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PAGOSA SPRINGS COLORADO

Downtown Recreation Map

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

MAP BY TOR ANDERSON / TRUENORTHDESIGNWORKS.COM

Rest & Relaxation



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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and the tour -

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The staff was Capitol-AMAZING!
Thank ya'll so much and
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make our entire day fantastic we will be giving 5
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Thanks again! ♡
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Scott & Katie Parker Dallas, TX



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World's Deepest Hot Spring

Do people soak in the summer?

After a hard day of skiing or snowboarding, nothing beats the feeling of slowly lowering the body into a tub full of hot water. The muscles relax, the eyes close, a sigh of relief escapes the lips, and especially when the air is really cold, a thick veil of steam rises off the water to block out the rest of the world. If it happens to be storming, you will need to dunk all the way under every so often to melt the snow from the top of your head. This is paradise!

But what about in the summertime?

A poorly kept local secret: soaking in the healing waters is just as nice, if not better, in the summer as it is in the winter.

Imagine getting up early, throwing on your hiking gear, filling a small backpack with a lunch and some water, grabbing your camera, and driving to downtown Pagosa Springs, where you turn from U.S. 160 onto Lewis Street and immediately onto 5th Street, which turns into County Road 400 and then into Forest Road 645. Seven miles north of town you take a right at the junction and 4 miles after

that you reach a trailhead.

After a 3-mile hike, you find the most amazing 300-foot waterfall. You eat lunch. You take pictures. You revel in the peace and solitude. You marvel at the glory and the beauty that is Colorado. Reluctantly, you repack all your stuff and head back to the car. As you drive back to town you start to notice a satisfying tightness in your leg muscles. Your shoulders start to ache where the straps of your backpack dug in.

What should you do?

The answer hits you and out comes the cell phone (of course, you pull over to the side of the road before you start dialing because driving while distracted is illegal in Colorado). You call up your significant other and say, "Hey! We should go soak."

With three bathing facilities in downtown Pagosa Springs offering either indoor or outdoor pools (or both), and temperatures varying between hot and very hot, soakers have more than enough choices of where to relax and stretch out those sore muscles.

SAN JUAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Three choices for relaxation

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

Overlook

Located on the main street of Pagosa Springs at 432 Pagosa St., the Overlook Hot Springs Spa offers soaking and massage services housed within old-world Victorian opulence. Offering indoor and outdoor pools, including a private tub room, massage and a steam room, the Overlook provides bathers an opportunity to soak while escaping the elements, or to take in the sights while soaking.

Those sights are best soaked in from the pools located on the building's roof, which give the Overlook its name and notoriety. With a panoramic view of historic downtown and beyond, the pools are a favorite with locals and visitors alike. There's also a sauna and geothermal tub.

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

Additionally, the Overlook features massage rooms, and changing rooms with shower stalls.

Healing Waters Resort & Spa

The Healing Waters Resort and Spa offers a large outdoor swimming pool as well as both indoor and outdoor tubs. The ambiance here is down home, Old West and friendly. Through long years of service, the hosts have learned to satisfy the needs of the most discriminating guest.

The Healing Waters Resort & Spa no longer offers clothing-optional bathing. They now require swimsuits in all their facilities.

The Springs Resort & Spa

Home of the world's deepest geothermal hot spring, the Springs Resort and Spa offers 23 naturally therapeutic soaking pools and a mineral water swimming pool that are terraced along the banks of the San Juan River.

Ranging in temperature from 84-114 degrees, the natural mineral waters from the mother spring feeds all 23 pools and are known for their natural healing properties. The public bath house is open at 7 a.m., 365 days a year and offers a convenient locker room with optional towel and locker rental.

History and myth

After visitors to the area comment on the friendliness and laid-back demeanor of Pagosans, the next observation they offer is that the locals seem so healthy and vibrant. If you surmised that the reason for that vitality and mellow groove is due to the healing powers of our spring, give yourself a soak; you've arrived at the best answer that we have.

In fact, it's a story that has deep roots in the area's legends. Local spin has it that the Ute phrase "Pagosa" describes the mystical qualities of the legendary Great Pagosa Hot Spring, repeating the apocryphal tale that the phrase translates as "Healing Waters." Historian John Motter writes, "According to the dictionary prepared under the auspices of and with the help of Southern Utes in Ignacio, 'pagosa' comes from two Ute words



THE OVERLOOK
MINERAL SPRINGS SPA



HEALING WATERS RESORT AND SPA



THE SPRINGS RESORT

meaning 'stinking water.'" However, locals almost unanimously prefer the following myth to this likely truth.

According to legend, earlier Native American visitors were certain the Great Spirit had endowed the geothermally heated waters with superhuman virtues, and they came to Pagosa Springs to not just soothe sore bodies, but to replenish their souls. The hot springs, it is told, arose after a plague began devastating the tribes. With the disease confounding the potions and power of tribal medicine men, the people gathered on the banks of the San Juan River to offer a plea to the gods. There, they built a huge fire around which they prayed and danced, eventually falling asleep with complete exhaustion. They awoke the next morning to a pool of boiling water bubbling from beneath the coals of the ceremonial fire. Seeing this as a sign from the gods, the afflicted bathed in the soothing water and were, at once, cured. From then on, the great spring became known as "Pag-Osah," a place of peace and healing.

Needless to say, reverence for the "healing waters" has not abated with the passage of time; in recent years, The Great Pagosa Hot Spring has attracted more visitors than ever before. And while Motter's account of the spring's history is probably closer to the truth, a growing number of visitors come to Pagosa Springs for the same reasons that color the myth.

Science and trivia

Geothermal water has been used to heat a number of businesses and residences in the downtown core (as well as the obvious application for soaking).

Putting aside legends and myth, the "healing waters" that emerge from the Earth's surface in Pagosa Springs are the product of geological processes, hundreds of millions of years in the making, that put the area in a unique (and many say, "blessed") situation.

The process essentially begins as water percolates through the Earth's surface in its endless cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. Eventually, water descends through super-heated rock and magma, gaining a three- to five-degree increase for every 300 feet of depth. Under pressure, the heated water begins to rise, following cracks and fissures in the rock, eventually making its way to the surface. On the way, it picks up a host of minerals, such as sulfur, silica, calcium, potassium, etc., and, if the water retains heat, emerges in the form of hot springs.

While the research has yet to determine the exact size and characteristic of the hot spring, measurements put the Great Pagosa into the pages of the Guinness Book of World Records as the deepest hot spring in the world.

In August 2011, when a 1,002-foot long plumb line was dropped into the "mother spring," it didn't hit the bottom; instead, the plumb line ran out. So, while the official measurement is now 1,002 feet, the true depth remains unknown. In fact, a previous attempt at measurement using a 2,500-foot plumb line culminated in results similar to those from Guinness: before the plumb line reached the bottom of the spring, the line ran out.

The Zen of here and now

While, for the time being, the mystery of the aquifer's ultimate depth remains unsolved, it is the mystery of our water's ability to soothe, heal and relax even the most harried soul that appears to take center stage. Indeed, it is the mythopoeia, the unknown, that is half the fun.

And what is known — that the birth of The Great Pagosa Hot Spring begins well above our heads, forms well beneath our feet, and then realizes itself to the benefit of tired muscles and spent spirits — seems hardly worth a thought. Especially when, after it all comes together, a simple sigh is all that needs to be said.



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RANDI PIERCE

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

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

Staffed with a team of amazing volunteers waiting to assist you in planning your visit, the Visitor Center is open daily. During the summer, the Visitor Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition, there are multiple brochures outside of the Visitor Center for information after hours.

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

If you'd like in on the fun, the Visitor Center will again offer a scavenger hunt for decorated bikes located throughout town.

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

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

During hunting seasons, hikers can pick up a loaner blaze-orange vest at the Visitor Center to help keep you safe while exploring Pagosa Country's many trails.

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

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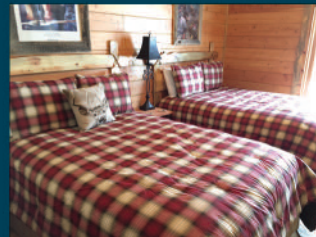
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Flavor of Pagosa





Keeping it local

Locally sourcing ingredients for Pagosa's beer scene

In today's society, locally-sourced ingredients are becoming increasingly paramount when it comes to food and drink. Pagosa Spring's two local breweries are no exception.

At Riff Raff Brewing Company (RRBC), bits of blue spruce fir trees are harvested in the San Juan National Forest and utilized in their "Spruce Juice Ale."

Pagosa Brewing Company (PBC) has been growing its own hops since it opened in 2006.

Additionally, both brewing companies locally buy hops, wheat and barley to be utilized in their brews.

"We've always loved brewing colonial-style ales — using old ingredients that aren't so popular anymore. That's what we started doing at Riff Raff," explained Randy Schnose, co-founder of RRBC and owner of Spruce on Tap, a company that supplies wild-harvested spruce and other exotic ingredients to local homebrewers. "Spruce Juice was our first one, and then we started doing other things. We did a Juniper Sage beer at Riff Raff that was all locally harvested."

Schnose added that RRBC also locally sources its hops from places like Pine River Hops in Bayfield. By locally sourcing its hops, RRBC can get lab analytics on the hops' International Bitterness Unit, or IBU.

"We use barley that's grown in the San Luis Valley by Colorado Malting Company," Schnose said. "We can't use all of those ingredients locally. We supplement local hops when they're available, but they're not always available."

Schnose outlined how RRBC and Spruce on Tap acquires its spruce tips for brewing.

"We work very closely with the Forest Service to determine where we harvest, how we harvest," Schnose explained. "We have what we call our harvesting ethics. The Forest Service says that you're never supposed to harvest more than one-third of a tree ... but we don't even come close to that. We go out in late June into July, and we'll pick a few new growths off a tree."

He explained that, upon harvesting, all the spruce needles need to be bagged and frozen until they're used in the brewing process, which takes up an incredible amount of freezer space.

"We brew seven barrels at a time at Riff Raff, and that needs about 14 pounds of spruce tips. When you consider that one spruce tip weighs .1 of an ounce, that's a lot of spruce tips," Schnose said. "It takes a lot of work."

He added that RRBC typically brews Spruce Juice once a year, and that it's usually available in the fall.

PBC, on the other hand, grows its own hops to be utilized in its beers. PBC owner Tony Simmons explained that hops don't grow well inside due to having long tap roots and due to how much water they require.

"They grow pretty well here," he wrote. "In fact, some grow wild up the Piedra Canyon."

He added that PBC has been growing hops since its opening in 2006, but that it took two seasons for the hops to flower.



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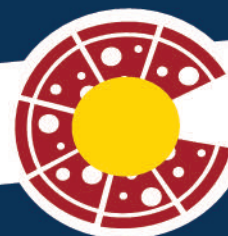
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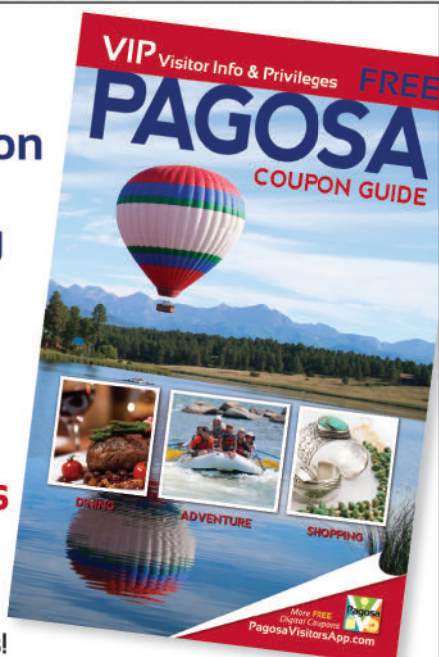
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Weddings, Reunions & More

From a simple, backyard affair to a lavish party for hundreds, Pagosa Springs and the surrounding area might be just what you're looking for to make your wedding or reunion something special.

Pagosa Country is a wonderful background for special events — with the majestic Pagosa Peak, sparkling mountain lakes, bubbling brooks, aspen stands, clear blue skies, colorful and dramatic sunsets and more. Or, if you're more of the indoor type, a number of venues can be rented for special events and decorated to fit your style.

In addition to Mother Nature providing her decorating expertise free of charge for your event (bringing the outdoors inside is trendy right now, while being eco-friendly, rustic and natural have been in for years, as have outdoor weddings), Pagosa Springs offers the amenities to help put together all the details for your picture-perfect wedding, reunion, conference or other special event.

Another top wedding trend is craft beer, and Pagosa is home to a variety of award-winning brews. Too, photographers, florists, caterers and jewelers, all complete with Pagosa flair, are at the ready, while hotels, cabins, lodges, and bed and breakfasts offer a variety of unique lodging options for every budget and desire. Area rental businesses can help outfit your events for sound and seating.

Marriage licenses can be obtained downtown at the Archuleta County Courthouse, located at 449 San Juan St. (on the main street in downtown Pagosa Springs), between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Licenses can be secured for \$30 cash. Both the bride and groom are required to be present with photo ID to sign the document, which will be issued immediately and is valid for 30 days. No blood test is required in Colorado. Additional requirements exist if either or both parties are divorced.

Beyond weddings, Pagosa Country can be the perfect host for family reunions and other special events. More than just being chock-full of photo-worthy views, Pagosa Country provides experiences.

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CHRIS MANNARA

Finders keepers

How Upscale Resale changes the resale scene in Pagosa

Resale stores can be a source of excitement and joy for their patrons as one never quite knows what you will discover within their confines.

Upscale Resale owner Kelly Laner described in an interview that she is actually the second owner of the store. Garnering inspiration from a consignment store in Grand Junction, Laner, after moving back to Pagosa Springs from Grand Junction, approached the owner of Upscale Resale at the time to team up.

"We sort of teamed up and 14 years later here we are," Laner said.

The difference between Upscale Resale and thrift stores is that Upscale Resale only takes "like new" items, Laner explained. "We really are very particular about what we take and we make that clear to the public."

These "like new" items are offered to the public at one-third of the retail price, or less, Laner said. She noted that she wanted to open the store here because she felt like there was a real need in Pagosa Springs for this type of business.

At the time, there were no stores such as Walmart in Pagosa Springs, so families were having to travel to Durango and Farmington in order to buy affordable clothing, Laner explained.

"As far as my experience has been, I think it's wonderful. Every day is something new," Laner said.

Not every family can afford to buy a ski jacket downtown, or find

cleats for their kids sports activities, so Upscale Resale has really helped bridge the gap, Laner explained.

The local community of Pagosa Springs really keeps Upscale Resale thriving throughout the year, Laner explained.

"Just having a great, local, support, you know? Our local customers are really who we rely on and they just keep coming back year after year and we're super thankful for that," Laner added.

In order to grow the business, accepting more consigners is a goal, which will offer more products to the public, Laner explained.

"I would love to have a bigger building or a bigger space," Laner said. However, Upscale Resale is at a great size for Pagosa, she explained.

"I think we're just in a good groove, you know, we grow and learn every year something new," Laner said.

The ability to interact with the local population was noted by Laner as her favorite part of owning Upscale Resale.

"We have met some amazing people and are fortunate to get to visit with them and get to know them throughout this process," Laner said.

With all the changes that the Pagosa Springs community has gone through in 14 years, Laner praised Pagosa Springs' local population, referring to it as "the anchor of this town."

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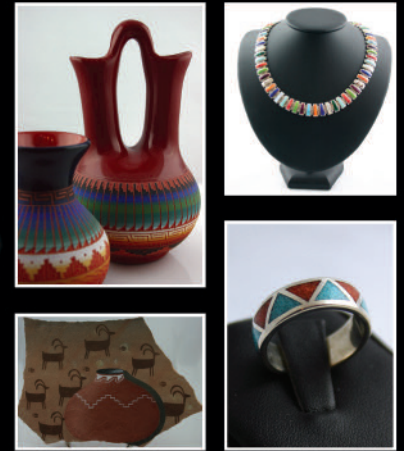
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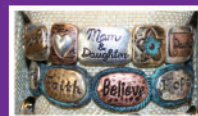
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# Play Outside





# Year of the Bird

AUDUBON ROCKIES AND THE WEMINUCHE AUDUBON SOCIETY

## #BirdYourWorld in 2018

2018 is officially the Year of the Bird.

It has been dubbed such by the National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and is being celebrated across the globe, Pagosa Country included.

"In 2018, we mark the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces to celebrate the 'Year of the Bird' and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years," National Geographic's website on the celebration states.

The intention, above all else, is to bring awareness to bird populations and their diversity, protecting them from modern-day threats and honoring the role that they play as indicators of environmental health.

"Bird populations are at risk from human development," explained Keith Bruno of Audubon Rockies and the Weminuche Audubon Society (WAS). "Further, birds are an unparalleled early barometer for environmental health. The more that we can collectively observe, document, and understand their behavior in and around our communities, the more that we can provide protections for birds in the future and ensure healthy environments for our communities, too. Get involved!"

So, how can you #BirdYourWorld while in Pagosa Country?

According to Bruno, "Here in Pagosa Springs, we are fortunate enough to have a rather diverse array of birds for an interior Rockies community. A combination of our geography and the unique feature of our hot springs downtown, lends itself to what's considered an influx of bird species, creating a 'hot spot' for birds and birders alike."

For a start, Bruno suggests hitting Pagosa's downtown trails.

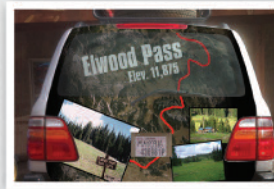
"If you have an opportunity, take a walk down the San Juan River Trail," he suggests. "Look and listen for American dippers flying low along the water's surface, stopping to do 'push-ups' on rocks and then diving completely into the water to feed on aquatic macroinvertebrates. Or post up near the wetland ponds just downslope from the Community Center and watch for American coots (black body/white bill/red eye) or Sora stalking through the cattails. Also keep an eye out for both common mergansers fishing along eddy lines in the many rapids of the San Juan River town stretch. The chorus of red-winged blackbirds can almost be deafening in summer and several species of warblers can be seen passing through willow stands along the San Juan River in summer."

If you're curious as to just what other kinds of bird you're looking at or might be able to find, check out a local field guide from the library or download the Audubon Bird Guide: North America in your device's app store.

If you'd like to do a little more to #BirdYourWorld while you're in the area, check out WAS, the local Audubon chapter, at [weminchedaudubon.org](http://weminchedaudubon.org) or on Facebook for events and birding trips. Check out [rockies.audubon.org](http://rockies.audubon.org) or the Audubon Rockies Facebook page for more information on how to organize field trips for students, adults or families in southwest Colorado or to see what kind of summer educational camp opportunities are available. Too, check The Pagosa Springs SUN and The PREVIEW for announcements of upcoming events, such as birding hikes, meetings, citizen science opportunities and more.

If you're already a birder and want to get involved in the Year of the Bird Audubon Rockies birding contest, check out the following link for sign-up instructions and prizes: <http://rockies.audubon.org/programs/2018-rockies-year-bird-contest>.

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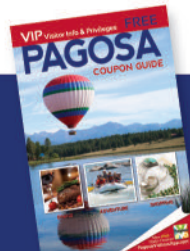
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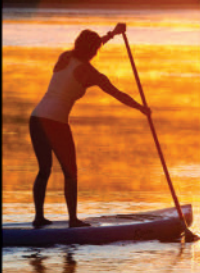
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# World-Class Waters

Fishing for sport or as a leisure activity can be learned and practiced by just about anyone. Whether you like to just sit back with a line in the water and have a nice picnic lunch or more actively pursue fly fishing, wading into the water and practicing different casting techniques, fishing is the perfect activity to help wash the worries of the day away.

For some, fishing is a way to pass time alone or with friends; for others, it's a sport. Whatever type of fishing you enjoy, Pagosa Country has what you're looking for — from pristine mountain rivers best for fly fishing to lakes and reservoirs perfect for sitting along the shore or fishing from a boat, Pagosa Country has it all.

Warm, lower-elevation waters in the area at Echo Canyon Reservoir and at Navajo Reservoir hold numerous species, including catfish, bass, perch and pan fish, while higher cold-water lakes, creeks and ponds teem with Kokanee salmon and numerous species of trout.

There are several waters in or near town easily accessible to fishermen, but many other fishing spots lie deep in the extensive wilderness and backcountry surrounding Pagosa. Though access requires greater effort, remote locations to the north, northwest and east of town afford those willing to travel by foot or horseback true tranquility, seclusion and excellent fishing.

Listed below are some of the more popular fishing sites in and near town.

Anglers should note that a Colorado fishing license is required when fishing in any of these areas, including designated wilderness areas. Licenses, flies, lures, bait and spinning tackle are available at area sporting goods stores, supermarkets and hardware stores. One-day, five-day and annual licenses are available. One-day licenses are \$9 for both residents and non-residents with a \$5 charge for additional days. Five-day licenses cost \$21 and annual licenses cost \$56 for nonresidents. Annual licenses are \$26 for residents aged 16-63, \$1 for residents over 64 and free for residents under 16 years of age. Annual licenses go on sale April 1, 2018, and are valid through March 31, 2019.

Local fly shops offer equipment, flies, sport fishing clothing and guide services, and most retailers will readily provide directions and up-to-date information about numerous fishing destinations.

When choosing bait, keep in mind that state regulations prohibit the use of live bait anywhere in the region except for at Navajo Lake. For more information and special, water specific regulations, please reference area fishing rules and regulations. Make sure to pick up a Colorado fishing brochure or visit the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) website to view fishing regulations and restrictions on waters where you're planning to fish — anglers are responsible for knowing the regulations. You can also purchase a fishing license online.

Fishing in the San Juan River in the heart of Pagosa Springs can be as good as it gets. Years ago, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (now Colorado Parks and Wildlife) used a Fishing is Fun grant to reconstruct fish habitat and holding waters in sections of the river on both sides of the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge. These structures are located downstream from the town's whitewater play park. They are made from large rocks and have numerous shapes. Their purpose is to create calm pools for fish. Anglers should not attempt to fish in the whitewater park area because those structures churn the water too much for fish to be present. Additional work has further enhanced the fishery near the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge and in areas west toward 6th Street.

The Pagosa Quality Fishing Project also began receiving annual contributions from local merchants to purchase hundreds of large, catchable rainbow and brown trout for placement in the river. As a result, anglers of all ages catch fish weighing up to 10 pounds each summer — right in downtown Pagosa Springs.

The Town of Pagosa Springs also stocks ponds located just off the river near the east end of town. A ramp to one of the ponds allows easy access to disabled anglers, and a gazebo beckons to those who packed picnic lunches. Youngsters particularly enjoy fishing the town ponds. Bag and possession limit for in-town fishing is two fish per angler.

## Cast Your Line

### East Fork of the San Juan

The lower stretch of the East Fork offers good fishing for rainbow and brown trout, while its pristine upper reaches are more akin to brook trout and native cutthroat trout.

The East Fork Road turnoff is approximately 10 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. This well-traveled gravel road parallels the river for several miles, a portion of which passes through posted private property.

### West Fork of the San Juan

In addition to good rainbow and cutthroat trout fishing, the West Fork offers quality camping in a nearby campground. A left turn from U.S. 160 on to FS road 648 about 13.5 miles east of Pagosa Springs affords easy access to West Fork waters via public and private lands. The best fishing is in the forest beyond the trailhead at the end of the road.

### Echo Canyon Reservoir

Echo Canyon Reservoir and State Wildlife Area is a cool-water fishery located approximately four miles south of U.S. 160 on U.S. 84. It contains rainbow trout, largemouth bass, yellow perch, green sunfish and channel catfish.

Trout are best caught with lures, flies or natural bait, while bass are taken with top-surface lures, crank-baits, pork frogs or rubber worms. Perch and sunfish are most easily taken with worms or a fly and catfish seem to prefer cut baits such as suckers or commercial stink baits. There is good early fishing at the reservoir from mid April to mid June. During this time, bank fishing is adequate, but thickening of aquatic vegetation later in the season makes a canoe, float-tube or a small boat and trolling motor useful. Remember, live bait is not allowed in Colorado on any water west of the Continental Divide.

### Lake Capote Recreation Area

Lake Capote Recreation Area is owned

and operated by the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. Properly permitted anglers can catch stocked rainbow trout, largemouth bass and channel catfish in the shadow of Chimney Rock. No state fishing license is required, but anglers must obtain a valid license from the Southern Ute Tribe. The 45-acre lake is open to daytime bank fishers, nonmotorized boaters and belly-boaters using bait, spinning tackle or flies.

To get to Lake Capote, travel approximately 17 miles west of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. The well-marked entrance is on the left.

### Navajo Reservoir

Navajo Reservoir and Navajo State Park are Colorado's version of Lake Powell. The park offers a full-service marina with visitor center and conference room, rental cabins, ample tent and RV camping, picnicking areas and nature trails in addition to great fishing.

Large catfish, trout, bass, pike,



# Fishing

MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

crappie, perch and Kokanee salmon inhabit this 15,000 surface-acre lake. About a third of Navajo Reservoir is located in Colorado, while two-thirds lie in New Mexico. Anglers wishing to fish both in Colorado and New Mexico waters must have both valid Colorado and New Mexico fishing licenses.

Anglers can use live bait at Navajo, but only live bait purchased from an authorized vendor at the reservoir. Anglers cannot bring their own live bait. Live minnows may be used as bait in both Colorado and New Mexico waters within Navajo State Park.

To access the park from Pagosa Springs, travel approximately 17 miles west on U.S. 160, then turn south on Colo. 151. Drive another 18 miles to Arboles, then turn left onto County Road 982 and proceed another two miles to the park.

### Williams Creek Reservoir

This 508-acre mountain lake affords fine fishing for rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, brook trout and kokanee salmon. Surrounded by lush forest and towering peaks, anglers will find that all standard forms of fishing prove productive at Williams Creek, though salmon are best taken with artificial lures and worms. In the morning and evening hours, bank fishing, a float tube or canoe provides sufficient access to surface-feeding fish. A sturdy motorboat will provide superior safety and access to fish during breezy afternoons. Keep in mind that whitewater wakes are not allowed.

Four Forest Service campgrounds are in the vicinity of Williams Creek Reservoir. To access the reservoir, drive 2 miles west from downtown Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160, then turn north onto Piedra Road. Continue north for approximately 24 miles following signs to Williams Creek.

### Wilderness

Some of the finest fishing in Pagosa Country is found in remote waters in designated wilderness areas. At higher elevations, the chance of anglers finding native cutthroat trout in streams and lakes protected by special regulations increases. In these pristine areas, solitude is the rule.

As in all federal wilderness areas, mechanized travel is prohibited in the Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan wilderness areas — anglers must travel by foot or horseback only. Bicycles and carts are not allowed. Because travel distances can be great in these areas, visitors should be in shape, acclimated to the higher altitudes of the area, and plan well for treks into the backcountry.

Weather is unpredictable and high-country travelers should pack accordingly. Layered clothing, relevant forest and topographic maps, a compass or GPS, adequate shelter, food, water, matches and a headlamp or flashlight are essential. Anglers should also inform a responsible party about where they intend to fish and when they plan to return.

Up-to-date information about back-country fishing is available from the Pagosa Ranger District office located at 180 Pagosa St. You can call the office at (970) 264-2268.

## How to release a fish:

Any fish you plan to release must be returned to the water immediately.

A fish played for too long will be too exhausted to recover.

Keep fish in the water as much as possible.

Remove the hook as quickly as possible. Single barbless hooks can often be removed while the fish is still in the water.

Gentle handling is essential. Avoid squeezing or placing your fingers in the gills or eye sockets. It's best to hold a fish gently by its belly or by the area in front of the tail.

To revive an unconscious fish. Hold it upright in the water. Move the fish forward and backward so that water runs through the gills. This may take a few minutes.

When it begins to struggle, release it.

When photographing a fish. Hold it horizontally and do not squeeze the fish. Do not put your hands in its gills or hold it vertical by its gills.



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# San Juan River Quality Fishing Project

## Game Fish 2 Fish Limit



**Cutthroat Trout**

Crimson slash on either side of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail



**Brown Trout**

Spotting pattern is made up of black spots and red-orange spots inside light blue circles



**Brook Trout**

Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins often orange, edged with black and white; body is dark with white and red spots inside blue circles



**Rainbow Trout**

Black spots on a light body and red stripe along sides

We hope you enjoy your time in Pagosa Springs and we want to make your fishing experience as wonderful as possible. In order to maximize the quality of fishing in Pagosa, the town merchants, along with support from local government, have joined together to plant trophy size trout in the river each summer.

Ideally, we'd like for everyone to enjoy hooking into a playful rainbow or a large brown and, because of that, we're asking that careful catch and release is practiced.

If you do keep fish, please stay at or under the daily two-fish limit, so that we can keep more fish in the river for everyone to catch. Also note the wild, native fish to the Western Slope and release these immediately, as they are protected species and taking them from the water is illegal in Colorado.

Please enjoy our wonderful river. Happy fishing!

## Native Western Slope Fish Release Immediately



**Colorado Pikeminnow**

Adults may be green-gray to bronze on backs and silver to white along sides and bottoms



**Razor Back Sucker**

Bronze to yellow fish with a sharp-edge keel behind the head



**Humpback Chub**

Green to silver and white with an abrupt hump behind the head



**Bonytail Chub**

Slight hump and a long, narrow tail

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# River Sports

Feeling lazy on a summer day? Grab a tube and take a float down the San Juan River.

Bored and can't take the heat? Grab a kayak and test your skill set on the rapids in and around town.

Group of friends ready for an adventure? Hop in a raft and let the river be your guide.

Pagosa Country is a popular destination for rafters, kayakers and tubers. With waters both inviting for beginners and challenging to experts, area rivers including the San Juan, Piedra and Animas provide something for everyone.

Flowing through the heart of downtown Pagosa Springs, the San Juan River is perfect for those new to river sports and those who enjoy a gentle float. Offering superb views of

the town and, farther downstream, spectacular shale cliffs, rafting or kayaking trips down the San Juan begin as early as March and continue as the season peaks in May or June.

By mid-summer, river flows dramatically taper off and, while rafts and kayaks largely disappear from the river, activity continues as tubers take to the waters. Beating the summer heat in the cool, refreshing waters of the San Juan, tubers can bring their own tubes or rent them from local businesses. Tubers can enjoy surfing several river features in town or just relish a relaxed float down the lazy river. During this time of year, people wade in the cool waters and gather on the banks of the river in this superb recreational corridor running from one end of

town to the other. Even when flows are at a minimum and river speeds drop to a gentle flow, young children should always enter the river with a life vest and never without direct adult supervision.

More experienced boaters can test their skills about 23 miles west of Pagosa on the Piedra River. During a brief 6-8 week season (from May through June), waters rush over class III to IV rapids through a pair of breathtaking box canyons offering kayakers and rafters a challenging ride on nearly 20 miles of wild river and whitewater.

Further west, the upper Animas River has a reputation as one of the top five stretches of river for rafting thrills in North America. Boasting dramatic scenery and intensely long stretches of rapids, the upper Animas



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

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# Mountain Biking

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If the mountains surrounding the town weren't hint enough, be assured, there are plenty of places to go mountain biking in Pagosa Country. Many years ago, the Pagosa Springs area was heavily logged, resulting in a multitude of Forest Service roads and trails. Now, more than 80 years later, those trails mean virtually limitless opportunities for mountain bikers. With a wide variety of routes and terrain, Pagosa Springs is an ideal mountain biking destination for riders of all skill levels. Be forewarned, however, that most area rides begin above 7,000 feet. Therefore, flatlanders should factor in time to acclimate before setting out on longer and more demanding rides.

## When mountain biking, please observe a few precautions:

1. Wear a helmet.
2. Mountain weather changes rapidly — wear or bring clothing for capricious weather conditions.
3. Bring plenty of water.
4. Carry bike repair tools, including a spare tire, tire pump and tube patch kit.
5. Ride in control and with a friend.
6. Always tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
7. A few of the trails are hours away from outside help — plan accordingly.
8. Plan to return to your car before dark.
9. Remember to stay off private land and out of wilderness areas.
10. Wear blaze orange in the fall during hunting season.
11. Yield to horses. They are easily spooked.

Please pay heed to the following rules of the trail:

1. Ride on open trails only. Avoid trails when muddy and wet to prevent damage.
2. Leave no trace. Pick up trash.
3. Control your bicycle. Uphill traffic has the right of way.
4. Always yield to hikers.
5. Never spook animals.

6. Plan ahead: consider elevation, weather, location, length and difficulty of ride. For more trails information, visit [www.wolfcreekwheelclub.com](http://www.wolfcreekwheelclub.com), [www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/sanjuan/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/sanjuan/recreation), [www.mtbproject.com](http://www.mtbproject.com), [www.pagosatrails.org](http://www.pagosatrails.org), [www.singletracks.com](http://www.singletracks.com) and [www.dustx2.com](http://www.dustx2.com).

Changes can occur on roads and terrain during the winter and early spring. For this reason, bikers need to be alert to their surrounding area at all times and, of course, carry the appropriate maps.

## Rideable trails in the Town of Pagosa Springs

### Reservoir Hill Mountain Park

Difficulty: Beginner to advanced  
Mileage: 1.4 to 4 miles  
Route: Out and back or loop  
Trails: Dirt, single and double track  
Elevation range: 7,280 to 8,000 feet  
It is extremely lucky to have this little loop in the center of town. Though quite challenging and secluded, the trail is easily accessible, and can be connected to the Dakota Springs High School Trail with a short ride on the San Juan River Trail or Hot Springs Boulevard. Future phases of the DUST2 Urban Single Track Trail Initiative will continue to enhance the Reservoir Hill trail system.  
Getting There: Two trailheads access

Reservoir Hill: Spa (above the Healing Waters Resort and Spa on Hot Springs Boulevard) and San Juan (behind the San Juan Motel, on U.S. 160). Both trailheads have maps.

### Dakota Springs High School Trail

Difficulty: Beginner to advanced  
Mileage: 2-mile loop, can be connected with Riverwalk path and Reservoir Hill  
Route: Out and back, or loop  
Trails: Dirt, single track  
Elevation range: 7,280 to 8,000 feet  
The best starting point for this urban single track is the connector trail off South 5th Street in Yamaguchi Park. Take the connector trail next to the baseball field and then follow this amazing multi-loop

trail counterclockwise as it winds behind the high school with two interconnecting trails.

You can now easily connect your Dakota Springs ride with the Reservoir Hill trail system by taking Hot Springs Boulevard, or the San Juan River Trail to the Reservoir Hill Trailhead.

### DUST2 Connector Route

Difficulty: Beginner  
Mileage: 0.4 miles  
Route: Connector trail  
Trail: Dirt, single track  
Elevation: 7,000 feet  
This single track connector trail connects Dakota Springs High School Trail to Yamaguchi Park.

## Rideable trails near town

### Cloman Park

Difficulty: Beginner and intermediate  
Mileage: 2.2 miles  
Route: Loop  
Trails: Dirt, single track  
Elevation: 7,300 feet  
Cloman Park is an Archuleta County park with a 2.2 mile, multi-use, single track figure-8 winding through ponderosa pines. The lower part of the single track loop is good for beginner riders while the upper section is intermediate.

Getting there: Drive 1.3 miles north on Piedra Road from U.S. 160. Turn right (east entrance to Steven's Field airport) on Cloman Boulevard for 1.4 miles. Stay left at the fork in the road which then dead ends at the large parking lot.

### Turkey Springs Trail Network

Difficulty: Beginner to intermediate  
Mileage: 30-plus miles  
Route: Out and back or loop  
Trail: Dirt, single track, double track  
Elevation: 7,000-7,500 feet

This is a great cross-country trail system with 30-plus miles of intertwining beginner and intermediate multi-use trails nestled within a forest. While well marked, it is easy to become turned around or end up on the ATV trails. Stop at each intersection and consult a map.

Getting there: The Turkey Springs trailhead is 5.3 miles north on Piedra Road from the intersection of Piedra Road and U.S. 160. The parking lot is on the left, immediately after the cattle guard.

## Mountain trails

### Continental Divide Trail (CDT)

Difficulty: Intermediate to advanced  
Mileage: 15-plus miles  
Route: Out and back or loop  
Trail: Dirt, single track  
Description: The CDT is truly an "epic" Colorado trail. One of the area's most beautiful mountain biking venues, the CDT trail has it all.  
Getting there: From the large parking area at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, pedal

through the meadow on an obvious trail and cross a creek on a wooden bridge. Turn left after crossing the bridge — there's a social trail here that heads right and will lead you off track. From here, the trail climbs steadily through old-growth forest that's been heavily affected by pine beetles — a large percentage of the pines here are gray and dead. There are a few tight, steep switchbacks but almost everything is

easily rideable by an intermediate-to-advanced rider. Shortly after navigating some switchbacks in a scree field, the trail will contour around to a south aspect and you'll come to a "junction" with Treasure Mountain Trail No. 565. There is a USFS sign and a rock cairn, but the trail itself is basically nonexistent. Past this junction, the trail gains the ridge just west of and below Alberta Peak, at the top of Wolf Creek Ski Resort.

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## **Continental Divide Trail/Alberta Peak Loop**

Difficulty: Advanced

Mileage: 8.6 miles

Route: Loop

Trails: Single track, dirt road, pavement

Elevation: 10,800 to 12,000 feet

Maps: National Geographic Trails Illustrated Weminuche Wilderness (map No. 140)

Follow the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) south from Wolf Creek Pass as it circles behind the ski area and around the south face of Alberta Peak. This route has it all: smooth, technical, single-track, challenging ascents and descents, and "top of the world" riding as one emerges from the subalpine forest into the alpine meadows and talus slopes surrounding Alberta Peak. This is a memorable ride for experienced mountain bikers.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84, drive north on U.S. 160 for 22 miles to Wolf Creek Pass. Park in the large parking area on the south side of the highway. The ride starts behind the kiosk on the Continental Divide Trail.

0.0 — From the parking area, follow the CDT across the meadow, crossing a headwater tributary of Wolf Creek on a wooden bridge before entering the forest. Then you will begin a tough and somewhat technical climb. Stay left after crossing the bridge, ignoring hiker-created trails on your right.

0.4 — The trail switchbacks to the right (a trail on your left climbs to the ski area). Continue following the trail, which switchbacks and climbs, often steeply, up the ridge.

1.1 — Switchback up a technical, rocky outcrop leading to a view over a "rock garden" below and to the west. The trail merges into a short section of ski area service road and arrives at Bonanza Run lift tower.

1.7 — From the lift tower, head west 20 or 30 yards — here the trail continues into the forest along the top of the ridge, heading south then east. Emerge from the forest into subalpine meadows (look for a CDT trail post) at the edge of the ski area, mile 2.5.

2.5 — Climbing southeast, the trail tops out, then makes a gentle descent to a log drift fence at mile 3. Beyond the drift fence, the trail circumvents the south face of Alberta Peak. Here it is narrow with exposure to steep dropoffs. Drop down and around the peak, with a last steep descent to a ski patrol hut.

3.4 — From here, the trail continues eastward along the lip of the Knife Ridge and its north-facing ski chutes. The first 0.2 miles beyond the hut are technical and exposed, but soon the route eases and wanders over alpine meadows.

4.0 to 4.2 — The trail veers left through a meadow (the trail disappears briefly, look for CDT trail posts) and back into the forest.

4.3 — Begin a steep drop, passing under the Horseshoe Bowl.

4.4 — Continue your steep descent, passing a narrow saddle with easterly views at mile 4.8.

4.8 — You now enter a clear-cut area (heading northeast). Look carefully for a CDT trail post and grown-over double track coming into the trail at a sharp angle on your left.

5.2 — Take this double track down to a jeep road and go right. The road soon bends west and takes you through the ski area and the ski area parking lots leading to the highway.

7.4 — Route arrives at U.S. 160. Turn left onto the highway and return to your car at mile 8.6.

## **Treasure**

Difficulty: Advanced

Mileage: 8-plus miles

Route: Shuttle, out and back

Trail: Dirt, single track

A remote and solitary high country trail in the South San Juan Mountains off Wolf Creek Pass with a big descent. Truly a Colorado classic — not to be missed. From the lower trailhead, the trail climbs on moderate grades through scenic aspens and firs. Eventually, the trail intersects Windy Pass Trail.

Getting there: This ride is best done as a shuttle. Many street cars will be able to reach the lower trailhead off East Fork Road. There are some rocky arroyo crossings beyond about 37.402, -106.82 that will



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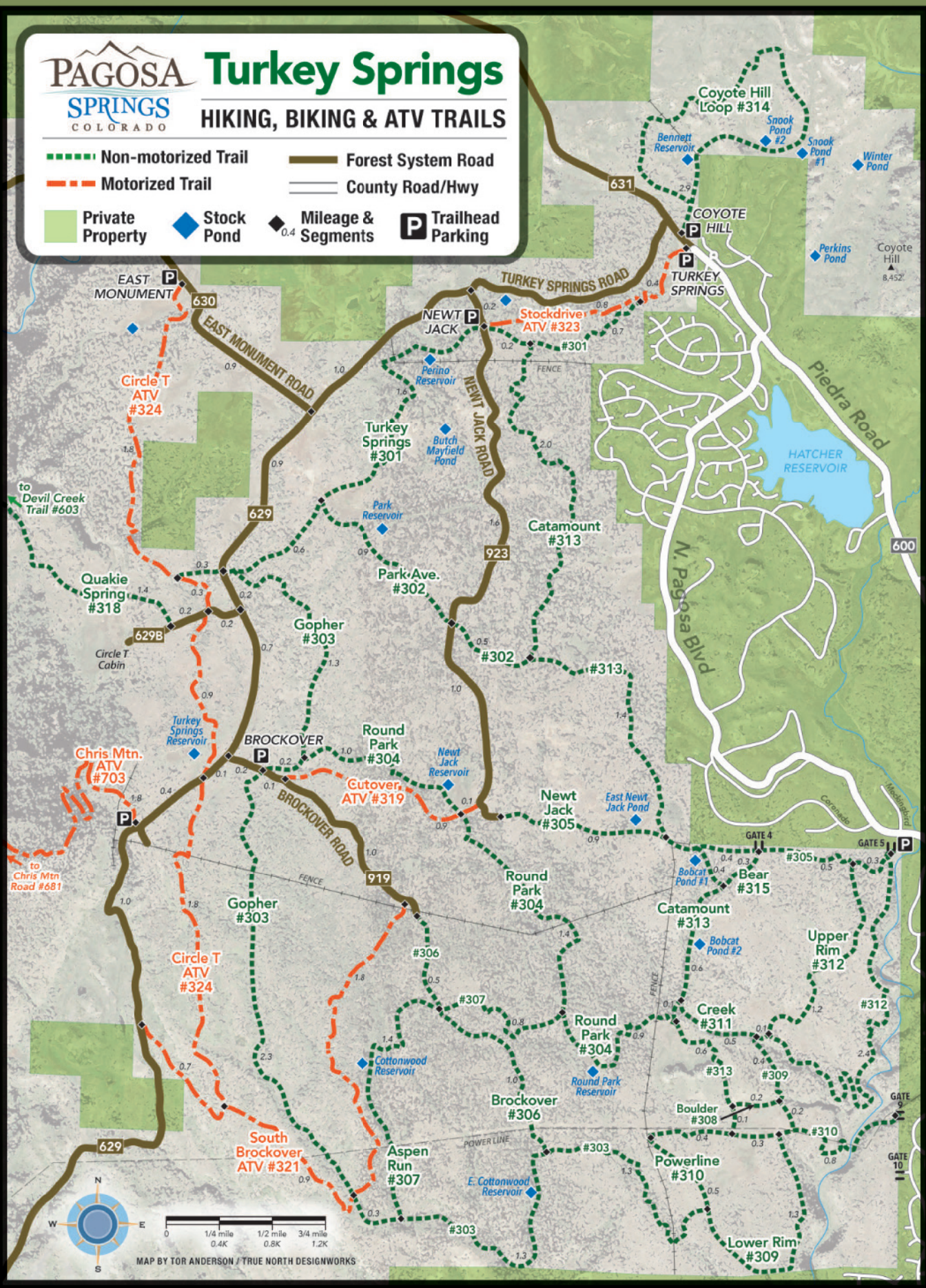
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# Turkey Springs

HIKING, BIKING & ATV TRAILS

- - - - - Non-motorized Trail
- - - - - Motorized Trail
- Forest System Road
- County Road/Hwy
- Private Property
- ◆ Stock Pond
- ◆ Mileage & Segments
- P Trailhead Parking



MAP BY TOR ANDERSON / TRUE NORTH DESIGNWORKS

stop low clearance cars and RVs. Look for parking or camping spots and ride on up the road to the trailhead.

If you plan to do this trail as a shuttle, from the top of Wolf Creek Pass, heed the warning above. You'll ride the Continental Divide Trail to the top of the ski area and look for a rock cairn and a USFS sign posted on a tree. These will be your only clues that there's a trail here because there's literally no signs of an actual path. Make your way down the grassy gully and head right when you reach the flat meadow below. Use of the MTB Project mobile app will be crucial to keeping you on track here. Head left into the trees and down the second pitch. The trail becomes much more apparent here, but it's still faint by most standards.

When you reach Wolf Creek Road FS 725, head left for about a mile with a little climb to the epic single track downhill section of the trail. Drop down the steep sidehill through the burn area.

After some great views and narrow sidehill, you'll come to another steep moonscape section. After a few creek crossings and sections of true downhill riding, you'll arrive to a big, open meadow that is the Windy Pass Trail intersection. The rest of the trail has more flow and speed as it sweeps through aspen groves and meadows. Once you arrive at a cattle gate, the ride shreds down a sidehill through oak brush and open slopes until you reach the bottom.

The ride can be done as an out-and-back from the East Fork with many hike-a-bike sections after the Windy Pass Trail intersection. It's better done as a shuttle from the Continental Divide Trail at the top of Wolf Creek Pass or riding up Wolf Creek Road FS 725 to avoid the top steep section. Most people leave a car at the large parking area at the start of the East Fork Road 667.

### **Do-right Trail**

Difficulty: Advanced

Mileage: 4 miles of single track using a shuttle, 12 miles riding loop

Route: Shuttle or loop one way

Trail: Dirt, single track, gravel roads

Note: Motorcycles are permitted June 15 to Aug. 31 on single track

This is described as a loop ride, but the gravel road sections can be replaced by shuttling with two vehicles. You will climb from 7,500 feet to 9,100 feet and then descend back down to 7,500. Don't go alone.

Advanced riders should find the entire loop rideable.

Getting there: Drive west from Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 toward Durango for about 22 miles. Turn right onto First Fork Road (FS 622), this is on the east side of the Piedra River. Take First Fork Road north for approximately 7 miles to the Sheep Creek Trailhead and parking. From the trailhead, do not ride the Sheep Creek Trail. Head east on Monument Road (FS 630) directly across from the trailhead for approximately 7 miles. This is a 1,600 foot elevation climb on a gravel road through Aspen trees with big vistas of the Piedra Valley. Once you get to the turnaround at the end of Monument Road, take an immediate left to the west through the steel single track barrier. You are now on the Do-right trail. This is a 4-mile, 1,500 foot descent back to First Fork Road. Once you reach the end of the single track, you are at First Fork Road. Take a left and head south for approximately 1 mile back to the Sheep Creek Trailhead.

### **Eightmile Mesa**

Difficulty: Intermediate; long mileage with one steep 4-mile hill

Mileage: 14.4 miles

Route: Out and back

Trails: Graded and primitive roads

Elevation: 7,200 to 8,040 feet

Eightmile Mesa provides an interesting contrast to other rides surrounding Pagosa Springs. After a steep and relentless 2-mile climb, you reach the top of the mesa, then your route becomes a pleasant, rolling journey through pine/oak woodlands interspersed with grassy meadows.

Getting there: From the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 at the east end of town, drive 5 miles south on U.S. 84 to Eightmile Mesa Road, identified by a brown Forest Service sign on the right. After traveling up Eightmile Mesa Road a little over a mile and passing the entrance to the Loma Linda subdivision, you will reach the Forest Service gate. Park here.

# Work Less Play More



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0.0 — Starting at the parking area, and after making two short climbs, you reach an open meadow area at 0.9 miles.

1.1 — The road, FS 651, bends westward and begins a steady climb.

2.0 — A final steep climb begins at the 2-mile mark.

2.3 — The climb tapers off and the route rolls along the top of the mesa, passing through oak, pine and grassy meadows.

3.7 — The FS 651 forks, giving riders a variety of options.

Option 1: The fork to your right leads to the Eightmile Mesa lookout tower in 0.6 miles. This tower, positioned directly above the Eightmile Mesa “clamshell” affords spectacular views of Pagosa Springs and the surrounding mesa, as well as the San Juan Mountains. The tower also provides a convenient turnaround point.

Option 2: Continue straight ahead at the fork to stay on FS 651, the main route, which turns into a primitive unmaintained road. At mile 3.8, FS 651B forks to your left. This double-track road rolls gently through wildflower meadows and woodlands for 1 mile to an overlook of the Blanco River Basin and the San Juan Mountains to the east.

Option 3: Continue past the fork on the main road to mile 5.1, where FS 651C junctions to your left. Follow FS 651C southward for 2.3 miles, passing an old, abandoned sawmill site on the way.

Option 4: Stay on the FS 651, which is deeply tracked or sandy in places, but otherwise smooth. Passing one more side road (FS 651D) on your way, pass through large open meadows at mile 5.9. Wildflowers abound in late spring and early summer. The route ends at mile 7.2, overlooking the Blanco and San Juan river basins.

### **Snowball Road (CR 200) and Jackson Mountain Loop (FS 37)**

Difficulty: Beginning skills with intermediate fitness level, two river crossings

Mileage: 22 miles

Route: Loop

Trails: Graveled county road, dirt road, double track dirt trail, highway with good shoulders

Elevation: 7,200 to 8,200 feet

Taking the entire loop from town is a great workout, however, if you shuttle, the ride can be divided up so one skips the highway or county road portion. There are about three gates on this ride. Remember to leave them either open or closed as you found them. This ride has two river crossings. Obviously, take precautions in the spring or early summer when the water level is up.

Getting there: The loop starts and ends in downtown Pagosa Springs.

0.0 — Starting from the Hot Springs Boulevard bridge in downtown Pagosa Springs, ride east on Pagosa Street (U.S. 160) toward Wolf Creek Pass. Turn left at the Forest Service building on 2nd Street. This street turns into Snowball Road, and eventually the pavement ends. Continue on this gravelled county road for 4.3 miles.

4.3 — This is the entrance to Fourmile Ranch. Ranch owners have agreed to allow access to the Forest Service road through the ranch, by proceeding through the ranch entrance and staying on the road. You will pass the ranch manager's house on the right. Looking to the north, one can begin to see Pagosa Peak.

5.3 — At this point, there is a Y in the road. The road to the left goes to the house and the iron gate to the right gains access to the national forest. Proceed through the gate on the right (FS 646), leaving the gate as you found it. The next 3 miles are on a pleasant dirt road along Snowball Creek. You will often see and hear hawks on the last part of this trail.

6.3 — At this point you will ford Fourmile Creek.

8.5 — A driveway passes through a gate onto private property. Follow the road, which curves to the right to a ford of Snowball Creek.

9.6 — Proceed through the gate, go forward and curve to the right, joining a more pronounced trail. Next, stay left for a mile, ignoring the roads that exit to the right.

10.7 — Proceed through the gate. The next .1 mile down to Jackson Mountain Road (FS 037) is very steep.

10.8 — Jackson Mountain Road. Turn right onto the road and proceed for 3 miles to U.S. 160.

13.7 — U.S. 160. Turn right onto the highway and continue for about 8 miles to Pagosa Springs. It is very easy to eliminate this highway ride by leaving a shuttle here. The sign on U.S. 160 calls this the Jackson Mountain Road.

### **Willow Draw**

Class: Intermediate

Mileage: 16 miles

This is a scenic loop from U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 junction. Road conditions range from highway to double-track. From downtown Pagosa, ride east on U.S. 160 to the junction of U.S. 84. Turn right onto U.S. 84, then left onto Mill Creek Road. Go 4 miles. You will cross three cattle guards. Immediately after the third cattle guard, look for a double-track dirt road on your left. If you cross over the bridge at Mill Creek, you have gone too far. Once on the double-track, you will cross Mill Creek, which may need to be forded on foot. Follow this dirt road generally north for the next 6 miles through Willow Draw and Dry Gulch to Fawn Gulch. Pass through two gates, which are usually closed. When you reach Fawn Gulch Road, turn left for a downhill to U.S. 160. Turn left onto U.S. 160. It is 4 miles back to town.

### **East Fork**

Class: Beginner

Mileage: 8 miles

This is an easy route for beginners as it is fairly flat. Road follows the East Fork of the San Juan River through beautiful canyons into the pristine East Fork Valley (private property for 2 miles), before terminating at Silver Falls guard station. Silver Falls can be seen cascading down the mountainside directly behind the station. The road is a gravel road from U.S. 160 to the forest boundary (.25 mile). The rest is dirt, which can be very slick when wet. Watch for high water across the road in the springtime.

# Endurance Events

Runners and bicyclists of all stripes — from the most dedicated competitor to the casual harrier or cruiser — have ample opportunity to test themselves with several races and events scheduled this summer that emphasize fun as much as endurance, and support great causes, to boot.

Endurance races throughout Archuleta County are consistently drawing more elite, amateur and casual athletes to the area to train and race at more than 7,000 feet in altitude.

One of the primary drivers for endurance events in the area is GECKO (Giving Every Child Knowledge of the Outdoors), a Pagosa Springs nonprofit that aims to inspire kids to unplug themselves and take to the great outdoors (website: [www.joingecko.org](http://www.joingecko.org)). Other annual events are put on to benefit Rise Above Violence, which seeks to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault (website: [www.riseaboveviolence.org/home.aspx](http://www.riseaboveviolence.org/home.aspx)).

Additional events have a tendency to pop up throughout the year, so keep an eye on the local Pagosa Springs SUN newspaper for more information.

## Pagosa Duathlon

Get dirty at the “du” and help Rise Above violence in the process on Saturday, July 14.

An off-road racing event, the Pagosa Duathlon features two epic races, all of which are run on single track. The Dirty Sprint is a 3-mile run and 8-mile mountain bike. The Dirty Du is a 6-mile run and 14-mile mountain bike.

Not a runner? Not a problem. Find someone who is and enter as a two-member relay team.

For the youngsters, the Dusty Kids Fun Race is a 1-mile run, 2-mile “gravel-growler” dirt road race.

The fun is scheduled to kick off at 7:30 a.m.

Check it out at <http://pagosaduathlon.com/>

## Devil Mountain Ultra 50/50

The Devil Mountain 50-mile and 50k ultra on Aug. 25 is “one hell of a run.”

This remote and beautiful classic ultra brings runners together for two days in forests of the South San Juan Mountains

around Pagosa Springs. It includes 7,500 feet of climbing, 10,000 feet in elevation, a bonfire party at the finish line and a pancake awards breakfast.

Big climbs, high elevations, mountain vistas and plenty of single track through some of the region’s most spectacular wooded trails are all included.

## Mountain Chile Cha Cha

The Mountain Chile Cha Cha celebrates trail running, combining our incredible in-town trails with the famous Pagosa Springs music and green chile festival (the Patty Aragon Green Chile Classic).

This 5k, 10k and half-marathon event will be held on Sept. 22.

Celebrate the season, trail running and getting kids outside on Pagosa’s killer downtown trail course. It’s beautiful, challenging and remote, and it’s all right downtown.

Races will kick off in the morning with a 5k, 10k (with a 700-foot climb in elevation) and half marathon beginning at 8:30 a.m., as well as a kids’ run at 7:30 a.m. The run takes place entirely off-road, using trails over Reservoir Hill and the Reservoir River Ranch.

## Color Run

Brilliant colors will be flying at Pagosa’s iconic 5K Color Run.

As color runners, and walkers, venture out on the course, colorful balloons will be filling the skies along the entire run route.

Iconic turns to stunning with runners and ballooners joining in on a color-filled adventure.

Be transformed into a running rainbow as you run through vibrant colors at each color station you pass.

Not a runner, no problem. You can walk, skip, hop or roll your way to the finish line.

This un-timed, noncompetitive event is for everyone — from young to the young at heart, you’re going to love it.

Add some color to your life and come out for a colorful good time.

The event will be held on Sept. 15 beginning at 8 a.m.

Registration and more event details will be released as ColorFest weekend nears in September and will be available in The Pagosa Springs SUN.

Proceeds benefit Rise Above Violence.



MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Hiking and Horseback Riding

Bright blue sky, a sky as big as the ocean. Wildflowers and their brilliant colors. A new spring cascading down the mountain's jagged rock. A still lake tucked high near a summit.

This is Pagosa Country.

To look upon these sights is breathtaking, and to see these sights ... that's the reason many people come back time and again for the experience.

Leave the roads behind, kiss the asphalt goodbye. The San Juan National Forest is all around you. Pull off the side of the road. Park by a trailhead. Lace up your boots and saddle your horse. Strike out into nature and tread where few have gone.

Backcountry excursions offer visitors an opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and smells of the San Juan National Forest firsthand. Many trails are easily accessible and within relative proximity to downtown Pagosa Springs.

Use your car to reach one of the convenient starting points listed below, then leave it behind to wander trails winding beneath towering pines or along clear mountain streams.

The trails described here cover a variety of terrain and skill levels. U.S. Forest Service trail

numbers are in parentheses next to the trail name.

## Hiking and riding tips

- Set easy-to-achieve objectives. Unless you are backpacking, plan to return well before dark.

- Stay on the trail. Shortcutting causes erosion and is hazardous to your safety, as well as to the safety of hikers below you.

- Think safety. Carry a map, water, snacks and clothing to keep you warm and dry. Weather conditions change rapidly in the mountains and it may rain or snow at any time. Always travel with a friend and always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

- Pack out your trash. Help keep the forest clean and pack out trash someone else left behind.

- During hunting seasons, you can pick up a loaner blaze orange vest at the Visitor Center to help keep you safe in the woods.

- Share the trails. The trails listed are shared by many visitors, some using horses, and in some areas, bicycles or ATVs. For the safety of all involved, give horse riders the right-of-way by moving well off the trail on the downhill

side, when it is safe to do so. To avoid startling the horses, say "hello" so they know you are a person, not a predator.

- Trail signs are usually found at trailheads and major junctions of maintained trails. Take a moment to read the information posted at trailheads. Not all junctions or cross-country routes are signed.

- A Pagosa Country map is available to direct you to the various trailheads. It is also a good idea to pick up a national forest map that clearly shows all access roads, trails and special area boundaries.

You can also check out the Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map to find out about recreational opportunities on the San Juan National Forest: <https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/> or on the web: [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan). The San Juan National Forest Visitor Map is available through the Avenza Maps store at <https://www.avenzamaps.com/>. Current information about trail conditions are available at the Visitor Center, located at 105 Hot Springs Blvd., and the Pagosa Ranger District office at U.S. 160 and 2nd Street. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Closed for all federal holidays.

## #1 Fourmile Falls (#569)

Length: 7.6 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

Take Lewis Street north, veer left immediately on 5th street; stay right on Fourmile Road for 8 miles; (CR 400/FS 645); right at junction to the trailhead. Trailhead elevation is 9,200 feet. The hike is approximately 3 miles each way. The first 3 miles is relatively easy through an open valley. After the waterfall, the trail becomes steep and is not recommended for stock. Hikers should proceed with caution. Fourmile Falls is one of the more popular points of interest and the trail in can be quite crowded on pleasant summer days.

## #4 Opal Lake (#564)

Length: 1 mile | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive south on U.S. 84 from Pagosa Springs approximately 8 miles to Blanco Basin Road (CR 326). After driving 10 miles, turn right across the Blanco River Bridge. Follow the Castle Creek Road (FS 660) to the signed junction for the Opal Lake Trailhead. Turn right and drive a short distance to the trailhead on the right. The trail to Opal Lake is 1 mile and takes about 45 minutes to hike. A portion of the trail is steep before it traverses an open meadow to the lake. The lake is bordered by wooded hillsides and a sheer mountain face. Minerals deposited at the inlet give the lake its milky color.

## #2 Piedra Falls (#671)

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600/FS 631) 17.8 miles to the junction at Sportsman's Supply. Leave Piedra Road and continue on Middle Fork Road (FS 636) for 2 miles. Take the first road to the right, East Toner Road (FS 637), it is 7.5 miles to the end. Trailhead elevation is 8,419 feet. Do not attempt this road in wet weather. The hike is 1/2 mile each way. A great hike for all ages. Walk upstream to a head gate where the trail begins. The trail continues above and west of the head gate and river to the falls. The hike is about 15 minutes each way.

## #5 Williams Creek (#587)

Length: 10.1 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) about 22 miles. Turn right on Williams Creek Road (FS 640) and go past Williams Creek Reservoir and Cimarrona Campground, continuing on to the trailhead at the end of the road. The trail follows Williams Creek northward into the Weminuche Wilderness. The old Spanish name for Williams Creek was Huerto — garden-like. The first few miles of Williams Creek trail give the impression of a gigantic walled garden. Across the creek to the right is a group of peaks eroded from volcanic rock. Set your own destination — it continues on to the Continental Divide.

## #3 Treasure Falls (#563)

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Treasure Falls is named for Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of a large buried treasure. Most accounts suggest that a treasure chest full of gold was buried in the area after a group of Frenchmen were "waylaid" by either Spanish explorers or Native Americans. Whatever the circumstances, Treasure Falls offers visitors a breathtaking fortune in scenery. To get there, take U.S. 160 east for 15 miles; right into a large parking area. Trailhead elevation is 8,112 feet. To the left of the parking lot is a short trail that will take you to the base of the falls. Follow the trail 1/4 mile to the bridge at the base of the falls. There is a more difficult trail to the right that also leads to the waterfall. Standing in the refreshing spray on the bridge, the falls rush down the cliff toward you. In the winter, these falls create a frozen blue sculpture. Elevation gain is 325 feet.





#### #6 Turkey Creek Trail (#580)

Length: 5.2 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Drive 7.3 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 to Jackson Mountain Road (FS 37) on the left. Follow it for 4 miles to the end of the road. This trail is the longest in this section of the Weminuche Wilderness. It is 20 miles from the trailhead through breathtaking scenery to the Continental Divide. Choose your own destination here. The 5-mile hike will take you to the first creek crossing.

#### #9 Anderson Trail (#579)

Length: 9.3 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

See Fourmile Falls Trail for directions. This trail begins at the Fourmile Trailhead, to the left of the Fourmile Trail. This trail climbs steadily for about 4 miles to skirt the east side of Pagosa Peak. There is a 2,600 foot ascent. The summit of the peak is 12,640 feet. The trail continues on to Fourmile Lake. It is about 2 miles to the junction with the Fourmile Trail. From the junction, it is 6 miles back to the trailhead and very steep in some areas. Snow will linger on this trail into early summer. Check conditions before you go.

#### #7 Piedra River Trail (#596)

Length: 11.2 miles | Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

The upper terminus of the trail begins on the Piedra Road (CR 600), about 16 miles north of Pagosa Springs. After crossing the Piedra River the trailhead parking lot is on the left. The trail starts on the canyon rim and then descends to the river. Sheer cliffs rise on both sides for over several hundred feet. This is an easy trail if you only go the 3.5 miles to the footbridge. For a longer hike, follow the river for another 8.5 miles. The trail passes several box canyons to end at the bridge on the First Fork of the Piedra Road. Confirm that First Fork Road (FS 622) is open and shuttle a vehicle to the First Fork Bridge for the longer hike.

#### #8 Continental Divide Trail North (#813)

Length: Depends | Difficulty: Easy/Difficult

Turn left on the dirt road just past the Continental Divide marker at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. Drive 1.5 miles to the Lobo Overlook parking area and microwave tower site. The trail begins behind the microwave tower and follows the Continental Divide, which is the backbone of the continent and the dividing line for eastern and western watersheds. From the trailhead, you can embark on an easy day hike or begin an extended backcountry journey. Hiking options along the Continental Divide trail seem limitless.

## At Altitude

The hikes described here begin at altitudes above 8,000 feet and several top out at 12,000 feet. Each hike is classified as "easy" to "difficult." Only those in good physical condition should attempt the difficult hikes. Remember, when you go downhill you will have to climb back up when you return. Pace yourself, drink water and eat snacks to help prevent altitude sickness. Symptoms include headache, loss of appetite, and weakness or drowsiness. If affected, descend quickly. If symptoms persist, seek medical aid.

### #10 Cimarrona Trail (#586)

Length: 8.5 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600) to Williams Lake Road. The trail begins on the left side of Williams Lake Road just beyond the entrance of Cimarrona Campground. The first 2 miles of trail are moderately easy, wandering through conifer and aspen stands. Then, many switchbacks start a steep ascent. Choose your destination — the trail continues on to the Continental Divide Trail at Squaw Pass.

### #13 Ice Cave Ridge Trail

Length: .5 miles | Difficulty: Easy

Drive to the Piedra River Trail (596) parking area to access this trail. From the parking area, start on the Piedra River Trail for several hundred yards, then follow the old road bed to the right. This is an easy, short trail up Ice Cave Ridge. The fissures on the side of the ridge contain snow deposited through the winter and hidden from the sun. After melting and compressing, the ice remains in the fissures as late as the end of June. From the ridge at the top, you have a good view of the Piedra Valley and other ridges. Use caution when viewing the ice fissures. Watch your footing, keep children near you and dogs leashed.

### #11 Continental Divide, Alberta Peak (#813)

Length: 2.5 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Travel east on U.S. 160 22.6 miles to the summit of Wolf Creek Pass. The trail begins on the south side of the road, just east of the Continental Divide information kiosk. A trail travels south and climbs to the west of Wolf Creek Ski Area. It then leads to rocky ridges on the west side of Alberta Peak. The trail to the top of the peak (11,870 feet) is not marked, although a 15- to 20-minute scramble will take you to the top. There are many beautiful vistas along the ridge.

### #14 Treasure Mountain Trail (#565)

Length: 8.1 miles | Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

A spectacular trail to Windy Pass starts from the East Fork Road. Drive 8 miles northeast on U.S. 160, turn right on the East Fork Road and travel approximately 7 miles to the trailhead. A small sign on the left side of the road marks the trailhead. After approximately 3 miles, the Windy Pass Trail from the southwest intersects this trail in a large scenic park. Windy Pass is about 3/4 of a mile to the west of this junction. You can return the way you came up, or go down to U.S. 160 (if you left a car there). You could go to the top of Windy Pass from U.S. 160, but it isn't as scenic.

### #12 West Fork or Rainbow Trail (#561)

Length: 11.6 miles | Difficulty: Moderate

Drive on U.S. 160 East for 14 miles, turn left on West Fork Road (FS 648) for 3 miles passing a campground and the river. Trailhead elevation is 9,040 feet.

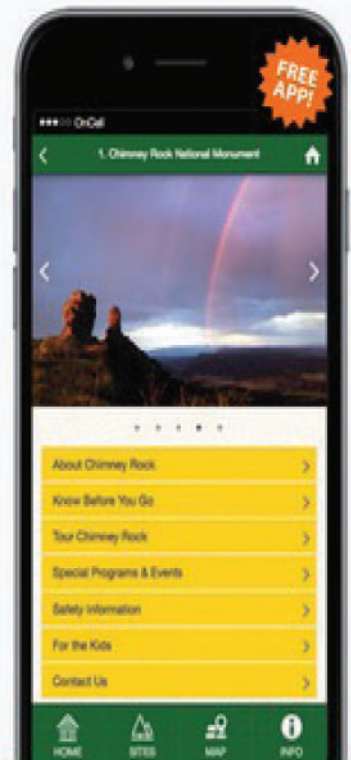
13 miles from trailhead to Continental Divide at Piedra Pass, this trail ascends 3,600 feet with several stream crossings and steep grades. Portions of this trail cross private property so please stay on the trail. At 4.5 miles, there is a junction with the Beaver Creek Trail (#560), which is closed to through traffic due to safety concerns. Camping is permitted only in designated sites. Highest point is 11,700 feet. The combination of the West Fork Trail and Turkey Creek Trail is known as the Rainbow Trail.

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MICHAEL PIERCE PHOTOGRAPHY

# Big Game Hunting

The public lands and forests surrounding Pagosa Springs provide exceptional big game habitat, and licensed sportsmen and women enjoy some of the finest hunting in North America while visiting Pagosa Springs.

The adjoining San Juan and Rio Grande national forests, together comprising nearly 4 million acres of varied elevation and diverse terrain, are home to black bears, cougars and bighorn sheep, as well as considerable herds of mule deer and elk that migrate seasonally between winter and summer ranges. Though far fewer in number, Shiras moose may also be seen grazing in the high country.

Access to the remarkable hunting grounds surrounding Pagosa Springs is gained via a network of forest service and Bureau of Land Management roads. If hunters prefer to trek into the forest by foot or on horseback, they may use the many foot and horseback trails, which offer passage into vehicle-restricted regions such as the rugged and remote Piedra Area and Weminuche and South San Juan Wilderness areas. Designated wilderness areas are closed to all forms of mechanized travel (including bicycles, game carts and wheelchairs) at all times. Hunters should call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268 for travel policy information and travel details including posted road closures and other travel restrictions that may affect specific hunting units. Information related to other activities that might coincide with big game seasons — such as domestic livestock grazing, prescribed burns and special recreational events — is also available.

Through direction from the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Colorado Parks and Wildlife governs bag limits, hunting regulations, season dates and licensing for big and small game hunts. Though subject to yearly changes, the first of the 2018 big game seasons, archery deer and elk, is Aug. 25 through Sept. 23. The final limited deer and elk rifle season will end Nov. 18.

Obtaining a license to hunt big game in Colorado may require participation in a drawing. Deer licenses can only be obtained through a lottery. Other limited license species include Rocky

Mountain Bighorn Sheep, mountain goat, pronghorn, moose and black bear. Colorado is the only state in the nation where a hunter can buy an over-the-counter bull elk license. Those licenses are available during the second season, Oct. 20-28, and the third season Nov. 3-11. For the first and fourth seasons, hunters must enter the draw for a license in a specific Game Management Unit. In 2018, the first season is Oct. 13-17; the fourth season is Nov. 14-18. The deadline for entering select season draws is always the first Tuesday in April. Hunters can enter these drawings online at [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us). Starting in 2018, paper applications will no longer be used; all applications must be filed online. Look for a Colorado Big Game Brochure at license agents, or see it at CPW's website.

In addition, leftover licenses go on sale Aug. 7, and can be purchased at licensed dealer locations, CPW offices and by phone. Purchases can be made through the CPW website beginning Aug. 8.

A mandatory 25-cent Search and Rescue surcharge is added to the cost of all Colorado hunting and fishing licenses. To improve wildlife habitat and wildlife education, a 75-cent Public Education Advisory Council surcharge and a \$10 Habitat Stamp fee are also added to all license costs. The Habitat Stamp fee is added only to one license purchased by an individual in a given year.

Documentation proving completion of a hunter education course is mandatory for all hunters born Jan. 1, 1949, or after who wish to pursue any game species in Colorado. Licenses will not be granted without hunter education verification. Check the CPW website for information about hunter safety classes.

For complete information on hunting seasons, pick up one of the Colorado hunting brochures at any local sports store. You can also go to the CPW website: [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us).

For more information regarding hunting opportunities unique to Pagosa Country, stop by the U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District office, located at 180 Pagosa St. (U.S. 160 on the east side of town); or call the Durango Colorado Parks and Wildlife office at (970) 247-0855.

# Scenic Drives

Sometimes, there is no destination, and that provides the freedom to truly appreciate the beauty, the history and the culture of Pagosa Country. Sure, you can stand outside on a main street and gaze at the peaks of the San Juan Mountains that surround you, listening to the San Juan River as it rolls by. And if that's all you choose to do, you've done well.

Perhaps, however, your interest was piqued. "What else is out there? What views, what wonders, lie just behind the mountain?"

You don't have to be a member of the explorer's club to find out.

Much of this incredible natural wonder can be observed from the comfort of a conventional vehicle. However, one must be warned: Just because the car may be comfortable does not mean the driving conditions are always easy.

Before taking a drive of high altitude discovery, know that high-mountain driving offers hazards as well as unforgettable views; weather conditions are liable

to change in the blink of an eye. While most of the roads recommended for the tours listed here are all-weather gravel roads, conditions can vary. Some roads require four-wheel drive vehicles; many will test your driving skills and courage.

Go prepared. A San Juan National Forest map, available at the Pagosa Ranger District, is a benefit.

Excellent scenic vantage areas are located along all routes. Many of the trips are in remote areas with little traffic, so plan accordingly. Water, blankets, a GPS system (or a map and compass for those who prefer to remain old school), a full sack of snacks and leaving an itinerary with someone else is highly recommended.

Check road conditions and check for closures before heading out; call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

## Motor Vehicle Use Map

The San Juan National Forest provides a Motor Vehicle Use Map

(MVUM) that identifies all designated roads and trails that are open to wheeled motorized travel on the Pagosa Ranger District. The map is the legal document used to enforce travel rules. It does not identify non-motorized recreational routes. It is the responsibility of the motor vehicle user to acquire the current MVUM.

The map is free, district specific and available both electronically at [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd538717.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd538717.pdf) or at all San Juan Public Lands offices.

The Pagosa Ranger District MVUM is available free through the Avenza Maps store at <https://www.avenzamaps.com/>.

You can also check out the Forest Service Interactive Visitor Map to find out about recreational opportunities on the San Juan National Forest. <https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/>.

For more information, please contact the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

### East Fork - Silver Falls - Elwood Pass - Quartz Meadow

Approx. 30+ miles round trip



From town, start by traveling 12 miles east of U.S. 160. Take a right on East Fork Road (FS 667). The first few miles of this route are suitable for most passenger vehicles, after that, high clearance vehicles are recommended as there are multiple water crossings. The canyon opens up into a breathtaking river valley with impressive mountain views. Silver Falls is located about 8 miles from U.S. 160. The trail begins on the north side of the road (left), hike up past the old guard station about 1/8 mile to reach the base of the falls. At the upper end of the valley, about 12 miles from U.S. 160, at a fork stay left toward Elwood Pass, a more technical drive, or right to Quartz Meadow.

### Plumtaw - Piedra Loop - Williams Creek Reservoir

Approx. 35-60 miles round trip



This route takes you past amazing vistas and multiple trailheads for recreational options. From U.S. 160, turn north at Lewis Street and take the immediate left fork in the road. At about 1/4 mile, take the right fork and follow Fourmile road (CR 400 which becomes FS 645) about 8 miles. Take the left fork and follow Plumtaw Road (FS 634), you can continue your trip in two directions. Where Plumtaw Road descends to the Piedra Road, turn right to the Piedra River Trail and continue to Williams Creek Reservoir, a scenic, high mountain reservoir with great fishing, hiking and camping. If you turn left, you will continue back to Pagosa Springs. The roads are suitable for all vehicles. A great route for viewing fall foliage.

### Blanco Basin

Approx. 40 miles round trip



This is one of the most scenic drives in the state of Colorado, especially when fall colors are bright. The route is south on U.S. 84 for 8 miles to the Blanco Basin turnoff (CR 326). Follow the road to the head of the basin and magnificent views of the Continental Divide, Square Top Mountain and Oil Mountain. For an even more spectacular side trip, turn right onto Castle Creek Road (FS 660), cross the Rio Blanco and proceed to the end of the road at Fish Creek, about 6 miles. The last 2.5 miles of the road to Fish Creek is very slick when wet. Roads are all-weather and suitable for conventional vehicles. Return by the same route.

### Summitville - Platoro - Cumbres Pass - Chama

Approx. 100+ miles - all-day trip



On Wolf Creek Pass, approximately 6.5 miles from the east side of the summit, take Park Creek (FS 380), and proceed to Summitville (mining ghost town last used in the '70s). Continue toward Elwood Pass and south to Platoro. Upon reaching N.M. Hwy. 17, turn right and cross Cumbres Pass. You will follow the route of the Cumbres and Toltec narrow gauge railroad to Chama, N.M. From there it is 48 miles back to Pagosa Springs via U.S. 17, 84. This route is suitable for conventional vehicles.

### Lobo Overlook - Continental Divide

Approx 45 miles.



Suitable for conventional vehicles and as close to the top of the world as you can get by vehicle in this area. Turn north off U.S. 160 at the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, follow the road up to the transmitter site. A spectacular vantage point and a picnic area are provided at the topographical crest of the mountain. A section of the Continental Divide Trail is accessible from the radio tower; parking is available. Road is accessible late June to early September.



#### Mill Creek – Nipple Mountain Road

Approx. 32 miles round trip



Turn onto Mill Creek Road (CR 302) just north of the County Fairgrounds from U.S. 84. At approximately 7 miles take the right fork (FS 665) and proceed east to the Nipple Mountain area, another 12 miles. The trip will provide a vast panorama of the upper San Juan Valley. Proceed through the saddle separating Oil and Square Top mountains. From this vantage point, you will be able to observe the Blanco Basin. The road dead ends. Return by the same route.

#### Pagosa Junction

Approx. 45-50 miles round trip



Go south on 8th Street out of Pagosa Springs, turning right on Apache Street, which becomes Trujillo Road (CR 500), through the early-day settlements of Juanita and Trujillo. See historic Pagosa Junction. From there, the route goes up Cat Creek Gap (CR 700) past the now-deserted Talian Mine and the Lone Tree Catholic Church, a landmark. Return to Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160. Continuing on CR 500 will take you to Navajo Lake and Navajo State Park. Return to Pagosa Springs via Colo. 151, past Chimney Rock National Monument and U.S. 160. Roads are all suitable for conventional vehicles.

#### Wolf Creek Pass

Approx. 80 miles round trip



You can easily spend a day exploring Wolf Creek Pass. Starting from Pagosa Springs, stop at Treasure Falls about 16 miles east of town. The next stop is the West Fork Valley Overlook, a scene featured in the movie “Vacation” and one certain to leave an impression. You will have a view of Treasure Falls from above — a great vantage point of the valley below. The next stop is the Continental Divide and Wolf Creek summit. As you head down the pass towards South Fork, check out Alberta Reservoir (near Wolf Creek Ski Area), Big Meadows Reservoir or Tucker Ponds to see small alpine lakes.

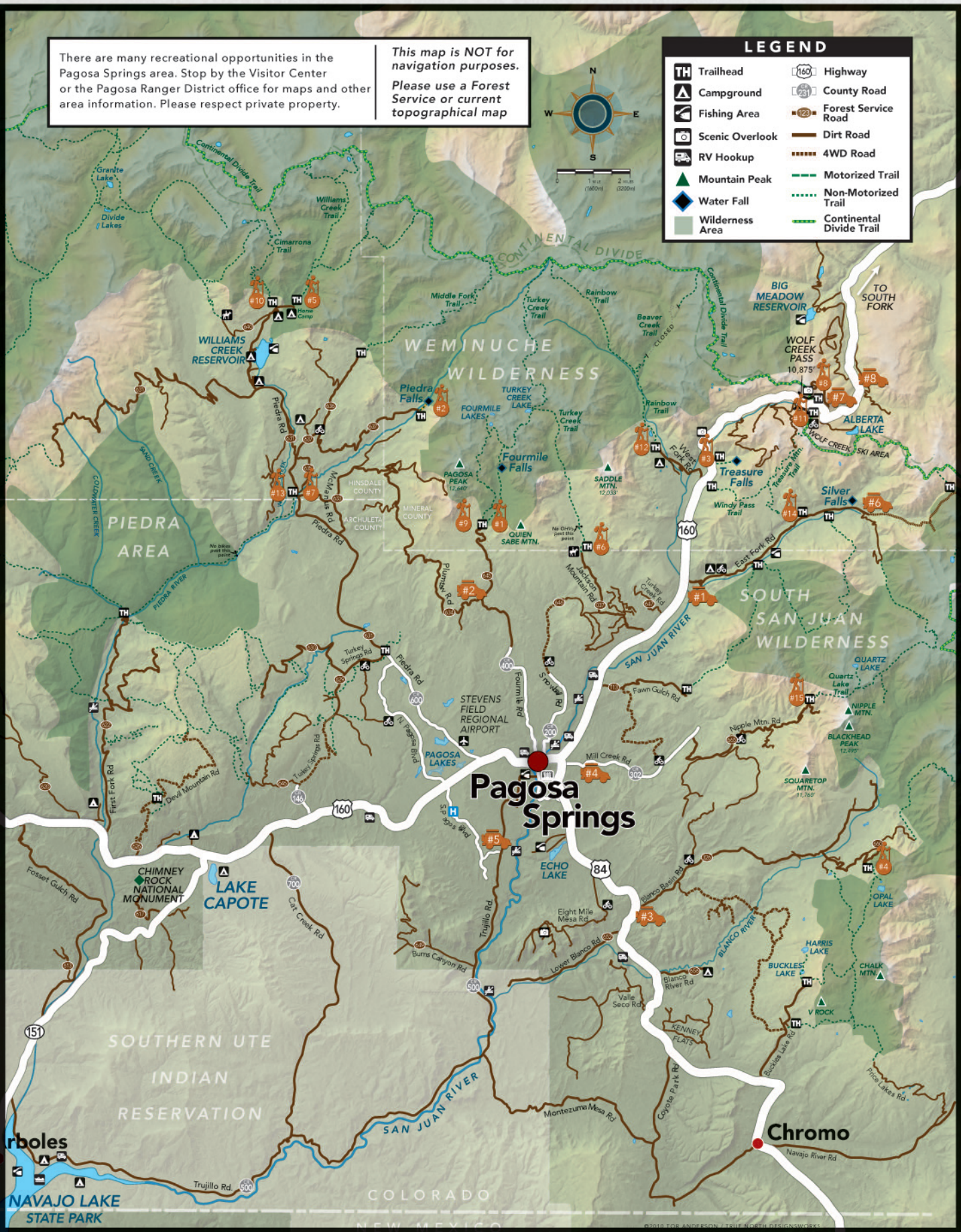
## Know Before You Go

Many of the trips listed here are in remote areas with little traffic – plan accordingly. Water, blankets, a GPS system (or a map, coordinates and compass for those who prefer to keep old school), a full sack of snacks and leaving an itinerary with someone is highly recommended.

Please use the recreation map as a guide. Conditions change quickly, check with the ranger district office in the area you plan to visit to get the most current information on road conditions and closures; call the Pagosa Ranger District at (970) 264-2268.

There are many recreational opportunities in the Pagosa Springs area. Stop by the Visitor Center or the Pagosa Ranger District office for maps and other area information. Please respect private property.

This map is NOT for navigation purposes. Please use a Forest Service or current topographical map



### LEGEND

|    |                 |     |                          |
|----|-----------------|-----|--------------------------|
| TH | Trailhead       | 160 | Highway                  |
|    | Campground      |     | County Road              |
|    | Fishing Area    |     | Forest Service Road      |
|    | Scenic Overlook |     | Dirt Road                |
|    | RV Hookup       |     | 4WD Road                 |
|    | Mountain Peak   |     | Motorized Trail          |
|    | Water Fall      |     | Non-Motorized Trail      |
|    | Wilderness Area |     | Continental Divide Trail |



# Wildlife

MARK MEIER

If you've brought your camera and are inclined to trek through the extensive wilderness that composes the greater portion of Pagosa Country, be prepared for the chance to snap the shot of a lifetime.

In a region that ranges from 6,000 to 13,000 feet in elevation, the 1.8-million-acre San Juan National Forest not only hosts a complex diversity of climate zones, ecological niches and microenvironments, but also is home to a vast array of wildlife that call these diverse habitats home. As the country climbs in elevation from the south and east to the mountains north and west, that diversity becomes apparent as high-desert plateau gently transitions into alpine forest, then dramatically ascends beyond the tree line to alpine tundra. While many species of wildlife prefer to inhabit a specific ecological zone, others travel throughout Pagosa Country, seeking resources and habitat wherever they can find them.

Coyotes, foxes, cougars and black bears may roam the region at almost any elevation and are a common site (and sometimes a nuisance) for residents and visitors alike. A special but not uncommon sight is the symbol of our country — the American Bald Eagle — soaring majestically above meadows, lakes or rivers at all elevations. Snapping a photo of one of these birds perched atop a ponderosa pine is a rare treat.

In the lower reaches, short-horned lizards, eastern fence lizards, western rattlesnakes and ringtail cats share sandy sage flats, arid rocky slopes, deep canyons and sandstone mesas with jackrabbits, prairie dogs, elk and mule deer. Piñon jays, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks and golden eagles commonly grace the sun-drenched skies above the high desert plateau.

In the high country, observers may see Rocky Mountain goats, bighorn sheep, snowshoe hares, ptarmigan or a rare Canada lynx. Although normally a denizen of high-country meadows, willow flats, forests and lakes north of Pagosa Springs, it is not unusual for the Shiras moose to be seen at most elevations. The largest member

of the deer family, these solitary individuals occasionally wander the streets and outskirts of town.

While the encroachment of civilization on some of the region's wilderness has decreased the numbers of several species in the area, many other species are thriving and even increasing in numbers, including foxes and coyotes, mule deer, bears, magpies, crows and ravens, golden and bald eagles, wild turkeys and vultures. While mountain lions are normally solitary and secretive, reported sightings have become frequent, particularly between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Visitors and residents are cautioned not to feed local wildlife, especially as prey species can attract lions into residential areas. Food should never be left out to attract bears.

In the spring and early summer, infrequent hikers and wildlife watchers will invariably stumble upon a newborn fawn or elk calf. Baby birds, rabbits, foxes and squirrels may appear quite approachable, yet mother is almost certainly nearby. As long as a potential predator lurks about, she'll not return to feed or coddle her young. Therefore, it is always best to back away and leave little ones as they're found. Survival in the wild is challenging enough without avoidable human interference.

In a bountiful area as rich and diverse as Pagosa Country, vigilant observers will enjoy an array of wildlife matched by few places on earth. The adventurous visitor traveling the canyons, mesas and forests early or late, moving in silence and employing a pair of good field glasses, is almost guaranteed to be rewarded with the sight of wildlife in their natural habitat — and the experience of a lifetime.

For more information about the best hiking trails for wildlife watching in the San Juan National Forest and surrounding wilderness areas, visit the U.S. Forest Service website at [www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan/) or stop by the Pagosa ranger station at 180 Pagosa St.

For information about Colorado's wildlife and hunting and fishing licenses, go to Colorado Parks and Wildlife's website at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).



# Waterfalls, Canyons & Rapids

ELISE SONIAT/SOURCE OF LIGHT IMAGERY

Past noon on a clear winter day, cup your hand full of snow and hold it to the sun.

If you are patient, you will see the snow begin to melt and start dripping, drop by drop, through your fingertips.

Now, imagine this is what happens to all the snow capping the mountains surrounding Pagosa Springs. As the seasons change, and the rugged land begins once more to be warm, the water, at first as a drip, begins to roll from the mountain peaks. Before long, the drip turns into a rush, and the mountainsides are filled with waterfalls, streams and rivers.

Many water wonders await the hiker and back-country mountain runner, horseback rider and biker. Find one of the area's waterfalls and take time to sit and enjoy the calming and beautiful spectacle.

## **Treasure Falls**

Treasure Falls is named for Treasure Mountain, an area rich in folklore and stories of a large buried treasure. Most accounts suggest that a treasure chest full of gold was buried in the area after a group of Frenchmen were "waylaid" by either Spanish explorers or Native Americans. Whatever the circumstances, Treasure Falls offers visitors a breathtaking fortune in scenery.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160, approximately 15 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa Springs. As you approach the base of Wolf Creek Pass, turn right into a large parking area. Trailhead elevation is 8,112 feet. To the left of the parking lot is a short trail that will take you to the base of the falls. Follow the trail a quarter mile to the bridge at the base of the falls. There is a more difficult trail to the right that also leads to the waterfall. Standing in the refreshing spray on the bridge, the falls rush down the cliff toward you. In the winter, these falls create a frozen blue sculpture. Elevation gain is 325 feet. Many visitors photograph the falls and surrounding vistas from the parking area and nearby Overlook Bridge at the base of the falls.

## **Silver Falls**

Day travelers can easily view or visit Silver Falls near the old historic Silver Falls Forest Service Guard Station. Following a scenic

drive on a maintained gravel road into the backcountry, a trail to the falls is short, but fairly steep.

To get there, travel east on U.S. 160, approximately 10 miles from the San Juan River bridge at the east end of Pagosa Springs. Just after crossing the West Fork of the San Juan River, turn right (east) on East Fork Road (FS 667) leading to the East Fork River and campground. Follow the road and river approximately 8 miles where, on the north side (left), you'll see the falls, an old guard station and primitive parking area beyond.

A word of caution — in early spring, there are two vehicle stream crossings that are often hazardous during high water. Also, the last 2 miles of road crosses private land where visitors must respect private property rights and remain in the roadway.

To reach the base of the falls, follow the footpath through a gate and hike about an eighth of a mile.

## **Elwood Creek Cascades**

The route to Elwood Pass and the Elwood Creek Cascades turns to a four-wheel-drive road best suited to high-clearance vehicles with a short wheelbase. Late summer or early autumn, when the aspens are shimmering gold, may be the ideal time to negotiate this rather precarious course. Because travelers must ford the East Fork of the San Juan River near where it begins at the confluence of Elwood and Crater creeks, spring high-water season is not the time to go.

To view these cascades, proceed up the East Fork Road as you would to Silver Falls. About a mile past the old guard station and parking area, East Fork Road branches left from Quartz Meadow Road to the right. From there on, this narrow and primitive course offers many steep grades and seemingly bottomless mud holes. Beyond the river crossing, the road climbs abruptly out of the canyon. From high on the mountainside, Elwood Cascades is visible.

Another word of caution — because the road to Elwood Pass is challenging even when dry, only experienced drivers should attempt its passage.



## Fourmile Falls

The first of two spectacular falls is a tall “bridal veil” fall on aptly-named Fall Creek, but viewing its splendor requires a 3-mile hike (one way) into the Weminuche Wilderness north of Pagosa Springs. A bit further along Fourmile Trail (on the right), the more voluminous Fourmile Falls tumbles hundreds of feet over a sheer precipice of dark volcanic rock.

The route to these popular summertime destinations begins in town at U.S. 160 and Lewis Street. Turn north on Lewis, then an immediate left on 5th Street, which becomes Fourmile Road. Follow Fourmile Road (CR 400/FS 645) right at junction to the trailhead. Trailhead elevation is 9,200 feet.

The hike is approximately 3 miles each way. The first 3 miles to Fourmile Falls is relatively easy with gently rolling terrain through an open valley. After the waterfall, the trail becomes steep and is not recommended for stock. Hikers should proceed with caution. There are longer day hikes and backpacking loop options available. Please reference a Forest Service or topographical map for information.

Keep in mind, with Fourmile Falls being one of the more popular points of interest in the Pagosa Ranger District, the trail in can be quite crowded on pleasant summer days.

## Piedra Falls

Piedra Falls is one of the most popular in the Pagosa Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest. Located at the end of a gentle, quarter-mile-long trail, where the East Fork of the Piedra River meets the Weminuche Wilderness boundary, it cascades over two large steps among sheer volcanic cliffs.

To get there, drive north on Piedra Road (CR 600/FS 631) 17.8 miles to the junction at Sportsman's Supply. Leave the Piedra Road and continue on Middle Fork Road (FS 636) for two miles. Take the first road to the right, East Toner Road (FS 637), it is 7.5 miles to the

end. Trailhead elevation is 8,419 feet.

A word of caution — East Toner Road is graveled and typically accessible May through November, depending on snow conditions. Do not attempt this road in wet weather.

The hike is one-half mile each way (one-half hour round trip). A great hike for all ages. Walk upstream to a head gate where the trail begins. The trail continues above and west of the head gate and river to the falls. The hike is about 15 minutes each way.

## Safety and precautions

Backcountry travelers should always prepare for unforeseen emergencies before venturing far past civilization. Even relatively minor injuries in a remote area can turn serious, particularly if the victim faces spending a night (or more) in the woods. Sliding off road or getting stuck will almost certainly result in very expensive assistance.

Before setting out, hikers and motorists should review maps and weather reports, determine intended routes and travel times, and inform at least two close friends or family members of their planned destination and when they expect to return. Wilderness trail users should register their entry and departure times at all Forest Service trailheads.

Much of the Weminuche Wilderness has been affected by a large outbreak of spruce beetles, which have killed the majority of mature spruce trees. Recent fires have also weakened the trees. As a result, visitors must use extra caution when traveling in the vicinity of dead or dying trees. Always be aware of your surroundings.

Adventurers ought never travel alone, should dress appropriately for current and forecast conditions, should carry a first aid kit and know how to use it. If serious injury does occur, tend to the victim's immediate needs, then get to a landline or within cell phone range and dial 911. For less serious matters where help is still required, call the Archuleta County Dispatch at (970) 731-2160.

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Under new ownership and staff, the guest and community-minded owners have focused on improving the course, improving play and overall aesthetics. Guests come first and management strives to make this the most fun experience in Pagosa.

Wildlife is abundant throughout the property, visiting the course year around. You may find a 300-pound black bear enjoying a nap in the trees or running around the course. Elk, mule deer, bald eagles, mountain bluebirds, hummingbirds and a variety of other species are commonly seen on the course.

And if you are in for a bit of a challenge in your round, a unique mobile golf hazard of sorts abounds. If you get caught in this hazard, your skills may not help you and you're more likely to lose;

we call it the Sly Hazard. The Sly Hazard is mobile, as such it does not impact every round or even specific holes but will show up in a stealthily and unannounced fashion.

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# Real Estate & Home Guide





RANDI PIERCE

# Scholarships in Escrow

## Investing in the future: Scholarship program fuels students

For the Scholarships in Escrow program, local real estate agents invest in property and translate that to investing in the future of Pagosa Springs youth.

Chronicling the history of the program, Jann Pitcher, owner of Jann C. Pitcher Real Estate, explained she was initially approached by Sharon Mitchell, who was a director for the Witt Newton Foundation.

“At that point the interest rates were going way down. But it was high interest rates when it was started, close to 10 percent,” Pitcher explained.

The scholarships were initially given from that interest raised, Pitcher explained. Once the interest rate went down, they needed a way to supplement it, Pitcher noted.

Mitchell then asked Pitcher how the realtors could participate and Pitcher suggested that the realtors give some amount of money from each closing and this would go every year to the Scholarships in Escrow program.

The program has experienced some hiccups, but with the help of Jann’s daughter, Blue Pitcher-Lindner, and Peggy Andrews there has been a resurgence of the program.

The beauty of the Scholarships in Escrow program is that it is for every student who can earn a grade of an A or a B.

The scholarship program can also be used for students who would like to use it for a vocational school or beauty school, Jann Pitcher added.

“That’s sort of an organized way that we can help the students,” Jann said.

Jann has a passion for kids and it is only fitting that her hope is that the Scholarships in Escrow program continue to grow and involve more students.

Pagosa Springs High School (PSHS) Counselor Mark Thompson, who has been on the Scholarship in Escrow board since 1999, noted that the program itself has been around since the summer of 1991.

Citing one of the earliest brochures for the program, Thompson explained that the realtors wanted to increase the number of graduates from PSHS, improve the value of the diploma, increase the number of students attending college and increase the number of students enrolling in “core subjects.”

Students can receive \$40 for each A they get and \$20 for each B Thompson explained.

It’s always a fun gift for kids who work hard in school, and a lot of the students forget that they have this scholarship money allocated, Thompson said.

It’s a great way to entice students, but also to build a good relationship with the realtors, Thompson added later.

The biggest scholarship a student can earn is \$1,000.

“I think it matters, I think it’s important and I think it is influential,” Thompson said.

Per information compiled by PSHS teacher Doug Hershey, the Scholarships in Escrow program has done the following:

- Awarded money to 2,563 PSHS students.
- Been around for 27 years.
- Given an average of \$300 to students.
- Donated a total amount of \$908,555 to PSHS students.



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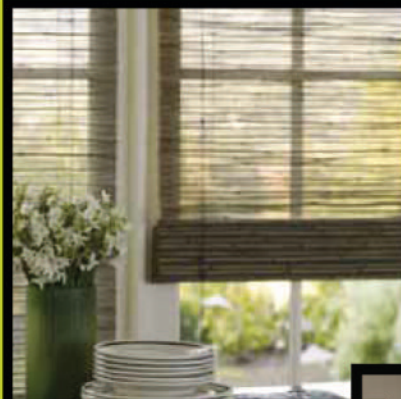
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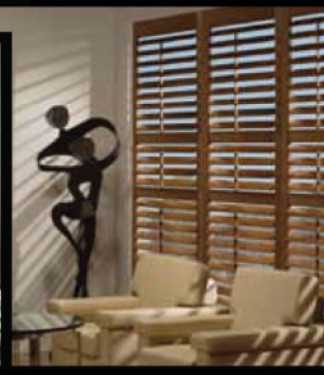
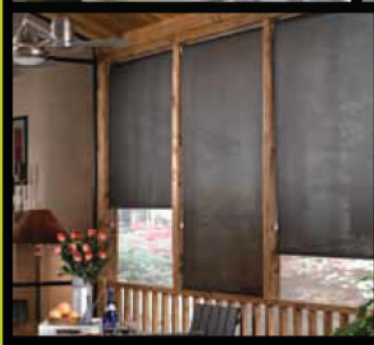
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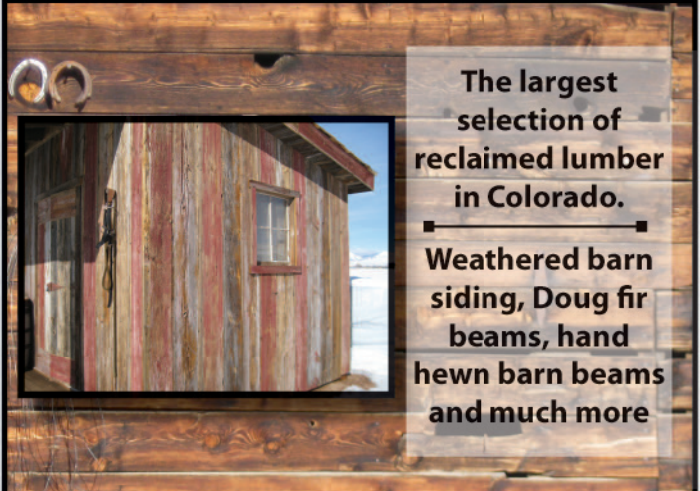
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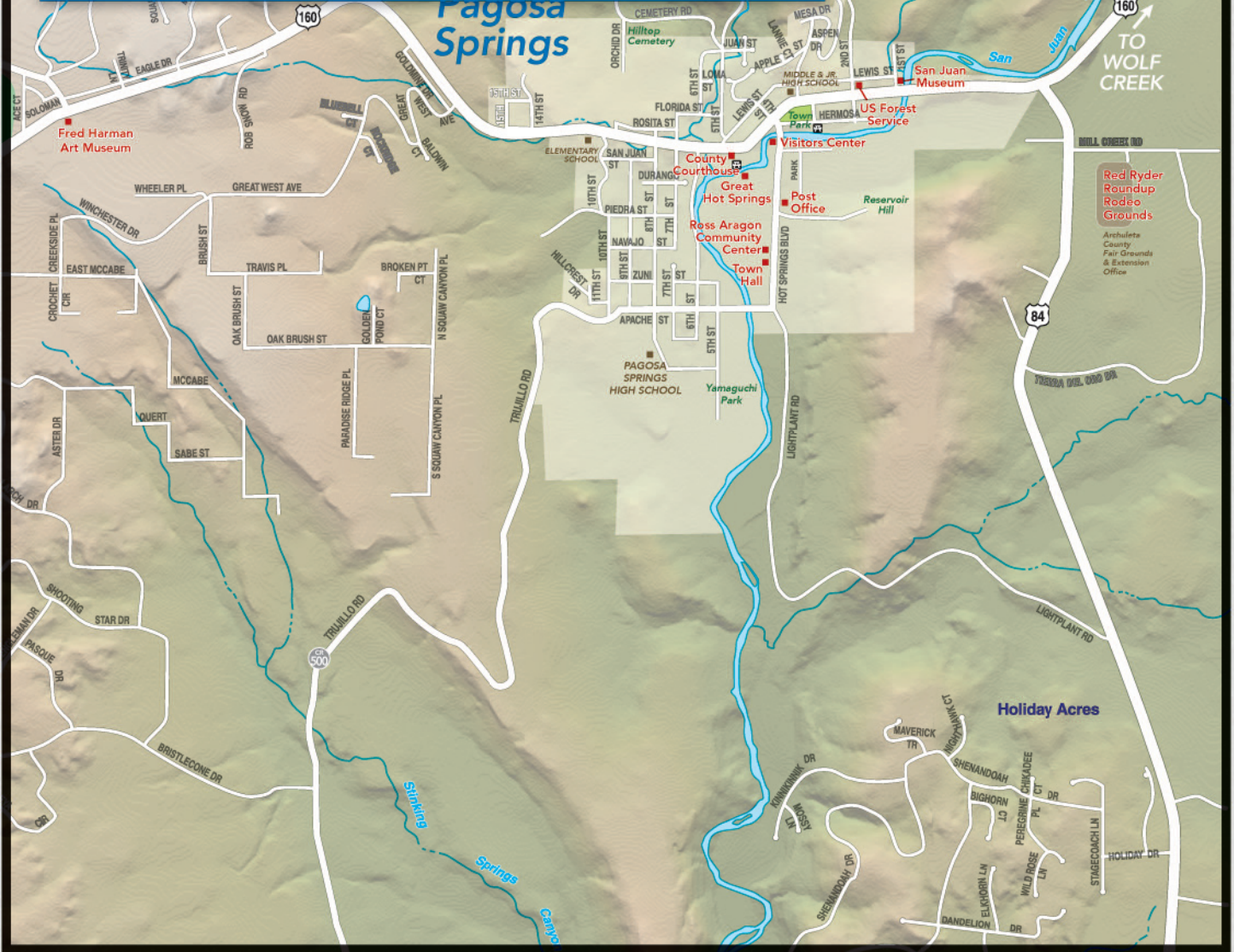
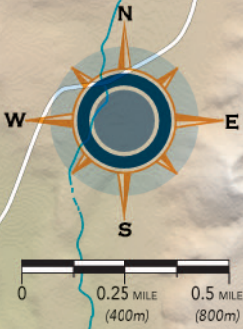


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# Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership

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## Growing food and community with local energy

Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership (GGP) is building an educational botanic park in Pagosa Springs' Centennial Park.

Construction of GGP's Community Garden Dome and Innovation Dome is slated for 2018. These two greenhouse domes will be installed next to the existing Education Dome.

A volunteer-driven nonprofit and educational organization, Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership's park enhances Pagosa Springs' San Juan Riverwalk. Its mission is "to educate the community in sustainable agricultural practices by producing food year-round using local renewable energy." Demonstrating the value of the community's geothermal resource remains a GGP priority.

The October 2017 Smart Growth America Report listed the GGP as an important amenity for the community. Both the Archuleta County Community Economic Development Action Plan and Downtown Colorado Inc. identified the GGP as a priority for downtown economic revitalization. With the Education Dome completed in 2016, the GGP continued fulfilling its mission in 2017.

In 2017, the Education Dome's first year of operation, the dome and amphitheater became busy gathering places. Pagosa's

youth began horticultural activities and GGP's volunteers nurtured an abundant garden for the community.

This year promises more educational workshops and special events in Centennial Park. GGP's sixth Environmental Film Festival is planned for mid-April in Pagosa's historic downtown. Life-long Learning Workshops will feature in-depth education about the wise use of Colorado's water, explore various environmental issues, and celebrate the biodiversity of the San Juan River Walk. Live music and performances are planned for the GGP Amphitheater, as well as the ColorFest Breakfast with Balloons.

The Colorado Water Plan (CWP) and Colorado Garden Foundation funded the construction of the nonprofit organization's second and third growing domes in late 2017. Pagosa Springs' Noon Rotary Club pledged funding of the East Garden landscape in early 2018.

The Geothermal Greenhouse Partnership operates through a board of directors, numerous volunteers, five strategic committees and an enthusiastic membership base. Visit [Pagosagreen.org](http://Pagosagreen.org) for more information, to contact the GGP and to volunteer. We'll see you on the Riverwalk.





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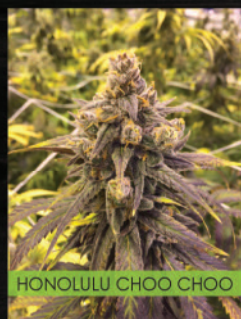
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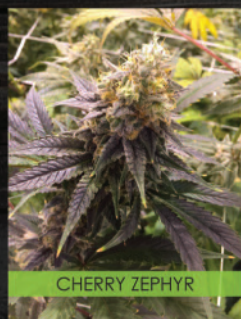
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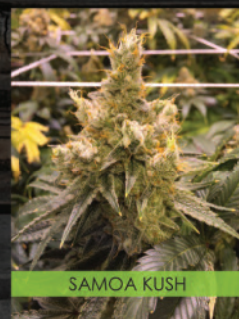
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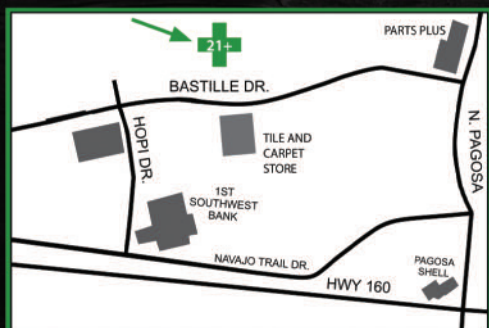
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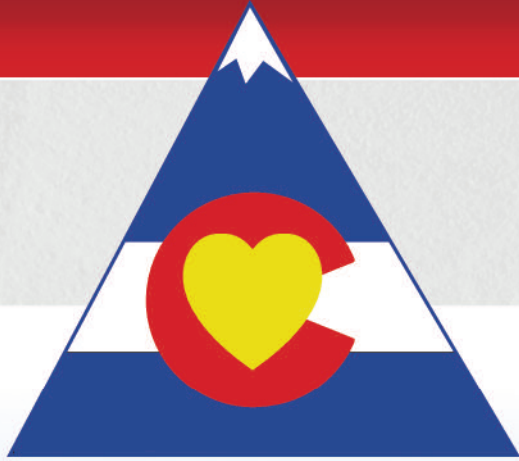


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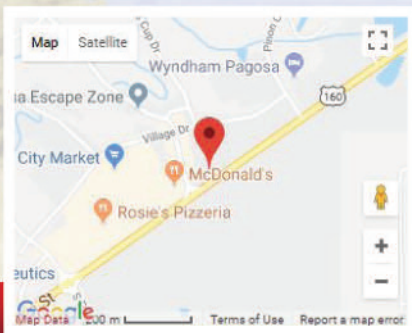
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