

Snow bound

by Jennaye Derge

As soon as the snow begins to fall, Durangoans dust off their winter toys, pull on the Gore-tex, and load up Sparky and the kids in search of the season's first snowy expedition. La Plata Canyon never fails to deliver when it comes to finding a winter wonderland close to home, whether it be a leisurely snowshoe on the road or a lung busting skin uphill in search of untracked turns. So even if it still looks like fall in the lowlands, remember, a complete change of seasons is only a short drive down, or up, the road. It's part of the beauty of calling this land, poised perfectly between mountain and desert, home.



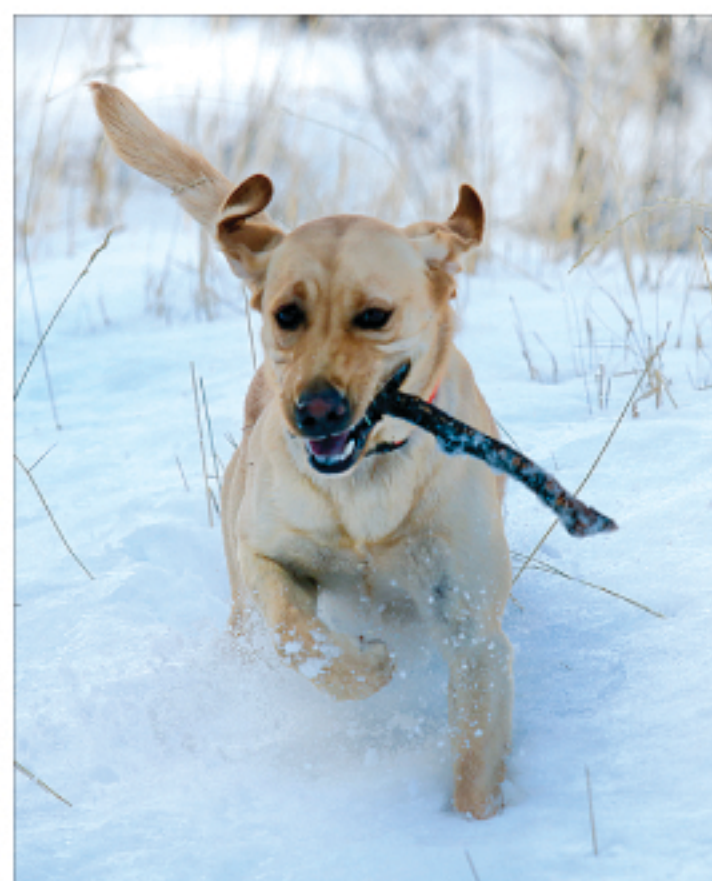
Fall sun peaks through an aspen grove.



Traci Hall carries daughter, Piper up a hill during an afternoon snowshoe expedition last weekend.



Taking a break to admire the solitude in La Plata Canyon.



Pure puppy happiness.