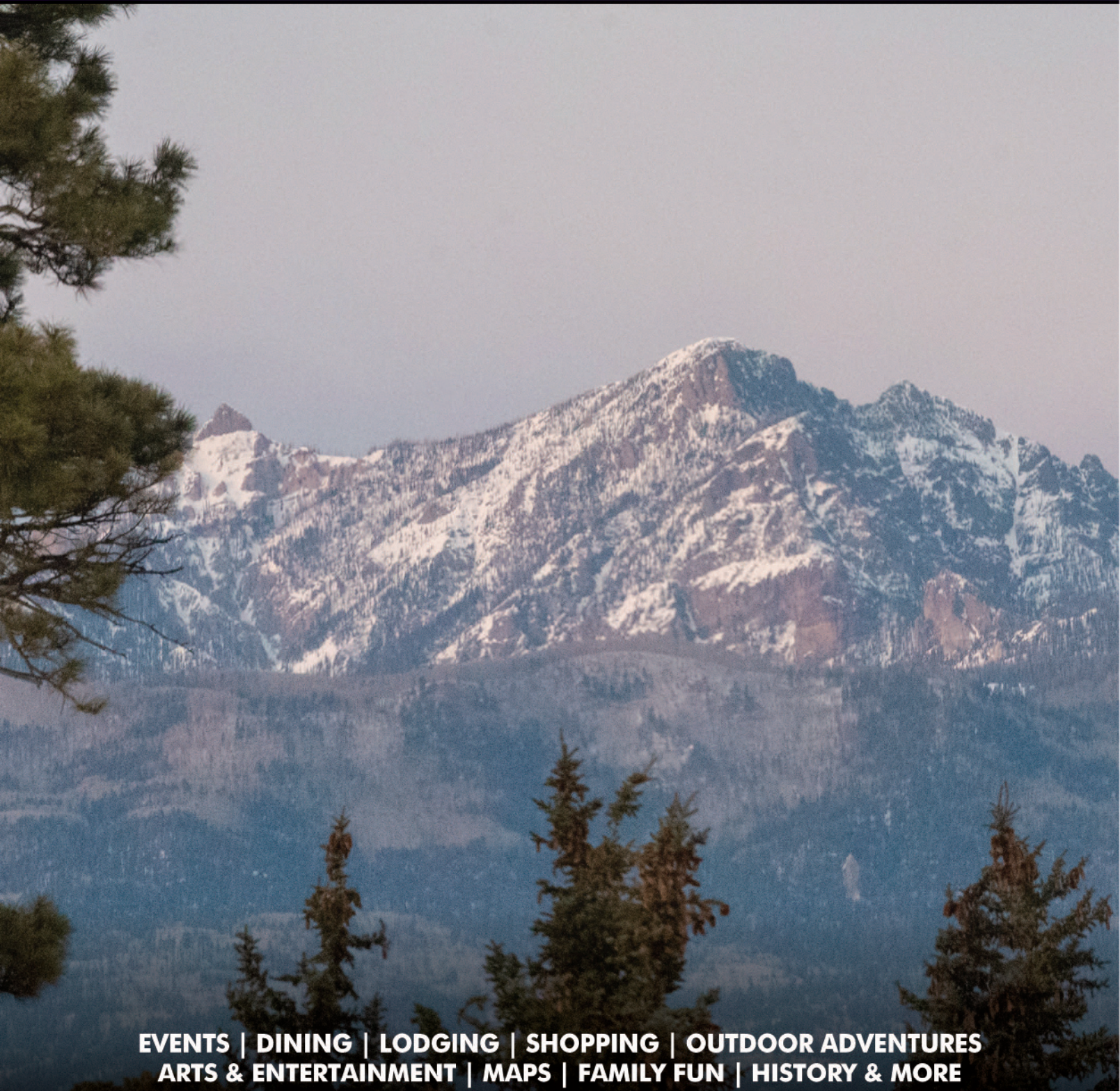


PAGOSA SPRINGS

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WELCOME HOME TO PAGOSA SPRINGS



Juli Morelock



Tim Plate



Diane Burnett



Kim Brown



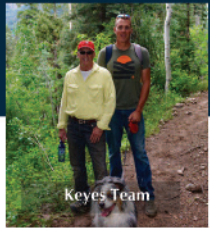
Team Christians



Loren Talley



Marcie Lewis



Keyes Team



Tina Valles



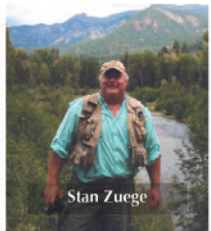
Steve Crow



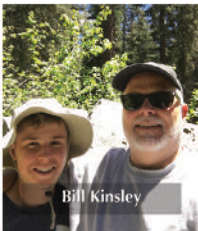
Alysha Ranson



Jayne Poma



Stan Zuege



Bill Kinsley

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624/200 Morning Glory



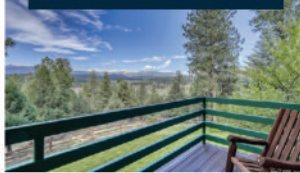
10 Acres - 5BR/4 BA + Apt.
Big Views - 2 Heated Shops
\$2,897,000 (893621)

329 Bross Place



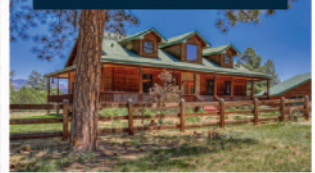
7 Acres - Earth Home
Observation Tower
New Price! (818481)

1701 Echo Canyon Ranch



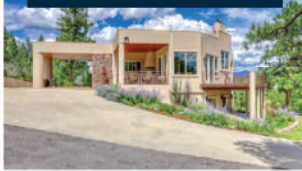
54 Acres - Stunning Residence
Lake Access - Sold Furnished
\$1,995,000 (815300)

101 Buckboard Place



35 Acres - 4 Bed/4 Bath Home
Extensive Horse Facilities
\$1,975,000 (814984)

994 Cool Pines Drive



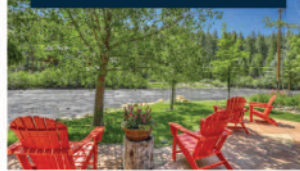
8 Acres - 3944 SF Home
Views - Voted "Best On Tour"
\$1,975,000 (817810)

6402 County Road 700



317 Ac. Hunting/Cattle Ranch
5 Ponds - Manuf. Home/Shop
\$1,875,000 (810572)

73 Harebell Drive



Custom Riverfront Home
3 BR/2.5 BA - 2843 SF
\$1,650,000 (817728)

841 Big Sky Place



23.5 Acres - 3,061 SF Home
Expansive Views - Furnished
\$1,649,000 (811462)

X Dichoso Court



35+ Acres - 2 Sides Nat'l Forest
Hidden Meadows Ranch
\$1,375,000 (817904)

700A Honeybee Place



20 Acres - 2,002 SF Home
Views - 2 Ponds - Barn
\$1,265,000 (818202)

2000 County Road 359



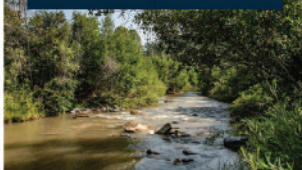
Mtn. Cabin On 70 Acres
Borders Nat'l Forest - Barn
\$1,149,000 (812269)

521 Spring Creek Circle



3 Acres - 2,968 SF - Shop
Mountain/Lake Views
\$1,055,000 (811462)

101 County Road 339



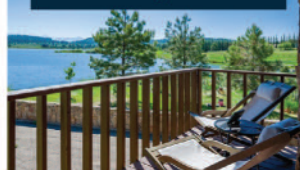
Borders River/Nat'l Forest
16.8 Acres - 1,564 SF Cabin
\$1,047,000 (816670)

12 Red Ryder Circle



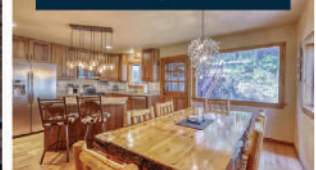
San Juan Riverfront Home
Fishing, Nat'l Forest Access
\$1,025,000 (814889)

190 Luxury Place A3



Lakefront Home - 3 BR/2BA
Successful Airbnb - Furnished
\$699,000 (818924)

295 County Road 339



3.36 Acres - 3 BR/2 BA
Nat'l Forest - No HOA
\$685,000 (816452)

514 Acorn Drive



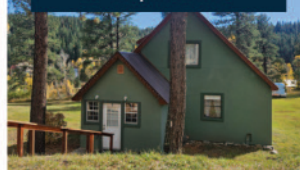
Remodeled Home - 1 Acre
Horse Setup - No HOA
\$532,000 (817826)

97 Inspiration Drive



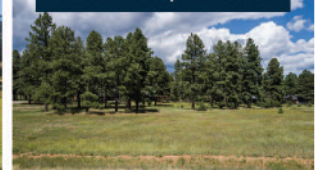
Walk To Lake/Golf Course
Oversized Lot - 3 BR/2 BA
\$497,500 (815946)

274 Alpine Drive



San Juan River Village Gem
3 BR/2 BA - .31 Acre Lot
\$450,000 (818951)

1520 Antelope Avenue



1.73 Acres - Big Views
Overlooks 160 Ac. Open Space
\$220,000 (817155)

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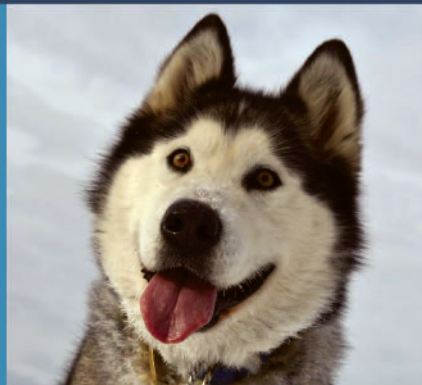
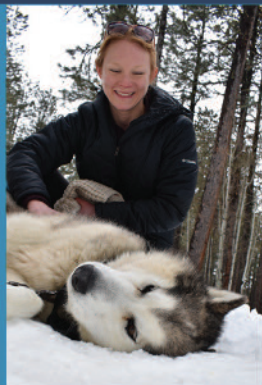
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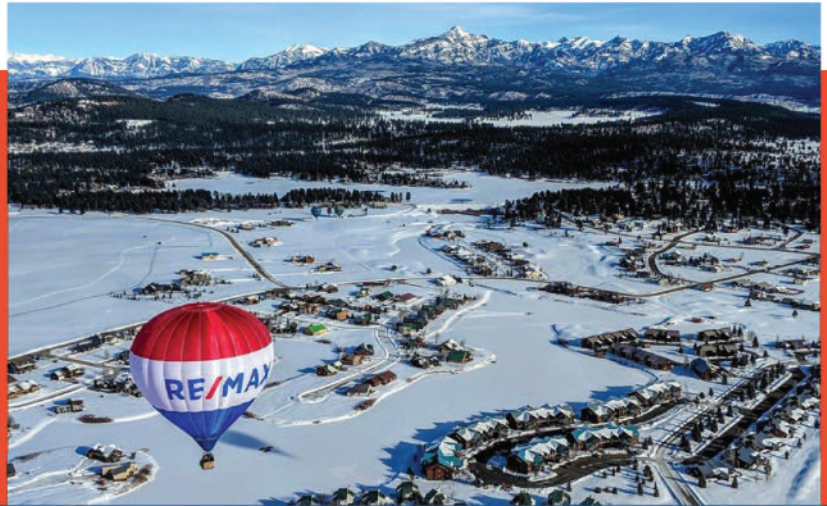


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CHRIS RAPP,
COURTESY WOLF CREEK SKI AREA



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KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

Keeping wildlife - and you - safe means keeping your distance and keeping your food locked tight.

STAY HYDRATED

Stop by the Visitor Center and pick up a free reusable water bottle.



Welcome

For some visitors, winter in Pagosa has quite the reputation: plenty of snow and cold.

The reputation is only partly deserved.

Yes, we get some impressive snowfall here.

Yes, there are times the bank of snow at the side of the house creeps past the top of the windows as it slides from the roof.

The peaks of the San Juan Mountains just east of Pagosa Springs are known for amazing snowfall, and Wolf Creek Ski Area legitimately boasts the “most snow in Colorado” (as well as the best, with powder that can't be equaled).

We handle it well. In fact, we enjoy it. When a “big dump” hits Pagosa Country, the crews that clear our roads and highways know their stuff and do a remarkably good job. It barely slows us down (though we do firmly believe in taking all recommended precautions associated with winter driving).

In other words, bring on the snow! We get around in fine fashion. So will you.

And it's a good thing — there's plenty to do and plenty to enjoy during the winter here.

Those of us who live in Pagosa Country year-round not only know how to deal with snow, but we welcome it. The more, the better.

Why?

Because it turns this part of the world into a winter playground with few peers — a remarkably beautiful alpine environment in which every winter, outdoor recreation option is maximized. Alpine skiers, snowboarders, showshoers, cross-country skiers, fat bikers, snowmobilers, sledders, skaters — all benefit from being in Pagosa Country for a day, for a week or for the season.

Our snow is not a problem here in Pagosa Country. It's a blessing.

Yes, it can get cold here. But it's not the kind of cold you experience in low-altitude, high-humidity, windy environments. The winters here are fairly mild when it comes to the temperatures. The weather is usually perfect for peak winter experiences, offering some of the best winter fun you'll find anywhere. The snow falls flat and often deep, and a general lack of wind makes for a white wonderland. The sun shines more often than not, and the sparkling vistas are magnificent, calling you out of doors, promising a satisfying and memorable experience.

When winter comes and the snow falls from the clouds, we are ready in other ways — ways that ensure you have a memorable visit. Our local business community — lodging establishments, outdoor recreation equipment sales and rental outlets, clothing stores and restaurants — are ready to welcome you and provide you with all you need. We locals frequent these establishments, we patronize the stores, we use the services, we eat at the restaurants, we go to the theater productions, the art galleries. The many people, places and products here make our winters pleasurable, too. Pagosa Country is chock-full of tremendous businesses and wonderful talents, and they await your arrival.

Pagosa continues to be a special place to create memories you'll look back on fondly. We still offer myriad places and activities to get away, try something new, revisit a much-loved winter hobby or just enjoy the winter wonderland with a warm beverage by the fireplace.

If you are a visitor during the winter, take advantage of all we have to offer. You are our guest; we welcome you.

Enjoy your time here, and return.





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Frequently asked questions

Where is Pagosa Springs?

Pagosa Springs is an outdoor-lover's paradise nestled at more than 7,000 feet in altitude in southwest Colorado's rugged San Juan Mountains. With spectacular fall colors, snow-covered peaks, Chimney Rock National Monument, incredible hunting, amazing wildlife, clean air and 2.8 million acres of National Forest, Archuleta County and Pagosa Springs offer countless opportunities to soak up the scenery in every season.

Who can I contact for info?

To get started exploring Pagosa Springs, check out www.ExplorePagosa.com for information on lodging, restaurants, recreational activities and more. Potential visitors can also call the Visitor Center's vacation line at (866) 438-4917. Archuleta County news and events can be found in The Pagosa Springs SUN, the community's weekly newspaper, with weekday online updates at www.PagosaSUN.com.

What is it like at altitude?

Regardless of your level of physical fitness, acute mountain sickness can strike anyone not acclimated to Pagosa's 7,000-foot elevation. To stay well during your visit and to get the most out of your time in Pagosa Springs, it is recommended that visitors follow a few pieces of altitude advice:

- Drink 3 to 4 quarts of water per day.
- Avoid overexertion, caffeine and alcohol for the first few days.
- Take a day or two to acclimate before venturing to higher-elevation destinations.
- Seek medical attention if persistent headache, fatigue, poor coordination or shortness of breath occur.

What is the weather like?

In a word, the weather in Pagosa Springs is beautiful. Archuleta County is located just north of the New Mexico border and along the western slope of the Continental Divide. The combination of high desert plateau and dramatic Rocky Mountains to the north and east creates an unusual microclimate. Because of this, Pagosa Springs has it all, with warm, pleasant summers,

long autumns with gorgeous colors and plenty of dry, powdery snow. On average, Pagosa residents enjoy 300 days of sun each year, as well as four distinct and uniquely beautiful seasons. With low wind and warm sunshine, residents can enjoy a variety of year-round recreational activities.

Average Days of Sunshine: 300 per year

Annual Precipitation: 21.66 inches/year

Annual Snowfall: 116.4 inches/year

Average Monthly Temperatures:

Month	High	Low	Month	High	Low
Jan.	37.4°F	1.4°F	July	82.7°F	45.0°F
Feb.	42.0°F	7.0°F	Aug.	80.0°F	44.4°F
March	48.5°F	15.6°F	Sept.	73.5°F	36.4°F
April	58.6°F	23.7°F	Oct.	63.1°F	26.3°F
May	67.9°F	30.1°F	Nov.	49.0°F	15.4°F
June	78.1°F	36.1°F	Dec.	39.5°F	4.9°F

Is there a medical facility?

Pagosa Springs Medical Center includes a critical-access hospital located at 95 S. Pagosa Blvd. The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Phone (970) 731-3700. Dial 911 for emergency services.

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

Important phone numbers:

EMERGENCIES DIAL "911" (ambulance, EMT, fire, police)

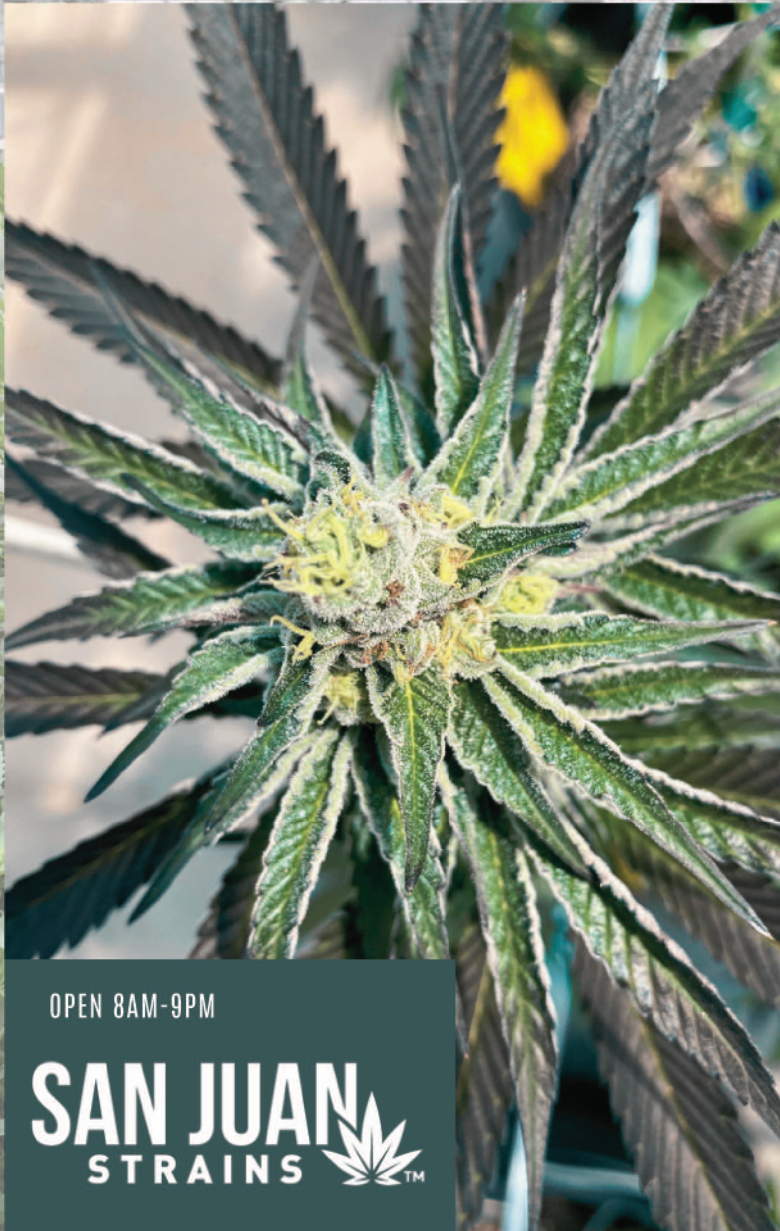
For non-emergency ambulance, fire, EMT, police, dial (970) 731-2160

Archuleta County Dispatch	(970) 731-2160
Archuleta County Commissioners	(970) 264-8300
Archuleta County Sheriff's Office	(970) 264-8430
Archuleta School District 50 Joint	(970) 264-2228
Colorado State Patrol Headquarters	(303) 239-4501
Colorado State Patrol District 5	(970) 249-4392
Emergency Medical Services	(970) 731-5811
La Plata Electric Association	(970) 247-5786
Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation	(970) 731-2691
Pagosa Fire Protection District	(970) 731-4191
Pagosa Springs Police	(970) 264-4151, ext. 228
Pagosa Springs Post Office	(970) 264-5440
Pagosa Springs Town Hall	(970) 264-4151
The Pagosa Springs SUN	(970) 264-2100
Senior Center	(970) 264-2167
Black Hills Energy	(888) 890-5554
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	(970) 563-0100
Stevens Field Airport, Manager	(970) 731-3060
Stevens Field FBO	(970) 731-2127
Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library	(970) 264-2209
Rise Above Violence	(970) 264-9075

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SHARI PIERCE

Pagosa Springs

For more than a century, Pagosa Country has enchanted visitors with its stunning natural beauty.

Snow-covered mountain peaks, clear blue skies and healing mineral waters captivate guests who cannot help but be charmed by the relaxed, friendly atmosphere of life in the San Juan Mountains.

The elements that contribute to Pagosa Country’s magic are many: wild game, stately timbers, lush valleys, sparkling rivers, scenic seclusion and the craggy peaks of the rugged San Juans.

Unlike so many modern “retreats” in the Rockies, Pagosa Country doesn’t offer everything money can buy, but it does offer countless things money can’t buy.

Leave the hustle and bustle of city living and the glitz of Rocky Mountain resort towns — escape to Pagosa Springs.

Basic services abound

Pagosa has everything guests and residents need to be entertained and accommodated.

A public library, art galleries, museums, theaters, numerous restaurants and a variety of specialty shops provide plenty of opportunities for amusement.

Churches, gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, motels, and public and private health care facilities are also available to fill any need.

Information is available

Head to the Visitor Center for directions and information on all Pagosa has to offer. Located on the right side of Hot Springs Boulevard just after you cross the bridge over the San Juan River, the Visitor Center, which is designed to represent one of Pagosa Springs’ early-day bathhouses, offers a wealth of information.

With a knowledgeable staff familiar with the ins and outs of Pagosa, the Visitor Center is the place to go for questions, concerns, tips and advice, as well as pamphlets, maps and brochures for the area’s events, destinations and other attractions.

World’s deepest hot spring

A short walk south from the Visitor Center will take you to “The Great Pagosa Hot Spring” — certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the deepest geothermal hot spring in the world. From the Visitor Center, follow the sidewalk down Hot Springs Boulevard until you’re southwest of The Springs Resort and Spa and follow the paved path to the right.

Outdoor pools fed by that water and a variety of outdoor geothermal hot tubs are located next to the San Juan River, featuring water temperatures to suit every need and taste. Take in the sights and sounds of beautiful Pagosa Springs while relaxing in the warmth of the springs and the coolness of the mountain air. You’ll even find a rooftop pool with mountain views.

Outdoor activities

Pagosa Springs is overflowing with opportunities to engage in outdoor adventures.

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

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

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

If you’ve been here before, welcome back.



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Calendar of events

December

Dec. 12-28

"All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
Presented by Thingamajig Theatre Company. See website for performance schedule. (970) 731-SHOW, www.pagosacenter.org

Dec. 5

Festival of Trees Public Viewing
Noon-6 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center
Santa will visit from 3-6 p.m.
pagosasprings.co.gov

Dec. 6

Festival of Trees
5:30 p.m., Ross Aragon Community Center
pagosasprings.co.gov

Dec. 13

Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social
4:30 p.m., Cloman Park
www.pagosanordic.com

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Christmas Concert

7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium

Dec. 14

**Pagosa Springs Community Choir
Christmas Concert**
7 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium

Dec. 15

Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic
10 a.m., Cloman Park
Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons for never-evers, beginners and intermediates. Registration required at PagosaNordic.com

Pagosa Springs Community Choir Christmas Concert

4 p.m., Pagosa Springs High School auditorium

Dec. 21

Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration
5-7 p.m., Riverwalk
Participate in a walking "parade" to celebrate the holiday season. The event centers around an old-fashioned Christmas theme

and the spirit of giving.
(970) 585-1200
www.visitpagosasprings.com

January

Jan. 4-12

"Disney's Frozen KIDS"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
Presented by Whatchamawhozits Theatre Company. See website for schedule. (970) 731-SHOW, www.pagosacenter.org

Jan. 17-26

"A Walk in the Woods"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
Presented by Thingamajig Theatre Company. See website for performance schedule. (970) 731-SHOW, www.pagosacenter.org

Jan. 4

Season Opener: Southwest Nordic Series Race
9 a.m., Cloman Park
Competitive 20 km, citizens 5k and Kid K races.
PagosaNordic.com

Jan. 5

Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic
10 a.m., Cloman Park
Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons for never-evers, beginners and intermediates. Registration required at PagosaNordic.com.

Jan. 11

Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social
4:30 p.m., Cloman Park
www.pagosanordic.com

Jan. 17

WinterFest Bonfire
5:30 p.m., Archuleta County Fairgrounds
A bonfire, live music, food vendors, a beer garden and hot beverages.

Jan. 18

Skijoring
Archuleta County Fairgrounds
pagosachamber.com

WinterFest Hot Air Balloon Mass Ascensions

8 a.m., west side of Pagosa Springs
(970) 264-2360, pagosachamber.com

WinterFest Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon

8:45 a.m., Yamaguchi Park
16k competitive (8:45 a.m.), 4k citizens/youth (9 a.m.) and KidK (10 a.m.) races.
PagosaNordic.com

Penguin Plunge

1 p.m., Riverwalk along the San Juan River
Watch daring volunteers plunge in the river to raise money for their favorite charity.
(970) 264-2360, pagosachamber.com

Sledz on Rez

2 p.m., Reservoir Hill
Homemade sleds compete for awards
(970) 264-2360, pagosachamber.com

Jan. 19

Skijoring
Archuleta County Fairgrounds
pagosachamber.com

WinterFest Hot Air Balloon Mass Ascensions

8 a.m., west side of Pagosa Springs
(970) 264-2360, pagosachamber.com

WinterFest Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic

10 a.m., Cloman Park
Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons for never-evers, beginners and intermediates.
Registration required at PagosaNordic.com

February

Feb. 2

Learn to Cross-Country Ski Clinic
10 a.m., Cloman Park
Skate ski and classic cross-country ski lessons for never-evers, beginners and intermediates.
Registration required at PagosaNordic.com

Feb. 8

Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social
5 p.m., Cloman Park
www.PagosaNordic.com

Feb. 28

"The Odd Couple (Female Version)"
Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
Presented by Thingamajig Theatre Company. See website for performance schedule. (970) 731-SHOW, www.pagosacenter.org

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Best place to stop after a day of skiing.
Finest selection of cigars in Pagosa Springs.

Stop in and see us!

Mon-Sat: 9 a.m. to midnight • Sun: 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

204 East Pagosa Street
Pagosa Springs, Colorado



Calendar of events

March

March 1-15

"The Odd Couple (Female Version)"

Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts
Presented by Thingamajig Theatre
Company. See website for performance
schedule.

(970) 731-SHOW, www.pagosacenter.org

March 14

Moonrise Cross-Country Ski Social

5:30 p.m., Cloman Park
PagosaNordic.com

Be sure to check
The Pagosa Springs SUN
up-to-date event information.



Your source for local
weather from local experts
in Pagosa Springs

Pagosa Weather

www.pagosaweather.org
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SAMUEL BRICKER/WOLF CREEK SKI AREA

Wolf Creek Ski Area events

Nov. 6	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 8.....	Camp Robbers and Raven Riders
Nov. 13	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 9.....	Local Appreciation Day
Nov. 20	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 9.....	85th Anniversary Fun Race
Nov. 23	Vintage Skis Selfie Station	Feb. 10.....	Ms. Mondays
Dec. 1	College Day	Feb. 16.....	Presidents Day Fun Race
Dec. 2-5	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 22.....	Camp Robbers and Raven Riders
Dec. 7-8	Skimo Mountaineering Race	Feb. 23.....	College Day
Dec. 9-12	Local Appreciation Day	Feb. 25.....	Forever Young Clinic
Dec. 24-25	Santa Claus Visits	March 1.....	Mardi Gras Fun Race
Jan. 5	Fun Race	March 1.....	Camp Robbers and Raven Riders
Jan. 12	Fun Race	March 6.....	Jane and Pitch Tribute
Jan. 12	85th Anniversary Scavenger Hunt	March 8.....	Jane and Pitch Tribute Fun Race
Jan. 13	Ms. Mondays	March 15.....	Spring Fling Fun Race
Jan. 14	Forever Young Clinic	March 22.....	Fun Race
Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Race	March 23.....	College Day
Jan. 21	Tuesday Turns Clinic	March 24.....	Ms. Mondays
Jan. 22	United Way Day	March 25.....	Tuesday Turns Clinic
Jan. 25	Challenge Series Giant Slalom Race	March 29.....	Fun Race
Jan. 26	College Day	March 30.....	85th Anniversary Trivia Hour
Jan. 27	Ms. Mondays	March 31.....	Local Appreciation Day
Jan. 28	Forever Young Clinic	March 31.....	Ms. Mondays
Jan. 29	Local Appreciation Day	April 1-6.....	Local Appreciation Day
Feb. 1.....	Camp Robbers and Raven Riders	April 1	Tuesday Turns Clinic
Feb. 2.....	Groundhog Day Race	April 5	Challenge Series Super G
Feb. 4.....	Tuesday Turns Clinic	April 6	85th Anniversary Costume Contest
Feb. 5.....	Local Appreciation Day	April 6	85th Anniversary Grand Prize Drawing



SHARI PIERCE

The basics

Location

Archuleta County is located in southwest Colorado, situated at the junction of U.S. 160 and U.S. 84 at an elevation of 7,079 feet. The county seat, Pagosa Springs, is located just 28 miles north of the New Mexico border and 60 miles east of Durango. It is also near the Four Corners, where Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet.

Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350
Persons per square mile — 9.9

Physical description

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

Archuleta County population

2023 estimate — 14,189

Newspaper

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

Housing and income

Median value of housing — \$432,400
Households — 5,738
Persons per household — 2.27
Per capita money income — \$34,394
Median household income — \$66,813
Persons in poverty — 8.2 percent

Taxes

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

Lodgers' tax: A 4.9-percent tax is collected from the lodging industry. Those revenues are used for tourism promotion in both the town and the county.

Primary source of town and county revenue: Retail sales taxes, property taxes and charges for services.

Government

Town government: www.pagosasprings.co.gov
Home rule municipality
Town council with elected mayor and six councilors elected for alternating four-year terms; town administrator is appointed.
Date of Incorporation: 1891.

County government: www.archuletacounty.org
Three county commissioners elected for alternating four-year terms.

Tourism and business development

The Pagosa Springs SUN
(970) 264-2100
www.explorepagosa.com
www.pagosasun.com
Pagosa Springs Community Development Corp.
(970) 264-3023
pagosaspringscdc.org
Pagosa Springs Area Chamber of Commerce
(970) 264-2360
pagosachamber.com
Pagosa Springs Area Tourism Board
(866) 438-4917
visitpagosasprings.com

Related websites and info

U.S. Postal Service, Hot Springs Boulevard
(970) 264-5440
U.S. Forest Service Pagosa Ranger District Office
(970) 264-2268, www.fs.fed.us
Stevens Field Airport
(970) 731-3060, www.stevensfield.com
AWOS frequency 127.175
FBO (970) 731-2127
Durango-La Plata County Airport
(970) 382-6050
<http://www.durangogov.org/202/Airport>

Road conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation
(303) 639-1111, cotrip.org
New Mexico Road Report
(800) 432-4269, nmroads.com

Marijuana laws: Remain responsible and legal

Marijuana — both for medicinal and recreational purposes — is legal in Colorado. But, while it may be legal, there are a few things you should know if you plan on partaking to remain responsible and legal.

First, there are differences in the laws regarding medicinal and recreational marijuana. To obtain marijuana for medicinal purposes, you must be a Colorado resident with a state medical marijuana card, which can only be obtained through a doctor. With that 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://cannabis.colorado.gov/>.

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

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

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

Marijuana, however, cannot be consumed publicly, on public land (including, but not limited to, the national forest and Wolf Creek Ski Area), or be accessible to the public. It also cannot be consumed in any indoor, public areas — like restaurants, bars or common areas in buildings — unless that establishment has a specific license allowing for it.

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. 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, and violators are subject to prosecution, with penalties ranging from fines to possible jail or prison sentences. It should also be noted that marijuana remains illegal at the federal level.

Please, be responsible and safe while partaking, and ensure all products are stored safely and securely.

The Pagosa Springs Official Visitor Guide™

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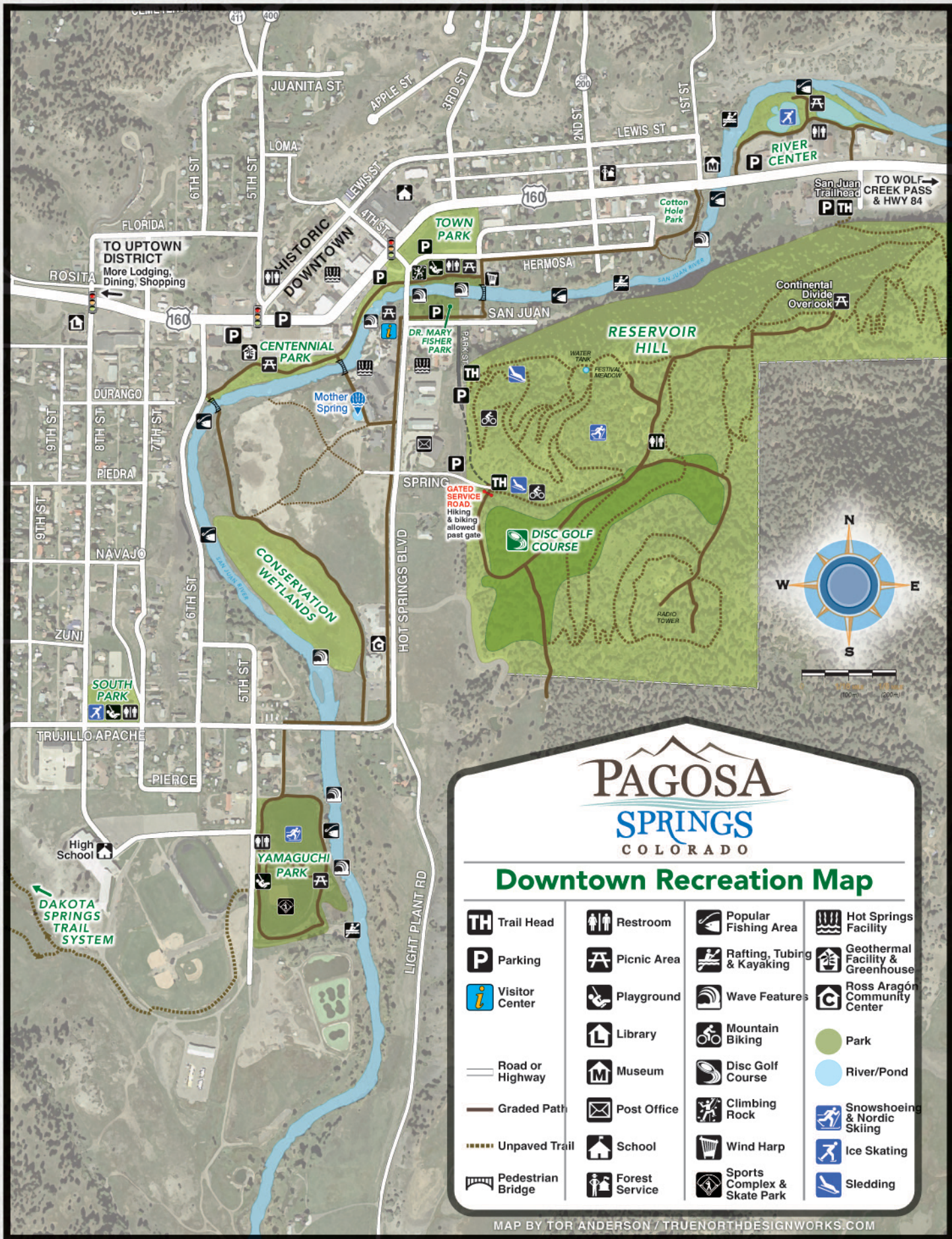
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www.PagosaSUN.com
www.ExplorePagosa.com

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Cover Photo:
Randi Pierce



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



RANDI PIERCE

WinterFest

WinterFest is an interactive festival perfect for the family, and WinterFest weekend is the time to visit Pagosa Springs. WinterFest 2025 is set for Jan. 17-19.

A magical part of the weekend is the colorful hot air balloons that grace the winter skies — weather permitting. The snowy white mountains and the crystal blue skies make for a stunning backdrop to the multicolored balloons. Bring your camera, dress warmly and capture the splendor as the balloons mass ascend on Jan. 18 and 19. Both mass ascensions will take place from various locations on the west side of town where you may see a balloon take a skip and a hop on the frozen lakes.

The weekend kicks off on Jan. 17 with a blaze — a huge bonfire that is. What better way to offset the cold of January than a super-sized bonfire accompanied by live music, food vendors, a beer garden and hot beverages? The event is free and will be located at the Archuleta County Fairgrounds just south on U.S. 84 and Mill Creek Road. The festivities will begin about 5:30 p.m.

Returning this year will be the popular skijoring event, which will be held Jan. 18 and 19. Watch horses pull skiers and snowboarders through an obstacle course as they compete for prizes and awards. There will even be a time when youngsters can try out the course via a slower method than the horses. This fast-paced activity is a very popular sport to watch. On Saturday night, there will also be a dance at the fairgrounds.

Another highlight is the Penguin Plunge, where hardy participants jump into the frigid San Juan River (approximately 32 degrees) as

they raise money for their favorite nonprofit organization. The event takes place on Saturday around 1 p.m. in front of the Visitor Center, where the plungers float down the river a bit and then go over “Davey’s Wave” for a full-body experience. Spectators can view the antics from the Riverwalk.

Continue on with the festivities in the downtown area as you watch the Sledz on Rez Race, hosted by the Build Pagosa construction vocational group. Homemade sleds “race” down Reservoir Hill located downtown on Saturday afternoon. Materials such as satellite dishes, wheelbarrows, kayaks or a crate are joined with skis or snowboards for imaginative sled creations. The crowd jeers and cheers as the sledders wield their way down the hill as they compete for prizes such as the fastest time or best-decorated sled.

For the athletically inclined, there are several activities to participate in over the weekend. The Pagosa Nordic Club will host the Red Ryder BB Gun Biathlon on Jan. 18. This event offers participants a cross-country course to fit your skill level. There will be 16 km competitive, 4 km citizens, youth and kid courses. Each skier shoots at targets, with BB guns provided, three times between ¼ ski distances. Then, on Jan. 19, a Learn to Ski XC Ski Clinic will be held at Cloman Park. This clinic typically fills up, so make reservations early.

Be sure to check The Pagosa Springs SUN and www.PagosaSUN.com for up-to-date information closer to event time as well as more events that may be added onto the weekend. As WinterFest activities are subject to Mother Nature, all events are contingent upon weather conditions, including the launching of the balloons.



Family fun

RANDI PIERCE

Of all the descriptions usually applied to Pagosa Country, “family friendly” ranks among the most treasured by visitors and locals alike.

While winter’s snowy brush paints a picture that pleases the child in all of us, with the town taking on a magical quality as if suddenly populated by gingerbread houses covered with icing, it’s not just the postcard-perfect landscape that gives the area a family-friendly reputation. It’s the myriad safe and fun activities available for all ages that have made Pagosa Country a favorite family destination for decades.

Pagosa Country businesses and nonprofits work hard to pull out all the stops to keep the whole family having fun, entertained and well-fed year-round.

With freshly plowed roads forcing us to slow down and appreciate the view, a quick glance reveals numerous slopes for sledding or getting little legs accustomed to skis or a snowboard, and meadow trails for skiing and snowshoeing.

A traditional local hot spot for a downhill thrill is Reservoir Hill (downtown, just behind The Healing Waters Resort and Spa on the east side of Hot Springs Boulevard), which was improved in recent years. Unless a spell of dry weather has brought out brown patches (with over 300 sunny days a year on average, not an unheard-of condition in the Pagosa area), the slopes promise a good time for kids of all ages.

Parents hoping to spend a day on the more substantial slopes at Wolf Creek Ski Area can enroll children ages 5 to 8 in the Wolf Pups ski school or Wolf Rider board school and 9 to 12 in the Hot Shots ski school. Prices and deals on ski school programs can be found at www.wolfcreekski.com. Equipment rental is not included in the ski school price.

Those looking to stay slightly lower in elevation can glide across frozen water, with the pond at The River Center Park open for skating from mid-December through mid-February. To check conditions and hear if ponds are open, call the Pagosa Springs Sports Hotline, (970) 264-4151, ext. 301.

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

For those with an aversion to the white stuff and cold air, Pagosa Springs offers several indoor alternatives certain to please those not inclined to slap boards on their feet for the purpose of sliding down a mountain.

Of course, the bookish will want to seek out the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library at 811 San Juan St. (on the southeast corner of 8th Street and U.S. 160). With a wide selection of children’s, young adult and adult fiction, as well as nonfiction, reference audiobooks and DVDs, the library offers visitor library cards for those wanting to take some books or a movie back for curling up

with next to a warm fire. While there, free Internet and computer use are available. The library also offers programs for adults and children throughout the year — check a copy of The Pagosa Springs SUN (www.pagosasun.com), call the library at (970) 264-2208 or visit pagosalibrary.org for program times and schedules.

The Ross Aragon Community Center, which is also home to the Pagosa Senior Center, at 451 Hot Springs Blvd. offers programs for young and old alike. From bridge to yoga, pick-up basketball games to mahjong, the center is open to the public, and many programs and classes are free.

Thingamajig Theatre Company, an award-winning theater company in residence at the Pagosa Springs Center for the Arts, will be putting on multiple shows over the winter, ranging from dramas such as “A Walk in the Woods” and “All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” to “The Odd Couple (Female Version)” and “Disney’s Frozen KIDS.” For more information and tickets, visit www.pagosacenter.org.

Finally, during that most magical time of year, plenty of holiday events take place. Among these are visits with Santa around town, the Festival of Trees, an Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration, and numerous holiday music and theater events.

In its fourth year as part of the community’s holiday lineup this year will be Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration, a collaborative event between the Town of Pagosa Springs and The Pagosa Springs SUN. This year’s celebration will be Saturday,

Dec. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. along the Riverwalk in downtown Pagosa Springs. The magical evening will be a walking “parade” to celebrate the holiday season and will center around the theme of an old-fashioned Christmas and the spirit of giving. The event will be held outdoors. There will be multiple entry points along the route in order to ease congestion. Area nonprofits, church groups, businesses, musicians and more will be participating in this magical evening.

Check The PREVIEW section of The Pagosa Springs SUN (www.pagosasun.com) or visit the calendar of events at www.pagosasun.com for up-to-date information and details on the happenings in Pagosa Springs.

You and your group have **60 MINUTES** to find clues, decipher codes and solve puzzles in order to figure your way out of the room before time **RUNS OUT...**

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www.PagosaHumane.org



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to focus on a new facility
to enhance your
ice skating experience.



Photos courtesy Austin DeGarmo

PAGOSA MULTI-PURPOSE PAVILION
Board of Directors
would like to thank
our sponsors and volunteers.

For more information on our expansion project at
South Yamaguchi Park, go to skatepagosa.org.

For information on making contributions
to our expansion project, email skatepagosa@icloud.com

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Something for everyone

PAGOSA NORDIC CLUB

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

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

Alpine skiing

Wolf Creek Ski Area, considered by many as one of the best-kept secrets in Colorado, offers skiers and snowboarders an abundance of powder and packed powder on sun-drenched slopes. Guests love it because the lift lines are short, the runs are long and the prices are lower than most areas in Colorado. You will also find more snow here than just about anywhere else in the state.

Throughout the ski season, the Wolf Creek Ski Area calendar is jam-packed with activities designed for fun and families and all levels of expertise. The ski school is renowned for its excellence, and there are plenty of fun programs for skiers and boarders of all ages.

Backcountry

Fans of snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, telemark and alpine touring often find themselves just plain giddy when

they discover the beautiful, pristine backcountry areas available for their adventures. You can bring your own equipment, book a tour with an outfitter or rent whatever you need at a number of sporting goods shops in Pagosa.

Beginner and more-relaxed cross-country trails surround Pagosa Springs. For those seeking a “wilder” experience, there are cross-country trails in the vicinity of Wolf Creek Pass and in other parts of the San Juan National Forest. With plenty of trails and an abundance of snow, there are innumerable opportunities for the skilled and well-equipped backcountry adventurer.

Cross-country skiing

If alpine skiing isn't your forté, the Pagosa Nordic Club undertakes an ambitious program to bring a variety of groomed Nordic ski trails for classic cross-country and skate skiing opportunities in the Pagosa Springs area.

In town, the club grooms trails in Yamaguchi Park. Cloman Park and the adjacent Davis Ranch, the Laverty Ranch, and the West Fork trailhead located east of Pagosa Springs offer scenic views, as does Fall Creek on Wolf Creek Pass. The Pagosa Ranger District grooms Coyote Hill and Wolf Creek Ski Area grooms Alberta Park for more Nordic skiing opportunities. Other groomed and ungroomed trails can also be found in the area.

If you would like to improve your Nordic skiing skills, there are clinics held throughout the winter months and a number of family-oriented race events. For event and trail information, visit the club's website at PagosaNordic.com.

Ice fishing

If braving the cold to catch perch, trout or bass is your sport, then



Mountain Paws

Dog Sled Tours

In the Heart of the Rockies



An adventure to remember

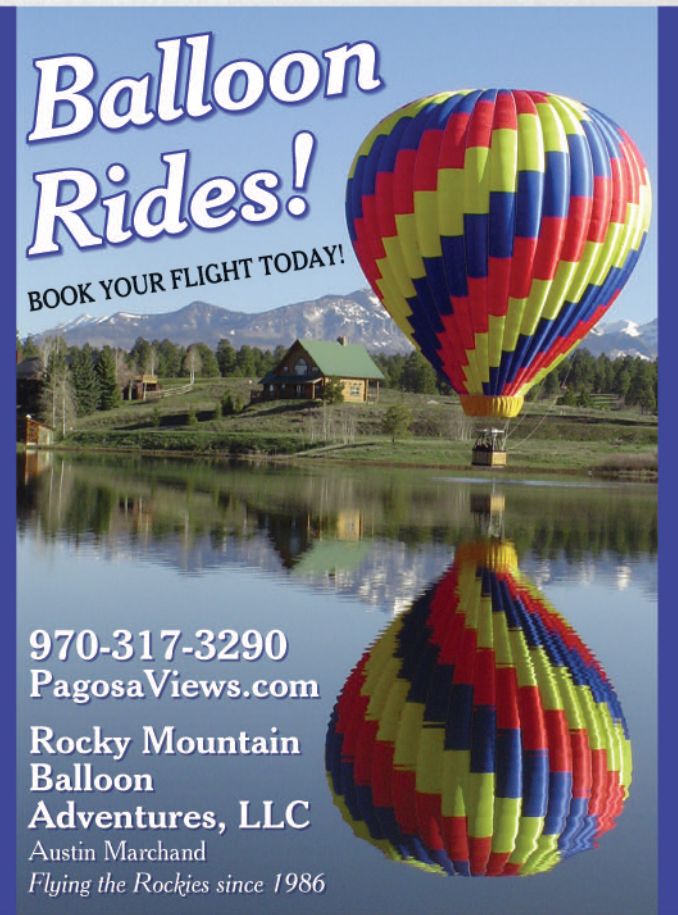
Drive your own team of excited Alaskan huskies through spectacular beauty and along the scenic trails of the majestic San Juan Mountains near Pagosa Springs.

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 Austin Marchand
Flying the Rockies since 1986

try ice fishing at one of the spots favored by locals, such as Williams Creek Reservoir or Echo Lake.

Numerous businesses and sporting goods stores sell fishing licenses and can give you the inside scoop on winter fishing.

Ice skating

During the height of winter, when a day on the slopes is, for whatever reason, out of the question, people trade in their boards for a pair of blades and head to the ponds.

Located at the eastern edge of town, just north of U.S. 160 next to the San Juan River and adjacent to the River Center shopping complex, ice skating is available to visitors and locals alike on the lower west-end pond at the River Center Park.

The pond is usually groomed for skaters from about mid-December until mid-February (depending on weather conditions, of course).

The Pagosa Multi-Purpose Pavilion Winter Ice Rink typically offers ice skating, hockey, curling and broomball. The rink is temporarily closed due to plans to build a new facility.

Mineral hot springs

A long, relaxing soak in Pagosa Springs' world-famous healing waters is the perfect way to end a day of winter fun. Visitors and locals alike laud the waters' curative powers. Three mineral hot springs facilities are enjoyed by thousands of guests year-round.

Holiday festivities

If you happen to be in Pagosa for the holidays, you're in for a treat. Merchants traditionally roll out the red shopping carpets to help you find the perfect gifts, and local governments, businesses and nonprofits work to make the holidays magical.

Christmas in Pagosa Springs is a special time of year, with holiday

lights twinkling throughout town. Santa sightings occur throughout December around town and at Wolf Creek Ski Area. It's also a busy time of year for nonprofit organizations as they plan festive concerts, plays, markets and more.

The annual Festival of Trees, hosted by the Ross Aragon Community Center in early December, benefits numerous nonprofits in Pagosa Springs. Attendees can marvel in the beautifully and creatively decorated trees, enjoy the music and delicious food and get caught up in the "bidding wars." It is a festive night made better by its benefiting community nonprofit agencies.

Old Fashioned Christmas, set for Dec. 21, has been likened to a Hallmark movie where the community and its visitors can stroll, celebrate Christmas, visit Santa, enjoy being together and take in the downtown area lit up for the season.

As the winter season progresses, the community welcomes visitors for WinterFest, which is set for Jan. 17-19.

WinterFest blows the blahs out of everyone as challenging sports, fun games, contests and antics are held all over town. Colorful hot air balloons decorate the blue skies with a background of snow-capped mountains on Saturday and Sunday mornings from the west side of town. The Sledz on Rez event features homemade sleds being tested on Reservoir Hill. The Penguin Plunge brings the hardest (or craziest) plungers out to take a swim in the frigid San Juan River to raise money for their favorite charity. The Nordic Club hosts a BB gun biathlon race for kids, novice or more-experienced cross-country skiers. Skijoring events feature horses pulling skiers and snowboarders through an obstacle course. It is a family-fun weekend where you can participate or spectate.



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 year-round, featuring the majestic Pagosa Peak, surrounding mountains and landscapes, good chances of 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, Pagosa Springs offers the amenities to help put together all the details for your picture-perfect event.

Photographers, florists, caterers and more, all complete with Pagosa flair, are at the ready. The area also offers 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).

Licenses can be secured for \$30. Both the bride and groom are required to be present with photo ID to sign the document. A marriage license may be issued and used in any county in Colorado. However, the license must be used within 35 days from the date of issue. The license is issued the day it is applied for and may be used immediately. No blood test is required in Colorado. Additional requirements exist if either or both parties are divorced.

Additional information and license applications are available at www.archuletacounty.org/193/Marriage-Licenses. Call (970) 264-8350 with any inquiries or to make an appointment.

Pagosa Country also provides experiences. It won't be a problem keeping family and friends entertained. A plethora of memorable indoor and outdoor activities cater to every age, skill level and area of interest — shopping, skiing, boarding, skating and more — all of which can be topped off with a soak in the area's mineral pools or a relaxing massage.



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Each of Pagosa's 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.

While the mother spring's water remains at a natural temperature of 144 degrees and is far too hot for a relaxing soak, all the facilities cool the water for bathing and recreational purposes.

In planning how to split your time and experience Pagosa Country's healing waters, be sure to check the amenities and availability of each facility to help you take full advantage of what they have to offer.

Located on the main street of Pagosa Springs, 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. Also outside, the Overlook's courtyard features individual tubs, as well as a Jacuzzi. Inside, there are four open pools, including a cold plunge, and a private pool room that can be rented by the hour by bathers who prefer to soak in a more intimate setting.

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

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

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

Across the street, The Springs Resort and Spa, home to the mother spring, offers luxury hotel rooms, food establishments, two bars, a full-service spa and 25 steamy pools (the most in Colorado) on the banks of the San Juan River.

A variety of therapeutic pools have temperatures ranging from 45 to 114 degrees, with waterfalls, mineral formations and other unique features. There is also a swimming pool of geothermal water with a temperature in the high 80s to low 90s.



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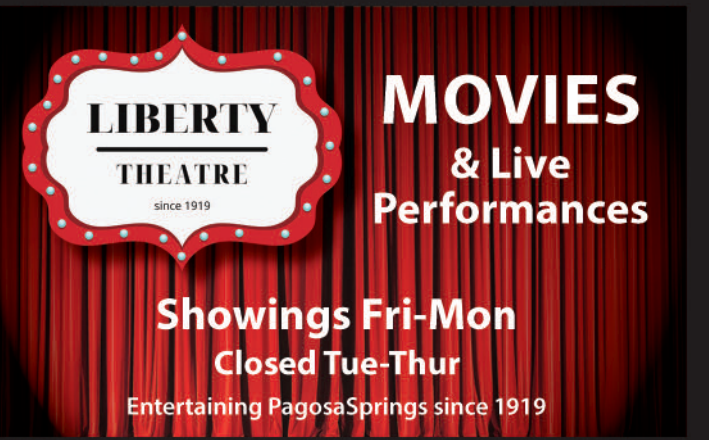
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World's deepest hot spring



Come on in, the water's fine

For centuries, the waters in Pagosa Springs have drawn visitors who wish to take advantage of the healing qualities of the world's deepest natural hot spring.

Prior to the arrival of Hispanic and Anglo settlers, members of various tribes of Native Americans came to heal and refresh themselves in the local waters. Historians report that Native Americans preferred to coat themselves with mud mixed with the mineral water rather than soaking directly in the pools. The rationale was simple: at 144 degrees Fahrenheit, undiluted spring water is far too hot for a pleasurable soak.

Although early Hispanic and Anglo settlers took advantage of the hot springs from time to time, the healing properties of the waters remained largely a local secret. Eventually, however, word was passed regarding the "magical properties" of The Great Pagosa Hot Spring and travelers sought out the medicinal qualities of the water. Since then, visitors from all over the world come to seek out a healing experience that was once known only to the local inhabitants.

Today, few of life's pleasures are more rewarding than surrendering your body to hot, soothing waters after a day on the slopes, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing the backcountry, skating or sledding the numerous hills in Pagosa Country.

Locals call this luxury "ski and soak," a combination guaranteed to ease the aches and pains of even the most tired muscles.

Experience the 'magic'

Time and again, visitors here comment on the friendliness and laid-back demeanor of our residents. More than that, many visitors ask why so many of our locals seem so healthy, vibrant and appear much younger than their age — an observation that inevitably leads to the question, "So, what's in the water?"

Local spin has it that the Ute term, "Pagosa," describes the mystical qualities of the legendary Great Pagosa Hot Spring, repeating the apocryphal tale that the phrase translates as "Healing Waters."

Alas, the truth might be much more hackneyed, but no less descriptive: local historian John Motter writes that, "According to the dictionary prepared under the auspices of and with the help of Southern Utes in Ignacio, Pagosa comes from two Ute words meaning 'stinking water.'"

Certainly, there is an unmistakable aroma accompanying the springs, but are they really also healing waters? You can judge for yourself, but abundant testimonials say, "yes."

And while Native Americans visited the geothermally heated waters, certain the Great Spirit had endowed the bubbling cauldron with superhuman virtues, reverence for the "Healing Waters" has not abated with passage of time. In recent years, the Great Pagosa Hot Spring has attracted more visitors than ever before. And why not? It is a unique experience, providing comfort and relaxation unmatched anywhere.

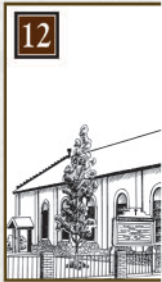
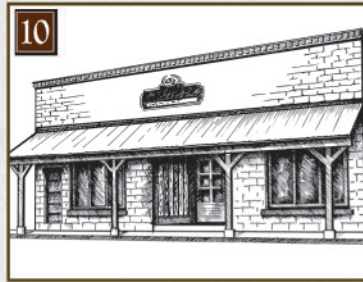
Making it all possible is the Great Pagosa Hot Spring, that bubbling fountain of natural mineral water and the world's deepest hot spring.

How can we make the claim of "the world's deepest hot spring?" Because the Guinness Book of World Records says so. A judge from the New York office of the Guinness Book of World Records visited Pagosa Springs to verify measurements on the Great Pagosa Hot Spring made by Durango-based hydrologist John Casey.

How deep is it? We wish we could say. So far, attempts to plumb the depths of the spring have defied the best efforts to find out. When Casey dropped a 1,002-foot long plumb line into the "mother spring," it didn't hit the bottom; instead, the plumb line ran out. So now, the official measurement is 1,002 feet and, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, that's the deepest hot spring in the world.

Prior to that, however, the depth of the spring had been measured using a 2,500-foot plumb line. The same thing happened: Before the plumb line reached the bottom of the spring, the line ran out.

So, the mystery remains unsolved. Deeper still, however, is the mystery of our water's ability to soothe, heal and relax even the most harried soul. Visit the site of the spring and experience it for yourself. Take the opportunity to avail yourself of Pagosa's healing waters, its mystery, its spirit-rejuvenating properties and, yes — it's magic.



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 theater.

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

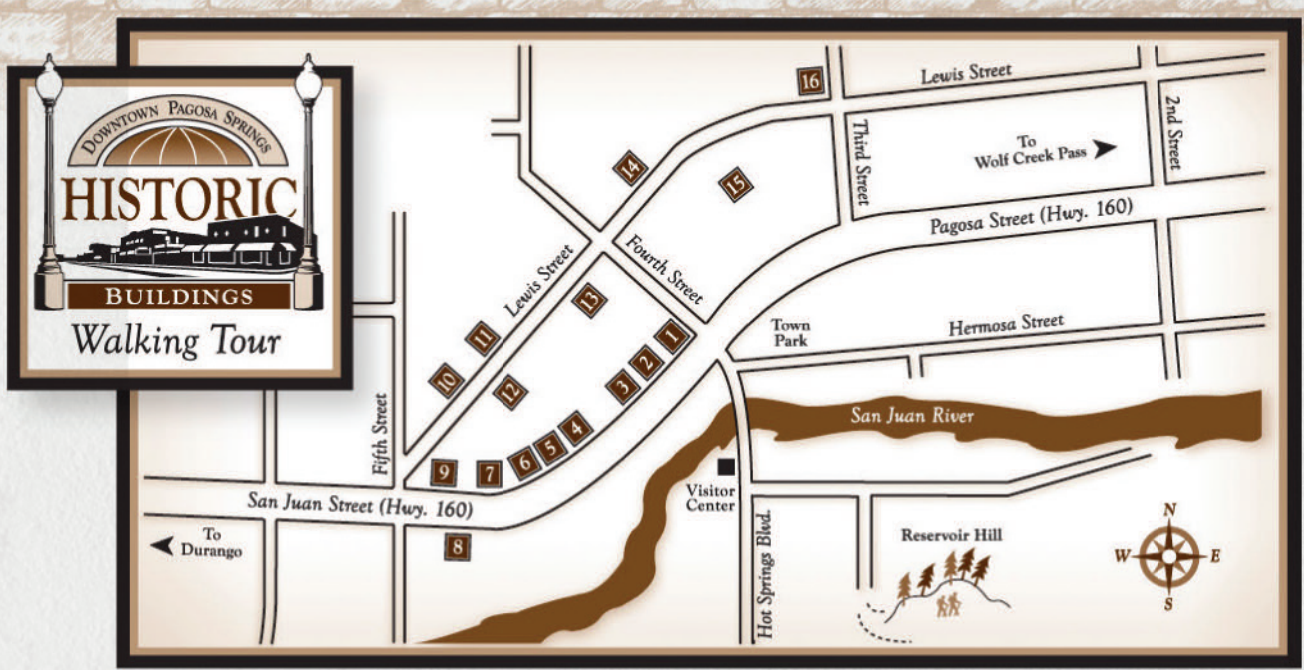
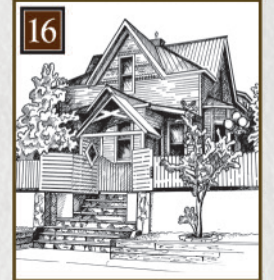
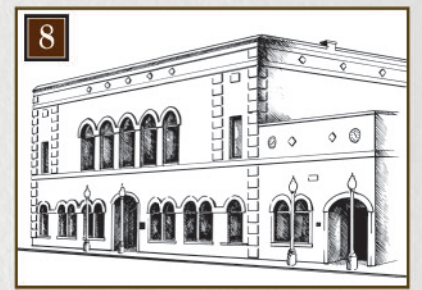
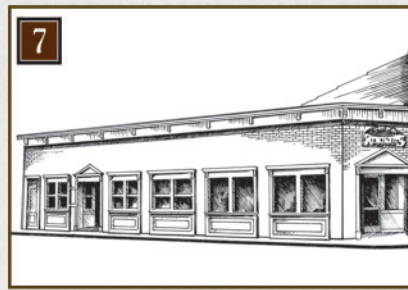
This building originally functioned as a service station and auto garage and was constructed sometime between 1935 and 1937. A fire in 1943 destroyed a large portion of the structure. Numerous renovations have been completed since the fire, including significant restoration in 2005.

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 was purchased by Bryce and Julia Patterson in



ILLUSTRATIONS AND TOUR ©2007 TOWN OF PAGOSA SPRINGS

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 from 1976 to early 2020.

**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.

Play Outside



LAMOREAUX



Play Outside

'That's why we live here'

Lamoreaux brothers earn regional, global recognition in snowboarding

For many people in Pagosa Country, winter is the main reason for visiting or residing in the area.

An abundance of both snow and sunshine throughout the winter make for ideal conditions to go skiing, snowmobiling or snowshoeing in some of the lightest and fluffiest snow in the world. That snow can be found in the backcountry, on a groomed trail in the national forest or in town, or at the nearby Wolf Creek Ski Area.

Along with being family-friendly, Wolf Creek Ski Area is known for having the most snow in Colorado, with the ski area reporting an average annual snowfall of 430 inches.

OnTheSnow.com's visitors and app users, which provide reviews and snow reports for more than 2,000 ski areas worldwide, named Wolf Creek Ski Area the No. 1 small ski area in North America for the 2023-2024 winter season. Though it is considered to be a small ski area, with 1,600 ski-able acres and a total vertical drop of 1,600 feet, skiers and boarders of every level can find suitable terrain.

Some riders have even been able to push the boundaries of their sport, earning recognition not just locally and regionally, but also nationally and globally.

Two brothers, Bradley and Logan Lamoreaux, of Pagosa Springs, have begun competing in International Free Skiers Association freeride competitions and in the Junior Freeride World Tour, representing the Continental Divide Freeride Team. The team was formed in 2018 to give kids at Wolf Creek Ski Area a chance to be part of a skiing and riding team without a race focus. Instead, the team focuses on techniques and riding the conditions of the day.

Bradley and Logan have been riding with the team for four seasons.

"The team has been awesome," Bradley said.

Born and raised in Pagosa Springs, Bradley and Logan have had season passes to Wolf Creek Ski Area every year since they could walk.

Their father, Derrick Lamoreaux, explained he moved to Pagosa in the early 2000s for the sole purpose of riding at and around Wolf Creek Ski Area.

Derrick mentioned he initially considered riding more backcountry terrain, but that "the [ski area has] been that rad that I just keep going there."

"That's why we live here," he said. "We came here to shred."

He explained the community at Wolf Creek Ski Area is unlike any other that they have come across.

Bradley explained that, before he started competing, he had

never been to another ski area.

"We grew up on this little mountain," he said.

He relayed he started competing in events just for fun and quickly realized that he could hang with some of the top-level riders around the world in his age group.

Bradley will be going to Austria this season to compete in the Junior Freeride World Tour that will feature 10 of the sport's best athletes from around the world in the 18-year-old age bracket.

The event invites five riders from Europe and five riders from the Americas, and Bradley is the only rider coming out of Colorado.

When asked about what it's like getting to travel and visit other world-renowned ski areas, Bradley explained Wolf Creek Ski Area is still his favorite place to ride.

"Snow here is so much better," he said, mentioning the Knife Ridge at Wolf Creek Ski Area and how there is always something fun to ride.

Logan has also started to experience success in junior competitions, winning last season's Wolf Creek regional competition, as well as placing in the top five at the Snowbird national competition and the Copper Mountain national competition.

"It's pretty cool to see this tiny human flying off stuff," Derrick said about watching 13-year-old Logan.

Derrick also mentioned Logan has gone from tagging along with older brother Bradley and his dad to winning competitions and defining his own style of riding.

The Lamoreauxs give a lot of credit to the Wolf Creek Ski Area community for its support in helping Bradley and Logan be able to travel and compete in these competitions.

Bradley noted he gets to ride with so many different groups of people on any given day at Wolf Creek Ski Area and there is not such a competitive atmosphere amongst the riders, but everyone pushes each other to ride the best lines they can.

"That's what's fun about Wolf Creek. It's a hometown mountain," Derrick said, noting the camaraderie at the mountain is unmatched, with the community members constantly lifting each other up.

"It's the kids versus the mountain, not versus each other," he said.

Derrick also explained that every day at Wolf Creek Ski Area offers something new with everything from the burgers served at the lodge to riding extreme freestyle terrain or simply lapping groomers.

"We just try to go and hit it as hard as possible," Derrick said.



ROSANNE PITCHER

Wolf Creek Ski Area

Wolf Creek Ski Area is celebrating a milestone in 2024-2025 — 85 years.

The ski area will be celebrating its 85th anniversary in a variety of ways throughout the season: opening day celebrations, art and photo contests, a vintage skis selfie station, scavenger hunt, races, trivia, a costume contest, live music and more.

And, of course, they'll be celebrating with a season full of some of the best snow in Colorado and the area's numerous annual events like holiday fun runs, clinics, United Way Day and more.

Wolf Creek is not only known for having "The Most Snow in Colorado," but for also being family-owned and operated for nearly five decades, and for sustainable business practices such as using renewable energy year-round for decades.

The 2021-2022 season was a success after Wolf Creek was the first in the nation to open for the ski season, and had a number of prolific powder days, exceptional conditions and 385 inches of snowfall. The 2022-2023 season followed suit, logging ample days with favorable conditions and nearly 500 inches of snowfall over the season. Annual snowfall is estimated at 430 inches.

Wolf Creek, offering 1,600 skiable acres perched atop the

Continental Divide, is known for having an exceptional variety of terrain, abundant snowfall and plenty of powder days. It has terrain that ranges from gradual sloping, wide green runs for beginners to excellent expert terrain that will give advanced skiers and boarders an in-bounds backcountry experience. Finding an intermediate groomer to cruise down is easy, and tree skiing is endless.

Beginner trails make up 20 percent of the mountain's trails, intermediate 35 percent and expert 20 percent. The ski area features 133 named trails, with 42 miles of trails.

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

It also offers stunning views of the surrounding mountains, with a base elevation 10,300 feet and a summit elevation of 11,904 feet.

But those who operate the ski area are not content to just rely upon 85 years of story-worthy winter sports and stunning



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01 Feburary
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For more information on our 85th Anniversary events -visit our website. You can also see information about college days, clinics, fun races and more!

TBD* 85th Day of the 85th Year

30 March
85th Anniversary Trivia Hour

06 April
Costume contest

TBD* Live band & boot dance

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29
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31
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5, 9
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1-6
April



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- Retail
- Tickets
- Snowboard Rentals

Base Area Facilities

- 1 Ticket Office
- 2 Sports Center
- 3 Wolf Creek Lodge
- 4 Prospector
- 5 Base Camp
- 6 Wolf Pup Center
- 7 BoarderDome
- 8 Lynx Learning Center
- 9 Noel Sports: Equipment Retail
- 10 Ski School Meeting Place



views. Improvements are continually being made to the ski area to improve the experience.

In 2023, Wolf Creek Ski Area announced the construction and installation of a new chairlift, The Tumbler, to Wolf Creek's refined lift system, giving the destination 11 lifts. The Tumbler chairlift seats four riders and is a fixed-grip lift that is 900 feet in length, which is equivalent in length to the Nova Lift. While the Nova Lift, a double chairlift, is for beginners, the lift is better-suited and more ideal for snowboarders and Wolf Pups. The Tumbler Lift provides an alternative for first-time adult skiers. By adding a third lift to the beginner lift ticket package, the Nova Lift and Lynx Learning Center see the more familiar, low-density skiing experience found around the rest of the mountain. The Tumbler Lift has enhanced the ski area's established reputation for being both family- and beginner-friendly.

Other improvements made in recent years include streamlining lift tickets through the use of Wolf Creek's e-commerce platform; the Powder Room, where season pass holders to rent out seasonal lockers for the upcoming season and other skiing/riding guests can rent out the VIP lockers at a weekly rate; an increased fleet of parking shuttles to further improve Wolf Creek's free, paved parking and shuttle services; and more.

Snowmaking has also been extended to the top of the Treasure Stoke quad chairlift in recent years.

To complement your day, the ski area also offers shopping and a number of places to eat.

Whether this is your first year at Wolf Creek or your 85th, you'll find no shortage of adventure and fun in the most snow in Colorado.

Additional information can be found on www.WolfCreekSki.com or by calling (970) 264-5639 or (800) SKI-WOLF.



MICHAEL PIERCE

Snowmobiling

For some, making snow angels just doesn't cut it for winter fun. Nor does a downhill sled taken to any of the area's popular sledding destinations. Or soaking in the hot springs as the steam rises around you, immersing you in warmth.

Some need a little more adventure and adrenaline.

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

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

Grooming frequencies vary due to conditions and resources, and most routes are only minimally marked, making route-finding skills, maps, avalanche awareness and good pre-trip planning essential for a safe expedition into the Pagosa backcountry during the winter months.

Trail descriptions have been developed to assist visitors in locating snowmobile opportunities in the Pagosa area. Mileages are approximate and do not represent round-trip distances from trailheads. Please be familiar with the rules, regulations and tips for safe winter travel and be respectful of the other trail users such as bikers, skiers, walkers and snowshoers you'll see out on the groomed trails.

Rules and regulations

- Cross-country winter travel is generally permitted in the Pagosa Ranger District. However, there are areas in which snowmobiles are prohibited or restricted to designated routes.
- Snowmobiles are prohibited in the Weminuche Wilderness, the South San Juan Wilderness and the Piedra Area.

• Please refer to the San Juan National Forest Visitor Map and reference the area table for information about the location of areas where travel is restricted to designated routes.

• Each over-the-snow vehicle that is operated on public land in Colorado must be registered with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Out-of-state residents who bring snowmobiles into Colorado must purchase a Colorado nonresident OHV permit. For more information, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife at (303) 791-1920 or www.cpw.state.co.us.

• Per Colorado law, it is unlawful to operate a snowmobile on some plowed public roads, including plowed roads located on national forest lands. It is also unlawful to pursue, drive at or otherwise intentionally disturb or harass any wildlife. For more information regarding state law, go to cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/SnowmobileLaw-Regs.aspx.

Pre-plan and prepare

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

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

Avalanche danger

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

Route finding

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

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

Parking

Parking areas may not be plowed; therefore, parking space is often limited and may not be available after snowstorms when snow removal is in progress. Please park considerately without blocking gates or other vehicles.

Grooming conditions

There is not a set schedule for grooming and some trails may not be groomed for an entire season. For information about grooming conditions or to learn how you can help, go to www.snowmobilecolo.com.

Search and rescue

In an emergency, call 911. The local sheriff's office is the lead agency for search and rescue.

Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue Cards cover search and rescue mission costs, support Colorado search and rescue volunteers, and contribute to well-trained and equipped search and rescue teams. Cards are available at outlets that sell hunting and fishing licenses. Anyone with a current hunting/fishing license, or boat, snowmobile or ATV registration is already covered by the fund.

Pagosa Ranger District Office

For maps and additional information, the Pagosa Ranger District Office is located at 180 Pagosa St. in Pagosa Springs. Call (970) 264-2268 or go to www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan for more information.

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Cross-country skiing



BETH TOLLEFSEN

Courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service and the Pagosa Nordic Club

The opportunities for snowshoeing, classic cross-country skiing and skate skiing in Pagosa Country are plentiful, no matter your level of experience. Some trails/areas cater to those attempting the sports for the first time, while others will challenge even the most experienced winter enthusiasts. The routes described are a mix of groomed trails and unplowed, ungroomed Forest Service roads closed to most vehicles except snowmobiles.

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

The Forest Service roads listed are enjoyed and shared by people on skis, snowshoes and snowmobiles.

Check with the Pagosa Ranger District Office in downtown Pagosa Springs or go to PagosaNordic.com to learn more about groomed trail opportunities.

Parking

Parking may present a problem and at times may prevent the use of a particular route. Park considerately, taking no more space than needed to avoid blocking other vehicles or impeding access to trails, and without impeding access for emergency vehicles. Leave room for vehicles and trailers to turn around.

Colorado Department of Transportation crews clear parking areas along state highways adjacent to trail access, but their first priority is to clear the road. Avoid parking along highway travel lanes.

Trail etiquette

Cross-country skiers might find all types of winter recreation enthusiasts on trails in the Pagosa Springs area. Please don't ride fat bikes, walk or snowshoe on groomed Nordic ski trails. Yield the right of way to downhill traffic. Use caution when approaching or overtaking another user. Do not interfere with or harass other users. Do not disturb wildlife. Only friendly dogs under voice control are permitted, and all dog defecation should be removed from the ski trail. In addition, pack out everything you pack in.

Safety

Before venturing out onto unpacked snow, take the time to learn emergency procedures and backcountry travel and winter camping skills.

Weather and snow conditions can change rapidly in Colorado's mountains. Plan ahead and know what conditions to expect. Your trip will be much more enjoy-

able if you are physically and mentally prepared for whatever may arise.

Be prepared for medical emergencies and leave a detailed description of your trip plans with a responsible person each time you go. Make sure the person you leave your plan with knows to contact the sheriff's office if you fail to return.

In addition, consider purchasing a Colorado Outdoor Recreation Search and Rescue (CORSAR) card to ensure that the county can recover all of your search and rescue costs. Cards cost \$5 for one year or \$20 for five years and are available at hunting and fishing license vendors.

Weather

When planning any backcountry trek, check current and forecasted weather conditions before you leave home and continue to monitor the weather throughout your trip. Dramatic weather changes can occur in minutes throughout Pagosa Country, especially in the mountains. Be informed about avalanche terrain and conditions.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) provides current information on weather and avalanche conditions at <http://avalanche.state.co.us>.

Stay within limits

Recognize and stay within your limits. Carry the appropriate gear for your trip, including extra clothing, a space blanket, sunscreen, sunglasses or goggles, matches or lighter, extra food, and water. If traveling with a dog, carry plastic bags for cleaning up after your pooch. Carry a compass and topographical maps and know how to use them. For backcountry trips, avalanche safety skills and equipment, including a snow shovel, avalanche beacon and probe, are essential. In addition, be prepared to repair equipment and carry a simple field repair kit that includes supplies for common breakdowns.

Visit www.PagosaNordic.com or the Pagosa Ranger District office at 2nd Street and U.S. 160 in downtown Pagosa Springs for up-to-date trail statuses and conditions.

Recommended equipment

As a general rule, dress in layers so you can add and subtract layers as you become hot or cold. Remember, it can be quite cold in the morning, warm up considerably during the day, and get cold as soon as the sun moves behind the hills or a cloud.

Avoid cotton clothing, especially next to the skin. You can be sure that you will get wet from sweat, from falling down or from snow falling off trees. You may get cold if you stop for any amount of time.

The weather may change dramatically if

a front is coming in or if it starts snowing. In a group, some items can be shared.

Equipment and clothing

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

Be aware of and prepared for avalanche danger

Most groomed Nordic ski trail areas are generally safe; however, some groomed trails may traverse steep areas that have steep embankments along the trail or steep terrain further above the trails, especially along higher-elevation trails like Fall Creek. Be aware of and familiar with avalanche safety to avoid potential hazard areas, especially after heavy snowfall. If you are skiing off-piste (off maintained groomed trails), stay off of and away from underneath slopes of 30-45 degrees during periods of heightened avalanche hazard.

In areas of steep terrain, carry an avalanche shovel, beacon and probe for each person. Always test equipment, have adequate battery power and ensure everyone in your group has knowledge of the use of the equipment and avalanche safety awareness.

Always check conditions with an avalanche forecasting group before going out. Daily avalanche forecasts can be obtained from the CAIC online at www.avalanche.state.co.us or the CAIC map. More educational information, including a listing of available training, can be obtained at: www.avalanche.org and www.avalanche.state.co.us.

Groomed Nordic skiing trails

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

Visit PagosaNordic.com for full trail details.

Alberta Lake Nordic Loop

A beautiful 10km loop that starts at the end of the Alberta parking lot of Wolf Creek Ski Area and travels through the forest. Wolf Creek Ski Area has groomed this cross-country ski trail for many years with no use fees required.

Ability levels: Beginner 20 percent, intermediate 50 percent, advanced 30 percent.

Special features: The Wolf Creek Ski Area grooms up to 10km for skate skiing and classic cross-country skiing. The first km is an intermediate access to the Alberta Meadow Nordic loop. Beginners should be aware of the slope and that speed control is needed. There is no ability-level signage.

Getting there: Travel 24 miles east on U.S. 160 to the Wolf Creek Ski Area. The parking attendant can guide you to the far east end of the Alberta parking lot where the Alberta Park cross-country ski trail begins.

West Fork Nordic Trail

With an abundance of flat, groomed and natural terrain, the West Fork area provides fantastic cross-country opportunities for beginners and families as well as experienced skiers. The area offers skiers the chance to ski through stands of giant conifers, as well as scenic views of the valley floor and the headwaters of the San Juan River.

Ability levels: Beginner 80 percent, intermediate

10 percent, advanced 10 percent.

Special features: The Pagosa Nordic Club grooms up to 15km for skate skiing, with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing.

Getting there: Drive 14 miles east of Pagosa Springs on U.S. 160 — look for the Bruce Spruce Lodge sign on the left side of the road. Turn left onto West Fork Road (Forest Road 648). Drive to the end of the road (.25 miles). All-wheel drive vehicles are highly recommended to access the trailhead. Park on the side of the road where it is plowed. The trails are groomed exclusively for cross-country skiing. Walkers and snowshoers are prohibited on the groomed trails.

Coyote Hill

Coyote Hill is another great family and beginner area with three levels of loops. The Pagosa Ranger District grooms up to 14km for skate skiing, with set tracks for classic cross-country skiing. The first level — just off the parking area — offers 3km of beginner, groomed trails. From the main trail, skiers can continue up to the second level for an additional 3km of intermediate terrain. The upper loop offers another 6km of intermediate terrain and 2km of advanced terrain.

Ability levels: Beginner 20 percent, intermediate 70 percent, advanced 10 percent.

Special features: The trails are groomed exclusively for cross-country skiing. Walkers and snowshoers are prohibited on the groomed trails. Snowmobiles are prohibited on Coyote Hill.

Getting there: Drive 6.3 miles north of U.S. 160 on Piedra Road (County Road 600). The

trailhead is on the right, just after the cattle guard. Park in the pull-off if it is plowed.

Cloman Park Nordic Ski Trail

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

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

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

Laverty Ranch Nordic Ski Trail

This trail offers 10 groomed kilometers. It is located 1 mile east of town at 2197 E. U.S. 160.

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

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

Multiuse winter trails

Fourmile (winter) Trail

Follows Fourmile Road (CR 400, FR 645) from the winter closure point to its end.

Length: 4.6 miles.

Trailhead: Fourmile Road (CR 400) at winter closure.

Grooming: Frequently groomed.

Connections: Plumtaw Trail (FR 634).

Plumtaw Trail

The trail is accessed via the Fourmile (winter) Trail (FR 645). It follows Plumtaw Road (FR 634) to end at McManus Road (FR 633).

Length: 18.3 miles.

Trailheads: Fourmile Road (CR 400) or McManus Road (FR 633) at winter closure points.

Grooming: Frequently groomed.

Connections: The McManus-E. Toner Connector (5.8 miles) crosses the Middle Fork of the Piedra River. The route consists of a

groomed trail to E. Toner Road (FR 637), then follows E. Toner Road to Middle Fork Road (FR 636) and continues southwest to a parking area at the junction with Piedra Road (FR 631).

East Fork Road (Forest Road 667)

An enjoyable route for one or several miles, this route parallels the East Fork of the San Juan River. It is 8 miles to the historic Silver Falls Guard Station. Please stay on the road as it passes through private property. This area sees significant snowmobile use, is groomed occasionally by the Wolf Creek Trail Blazers snowmobile club, and can provide a quality distance ski.

Getting there: Travel 9.5 miles east on U.S. 160, turn southeast on East Fork Road, then continue about 3/4 mile to the parking area at the end of the plowed road.

Turkey Springs Trail

Length: 8.5-mile loop.

Trailhead: Turkey Springs Trailhead on Piedra Road (FR 631).

Grooming: Occasionally groomed.

Connections: Monument Trail (FR 630).

Fall Creek Nordic Trail

Beginning at about 9,600 feet in elevation, this popular 3.5-mile route climbs gradually following Fall Creek Road. Great early and late-season snow conditions.

Getting there: Travel 19 miles northeast on U.S. 160 to Fall Creek Road (FR 039). Once cleared, there is a large parking area on the south side of the highway. Avoid parking along highway travel lanes. This trail and area have been experiencing increased snowmobile use. Check www.PagosaNordic.com for grooming status.

Backcountry skiing and snowshoeing

Lobo Overlook

This route climbs generally uphill for 1.5 miles to the Lobo Overlook, the Continental Divide Trail (and the microwave tower). Skiers will be rewarded with breathtaking views at the top. Snowmobiles are allowed on the Forest Service road and provide a packed trail for the ascent.

Getting there: Travel 23.2 miles northeast on U.S. 160. Parking and the road to the overlook are north of the highway just past the Continental Divide.

Nipple Mountain Road

(Forest Road 665)

In addition to traveling Nipple Mountain Road, there are a few other options in this area. The hardy person with a map and backcountry skills may identify lengthy or loop trips.

Getting there: From downtown, go east on U.S. 160 to the junction with U.S. 84. Travel 1/8 mile south on U.S. 84 and turn left on Mill Creek Road (County Road 302), drive approximately 5 miles to trailhead parking before the junction with Nipple Mountain Road (665).

Blanco River Road

(Forest Road 656)

Blanco River Road is closed at the highway. The route generally parallels the river for 2.5 miles from the highway to Blanco River campground.

Getting there: Travel 11 miles south on U.S. 84 to Blanco River Road. Parking is limited.

Kenney Flats Road

(Forest Road 006)

This road through open, fairly level terrain is good for beginners and provides several possible routes.

Getting there: Travel 14 miles south on U.S. 84 to Kenney Flats Road. Parking is located on the east side of the highway.

Williams Creek area

This is an open, fairly flat area that is good for beginners. Enjoy spectacular views of mountains and large, open parks. The unplowed road continues past Williams Creek Reservoir to the Poison Park and Williams Creek trails.

Getting there: From downtown, travel 2 miles west on U.S. 160, turn north on Piedra Road. Travel 22 miles, and then turn right on Williams Creek Road, continue to reservoir.

Jackson Mountain Road

(Forest Road 037)

This is a gradual, uphill, 4-mile route to the end of an unplowed road with additional opportunities to travel other roads in the area. Jackson Mountain is a popular area for snowmobiles.

Getting there: Travel 7.3 miles northeast on U.S. 160. Parking is on the left at Jackson Mountain Road.

Wolf Creek Road

(On Wolf Creek Pass — Forest Road 725)

There are three access points along approximately 3 miles of road with some fairly open, moderate terrain in this area. The views are spectacular. This area is popular for snowmobiling. Skiers typically use Lobo Overlook, 1/2 mile east of the Wolf Creek Pass summit, on the north side of the road.

Getting there: To trailhead: Travel 20 miles northeast on U.S. 160 to Wolf Creek Road. Parking is on the right.

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JEFF LAYDON

Avalanche awareness

Fifteen people were killed by avalanches in the U.S. in the winter of 2023-2024, including two in Colorado, according to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center. Over the last 10 winters, an average of 27 people died in avalanches each winter in the United States.

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

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

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

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

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

time is of the essence. To aid in location and rescue efforts, each well-equipped party member should carry an electronic avalanche beacon, probe pole and light-weight shovel. In too many cases involving unintentional slides, ignorance, arrogance, fatigue or peer-group pressure can result in backcountry travelers ignoring obvious warning signs.

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

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center provides daily mountain weather and avalanche hazard forecasts available at avalanche.state.co.us. Daily forecasts begin in early November and continue through most of May. Backcountry travelers should use this information as a basis for their own risk assessment and trip planning.

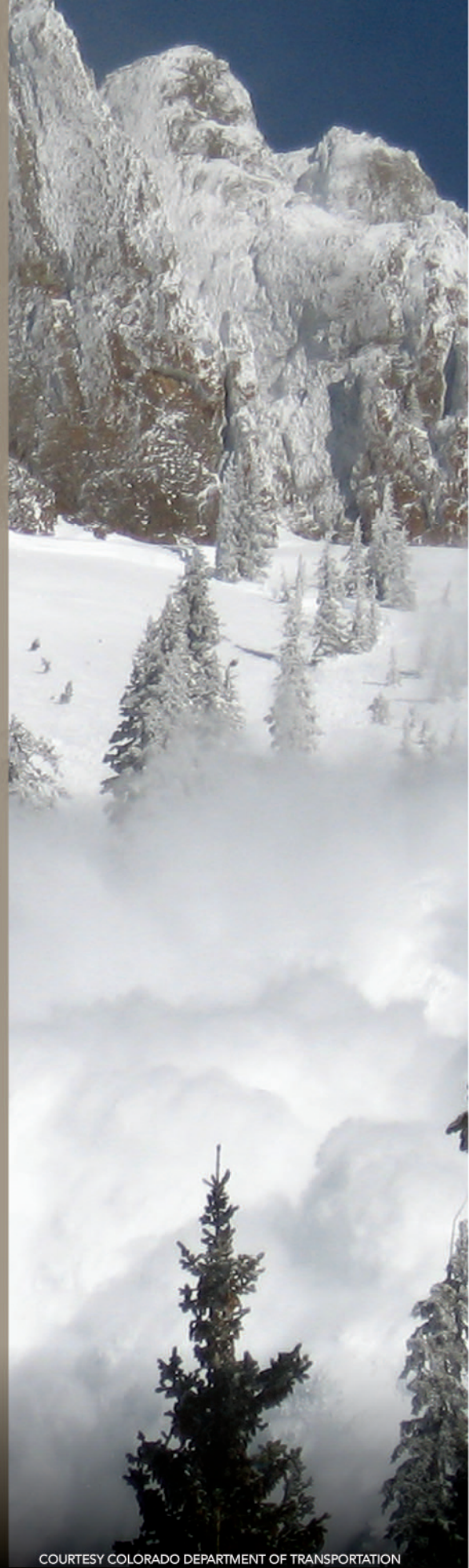
Educate yourself. Seek out knowledgeable people, read books, take an established avalanche course and — most important — always pay attention to the clues nature provides, as you travel the backcountry.

Recommended research:

Good books on avalanches are available at the library, or check information available online at avalanche.state.co.us and avalanche.org.

Also, watch The Pagosa Springs SUN and local outdoor shops for announcements about community avalanche awareness talks from the experts who monitor and forecast local avalanches for the Colorado Avalanche Information Center and Colorado Department of Transportation.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center is a program within the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Executive Director's Office, and is a partnership between the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and the Friends of the CAIC.



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- Water Fall or Hot Spring
- Wilderness Area

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





MICHAEL PIERCE

Why so much snow?

The locals aren't exaggerating— Pagosa Country really does have some of the best natural snow in Colorado, and the most of it.

If you don't believe the local lore, check the stats; nearly every winter, an average of 39 feet falls on the area's 12,000-foot alpine summits surrounding Wolf Creek Pass. One year, the total snowfall exceeded 75 feet.

There's no question; this is the reason powder hounds love Wolf Creek Ski Area. No other Colorado ski mountain can predictably offer as much untracked powder and packed powder as Wolf Creek.

Meteorologists attribute Wolf Creek's consistent snow accumulation to the ski area's location within the San Juan Mountains and to numerous high peaks around Pagosa Springs.

According to weather experts, as relatively warm, subtropical moisture from the Pacific pushes east over the southwestern deserts and eventually rises up to surmount the southern San Juan Mountains, it cools and further condenses, thus creating additional moisture.

Because colder air holds less moisture, heavy winter precipitation falls in the form of light and powdery snow. The surrounding topography actually funnels this precipitation — referred to as "upslope weather" — to the ski area, thus producing some of the most and best snow anywhere in Colorado.

For winter sports enthusiasts, this means world-class skiing on the runs at Wolf Creek Ski Area, and outstanding cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling and more throughout Pagosa Country.



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Rest Your Head

From rugged to luxury, Pagosa Country has lodging to fit your style

No matter the type of relaxing vacation or adventure trip you're aiming to have in Pagosa Country, you'll find lodging suited to your style.

Pagosa Springs and the surrounding area feature everything from world-class lodging where celebrities have been known to stay to lodging opportunities where you'll only see other folks if and when you want to — and everything in between.

If you're looking for a traditional motel or hotel, you'll find several in Pagosa Springs, with many locally owned and operated by people who have called Pagosa Country home for years. That means that not only can they help you be rested and refreshed for your adventures, but can also give you tips about some of the best places to go.

If you're after lodging connected to our world-famous geothermal mineral waters and spa treatments, you'll find that, too, with different lodgers offering different ways to access and enjoy the waters and amenities to achieve true relaxation and rejuvenation.

Pagosa Springs also boasts a number of hotels and motels

that have been renovated in recent years to provide modern, stylish accommodations near some of the town's most bustling and popular restaurants and lounges.

Too, a number of lodging establishments, ranging from hotels to motels and cabins to geodomes, can be found along the picturesque San Juan River and nearby the town's Riverwalk multiuse trail, shopping, restaurants, lounges, soaking facilities and more.

If you're looking for your own space, numerous cabins and private houses are available to rent, many complete with fireplaces and views of the snow-capped South San Juan Mountains.

Looking to get away from it all, be closer to the mountains and keep the adventure going? Huts and yurts surrounded by public lands that are open only to nonmotorized travel might be just what you're looking for.

Vacations in Pagosa Country are what you make of them, and the varied lodging available throughout the area can undoubtedly enhance it to make your trip even more memorable.



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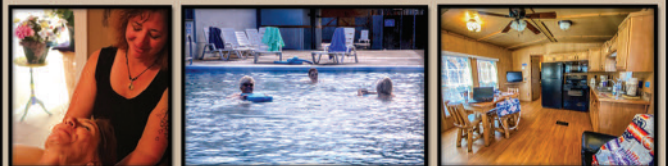
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Flavor of Pagosa

Morning, noon or night, you can find a range of culinary delights

Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County have no shortage of talented people, and you can find a number of them showing off their artistry and talent in kitchens, offering locals and visitors alike scrumptious fare throughout the community.

Whether you're fueling up for a day of fun, taking a mid-day rest to grab a bite to eat, or capping off a day spent exploring the area and what it has to offer, options abound to satisfy your cravings and keep you going during your adventure.

Pagosa boasts numerous restaurants that have made a name for themselves locally, as well as across the state and nation.

Riff Raff Brewing Company, for example, has earned a reputation and much acclaim as one of the best apres-ski spots to hit up. Pagosa's Meander Eatery, a farm-to-table restaurant, made the New York Times' prestigious restaurant list for 2024. The Alley House Grille has been named one of the top 10 percent of restaurants worldwide.

And that's just scratching the surface.

Ask locals their favorite restaurants and you're likely to hear

a wide variety of answers — and suggestions that will keep you fed from morning until night.

They might suggest you start your day at one of our long-standing, popular coffee shops, bakeries or diners that they frequent, or suggest a new place that's making a splash.

For lunch or dinner you might be pointed toward a mouth-watering sandwich, burger, taco, fried chicken, salad or any number of other top-rated meals that might be in season.

You're also likely to be told the names of some of our local food and beverage trucks that the locals line up for, or places perfect for grabbing a sweet treat in between your adventures.

Asking a local might also point you in the direction of some of the area's popular establishments that offer great live entertainment in addition to food and drink.

Or, they may suggest a quick bite and a trip to a can't-miss musical or theater performance (we have both an award-winning professional theater company, Thingamajig Theatre Company, and a decades-old community theater group that

puts on regular productions, Curtains Up Pagosa).

That's because, in addition to being host to a number of delightful eating establishments, the Pagosa Springs area is home to many talented performers, ranging from youth just polishing their chops to Grammy winners and award-winning actors, making it easy to plan a night out featuring dinner and live entertainment.

Several venues around town work to regularly feature local musical talent, dancing, karaoke and more in the evenings.

Or, you could be lucky enough to catch one of the Pagosa Springs Community Choir's annual Christmas concerts or another local organization holding a fundraiser or program that makes for a great night out with a live band or storied performer.

Perhaps you'll catch Tim Sullivan, an award-winning singer/songwriter who's played venues such as Carnegie Hall and with the likes of Vince Gill and Willie Nelson. Maybe you'll catch Bob Hemenger, a saxophonist and local teacher who has played with people like Victor Wooten, the Zac Brown Band and Darrell Scott, and has graced the stage of numerous festivals and even Red Rocks.

Or, you could also catch any number of business owners, retirees and locals who are also counted as local favorites who will surprise you with their musical chops while you enjoy your fare.

But, let's face it — exploring can be tiring, and sometimes you just want a quiet night in even on vacation.

If you're looking to have a night in next to a cozy fire overlooking the South San Juan Mountains, or to host a special event or meal while you're here, Pagosa has a number of private chefs and caterers who can bring delectable dishes to you, or prepare the perfect cake or other dessert for your special occasion.

No matter what your goals are here in Pagosa Country, know the food you'll find won't let you down.

For more information on restaurant specials and live entertainment happening during your stay, pick up a copy of The Pagosa Springs SUN, visit www.PagosaSUN.com or www.visitpagosasprings.com, ask a local for their suggestions, or just pop into a restaurant or bar — who knows what you might find.



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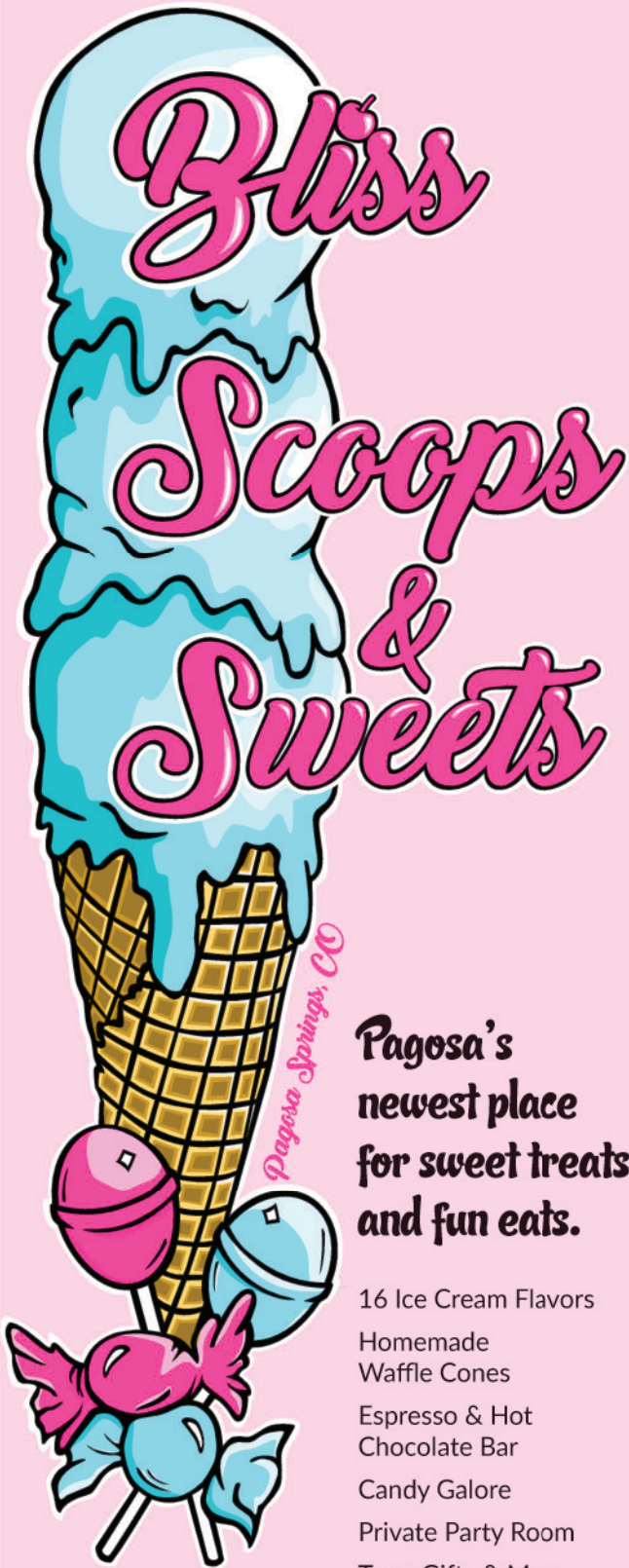
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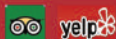
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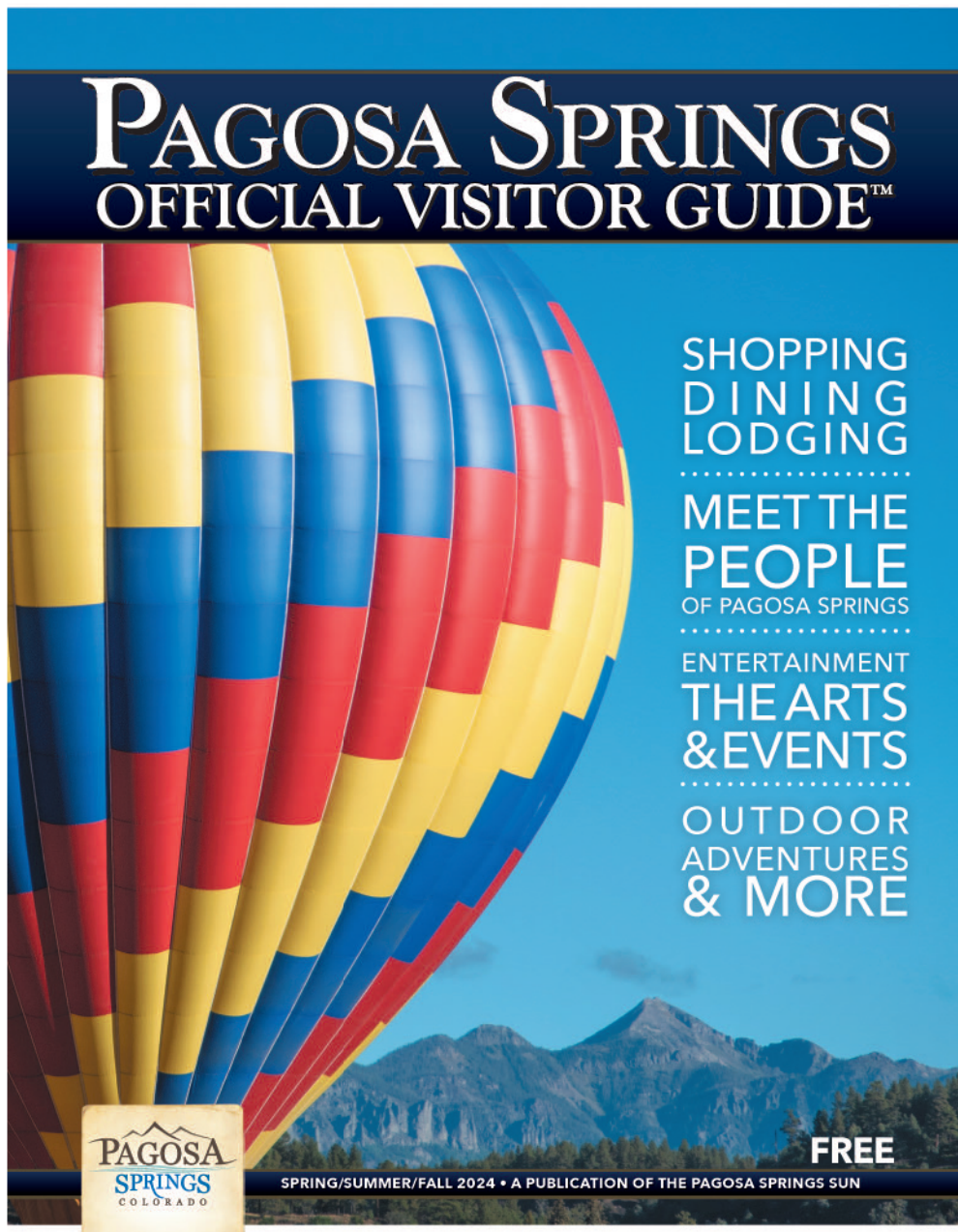
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Retail Therapy

Exploring the local character through shopping

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

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

Instead, Pagosa grew into a mountain town better known to many for its natural resources and wealth of public lands than its former industries.

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

Shopping in the Pagosa Springs area can be a treat in and of itself.

From cabin decor to signs that embody your views on life, locally crafted wares, natural products of all sorts, on-trend apparel and quirky T-shirts, consignment finds, unique pajamas, western wear and goods that epitomize the western way of life, handmade jewelry with a southwestern flair, antiques, art, seasonal sporting goods, sweets and treats, you'll find it and more in Pagosa Springs.

And, where you find the goods might surprise you.

For example, you'll find coffee shops and what you might think is just a hardware store that carry things like home goods, apparel, toys and more. A store offering clothes and locally crafted wares that, upon a closer look, also feature ax throwing? A sporting goods store that can outfit you for your adventures year-round and also features an indoor archery range that also offers lessons and rental equipment? Stores where you can also see those crafting the items? We have those too.

And that's part of the fun: heading into a shop not knowing what might be around the next corner. You never know what fun activity or what perfect gift you'll find for a loved one (or

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for yourself).

Even if you've been to a shop before, it's likely to be an adventure next time, too, since business owners like to keep things fresh and new. Or, in the case of antique stores, you may come across something you've never seen before or haven't seen in years.

And, in true small-town style, you won't often find the people working the stores simply waiting at the register for you to bring them money. Instead, they're often striking up conversations, finding that shirt in just the right size, or letting someone know that if they don't have what you want, where in town will or how they can get it for you.

In short, they're usually going above and beyond to make the shopping experience the best it can be for their customers.

That kind of service and attention is why you'll find numerous stores that are basically local landmarks, having been around for decades and run by local families for generations — some since the 1800s.

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

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

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Real Estate and Home

PROJECT SANCTUARY

Project Sanctuary: Transforming, empowering and healing military families

Since its inception, Project Sanctuary has focused on one mission: to transform, empower and heal military families.

For 17 years, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit, now headquartered in Pagosa Springs, has been serving an unmet need in the military community: caring for military families and healing the family together.

According to the Project Sanctuary website, "Military and veteran families face unique hardships unlike their civilian peers, but like their peers want to succeed, function as a healthy family unit, and participate in their local community. Many of those who have served now live with visible and invisible injuries such as Traumatic Brain Injury and/or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder."

According to the website, Heather Ehle Ray founded Project Sanctuary in 2007 while working as a registered nurse when she discovered "no organization was helping the military family as a unit."

As an organization, Project Sanctuary believes that when one person serves, the whole family serves.

By providing education and support around relationship reconnection, communication/conflict resolution, financial habits and goals, and mental health/well-being an immersive therapeutic retreat environment, Project Sanctuary has built a national reputation for delivering the support military families need and deserve.

Project Sanctuary's therapeutic healing retreats are staffed by licensed counselors, certified recreational therapists and culturally competent military veterans and are open to military family mem-

bers, caregivers, active-duty personnel and veterans.

Pre- and post-retreat case management services are provided by a social work team, ensuring families are supported and moving forward.

"Today, we are proud to be one of the only organizations focused on mental health, serving veterans, spouses, caregivers, and children as a family unit with a fully licensed and professional staff," the website states. "That is our difference."

The retreats are held across the U.S., with the goal of partnering with retreat sites that offer beauty, calm, outdoor activity options and a place where its unique and valuable therapy can work best.

And the organization's therapeutic approach has been proven to work.

In 2018, Clemson University published the first study about the long-term impacts of Project Sanctuary's therapeutic recreation program, with that study showing "statistically significant" reductions in scores for measures related to post-traumatic stress disorder. The study also showed improvements in areas such as depression, anxiety and mental health function, with those positive maintained over the following months.

But, despite the years of success and the thousands of families helped, one thing Project Sanctuary didn't have was a place to call home.

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"Having our own retreat center and ensuring military families will have a place to call their own, a place of hope and healing, has always been a dream of Project Sanctuary. Over the years, it became clear we needed to identify a place we could call home for our therapeutic retreats," noted Ehle Ray.

When the former Snow Wolf Lodge became available in 2023, Ehle Ray explained their hearts melted.

The location, according to the organization, was perfect — a beautiful retreat campus nestled in the gorgeous mountains of Colorado.

That, in a way, was just the beginning.

After finding its new headquarters, the organization's representatives set out to learn more about the local community and quickly discovered so many kindred spirits—others who care about our military families and wanted to learn more about its work and mission.

Project Sanctuary began working with a nationally acclaimed architectural firm to modify the retreat center to better support its programming and began planning for a capital campaign.

But, even with those renovations still on the horizon, the center was quickly put to use, hosting its first retreat for at-risk military couples in August 2024 and being renamed by those it serves to Patriot Pines.

Ehle Ray noted the organization will continue to partner with retreat centers around the country, but that the new location will allow it to expand its programming to serve more military families.

To learn more about Project Sanctuary, visit <https://projectsanctuary.us> or email info@projectsanctuary.us.

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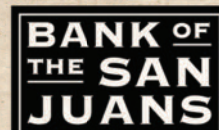
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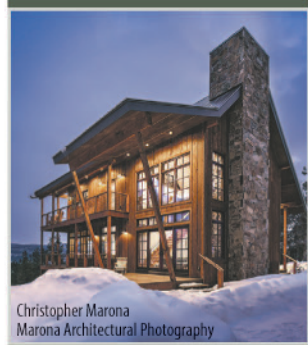


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Wildlife

BETH TOLLEFSEN

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 sight (and sometimes a nuisance) for residents and visitors alike. A special, but not uncommon, sight is the symbol of our country — the 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 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 creatures 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 and never touch or pick them up. They have not been abandoned. 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/ 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.

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

2023 estimate — 14,189

Housing and Income

Median value owner-occupied housing — \$432,400

Households — 5,738

Persons per household — 2.32

Per capita money income — \$39,155

Median household income — \$66,813

Persons in poverty — 9.8 percent

Geography

Land area (square miles) — 1,350

Persons per square mile — 9.9

Taxes

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

Lodger's Tax: A 4.9 percent tax is collected from the lodging industry in town limits. The county collects a 2 percent tax for lodging. Lodging tax is used for tourism promotion, among other things.

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

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

San Juan Mountain School (970) 264-2231, ext. 9247

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
(888) 890-5554, www.blackhillsenergy.com

Propane Arrowhead Propane (970) 582-3225

Basin Coop (970) 247-3066

Inter-Mountain Propane (970) 264-1301

Selph's Propane (970) 731-3737

Water Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation
(970) 731-2691, www.pawsd.org

Sanitation Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation
(970) 731-2691, www.pawsd.org
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

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, FBO (970) 731-2127

www.archuletacounty.org/45/Airport

AWOS frequency 127.175

Durango-La Plata County Airport

www.flydurango.com

Road Conditions

Colorado Department of Transportation

511 or (303) 639-1111, www.cotrip.org

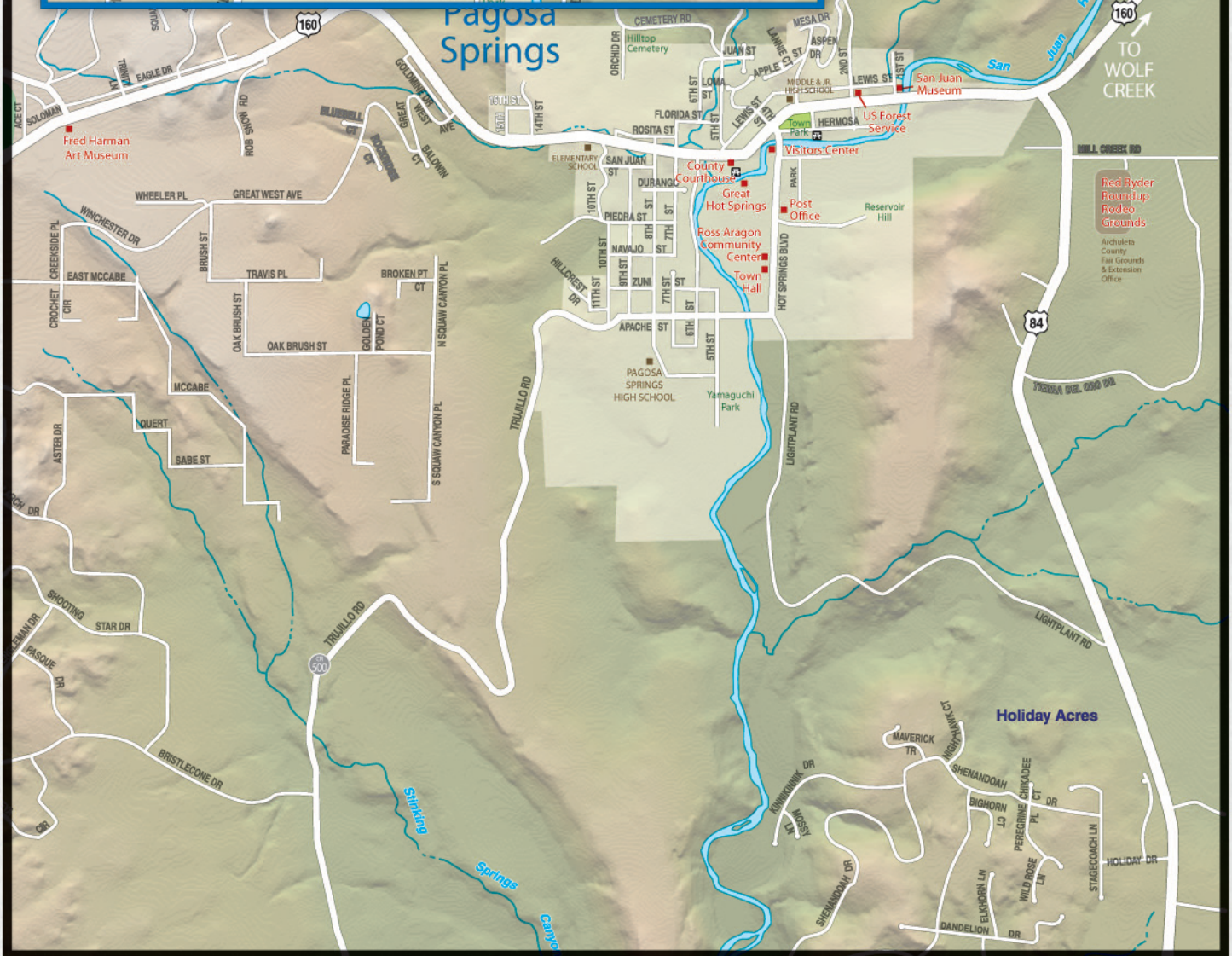
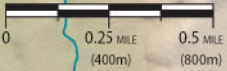
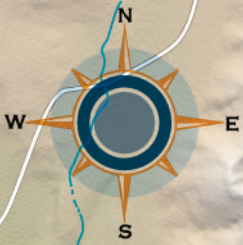
Archuleta County Road Report

(970) 264-5555

New Mexico Road Report

(800) 432-4269, www.nmroads.com







RANDI PIERCE

Getting here

Stevens Field Airport

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

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

The airport has seen a steady stream of improvement over the years, with more to come.

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. Alongside the other improvements, new hangars have appeared, an automated weather observation system (AWOS) has been installed and is set to be updated, 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.

Work has continued since, aiming to improve the operations of the airport year-round and provide the best service possible.

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 2020 Colorado Aviation Economic Impact Study also touted the economic impact of local airports like Stevens Field.

For more information on the airport, visit www.archuletacounty.org/45/Airport. For specific airport management questions or concerns, call the airport manager at (970) 731-3060.

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

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

Fixed-Base Operator

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

The FBO offers a number of amenities,

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

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

La Plata County Airport

The Durango-La Plata County Airport offers daily service with multiple 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

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So clean, cozy, beautiful ambience,
love the roof top.

Claudia & Josh

Massage & Springs - nothing better!
Thank you over & over for the hospitality & kindness. What a wonderful place you have here.
Chuck & Kelly 9/4/17

"Hands down" THE BEST PLACE for RELAXING!!
Ariana Telfora

Amazing in all ways! The view, the baths, the historic building and the tour -

of the springs
Thank you!
Amy Dennis
Tucson

OMG! This place STINKS BUT its not your fault! I love this place and wish I can come here every day!
The staff was Capitol-AMAZING!
Thank ya'll so much and definately see ya'll soon!

Kat & Shane
Austin TX! 2010

Teena is an absolute blessing! Magic hands, beautiful conversationalist, and she went above and beyond make our entire day fantastic! We will be giving a fantastic TripAdvisor rating and ill be back!
Thanks again! ♡

Dustin & Tara Weldy
Lewisburg, OH

Scott & Katie Parker
Dallas, TX



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

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

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Brooke & Trent
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