

Mountain Monthly

Your Guide to Cloudcroft and the Sacramento Mountains | JULY 2026



Matt Willett keeps the gears turning at the bike shop turned outfitter and boutique, High Altitude.
Photography by Bre Kincaid

Your Favorite Little Outdoor Store Turns 30

High Altitude has been getting Cloudcroft outside since 1996.

HANNAH DEAN looks at how a 200-square-foot bike shop became a Burro Avenue institution.

The old rock building is a landmark in the middle of Burro.

Step inside, and it’s alive, packed to the brim with camping gear, clothes, shoes, cheeky gifts, and something for everyone.

High Altitude opened in 1996 in a modest 200-square-foot room in this same building. This May, the shop marked its 30th anniversary. Owner and founder Matt Willett and buyer and right-hand woman Bri Jonnes tell the story of this milestone.

And what comes next.

A Hole in the Wall, Literally

Willett and co-founder Matt Preslar had planned to rent the back building that High Altitude’s bike shop now occupies. When that deal fell through, their landlord, former mayor, and local legend, Michael Nivison, who with his then-wife, Peaches, ran Sleepy Eye Trading Co. in the adjacent space, improvised.

“He actually got a saw, a big concrete saw, cut the hole in the side of the building where those two doors are

on the boutique,” Willett said. “And rented us that boutique for like 200 bucks a month.”

Mountain biking was booming, and the shop leaned into it, building trail knowledge, hosting races and becoming the de facto experts for anyone who wanted to know where to ride, hike, or find a pair of gloves for an unexpected snowstorm.

“We kind of just by default became the hub for information on trails and outdoor activities. There was no other place... the forest service station was closed on weekends,” Willett said. “This is where you’re going to go to find out where to hike or bike or whatever it may be.”

When the Nivisons eventually wound down, Willett took over the full space, adding \$600 a month in rent.



Bri Jonnes, Matt and Miles Willett, and Martin Menzel at the Burro landmark

“I was super scared,” he said. “We were going to help them sell out all their stuff and give them money for that, and then we would eventually just replace it with our stuff.”

That inventory included winter wear: gloves, snow boots, and the necessary items tourists showed up needing. A footwear line followed. The boutique, which became his late wife Tracy’s domain after a trip to Ecuador yielded a load of

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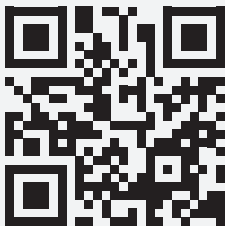


Local **Lauren Locke** competes at the Trails-and-Rails run in Cloudcroft. See more MOUNTAIN LIFE, p. 21

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“It’s all our land,” Willett says.

“If you’re a visitor here, you

need to treat it like you live

here. It’s important to keep the

charm of Cloudcroft.”

sweaters and handmade goods, gave the shop a second identity.

High Altitude was no longer just a bike shop.

The High Altitude Classic

In the shop’s second year, Willett and Preslar took over a local mountain bike race, renamed it the High Altitude Classic, and made it their own. The goal, Willett said, was never commercial.

“My goal back then — that was like ‘97 — was just to make this town cool,” he said. “When I graduated, everybody from my class bailed out of here. We started this shop together. Our thing was, we just need to make Cloudcroft cool.”

The race became a fixture and evidence that the mountain offered more than a ski weekend.

It also helped establish the shop as the kind of place that didn’t just sell outdoor gear but genuinely participated in outdoor culture. That distinction has only sharpened over the years.

The Art of the Buy

“We are not conventional at all in the way that we buy or budget or run anything,” Willett said.

Buyer and manager Bri Jonnes came on board Christmas of 2009 and has since reshaped almost every brand on the floor. Today, that roster includes Patagonia, Hoka, Chaco, Columbia, Cotopaxi, Sendero, Vuori, Yeti, Kuhl, Kelty, and a rotating cast of boutique lines that keep the shop feeling fresh without losing its functional core.

“High Altitude was always my favorite little store,” Jonnes said. “I would come in and shop when I was young, and Tracy would pull stuff for my mom to come back and purchase later.”

Jonnes, who grew up in Cloudcroft and left for New Mexico State University and later Colorado, had never worked retail when she arrived.

Her early push to land Chaco sandals, a brand that was then out of reach for a shop of their size, set the template. A connection through a Ruidoso outfitter got her a meeting with the Merrell sales rep, who vouched for the store.

“He promised them that we were good people, and it had nothing to do with business,” she said. “It was all about the people you want to deal with.”

That relational approach has defined the shop’s brand roster ever since. When Columbia dropped hundreds of small accounts several years ago, Jonnes made calls and kept theirs.

When she attends the market, at times with her daughters in tow, she writes orders on the spot at the line, no lengthy rep presentations, no wasted time.

“We’re not going to waste the rep’s time showing us every shoe they make,” Willett said. “Bri just knows what she wants. I trust what she does.”

The shop carries what Jonnes and Willett actually use and stand behind. When a Hoka model didn’t perform, they said so and put it on sale.

Willett is plain about what Jonnes contributes. “Almost every brand that we have now is because of Bri,” he said. “It has nothing to do with me at all.”

“She’s a shopaholic,” he grinned.

Making Cloudcroft Cool

Above the countertop, you’ll see papers with goofy illustrations of Ski Cloudcroft and the local parks, populated with dead flies and bugs from the window. These are relics of an era when Cloudcroft’s slow season gave you time to kill when you worked in



Time capsule: Willett plays with daughter Vivian (L) and granddaughter Ray (R) outside the shop

retail. Now, weekenders pack Burro year-round.

High Altitude’s history tracks closely with that shift. Cloudcroft’s transformation from a seasonal escape built around ski weekends into something more layered: a running community, a music scene, a destination for people who want to be outside doing something challenging.

Jonnes, who had lived in Summit County, Colorado, and returned with a sense of what mountain towns could be, co-organized Tour de Franzia, a costumed, wine-boxed bike ride through the village that eventually

drew well over 100 riders. Along with her friends, she launched the Badass Mountain Music Festival, known as BAMB.

“The connections that were made in the shop kind of led to everything else,” she said. “Oh, we can do this. And this guy’s like, yeah, I have a stage, tell me when.”

Willett is now a village trustee, and he and Jonnes serve on the village Parks and Recreation advisory board, where the current focus is building out Elevation Park as a venue for regular outdoor events and community gatherings.

Willett traces the shift in the village’s identity to a generational change in who shows up and why. He grew up here, worked as a hot-shot, a ski bum, and ran the ice rink. “When I was in my early 20s, it was literally a drinking town,” he said. “I’m glad to see it’s gone more this direction.”

He also sees the work as stewardship for the dark sky, the forest, the trails. He is particularly vocal about off-highway vehicle use in what he describes as a fragile, small ecosystem.

“It’s all our land,” he said. “If you’re a visitor here, you need to treat it like you live here. It’s important to keep the charm of Cloudcroft.”

“Being a dark skies destination... it’s not about the money. It’s about I want my kids to see the stars.” — Matt Willett

What Comes Next

“I am so grateful to have such an amazing staff, currently and through the years, and I am thankful for the years of community support,” Willett said.

Thirty years in, the question of succession hovers without urgency. Neither Willett nor Jonnes is ready to answer it, and they seem content with that.

“As long as Bri’s here, I’m here,” Willett said.

Jonnes laughed. “I’m like, not without you.”

“Bri and I are gonna exit stage left together,” he said.

Until then, the shop on Burro keeps doing what it’s done since a concrete saw cut the first door, getting people outside, outfitted, and pointed in the right direction.

High Altitude is located on the corner of Burro and Little Glorieta Avenues. The bike shop is located behind the flagship store. Connect online at HighAltitudeNM.com



Insider scenes from the shop; Getting high altitude with Bri and Matt



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Home Front

The view from here



The 2nd annual Pickleball in the Clouds winning mixed doubles teams:
the Emberlys from Alamogordo (left) and Tami Alexander and David Coor of Cloudcroft took Gold and Silver

Dear Readers,

This month, we turn the cover over to a local landmark, High Altitude, celebrating 30 years on this mountain. **Matt Willett** and **Bri Jonnes** sat down to talk about what it means to build something that lasts in Cloudcroft, and how the store has grown with the community around it.

In *Mountain News*,
Contributing
Editor **Jonny**

Coker picked up a question about a closed pool in Timberon and followed it all the way down. What started as a facility issue surfaced something much deeper about the community's water situation. It's the kind of reporting we're proud to publish.



The school budget lands in Mountain News as well, an important read for families heading into the fall. Local government note: the Village Council has moved its regular meeting to the second Tuesday of each month. The school board remains on the third Tuesday.

Faces & Places this issue features **Lisa Adams**, the longtime manager of All-sup's who retired earlier this summer. She's one of those people who showed

up for this mountain, quietly and consistently, for years. We're glad to have her story in print.

We also mark the passing of **Alan Hale**. Hale, who made his famous comet discovery from his Cloudcroft driveway in 1995, passed away June 6 at his home here. The New York Times ran his obituary, recognizing him as one of the most celebrated amateur-turned-professional astronomers of the modern era.

The Cloudcroft Light Opera Company mourns the loss of **George Collins**, longtime auctioneer of the rubber chickens. The Village also is sad at the passing of **Debbi Sue McLeod-McCurdy**. Read their stories in *Passings*.

Extra, Off the Press

You may have noticed the newest addi-

tion to the Monthly family in the June issue. She has four legs, a round belly, and a name chosen by Stevie, my daughter who delivers some of your papers each month. Meet **Barley**, our bear cub dingbat. Keep an eye out for her throughout the pages.

Now, to the courts, indoors and out. Last month's Pickleball in the Clouds tournament moved inside this year due to rain delays for the new court construction, and it was a genuine success.

And if you haven't been out to the newly resurfaced courts at Zenith Park, go. They play beautifully and are, as any PAC (**Pickleball Addicts of Cloudcroft**) member will confirm, rarely empty.

A special congratulations to **Samantha Odom**, organizer of the tournament along with We Love Cloudcroft and someone who gives a great deal to this community, and her husband Bruce, who together secured bronze in Mixed Doubles.

Summer is well underway, and there's more on the calendar than we can fit here. For the full picture, where to stay, eat, shop, and play, visit Discover-Cloudcroft.com. It's the local guide, and it's kept current.

Keep your mountain moments coming. We love hearing from you.

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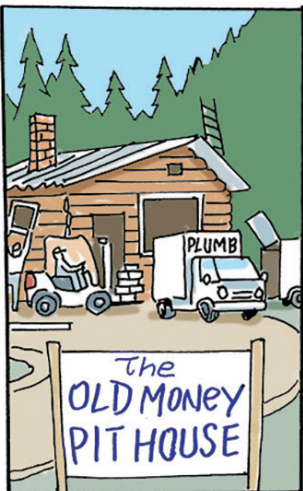
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Switchbacks by Rand Carlson



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Timberon’s public pool remains closed for the summer. The issues go deeper than the pool itself

Boil Advisories, Costs, Aging System: Timberon’s Water District Woes

Boil advisories, broken pipes, and financial burdens strain the unincorporated community 31 miles south of Cloudcroft

by JONNY COKER

Every year, the Timberon pool opens for the public to enjoy. This summer, it sits empty. No lifeguards have been hired, no certified pool operators scheduled.

The gates are locked, and the reason goes much deeper than the swimming pool itself.

The decision surfaced at the Timberon Water and Sanitation District’s (TWSD) May 12 board meeting. According to the meeting minutes, district leadership reported that the Timberon Development Council was working toward opening the pool “for next season,” not this one.

The water district that owns it is fighting to keep a 50-year-old system running.

District Under Strain

Residents report water outages for stretches at a time.

On June 8, the district issued a precautionary boil-water advisory following a weekend tank drain, and another on June 16. The advisories warn that a drop in pressure could raise the risk of contamination, though none was detected, according to the posting on the TWSD website.

According to the 2020 census, Timberon is home to roughly 345 people. Scattered across the Sacramento Mountains in Otero County, it’s a small community by design, a place where people come to retire, hunt, or get away.

The swimming pool has long been one of the district’s amenities that brings visitors in, deeded to the Timberon Property Owners’ Association in 1975.

“It’s a great draw for us,” said **Otis Price**, the district’s board chairman. “A lot of people come from Cloudcroft and the surrounding areas to use it.”

Price said the pool cost about \$30,000 to operate last summer and brought in roughly \$3,500 in revenue, a \$26,500 loss.

“We were overwhelmed with the task in front of us, and then the finances to allow the pool to open,” Price said.

The Timberon Development Council, a separate community organization, is now working on fundraising and programs that might make reopening possible next year.

A Failing System, Decades Old

Price said that the water lines beneath Timberon are breaking faster than crews can fix them.

“Last month, I think we had close to 50 pipe breaks, in a hundred miles of pipe. Our guys are working around the clock seven days a week, just repairing the pipe leaks,” he said. “The water system was constructed approximately 50 years ago with inferior materials. Now it’s really failing exponentially.”

Price said the district can finally chase grant money again after getting its audits and inventory systems back in order. He said the district recently applied for funding, and was awarded a Colonias infrastructure grant. According to the May 12 minutes, that Colonias award came in at \$367,000.

Price said additional, larger infrastructure requests are pending. But grants

take time, and the pipes are failing now.

“We haven’t been getting the grants we needed. The structure wasn’t in place until Wendy [Case] and I started ... We’re getting our audits in place so now we can start applying for new grants.”

Wendy Case, the district’s general manager, declined an interview request.

A Fight Over Fees

In a December 2010 order approving an emergency rate increase (Case No. 10-00366-UT), the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) documented roughly \$275,000 in past-due standby accounts, with about 20 percent of those customers behind on payments. In the same order, the commission warned that district management might not have the experience to overcome what it called years of mismanagement and neglect.

Unlike incorporated municipalities such as Cloudcroft, Timberon is an unincorporated community.

Under New Mexico law, only municipalities can levy local gross receipts taxes. In unincorporated areas, that revenue flows to the state and county. That leaves the district dependent largely on water fees and property taxes.

Bill Eakes, a Timberon homeowner who said he spent more than three decades in banking and corporate crisis management, said that Timberon is in trouble.

“At my last meeting, I made the statement that this town and this water company are literally in a death spiral. And there was probably 15 people in the room, and not one of them objected to that statement,” Eakes said.

His central recommendation is professional help, a turnaround consultant, or what he calls a crisis manager. He also wants the district to separate water from everything else and win a legislative exception that would let Timberon incorporate, opening the door to the recurring tax revenue it can’t collect now.

But Eakes said that much of the village

has simply lost faith after watching board after board fail to fix decades-old problems.

“If Timberon would have been a normal water association, I think they would have been able to do fine,” he said.

Some residents place part of the blame on the district’s operation and levying of fees.

In 2012, after a court order cut the district’s property tax revenue, the board created a “facilities and services charge.” The charge is a flat annual fee assessed per lot to help fund the pool, roads, parks, and cemetery.

In March, **Michael Gonzalez**, a former TWSD board member, filed a formal complaint with the PRC challenging that fee. He argues the district has no authority to charge property owners for services beyond water and sanitation, and that it never obtained the state approval he contends the fee requires.

His wife, Noreen Gonzalez, spoke with the Reader on the family’s behalf and said the couple stopped paying the fee in 2019 and is waiting on the commission to rule.

“For six years they didn’t even follow their resolution,” she said. “They just kept charging people.”

“If it’s found out to be that this fee is lawful, we will pay it,” she said. “It’s enjoyable for the people to use these facilities if they choose to. I’ve never seen where it’s mandated that you pay for a service that you may or may not use. You, coming from Cloudcroft can pay \$5 to go to the pool. Me, being a resident and living here, I have to pay this [fee] per lot that I own, plus I have to pay to use these facilities. And I don’t think that’s fair.”

The district’s answer to the complaint is due before the commission later this summer.

“It is legal,” Price said. “There’s one lawsuit that’s been going on for years that we’re about to end. You look on our website, it has an explanation of what that is, and it has the documentation of what makes it legal.”

“Pay your bills. I mean, if they didn’t pay their taxes here in the county, it would go up for auction. It’s a utility thing,” Treasurer Josh McCurdy said. “This place has definitely been a shambles at some point. I really don’t care what happened in the past. I’m looking to the future just to try to improve it.”

“New Mexico is making good money off the cannabis taxes, the oil,” he said, “But a lot of that money just goes to Santa Fe and Albuquerque and gets spent, and everybody south of Socorro feels like stepchildren.”

At its June 9 meeting, the board approved a series of standby property liens and directed its attorney to review the district’s collection policy, including options for foreclosure on properties with existing liens.

Director **Jesse Duckett** said more than 200 properties are now eligible for foreclosure over unpaid standby fees, a charge separate from the facilities fee the Gonzalezes are contesting.

The Gonzalezes’ complaint over the facilities fee remains before the PRC. Meanwhile, the pipes keep breaking, and the money to replace them has not yet arrived.

The board is also down a member, with Vice Chair Caleb Flora resigning June 17. The district has 30 days to appoint a replacement.

Price framed the moment as a difficult chapter rather than an ending.

“Timberon, we’re starting to come back. But right now the system is failing faster than ever,” he said. “We’ve still got some dark times to go through until it gets back to normal.”

The pool, for now, stays closed, with hopes of opening next summer.

Cloudcroft Clears State Filing Backlog, Submits Two Budgets Ahead of Deadline

The village met a key state deadline a day early by submitting both the final FY 2025-26 and the interim FY 2026-27 budgets.

by **HANNAH DEAN**

Cloudcroft has closed a years-long state filing backlog, submitting a rebuilt FY 2025-26 budget and an interim FY

2026-27 budget to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), meeting the deadline a day early.

DFA confirmed the submissions.

The FY 2025-26 final budget required a complete redo beforehand.

The version filed in December with the DFA under the previous administration had never been accepted, requiring the finance team to rebuild it from scratch and resubmit it, according to Finance Administrative Assistant Barbara Garcia.

Village Clerk **Jini Turri** said of the FY 2025-26 budget at the May 19 regular council meeting:

“The operating budget that we’re currently in right now was presented to the state, which was never approved by the state. We will be going in and DFA will let be allowing us to pretty much wipe out all of that those numbers that are in there that are wrong and redo it.”

“There was a lot of zeros, there was a lot of exaggerations, and I understand the reason. A budget had to be put in (on time) to be in compliance, but it wasn’t reasonable, and it was never approved.”

The New Numbers

FY 2025-26 Final Budget: The general fund closed with revenues of \$1,987,725 and expenditures of \$1,189,501, resulting in an surplus of \$798,224.

The water and sewer fund posted revenues of \$1,146,706 against expenditures of \$1,395,434, a deficit of \$248,728. The village will transfer \$250,000 from the general fund surplus to cover that shortfall, according to Garcia.

FY 2026-27 Interim Budget: The council approved the interim budget for the coming fiscal year without dissent; Trustee **Gail McCoy** abstained because of her employment with the village-funded public library.

- The general fund projects revenues of \$1,782,295 against expenditures of \$1,513,528, yielding a surplus of \$268,767.

- The water and sewer department projects revenues of \$1,167,500 and expenditures of \$1,138,180, resulting in a surplus of \$29,320.

The total projected revenues for FY 2026-27 stand at \$2,949,795, against projected expenditures of \$2,651,708, resulting in a surplus of \$298,087.

The budget submissions mark a significant milestone in a recovery effort

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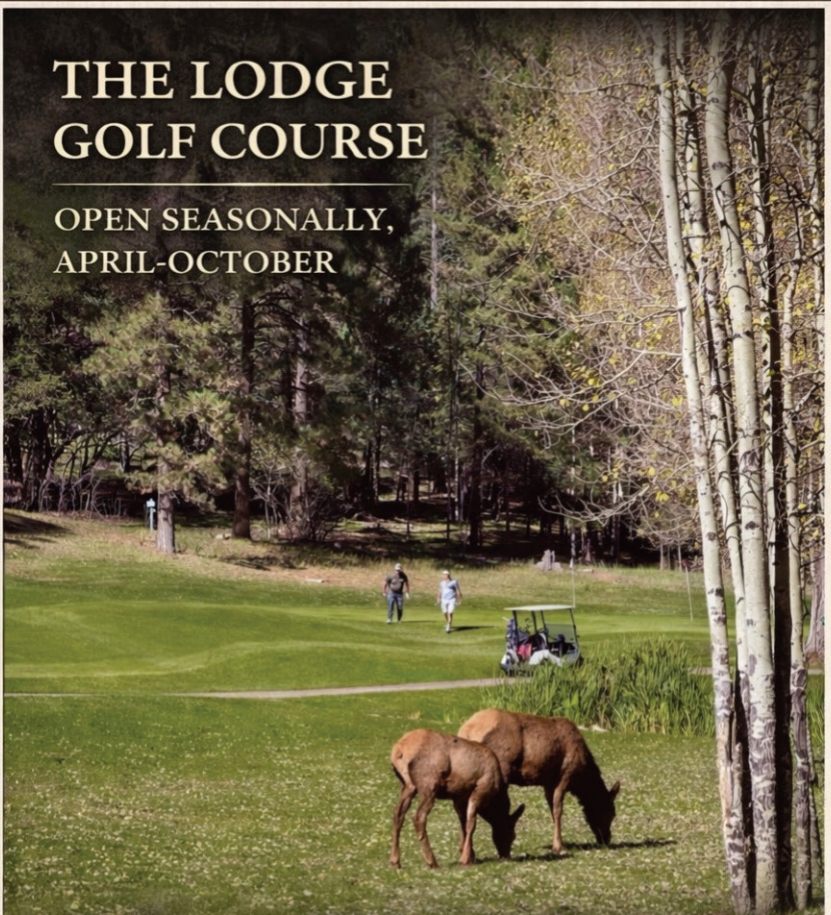
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Village Clerk Jini Turri began approximately five months ago, untangling years of financial records across multiple state reporting systems.

At a previous council meeting, Turri had set a December target for reaching full compliance.

Finance team members **Sylvia Hall**, **Barbara Garcia**, and Village Clerk Jini Turri were present at the meeting. The full meeting is available on the village's YouTube channel at @CloudcroftNew-Mexico.

Trustees **Danny Hardwick** and **Matt Willett** attended via Zoom. Mayor **Dusty Wiley** and Trustees **Keith Hamilton** and **Gail McCoy** were present in the chambers.

MVD, Meeting Changes

Garcia confirmed that after the hiring of Motor Vehicle Department Clerk **Malary Davis**, the Village MVD's projected opening is set for late June or early July, upon completion of Davis' training.

In May, the council voted to hold all regular council meetings on the second Tuesday of the month. The next council meeting is Tuesday, July 13 at 6 p.m.

CMS June Board Meeting: Balanced Budget

Cloudcroft Municipal Schools approved a \$10 million budget for 2026-27, directing the majority of spending toward classrooms and students despite rising insurance costs and declining enrollment.

by **HANNAH DEAN**

Cloudcroft Schools will operate on a projected budget of \$10,085,022.80 for the 2026-27 school year, following board approval at the June 16 meeting.

Finance Manager Lisa Royer presented the budget to Board President Lance Wright, who participated via video conference, along with board members Michele Anthony, Jeffrey Eigenmann, and Danny Ward.

Royer began with the state's initial unit value, the per-student funding figure set by the New Mexico Public Education Department, reached \$7,117.10, the highest she has seen.

Projected revenue includes the district's state equalization guarantee allocation of \$8,161,342.26, down roughly \$400,000 from the prior year due to declining student enrollment, plus estimated interest and donations and a cash carryover balance, bringing total projected revenue to \$10,085,022.80, matching expenditures exactly.

More than half of expenditures, 56.56%, are directed toward direct instruction, covering teachers, educational assistants, textbooks, and classroom supplies. An additional 15.80% supports student services including ancillary services, the school nurse, and counselors. Combined, those two categories account for nearly three-quarters of the total budget.

Other expenditures include maintenance and plant operations at 9.57%, central services at 6.58%, school administration at 5.06%, general administration at 3.52%, food service at 1.32%, student transportation at 1.26%, teacher professional development at 0.26%, and Medicaid state match at 0.07%.

Total salaries and benefits across all departments reached \$6,416,891.21, representing 79% of the district's SEG allocation, or State Equalization Guarantee, is the primary state funding mechanism for New Mexico public schools.

Royer noted that insurance premiums rose significantly this year, with medical plan options up 9.95%, dental plans up 4%, and risk coverage increasing 16%. All employees will now receive 80% employer-covered health insurance, with employees contributing 20%.

District budget documents, board meeting minutes, financial records, and other school information are available through the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools website, which is updated regularly. Parents can also access mental health resources, school menus, supply lists, and registration information through the site’s parent resources page.

Registration for the 2026-27 school year is July 24, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Cloudcroft Schools.

Lincoln National Forest Seeks Volunteers to Support Visitor Services and Recreation Programs

The Lincoln National Forest is inviting community members who love the outdoors to join its growing team of volunteers. Opportunities are available throughout the year, including front desk support at district offices and recreation-focused roles across the forest.

Volunteers help visitors make the most of their time on the forest by greeting the public, answering basic recreation questions, sharing maps and safety information, assisting with permit inquiries, and connecting visitors with the right Forest Service staff. Recreation volunteers may also support trail information, visitor education, and light field-based tasks depending on interest and availability. No prior experience is required, just a willingness to learn and a passion for caring for public lands.

“Volunteers play a vital role in keeping our visitors informed,” said Deputy Forest Supervisor Amanda Ginithan. “Their work directly supports access and the experience of everyone who visits.”

Flexible volunteer opportunities are available across the forest’s office locations and recreation areas.

Individuals interested in volunteering can find details and sign-up information on the Lincoln National Forest website:<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/lincoln/working-with-us/volunteers>.

For updates on forest conditions, programs, and opportunities, visit the Lincoln National Forest website or follow its social media pages.

– Jorden Scott

Village of Cloudcroft Releases Annual Water Quality Report

Required and relevant, here’s the local Consumer Confidence Report

The Village of Cloudcroft has published its annual Consumer Confidence Report, a federally required summary of your drinking water sources, quality test results, and any detected contaminants from the past year.

What’s in your water? Find out.

Read the full report at:
<https://www.cloudcroftreader.com/p/village-of-cloudcroft-releases-annual>

HOW'S THE MARKET?

MAY 2026

CLOUDCROFT MOUNTAIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	17
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$297,500
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	108 Days
ALL ACTIVE LISTINGS	284

CURRENT PRICE RANGES

RESIDENTIAL:	\$86,500 - \$2,200,000
LAND:	\$4,000 - \$2,950,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$340,000 - \$2,900,000

RUIDOSO MOUNTAIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	30
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$307,500
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	94 Days
ALL ACTIVE LISTINGS	848

CURRENT PRICE RANGES

RESIDENTIAL:	\$55,000 - \$5,500,000
LAND:	\$5,450 - \$1,798,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$225,000 - \$3,650,000

ALAMOGORDO & BASIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	35
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$230,000
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	46 Days
ALL ACTIVE LISTINGS	239

CURRENT PRICE RANGES

RESIDENTIAL:	\$64,900 - \$1,125,000
LAND:	\$25,000 - \$5,000,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$65,000 - \$2,500,000

Data sourced from the Otero & Lincoln County Associations of Realtors MLS and provided by Future Real Estate

Community Brings Flight Nurse Sarah Clark Home; Federal Report Details GPS Jamming in Fatal Crash

Otero County Emergency Services brought flight nurse **Sarah Clark** home on Wednesday evening, June 24, 2026..

A procession returned from Albuquerque to Alamogordo and traveled along Scenic Drive to Scenic Chapel at around 5 p.m. The public lined the route to pay their respects.

Clark, an Alamogordo-area native and daughter of Otero County Emergency Manager Matt Clark, was one of four killed when a medical flight crashed into the Capitan Mountains on May 14.

A public memorial service for all four crew members is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, at Grace Community Church in Roswell. The operators, Trans Aero MedEvac and Generation Jets, have invited the public to attend.

Read the full article online:
<https://www.cloudcroftreader.com/p/community-brings-flight-nurse-sarah>



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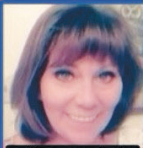
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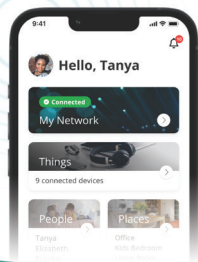
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Cloudcroft 88317





All Seasons Adaptive Sports programming makes the mountains accessible to everyone

Ruidoso Day Trip

What to Know

Staying in Cloudcroft all summer? This one’s for the locals who want to enjoy a visit to our neighbors to the north.

Eat:

The **Village Buttery** on Sudderth takes you back to millennial childhood days with filigree chairs on the patio, floral vinyl tablecloths, and some granny-style deli offerings. Order the pimento cheese sandwich on rye with a cold salad on the side. Get a half-sandwich order and save room for their famous buttermilk pie, cheesecakes, or cookies.

Not feeling a cold lunch? Order the custom quiche, like the chicken artichoke, and a hot soup.

Another great patio: **Downshift Brewing Co.** Riverside location has tired outdoor seating overlooking the river. The lower decks are dog-friendly. The chicken bites and sweet potato fries are a perfect combo. A wide range of draft brews, and Hop Water sparkling water is great for the designated driver and sober folks.

Shop:

A carnivorous and boutique plant shop popped up on Sudderth, displaying the horticultural passion for Carnivoroso owners **Kevin and Haley**. Pur-

chase and learn to care for venus fly traps, pitcher plants, and more at this eclectic small shop.

Books Etcetera has something for all ages, and is great if you’re travelling with kids. Toys, puzzles, games, odds and ends, and that book you’ve been searching for. On the main drag, Sudderth.

Martha’s Fabrics: A pilgrimage-worthy find tucked into the mountains of Ruidoso, Martha’s Fabrics has been a stitcher’s sanctuary since 1962. Founded by **Martha Derrick**, who opened her first store on Main Street in Artesia before expanding to the Sacramento Mountains, this family-run shop has grown into the largest independent fabric store in the Southwest.

Stocks thousands of fabrics alongside patterns, notions, home décor, and an array of gift items that make the browsing as fun as the buying.

Today, Martha’s twin daughters carry on the tradition, bringing fresh eyes to a beloved institution without losing an ounce of its warmth. Whether you’re piecing a quilt, fitting a garment, or dreaming up custom window treatments, this is the kind of shop that makes you plan your whole trip around it. Worth every mile of mountain road. Located on Vision Drive, open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Play:

Get wild at **Pillow’s Funtrackers**. Go karts, bumper boats, a giant maze, putt-putt golf, and more make this a fun family or date day. On Carrizo Canyon Road, this Rui staple is for the young at heart.

The Ruidoso public pool offers public swim hours from Memorial Day through early August. Enjoy the water slide, rock wall, diving board, and kiddie pool. Concessions available. \$5 entry fee. Public Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pool Party Reservations: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The **Wibit Water Park at Grindstone Lake** is for those who like to wipe out. The floating obstacle course is open Memorial Day through early August. \$20 entry, no cash, only card accepted. Seasonal passes are available to locals only. Open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

When the snow melts, **Ski Apache Summer** in Alto turns into a high-altitude playground just 12 miles northwest of Ruidoso. Ride the gondola to 11,500 feet for sweeping Sierra Blanca views, zip down the mountain on the Wind Rider ZipTour, one of the longest in the world at nearly 9,000 feet, or explore trails by mountain bike with rentals on-site. Plan ahead; gondola hours vary by weather.

Based at Ski Apache since 1976, All Season Adaptive Sports opens the mountain to individuals with disabilities and mobility restrictions across every season. Summer trekking programs bring participants into the wonders of the Lincoln National Forest with a fully certified adaptive staff and a 1:1 coach-to-athlete ratio. Reservations required. 575-937-6954 | AllSeasonAdaptiveSports.com

Set along the shimmering waters of Lake Mescalero at 7,200 feet in the Sacramento Mountains, Inn of the Mountain Gods, owned and operated by the Mescalero Apache Tribe, is one of southern New Mexico’s most spectacular summer destinations.

The lake itself anchors the day: kayak, paddleboard, pedal boat, or cast a line into waters stocked annually with nearly 20,000 trout. Thrill-seekers can soar over the lake on the Apache Eagle ZipRider at up to 55 mph, while hikers and horseback riders can explore the surrounding pine-forested terrain. A championship golf course rounds out the outdoor offerings.

Make the most of your July mountain visit.

DiscoverCloudcroft.com



welcome to the village

Let us show you around

- A** Off the Beaten Path
ICAT Trap & Release Program
Summit Christian Fellowship
Sacramento Mountain Senior Services
Black Bear Coffee Shop
King's Treasure
Bhair Necessities
The Fat Rabbit
The Little Gallery
Aspen and Ivy Boutique
Samantha Odom Art Gallery
Dave's Cafe
Higher Grounds
Instant Karma & Chai Bar
Base Camp 9k
- B** Western Bar and Cafe
Western Package Store
Hotel Cloudcroft
Kennabelle's Kreations Bakery
Gary Mack Real Estate
The Bear Track
High Altitude
High Altitude Bike Shop
Scotty's Propane
- C** Elevation Park and Disc Golf Course
- D** Otero County Electric Cooperative
Cloudcroft Therapeutic Massage
Cloudcroft Archery
Crystal Tompkins Photography
Coco Blu
Green Mountain Real Estate & Construction, Skywater
Shelley Hughes Architecture PC
Osha Trail Depot
Osha Trail Lodging
Cloudcroft Souvenirs
Laughing Leaf Dispensary
Eight the Cake
Mountain Magic
Poke the Bear
- E** Burro St. Boarding House
Cloudcroft Brewing Company
The Distillery
Sparks and Rec
- F** Ski Cloudcroft
- G** Apsen Trails Realty
Big Daddy's Diner
Tularosa Communications
Cloudcroft Animal Hospital
Dusty Boots Cafe & Taco Cantina and Motel
- H** The Lodge Resort
The Lodge Golf Course
1899 and Saint Andrew's Lounge
Seasons Boutique Gift Shop
SugarPines RV Park
- I** Grand Cloudcroft Hotel
Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce
Cabins at Cloudcroft
- J** Zenith Park and Playground
Pickleball and Tennis Courts
Zenith Park Pavilion
Byron Ligon Disc Golf Course
James Sewell Ice Rink
Anglican Church of the Epiphany
Family Dollar
Brother-N-Law BBQ
Magnum's Guns II
Crofting Bed & Breakfast
- K** Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Village Plaza
Homee
Be in the Mountains Yoga & Massage Therapy
Road Runner Cannabis
High Rollin' Coffee
- L** Mad Jack's Mountaintop BBQ
Roots Flower Co.
- M** New Village Hardware
Pre-School and Extended Care
Cloudcroft United Methodist Church
Summit Inn
The Lodge Pavilion
- N** Presbyterian Medical Center
Rick Roger's Auto & Equip Repair
Cloudcroft Truck & Auto Parts
Cloud 9000 Coffee
Fernando's Burritos
- O** United States Post Office
First National Bank
Village Office
- P** Allsup's
- Q** Future Real Estate
The Highland
- R** Deer Park
Cloudcroft Sandwich Shop
- S** Cloudcroft Schools
- T** Burro Street Exchange
The Elk Shed
Atelier Art of Hair by Anna
Red Wall Jewelry
Burro Street Bakery
Tree Top Teez
Noisy Water Winery
Burro Street Trading Post
Tree-Riffic Toys and Candy
Old Barrel Tea Co.
Turquoise Shop
Cloudcroft Church of Christ
- U** Old Red Brick Schoolhouse
Michael Nivison Public Library
High Valley Weaving School
Cloudcroft Fitness
Cloudcroft Art Society Co-op Gallery
- V** Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum and Pioneer Village
- W** Cloudcroft Fire and Rescue Station
Trestle Medical Services

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Welcome to Cloudcroft, New Mexico — a mountain village with timeless charm and plenty to do.

Whether you’re looking for a cozy cabin, a good meal, or ideas for a scenic day trip, this list is here to help you make the most of your visit.

Here you’ll find local restaurants, lodging, shops, and services — everything you need to explore, relax, and enjoy your time in our beautiful mountain community.

Eat/Drink

- Big Daddy’s Diner** (1705 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-1224, bigdaddysdinernm.com) Comfort food and desserts. Try the fried chicken basket. Open daily 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Black Bear Coffee** (200 Burro Ave., (575) 682-1239, mybbcoffee.com) Locally-roasted beans on the west end of Burro. Head upstairs for conversation nooks, enjoy the downstairs gallery wall with rotating exhibition. Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00-3:00.
- Brother-N-Law BBQ** (209 James Canyon Hwy, (215) 858-0400) Delicious smoked meats, baked potatoes, sandwiches, and fried okra. Don’t skip the sauce. Open 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. every day but Thursday.
- Burro Street Bakery** (505 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2777) Sit awhile at this centrally-located joint. Pies, danishes, breakfast burritos, coffee, and more. Open 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily.
- Cloud 9000 Coffee** (96 James Canyon Hwy) Quick breakfast—smoothies and handhelds. Coffee, tea, and lemonade, too. Outdoor seating only. 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, closed Mondays.
- Cloudcroft Brewing Company** (1301 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2337, cloudcroftbrewing.com) In-house and regional brews, live music, and fantastic atmosphere. Gnosh on wood-fired pizza, soup du jour, salad, chips & guacamole. Closed Tuesdays. Open 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. the rest of the week—til 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.
- Cloudcroft Sandwich Shop** (505 Burro Ave., (575) 551-0065, cloudcroftsandwich.

- shop) Traditional deli in the Burro Street Exchange. Mural photo op in the outdoor patio. Get any sandwich as a salad, then a monster-sized cookie—#balance. Open 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. every day, closed Wednesdays.
- Dave’s Cafe** (300 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2127) Classic burgers, fries, and more at a casual setting in the heart of Burro. Open 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday.
- Dusty Boots Cafe & Taco Cantina** (1317 James Canyon Hwy, 575) 601-2009) Laid back home cooking—burgers, tacos, salads, and more. For breakfast, try the veggie-loaded Hiker’s Boot omelette and western potatoes. Open 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, closes at 5:00 Sunday.
- Eight the Cake Bakery** (506 Burro Ave., (575) 682-3088, eightthecakellc.com) Lovely custom cakes. Cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, and local art. Open Thursday-Monday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Family Dollar** (309 James Canyon Hwy, (505) 532-2697, familydollar.com) Get the essentials. Discount chain with groceries, toiletries, and home goods. Open 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. daily.
- Fernando’s Burritos** (96 James Canyon Hwy) Best burrito, barbacoa, and burger in the village. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Outdoor seating only. Open 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. daily, closed Mondays.
- High Rollin’ Coffee** (109 James Canyon Hwy) Gourmet freshies galore on a rotating weekly menu. Open Monday and Tuesday

- 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and Friday-Sunday 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Higher Grounds** (300 Burro Ave., 575) 682-2127) Ice cream and milkshake counter next to Dave’s Cafe. Hours vary.
- Instant Karma Chai Bar** (302 Burro Ave.) Global spice blends, ayurvedic teas, soothing cacao, and more at their countertop. Stay awhile. Open daily from 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- KennaBelle’s Kreations Bakery** (308 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2712) Follow your nose to this pink patisserie. Custom cakes and orders. Gluten-free options. Open 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Closed Sunday.
- Mad Jack’s Mountaintop Barbeque** (105 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-7577) Legendary barbeque in the old mercantile building. Don’t let the line deter you—it’s worth the wait. Open 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, or until sold out.

- Noisy Water Winery** (505 Burro Ave., (575) 682-6610) Local wine, cheese, charcuterie, and gifts. Upscale offerings, casual boardwalk venue. Open 10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. daily, open until 7:00 on Friday, and until 7:30 on Saturday.
- Old Barrel Tea Co.** (505 Burro Ave., (575) 682-7474) Fresh house-blend teas to order, plus provisions. Open 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Open 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday.
- Saint Andrew’s Lounge and 1899 at the Lodge** (601 Corona Pl., (575) 682-2566, 223collectionhotels.com/the-lodge) Chef Richard Lepree brings global flair and locally-sourced flavors to the plate. Reservations required on the 1899 side, open Wednesday-Saturday from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Saint Andrew’s Lounge open Wednesday-Saturday from 12:00-8:00 p.m.
- The Distillery** (1303 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2337) Craft cocktails with New Mexico and in-house spirits for date night—adults only.
- Cloudcroft Brewing Company** pizza by the slice. Open M, W, TH 4:00-9:00 p.m., Friday 4:00-10:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., and Sunday 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Western Bar and Cafe and Package Store** (304 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2445, westernbarandcafe.net) Dark and cozy dive bar with tasty food for lunch and dinner.

Beer on tap, full bar. Play pool while you wait. Closed Wednesdays, open 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. the rest of the week.

For more detailed information on where to eat, go to www.discovercloudcroft.com/complete-guide-where-to-eat-in-cloud-croft-2026.html

Lodging

- Burro St. Boarding House** (608 Burro Ave., (575) 682-3601) Rustic and artful digs near downtown. burrostreetboardinghouse.com
- Cabins at Cloudcroft** (1006 Coyote Ave., 575-682-2396) Retro casitas by the park. cabinsatcloudcroft.com
- Crofting Inn** (300 Swallow Pl.) Comfy B-and-B. Book on Expedia or Hotels.com
- Dusty Boots Motel** (1315 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-7736) Themed rooms with a restaurant next door. thedustyboots.com
- Grand Cloudcroft Hotel** (1207 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 601-2202) Relax in the indoor pool and spa. All king-sized beds. grandcloudcroft.com
- Osha Trail Lodging** (102 Mexican Ave., (575) 937-3767) Modern, conveniently-located suites. Book on AirBnB or oshatrail-lodging@gmail.com

- SugarPines RV Park** (601 Columbine Blvd., (575) 682-3375) Easy access in the heart of the village. sugarpinesrvpark.com
- Summit Inn** (103 Chipmunk Ave., (575) 295-3235) Chic interiors, classic mountain exterior. summitinnnm.com

The Lodge (601 Corona Pl., (575) 682-2566) Historic beauty. Stay, eat, play. thelodgere-sort.com

For more in-depth lodging information and pictures, go to discovercloudcroft.com/complete-guide-to-lodging-in-cloudcroft-new-mexico-2026.html

Shopping

- Aspen and Ivy Boutique** (206 Burro Ave.) Bespoke goods, candles, plants, and local art. Open Thursday-Sunday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Base Camp 9K** (302 Burro Ave.) Teeny space with quality shirts, hats, and more. Open Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Burro Street Trading Post** (505 Burro Ave., (225) 253-2606) Rocks, gems, and original Southwest art and wear. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily. burrostreettradingpost.com
- Cloudcroft Archery** (100 Little Glorieta Ave., (575) 439-7918) Indoor range and bow services. 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Cloudcroft Souvenirs** (502 Burro Ave.) Southwestern tchotchkes and take-home memorabilia. Open Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Cloudcroft Truck & Auto Parts** (94 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-6002) Requisite auto supplies. Open 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sunday.
- Coco Blu** (94 Little Glorieta Ave., (575) 682-3039) Ladies’ boutique with head-to-toe



The Listings

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The Elk Shed (505 Burro Ave.) Southwestern goods, clothes, gourmet pantry staples, and more. Open 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. theelkshed.com

The Fat Rabbit (206 Burro Ave.) Silver and turquoise, plus. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday.

The Highland (206 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-1041) Nambe, gifts, hunting supplies, licenses, and beyond. Open 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily.

High Altitude (310 Burro Ave. (575) 682-1229) Your favorite little outdoors store, boutique, and bike shop. 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, until 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, until 5:00 p.m. Sunday. highaltitudenm.com

Homee (109 James Canyon Hwy) Everything for sale. Home rental services. Hours vary. inhomee.com

Instant Karma (302 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2651) Ayurvedic goods, yogi-friendly clothes, books, and yoga. Open 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily. getinstantkarma.com

King's Treasure (202 Burro Ave. (575) 682-5524) Thrift to your heart's delight without breaking the bank. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. every day except Sunday.

Magnum's Guns II (207 James Canyon Hwy (575) 682-6677) Guns and ammo on James Canyon Highway. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday to Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. magnumsguns.com

Mountain Magic (506 Burro Ave. (575) 682-2348) Cloudcroft shirts, woodland toys, baby gifts, natural goods, and more. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily.

New Village Hardware (61 Curlew Pl. (575) 682-2849) Everything you need for your latest project. Open 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sunday.

Osha Trail Depot (102 Mexican Ave. 575-551-2099) Local art, woodworking, and

New-Mexican goods. Interested artists inquire: oshatraildepot@gmail.com. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. every day.

Poke The Bear (510 Burro Ave. 575-682-1341) Find the music playing on Burro boardwalk for fun and unique finds—lamps, upcycled furniture, outdoor goods, t-shirts, and humor gifts. Open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily.

Red Wall Jewelry (505 Burro Ave. 575-682-4414) Delicate and artisanal wares—great for gifts. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily.

Roots Flower Co. (62 Curlew Pl. (575) 295-1644) High-end flowers and affordable prices. Bouquets of all sizes, event orders. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

Seasons Boutique Gift Shop (601 Corona Pl. (575) 682-2566) Shop at the historic Lodge.

The Bear Track (308 Burro Ave.) Bubbles, figurines, woodland critter decor, and more. Hours vary.

Tree-Riffic Toys and Candy (505 Burro Ave. (575) 682-2566) Goodies for all ages. Open M, Th, Fri, Sat 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., W 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sun 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Tree Top Teez (505 Burro Ave. (575) 430-5154) Custom silk-screen and embroidery shop. Open 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Turquoise Shop (507 Burro Ave. (575) 682-3327) Fine jewelry at every price point. Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day, closed Sunday. cloudcrof turquoise.com

Art

Cloudcroft Art Society Co-op Gallery (90 Swallow Pl.) Artist-run rotating gallery. Open seasonal Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and for holiday sales. ccart society@gmail.com

Off the Beaten Path (100 Glorietta Ave. (575) 682-7284) Regional handmade art selection of all media. Open 10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Sunday. offthebeatenpathstuff.com

Club VEG

Elevate your plate with our monthly Club Veg! Veg bags are packed with love, nutrients, and a strong commitment to a healthier community & planet.

Facilitated by Alex & KK along with a small team of volunteers at Instant Karma, this group has brought thousands of bags clean organic produce to the community of Cloudcroft over the past 10 years.

Scan to join Club Veg

NOW ACCEPTING NEW ARTISTS, CREATORS & MAKERS

at Osha Trail Depot!

CALLING ALL LOCALLY-HANDMADE PRODUCTS!

Located in the Osha Trail Lodging building,
102 Mexican Avenue

Featured Print: "Takes a Village" by Ruidoso, New Mexico Artist: Deborah Wenzel

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CLOUDCROFT MUSEUM FEST

Saturday July 18, 2026 • 10 AM – 4 PM

At the Ice Rink at Zenith Park

Cloudcroft, NM • Zenith Park

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

HISTORY

EXPLORE 20+ museums, historical societies, and heritage organizations from across Southern New Mexico.

EXHIBITS • DEMONSTRATIONS • HANDS-ON FUN

LOCAL HISTORY FOR ALL AGES

ENGINEERING

TOURS & TRESTLES

See a restored 1899 wooden railroad trestle, complete with original rails—an iconic feat of engineering in the Sacramento Mountains.

SCENIC RIDE • LOCAL STORIES • GREAT VIEWS

Shuttle tours run throughout the day.

Developed by the Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum & Pioneer Village.



\$329,900

CLOUDCROFT

15 Crestview Drive
Tucked among the tall pines in the Waterfall Subdivision near Cloudcroft, this inviting mountain home offers comfortable, single level living.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$279,000

CLOUDCROFT

33 Switch Back Lane
Updated 1 bed, 1.75 bath updated condo in the Village. Adjacent to the golf course and a short distance from the historic Lodge & restaurant and Burro St. shops.
Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$589,999

CLOUDCROFT

690 Karr Canyon
Perfectly sized for a vacation retreat, sitting on just over 5 acres, this log home includes 2 bed/2 bath plus a bonus loft. Log cabin styling at its finest!
Debbie Tate - (575) 430-9511



\$699,000

HIGH ROLLS

36 Old Railroad Drive
Pristine 3BR/2BA home with multiple living areas, pellet + wood stoves, remodeled kitchen/baths, landscaped yard, greenhouse, workshop, and barn.
Cori Abel - (816) 896-2674
Emily Kellam - (575) 214-9479



\$689,000

TIMBERON

7 High Meadow Lane
Custom retreat on 6 acres with income potential & unmatched views. Beautifully custom built with the perfect blend of comfort and functionality.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$26,000

CLOUDCROFT

27 Ponderosa Pines Trail
This beautiful lot offers the perfect setting for your dream mountain home. This property has the ideal blend of accessibility, usable terrain and stunning natural surroundings.
Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$395,000

MAYHILL

9 Serenity Street
4 Bed/2 Bath on 2 acres in the New Mexico Skies Astronomy Enclave, backing the national forest; a true stargazer's paradise.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$283,000

CLOUDCROFT

1007 Panther Avenue
2 Bed/2 Bath relaxing second home, or short-term rental. This inviting ground-entry, single-level home offers mountain charm, comfort and convenience.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



(575) 415-4039
FUTUREREALSTATE.COM



Office locations in Alamogordo,
Cloudcroft, and Ruidoso



\$205,000

TIMBERON

20 White River Lane
3 Bed/2 Bath Cayco home on 1.5+ quiet acres, providing privacy, mountain views, and relaxed living in the Sacramento Mountains.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$1,400,000

CLOUDCROFT

102 Mexican Avenue
Osha Trail Lodging. Unique multi-family investment opportunity. Includes 6 nightly rental units, a retail space, 6 storage units, and a large finished and heated garage.
Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$179,000

CLOUDCROFT

29 Mystery Path
1Bed/1 Bath cabin with rustic charm, fenced yard, covered deck, wood stove, and a bonus bunkhouse plus a spa-like soaking tub room with loft bed.
Rebekah Graham - (575) 921-5517



\$299,900

CLOUDCROFT

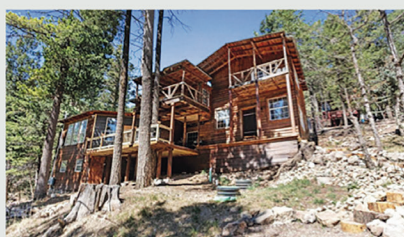
1012 Maple Drive
Updated cabin with new roof, plumbing, flooring, paint, and tankless water heater. Expanded deck and fully furnished with an acceptable offer.
Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$200,000

HIGH ROLLS

59 Mountain Estates Road
Over 4 acres with a mix of trees and open meadow. Year-round access and a well in place make it ideal for building your mountain home.
Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



\$318,000

CLOUDCROFT

11 Vine Street
Welcome to this 2/3 bedroom, 2 bath Treehouse! This unique multi-level home is nestled high in the treetops of the Sacramento Mountains. Approx. 3100 sqft of living space!
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$425,000

CLOUDCROFT

1008 Victoria Avenue
A rare find in the heart of the Village of Cloudcroft! This home is situated on the "sunny side" of the mountain. Enjoy natural light and warmth year round!
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$259,000

MAYHILL

6 Will Scarlet
3 Bedroom, 2 bathroom home nestled on over 1 acre backing the Lincoln National Forest, located in quiet Robin Hood neighborhood. Carport and RV hookups!
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$90,000

CLOUDCROFT

14 Aspen
At just under 1.5 acres in Cloud Country Estates, this lot is ideal to build your forever home or vacation cabin!

Annie Daniels - (575) 434-3444



\$2,200,000

HIGH ROLLS

163 Karr Canyon Road

Stunning 126 acre property backing the Lincoln National Forest in High Rolls, NM. You get over 20 acre feet of water rights per year!

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$260,000

CLOUDCROFT

10 Oak Trail
Cozy 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom A-Frame cabin with 2 decks, just 10 minutes south of Cloudcroft in the Silver Cloud area.

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$285,000

CLOUDCROFT

12 Little John Lane
2 Bedroom, 1 bathroom with lots of updates. Enjoy working on projects in the workshop with electric.

Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$489,000

HIGH ROLLS

73 Cider Mill Farm Road
Fully fenced and gated 2.5 acres offering privacy, nature, and space for hobbies. Updated home with new flooring and a charming rustic-modern kitchen.

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



Under Contract

\$420,000

HIGH ROLLS

158 Haynes Canyon Road
Privacy, comfort, and mountain living, in the sought after Haynes Canyon of High Rolls, NM! Hidden from view on 1.81 acres for seclusion and privacy

Sylvia Humphreys - (575) 921-1094



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& Innovation**



\$595,000

HIGH ROLLS

53 Alta Vista Loop
Mountain home versatility with breathtaking views tucked into the mountainside. This home is designed to bring the outdoors in.

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



\$955,000

HIGH ROLLS

61 Haynes Canyon
A rare mountain sanctuary where craftsmanship, astronomy, and luxury living come together beneath some of the darkest skies in the Southwest.

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



\$359,000

MAYHILL

18 Carpenter Lane
This inviting 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is filled with natural light thanks to the abundance of windows that create a bright and welcoming atmosphere.

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



Under Contract

\$275,000

CLOUDCROFT

29 Trading Post Road
Cozy cabin on three lots with main-level living, two upstairs bedrooms with private decks, and multiple outdoor spaces to enjoy year-round mountain views.

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



\$829,000

MAYHILL

48 Milky Way
Architectural mountain retreat with sweeping views, wildlife, and an integrated roll-off-roof observatory for exceptional stargazing.

Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$204,000

CLOUDCROFT

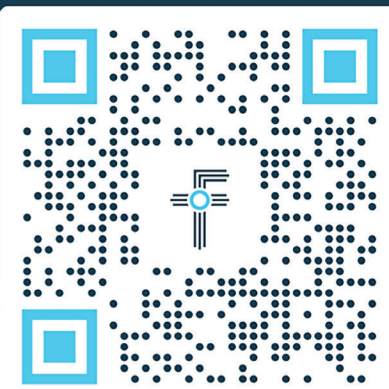
11 Center Road
Charming single-wide on 0.31 acres featuring open living, a primary suite, two guest rooms, and a covered deck among the tall pines.

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044

Scan Here!



**for more listings
& property
details**



\$325,000

CLOUDCROFT

0 Evergreen Lane
Just over 12 acres of beautiful mountain property with the flexibility to camp in your RV, build a cabin or place a manufactured home.

Sylvia Humphreys - (575) 921-1094

Art, continued from page 15

Samantha Odom Art Gallery (300 Burro Ave. (575) 649-9951) Original paintings and affordable prints by Samantha Odom. Open 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

The Little Gallery (206 Burro Ave.) Fine arts and paintings by local artists, and funky souvenirs. Open Wednesday-Sunday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Healing

Be in the Mountains Yoga & Massage Therapy (109 James Canyon Hwy (575) 415-4573) Cozy space and comfortable pace in the Village Plaza. Open by appointment at yogaincloudcroft.com

Cloudcroft Animal Hospital (1403 James Canyon Hwy (575) 682-2645) Critter care and adoptions. Open 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:30-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Cloudcroft Therapeutic Massage (404 Burro Ave.) Relax and recover upstairs at the OCEC building. Open by appointment at cloudcrofttherapeuticmassage.com

Laughing Leaf Dispensary (504 Burro Ave. (575) 682-1354) Locally-owned bud tender. Open 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Sunday.

Presbyterian Medical Center (76 James Canyon Hwy (575) 682-2542) Clinic by appointment or walk-in. Open 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Southwest Naturals CBD (506 Burro Ave. (575) 682-6022) Range of CBD products, vitamins, and supplements in store. Open Monday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Friday-Sunday 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Trestle Medical Services (1200 James Canyon Hwy) Local family practitioner. Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:00 p.m. trestlemedical.com

Services

Atelier Art of Hair by Anna (505 Burro Ave. (415) 230-9506) Pamper your hair, style your photoshoot. Available by appointment vagaro.com/lacnb9/services

Bhair Neccessities (202 Burro Ave. (575) 518-9011) Classic color, cuts, and products. Available by appointment.

Cloudcroft Fitness (90 Swallow Pl.) Get moving with a range of class offerings and instructors. cloudcroftcycling.punchpass.com

Cloudcroft Village Office (201 Burro Ave.) Pay your water bill, attend village meetings, and more.cloudcroftvillage.com

Cloudsoft Laundry To Go (520-330-2613) Delivery service.

Crystal Tompkins Photography Family photos, headshots, business branding, soul sessions, and more. By appointment: crystaltompkinsphotography.com

Green Mountain Construction (500 Burro Ave. (575) 551-2811) Local development. Open 8:00 a.m-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. greenmountainconstr.com

High Valley Weaving School (90 Swallow Pl. 575-921-1020) Modern courses in ancient fiber techniques. Class schedules: highvalleyweavingschool.com

Pre-School and Extended Care (50 Chipmunk (575) 682-1264) Local childcare.

Rick Roger’s Auto & Equipment Repair (72 James Canyon Hwy (575) 682-3352) Gas and diesel mechanic ser-

vices. Open Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Sacramento Mountain Senior Services (212 Glorietta Ave. 575-682-3022) Cafeteria and social hub. mtnseniors.org

U.S. Post Office (20 Curlew Pl. (800) 275-8777) Mail and passport services. Open 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m.

1CAT Trap & Release Program (100 Glorietta Ave. 575-682-7284) Non-profit feline care. Available by appointment.

Play

Deer Park Playground (30 Swallow Pl.) Behind the Burro St. Exchange. Picnic tables, easy downtown access.

Elevation Park (230 Mescalero Ave.) Disc golf, trailheads, and stargazing.

James Sewell Ice Rink (751 James Canyon Hwy) On the west end of Zenith Park. Seasonal skate rentals, snack bar, fireplace.

Pickleball Addicts of Cloudcroft (pickleballaddictsofcloudcroft.com) Join them! Regular seasonal play at Zenith Park.

Ski Cloudcroft (1920 1/2 Hwy 82) Southernmost ski area in NM—skiing, tubing, wood-fired pizza, and more.

The Lodge Golf Course (703 Corona Ave.) Scottish 9 in the clouds. Visit the pro shop for gear, snacks, and drinks.

Zenith Park (1001 James Canyon Hwy) Meadow in the middle of the village with playgrounds, ice rink, disc golf, walking, path, pickleball courts, and more.

Visit Cloudcroft

Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum and Pioneer Village (1000 Hwy 82) Study the Sacramentos

Sacramento Ranger District Forest Service Ranger Station (4 Lost Lodge Rd.) Visit for maps and forest facts

The Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce (1001 James Canyon Hwy) Stop in to

learn about local businesses and events

Michael Nivison Public Library (90 Swallow Pl.) Community hub for all ages

Fill Up/EV Charge

Allsups (10 Curlew Pl) Gas, groceries, beer cave in the middle of Cloudcroft.

High Rolls General Store (845 U.S. 82) A little bit of everything.

Mayhill Country Store (3497 U.S. 82) Travel stop with souvenirs, food, and gas next door.

Otero County Electric Co-op (404 Burro Ave.) Shop Cloudcroft’s downtown while your car charges.

Day Trip

Alameda Park Zoo (35 minutes) Observe critters in the Southwest’s oldest zoo. Educational programs, a playground, and summer camps available. ci.alamogordo.nm.us/816/Alameda-Park-Zoo

American Armed Forces Museum (23 minutes) Archives, memorabilia, and memorial garden. Volunteers welcome. americanarmedforcesmuseum.com

Cadwallader Mountain Farms (14 minutes) High-elevation orchards with scenic views and “u-pick” seasons. Find them on Facebook for updates.

La Luz, NM (24 minutes) Tularosa Basin settlement at the base of the Sacramentos Mountains.

Lincoln National Forest Scenic Byway (Varies) Winding drives past basin views, mountain meadows, wildlife, and beyond. fs.usda.gov/r03/lincoln/recreation/opportunities/scenic-drives

Mayhill, NM (23 minutes) Neighbors to the east.

Museum of Space History (30 minutes): Exhibits, education, memorials, playground, and theater. nmspacemuseum.org

Nichols Ranch and Orchards (35 minutes) Seasonal harvests and events. nicholsranchandorchards.com

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park (47 minutes) Desert camping, historic site, and hiking. emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/oliver-lee-memorial-state-park/

Sacramento, NM (48 minutes) Mountain hamlet nestled in the Sacramentos.

Silver Lake (17 minutes) RV and tent camping, fishing, and more. mescaleroapachetribe.com/parks-rec/silver-lake-official/

Three Rivers Petroglyph Site (59 minutes) One of the largest and most interesting rock art sites in the Southwest. blm.gov/visit/three-rivers-petroglyph-site

Timberon, NM (55 minutes) Mountain community surrounded by gorgeous forest—gas up on your way, no station for miles. timberon.org

Tularosa Basin Museum of History (31 minutes) area history with a full research library, gift shop, and bookstore.

Valley of Fires (80 minutes) Lava park featuring trails, visitor center, picnic areas, and campsite hookups. blm.gov/visit/valley-fires-recreation-area

Weed, NM (41 minutes) Mountain community, home of the Weed Bluegrass Festival. weednm.org

White Sands National Park (45 minutes) Otherworldly chalky dunes—pack sunscreen and water. nps.gov/whsa/index.htm Railroad Dr.)





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Page 18

Mountain Monthly

Events



Local VFDs represented at the 4th of July Parade

Community

Cloudcroft Museum Fest Zenith Park Ice Rink, Saturday, July 18 | 10 am – 4 pm. The inaugural event, developed by the Sacramento Mountains Historical Society, gathers together 20+ regional museums and heritage organizations for a day filled with local history, museum exhibits, demonstrations, and a tour of the historic railroad trestle. Free and open to the public.

30th Annual Weed Bluegrass Festival July 18–19, Weed Community Center. Five outstanding bands, live music from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, fried catfish lunch, door prizes, vendors, and kids’ activities including an indoor bouncy house and face painting. Saturday admission is \$15/person or \$30/family. Sunday brings a free Gospel Bluegrass session at 9 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Weed Community Center.

Village Fourth of July Parade Open to the community. Register your parade vehicle, bike, horse, or walking group at coolcloudcroft.com. July 4th at noon on Burro Avenue. Line up begins at 11 am on the east end of Burro Avenue by Paqua.

Christmas in July Jamboree Saturday and Sunday July 11th and 12th | 10 am - 5 pm Sat, 4 pm Sun. Zenith Park. Food trucks, vendors, and more.

Cloudcroft Schools Summer Youth Program Cloudcroft Elementary School June 9 – July 10, 2026 | Tue.–Thu. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. | Fri. 8 a.m.–noon Children entering kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to a summer of learning and fun at Cloudcroft Elementary. Activities include reading and literacy, arts and crafts, hands-on projects, swimming, hiking, kindness club, talent show, games, and much more. Cost: \$120 for five weeks; \$100 each additional sibling; \$10/day drop-in. Contact Director Marion Parker at (575) 491-0948 to register. Find the full calendar at CMS-Bears.org.

Michael Nivison Public Library Storytime and Crafts with Gail McCoy continues Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Friday Coffee Time from 1–3 p.m. in the foyer – free coffee and cocoa, courtesy of the library. Fourth of July celebration at the library from 1–3 p.m., a Nature Scavenger Hunt on July 10 at 1 p.m., announcement of Photo Contest winners on July 11 at 1 p.m., and a Nature Art Painting session on July 31 at 1 p.m.

Noisy Water Winery, Cloudcroft Brewing Company, The Lodge at Cloudcroft, Dave’s Cafe, and Mad Jack’s Mountaintop Barbecue all regularly host live music events during the summer. Check their Facebook pages for updates.

Art

Cloudcroft Art Society 4th of July Weekend Art Show: 12 to 4 pm, Friday July 3; 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday July 4, and 10 am to 3 pm Sunday July 5 | Old Red Brick Schoolhouse/Public Library building on 90 Swallow Rd and Burro St. 10-12 CAS artists will exhibit and sell original paintings and photography, pottery, baskets, gourds, art reproductions and cards, digital art, and lithographic prints. The CAS co-op gallery is open Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm all summer.

Blackbear Coffee Shop hosts an “artist of the month” on their gallery wall. This month, stop in to see Cheryl Kaufman’s intricate yet simple water-based paintings. Open during regular business hours, 200 Burro Ave.

Cloudcroft Art Workshops (CAW) resume their week-long summer courses beginning in early June through the first week of August in the Old Red Brick Schoolhouse. Painting, drawing, fiber arts, and more.

Dark Skies

White Sands National Park Full Moon Night | Wednesday, July 29, the park extends its hours until 11 p.m. so visitors can experience the full moon on the gypsum dunes. A ranger-led program with live music, special guest presenters, and artists begins at 8:00 p.m. at the outdoor amphitheater, seven miles from the fee station along Dunes Drive. No reservations required. The program is free; standard park entrance fees apply. Bring camp chairs, blankets, and a cooler – seating is not provided. Note that July is monsoon season; the program may be canceled due to weather or missile range activities. Call 575-479-6124 ext. 236 to confirm before heading out.

4th of July Drone Show July 4, NM Museum of Space History | The City of Alamogordo, NMSU–Alamogordo, and the International Space Hall of Fame Foundation team up for a dazzling aerial display over the museum grounds. Show begins around 9:15 p.m. Museum members get VIP parking.



THE BHAIR *Necessities*

SALON : DEN : CURIOSITIES

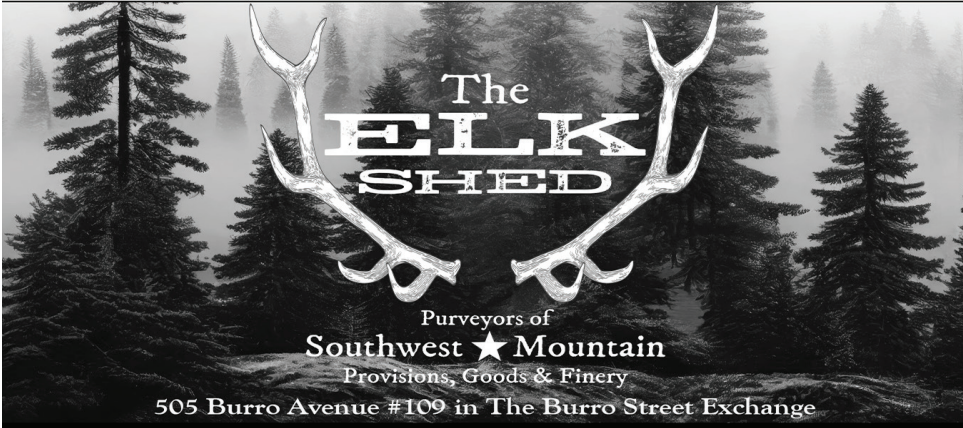
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~~MICHAEL~STYLIST~~

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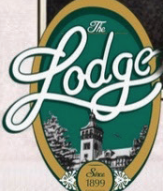


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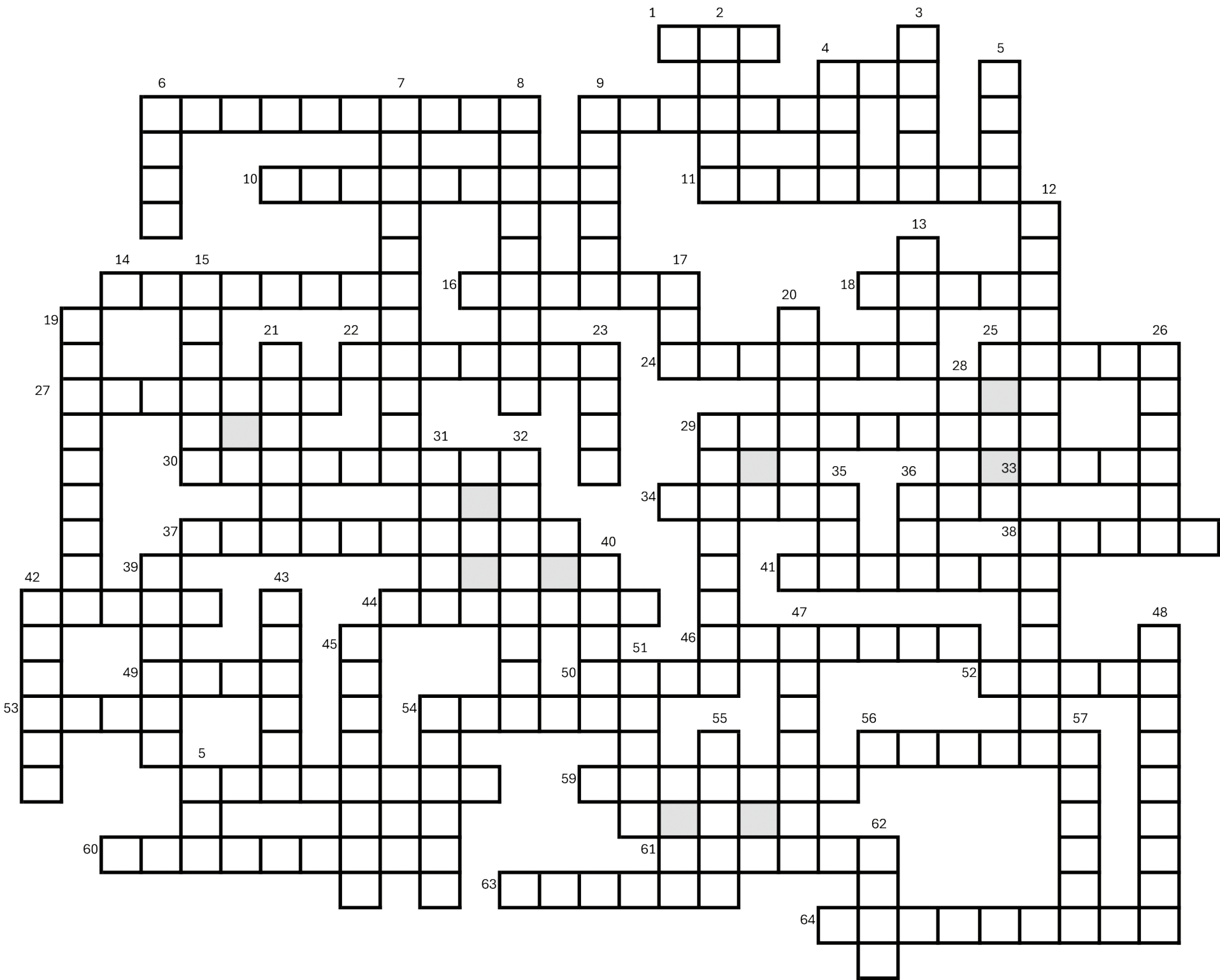


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“Wild Things”



ACROSS

- 1 The quick brown ____
4 Route: also part of our galaxy
6 A small furry beast, like the baby
9 Large wild feline, sometimes all black
10 Type of conifer tree, it’s pretty sweet
11 One falls from sky, then gets wiped out
14 English queen, 1837-1901
16 This tree’s wood is light & strong; for models
18 Common white and yellow flower, a weed?
22 A large furry beast, like the papa
24 Persistent pits in the pavement
25 Apparently it’s a type of Mexican avocado?
27 Small bird that builds nests in eaves
29 Perennial plant with a beautiful bouquet
30 Another name for a forested area
33 It’s all falling from the sky
34 If you’re not ____, you’re last
36 Terrestrial small vehicle (abbr.)
37 Native American word for educational talks
38 The highest quality of 58 Down
41 A small sedan made by Toyota
42 A stop / boarding place (w/ 49 Across - RIP Debbi)
44 The ideal place to keep your golf ball
46 Last name of former mayor (50 Across is dedicated to)
49 Roots of safety
50 Small songbird; usually brown, nests on ground
52 The main drag

- 53 A seasoning used for icy highways
54 30 Across Waymaker’s 2nd daughter
56 30 Across Waymaker’s wife
58 Famous war chief (sometimes yelled!!!!)
59 Something from our “older” southern neighbor
60 Local Native American tribe
61 Route: city-like. 63 Across is one
63 The place right below bronze
64 Just a little bit of glory (Spanish)

DOWN

- 2 A very cute aquatic mammal, floats on its back
3 Baby you can drive / Dude, where’s ____ (2 wds)
4 Small bird: very fast and loud for its size
5 Route: circular, ____ de ____
6 A small northern wildcat with tufted ears
7 A view of the high sierra (Spanish)
8 What a cloud can be called
9 Olympic gold medalist Michael ____
12 Leading up to subdiv. of same name
13 Route: the Beatles walked this Penny ____
15 From the post office, to hardware store, then lodge
17 A scaled flat diagram of known travel ways
19 The house is M.I.A. out past the football field
20 30 Across Waymaker’s 1st daughter
21 A ring around the sun, a beer, and a virus too
23 Route: basic and most common adjective

- 26 Route: sounds fancy, like NYC’s 5th
28 What many of our streets are surfaced with
29 Smaller version of a 32 Down, has a stripe on its back
31 A type of yucca plant, very similar in name
32 Small ground-foraging mammal, also climbs
35 # of lanes, headlights, and eyeballs
36 Extra-terrestrial space vehicle? (abbr.)
38 A river & northern NM county, Aztec is its seat
39 A canine and a real trickster
40 A quintessentially Canadian tree
42 Fuel for large engines, named for their inventor
43 Tail-slapping tree feller
45 Steep connect between Spur Landing & 130
47 The type and size of our little community
48 A prevalent “pink” pine
51 Tree with quaking yellow leaves
54 30 Across Waymaker’s nicknames
55 Sequentially after 63 Across
57 The end of the day @ western horizon
58 Common name for car fuel
61 Abbreviation of 61 Across
62 A fee paid to use a turnpike

Meet the Constructor

Long-time solver, first-time puzzler **Wells Vaiana** has lived in Cloudcroft since 2018, and his love for the village is clearly expressed in each puzzle, which is created without AI or any kind of online assistance. Wells is proud to be contributing these puzzles, and plans to continue doing so until they eventually drive him in-sane. Enjoy! dude.wells@gmail.com



Good times at Cloudcroft's annual Beerfest at Zenith Park

Mountain Life

Folks Caught on Camera Living Their Best Mountain Life



Amy Coor (L) and Jessie Willett (R) compete at the Trails-and-Rails race



Laura is all smiles at the Instant Karma Chai Bar



Michelle and Luna Navarette get set for the Summer Farm-to-Market program with Rachel Alm



The Moberlys display Bobby's photographs at Mayfair



The Shady Pines Chamber Players brought 9 cellists to Cloudcroft in June



Lorelei and Dakota at the Elk Shed



Melinda Pengelly and Linda Hamilton double up at the 2nd annual Pickleball in the Clouds Tournament



The "lost kids" of the Trails-and-Rails race before the kids' dash start, where some accidentally ran the 3-miler



Cloudcroft's first citizen group of Community Emergency Responders completed their lifesaving CERT training last month.

Ready to Respond

Citizen CERT responders complete their training

Thanks to the dedication and team work of our CVFD members, the entire Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program including last month's disaster scenario exercises were a resounding success.

Between February and June, local citizens trained weekly on CERT topics including teamwork, incident management, first aid, and fire safety. They practiced with fire extinguishers at Cloucroft VFD's burn building, participated in the high school graduation parade, and attended SMWA courses as well as additional wildfire instruction toward the end of the course.

The most common reason they said they wanted to join was to do more for their community.

The first CERT team, including Rick and Patti Benthul, Becky Casinger, Julia Dingee, Glenn and Cathy Leggett, Brice McCreary, and Carlos Ramirez, were recognized at the Cloudcroft VFD Annual Banquet for making the commitment to learning and training.

We would also like to recognize the following fire department members for their time, effort, and support through the year helping us with CERT: Fire Department Chief Erich Wuersching,

Andy and Hilary Kitzman, Kathy Denton, Sue Dreikosen, Charles Alexander, Jason Austin, Todd Cooper, Lewis Hournebuckle, Penny Hall, Phillip Masters, Eva Budzinski, Monica Barnett, Katie Grabowski, Wyatt Renfro, and Brice McCreary(who also participated as a CERT member). Thanks to all for their commitment to preparedness and community safety.

This journey began long before New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management officials came to train fire department members of Cloudcroft and Otero County District 6 as instructors last September. Chief Erich said in an email to the FD members, "I do thank you all so much for sharing my belief that this could be another great step for our department, our community and our mountain!"

We look forward to continual training with fire department, EMS, and CERT members.

Stay tuned for future CERT programs.

Get Involved

For fire safety information, volunteer opportunities, including our new Community

Emergency Response Team, CERT, contact the Cloudcroft Volunteer Fire Department at info@cloudcroftfd.com.

– Katie Grabowski

Cloudcroft Students Explore Agricultural Innovation in Europe

Worldwide travel opportunity for CHS students, from the desk of sponsor and teacher Debbie O'Connor



This summer, eight Cloudcroft students embarked on an unforgettable Agricultural Career Readiness Tour through Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, gaining firsthand experience with innovative farming practices while immersing themselves in European culture and history.

Students Dominic Romero, Marisa Romero, Portia Portocarrero, Gunner Wolfe, Bella Johnson, Mason Gaffney, Aurora Trejo, and Sophie Trejo traveled alongside teachers Joni Watson and Debbie O'Connor, as well as several other teachers and parents. Throughout the tour, students visited a variety

of rural and urban farming operations, learning about sustainable agriculture, greenhouse production, vertical farming, and emerging technologies designed to increase food production while protecting natural resources.

In addition to exploring agricultural innovations, students toured historic cities, museums, and cultural landmarks across the three countries. They experienced local foods, art, architecture, and traditions, gaining a deeper understanding of the rich histories and diverse cultures of Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands.

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The trip provided students with valuable career-readiness experiences, exposing them to global agricultural practices and encouraging them to think about future opportunities in agriculture, science, technology, and environmental stewardship. Participants returned home with new knowledge, lasting memories, and a broader perspective on how agri-

culture and culture are connected around the world.

Cloudcroft Schools is proud of these students for representing their community abroad and embracing this unique educational opportunity.

– by Debbie O'Connor



Peak Performance

The Technology Student Association heads to Washington D.C.

With the school year wrapped up and our sports teams on their usual summer break, the fields and courts at Cloudcroft Schools are quiet right now. But for one of our most successful programs, summer break is just the start—we're gearing up for our biggest stage yet. This month, the spotlight shifts from athletics to academics, leadership, and innovation, as 25 students from our Cloudcroft Technology Student Association (TSA) chapter prepare to represent our community at the National TSA Conference.

TSA is a non-profit, student-led organization that gives members real leadership and career opportunities in STEM—science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It offers a wide range of competitive events and gives students the chance to build real-world skills and even run for leadership roles at the chapter, state, and national levels.

Leadership in Action

The chapter's impact is already showing up at the state level. This year, the New Mexico TSA Delegation elected two of our own members to statewide office: Parker Muncy will serve as state Treasurer, and I, Paula Finch, will serve as the incoming State Vice President.

To prepare for these roles, Parker and I recently completed State Officer Training in Portales, on June 7-11th. The training covered strategic planning for the coming year; public speaking skills, such as stage presence and on-site delivery; and collaboration with other state Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). It also included an etiquette dinner and team-building activities, and wrapped up with a final presentation mapping out our goals for the upcoming state conference and the year ahead.

The Flight to D.C

Now the entire chapter is focused on the ultimate goal: bringing home national trophies. From

June 22nd-26th, Cloudcroft will send 25 students to the National TSA Conference in Washington, D.C.

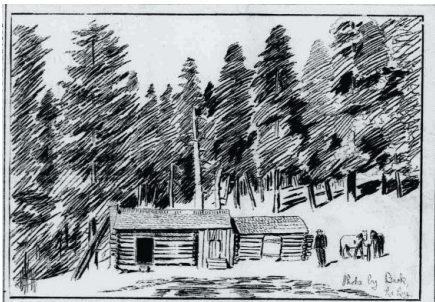
They'll be testing against students from across the country in technology-focused competitions, including:

- Senior Solar Sprint and Dragster
- STEM Mass Media, Audio Podcasting, and On-Demand Video
- Drone Challenge and Board Game Design
- Promotional Design and Transportation Modeling
- Extemporaneous Speech

While the competition will be intense, Cloudcroft's heading to the nation's capital feeling confident, united, and excited to explore the capital.

The Cloudcroft TSA chapter thanks local sponsors who funded this trip: Western Bar, Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce, Roots Flower Co., Quick Claimers Medical Billing, New Village Hardware Store, Cabins at Cloudcroft, The Farm Around the Corner, Dynamite Baking, and Runyan Ranch.

By Paula Finch



The First Sacramento Timber: Part 3 of 3

Village history, retold, reimagined



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The author has chosen to create an imaginary interview with J.D. Baird that took place in 1924. Note to readers: In such an interview, the author is filling in gaps between facts. In doing so, he may be wrong, but he never intentionally creates false statements, and the words he puts into J.D. Baird's mouth are realistic.

The interview continues.

LAM: So you were set to have a sawmill in El Paso.

JDB: Yep. Sometime mid-March, I get a letter from Mr. Steffian to come pick up the sawmill. I knew this was going to be a big project. You could get a wagon to LaLuz from El Paso with a light load, but no one in their right mind would try to take a heavy load across the sand hills.

We borrowed a dray from Sumner and headed for Las Cruces – same road as

the Fountain murders. Left the dray and team in Las Cruces and rode the Santa Fe to El Paso. I had to work back and forth with Mr. Steffian, but eventually I got him to agree that the balance of the thousand dollars was meant to pay the freight on the Santa Fe to Las Cruces.

It took us three trips from Las Cruces to get the whole sawmill moved to LaLuz. We set it up, just to make sure, and started trying to be sawyers. Sumner knew a lot about steam locomotives, and he helped us get the boiler running right. We cut up a few junk logs, didn't kill ourselves, and thought we knew it all.

LAM: So now you have to get it to Fresnal.

JDB: I am telling you again. This is my story.

You don't know the land the way Ham-

ilton and I do. When you start from LaLuz there is a good enough wagon road headed east along the north side of LaLuz creek. Pretty close to where Fresno Creek joins LaLuz Creek, the road forks. The north fork head up over the hill to LaLuz canyon. The south fork has a nice low water crossing of LaLuz Creek and heads up the north side of Fresno Creek, past the flour mill, and stays on the bench for a couple of miles. Then it goes steep up to the ridge until it comes down to the low water crossing below Bridal Veil Falls.

LAM: I don't get it. Why go steep up to the ridge?

JDB: Hillside gullies. Plus, Salado Canyon narrows to a vee – no bench. Old timers didn't build bridges. And they didn't do pick-and-shovel work. They might set off a few sticks of dynamite, but that was it. Up on the ridge, they were above the gullies and could get past the vee.

Anyway, to get from that low water crossing to High Rolls, the road is flat-out ugly. Steep, narrow, tilted. Eventually goes past the big spring that feeds Bridal Veil Falls and into the High Rolls area. Most of the High Rolls basin was a marsh – cienega, the Mexicans called it. But if you stay on the north side, there is a dry enough wagon road.

Hamilton and I worried about the ugly part. That was the shortest way to Fresno, but what if our sawmill tumbled down the hill? In the end, we decided to take the road up LaLuz Canyon. It was a lot longer, but once we got far enough, all we had to do was take one steep part over into Bailey's Canyon. Just up then down over a decent wagon road, then an easy ramble to Fresno.

LAM: Just occurred to me. How do you control the wagon when to take a heavy load down a steep road?

JDB: City slicker, take a good, strong pole, three or four inches wide, and stick it through the spokes on the two rear wheels. The team can then drag the wagon down the slope.

Anyway, by mid-April, we had all the parts there. We decided to put the sawmill on a little hill on the south side, closer to the timber and above the thunderstorm floods. There was a good

spring just up the side canyon.

We used an adze to flatten off enough logs to make the base for the sawmill. Once we had the sawmill running, we would cut planks for the floor and roof.

That was when Hamilton threw out his back and said, "My body is too old for this work. I am going to sell out and go to LaLuz."

LAM: So Kimberlin and Baird become Bryan and Baird?

JDB: Yeah. Hamilton sold his interest to Gordon Bryan. Then, come September, Bryan sold to Mr. Fassett and went back to Mexico. They just wanted money, and I had to do all the work.

LAM: So how did you make money?

JDB: Hamilton and I decided early on that we were not going to buy logs – just charge for the sawing – and I stuck with that.

Once we had the sawmill running, things started hopping. Eddy put out advertisements all over New Mexico, Texas, and I don't know where. Jarilla was full of get rich gold prospectors, and the Sacramentos were full of newborn timber men. Hitched up the team, left the farm and headed for money in the woods. At one point there were probably three hundred men in the woods,

When they came to me, I sent them down to LaLuz. Eddy's man there would advance them a crosscut saw and file since we had decided against ax cut timber.

Hamilton would let them cut on his property, assign them an acre or so and collect his fee. Thomason did the same on his homestead at the head of James Canyon, just east of McNew's place in the saddle. Of course, any reasonable man would guess that some of the timber came from government land, but we never asked. Wasn't our problem.

At Willie Watson Canyon a bunch of them teamed up to build a log chute. That where that log jumped the chute, rolled down the hill, and killed that old lady in her tent.

LAM: So how did you get your money?

JDB: Eddy – rather his man in LaLuz – helped us.

To make sense of it, you need to know how they built the railroad. Good & Company had the contract for grading, meaning moving dirt. Buchanan had the contract for building bridges and water boxes – they were carpenters. After that, the railroad – A&SM – came in and conducted the final surveys and laid the track.

A lumberman brings logs to us, and we saw them to ties, bridge timbers, whatever the railroad needs. The lumberman then loads the sawed timbers onto the wagon and takes them down to the railroad. He gets paid on delivery. However, the railroad paymaster holds out our ten percent sawing fee. Ever so now and then, he turns our share over to us, and we pay our sawmill crews their two dollars a day for a twelve-hour shift. Of course, our profit is there, too.

LAM: So they took the sawed loads down that ugly road?

JDB: Not if they had any sense at all. You see, Sumner built a new road.

The EP&NE reached Alamogordo June 15, 1898. The next day the same crews kept building north. They got about a mile and built a wye so the EP&NE could turn their engines around. The east leg of the wye was the start of the A&SM, and the west leg in good time led to the Salado coal fields.



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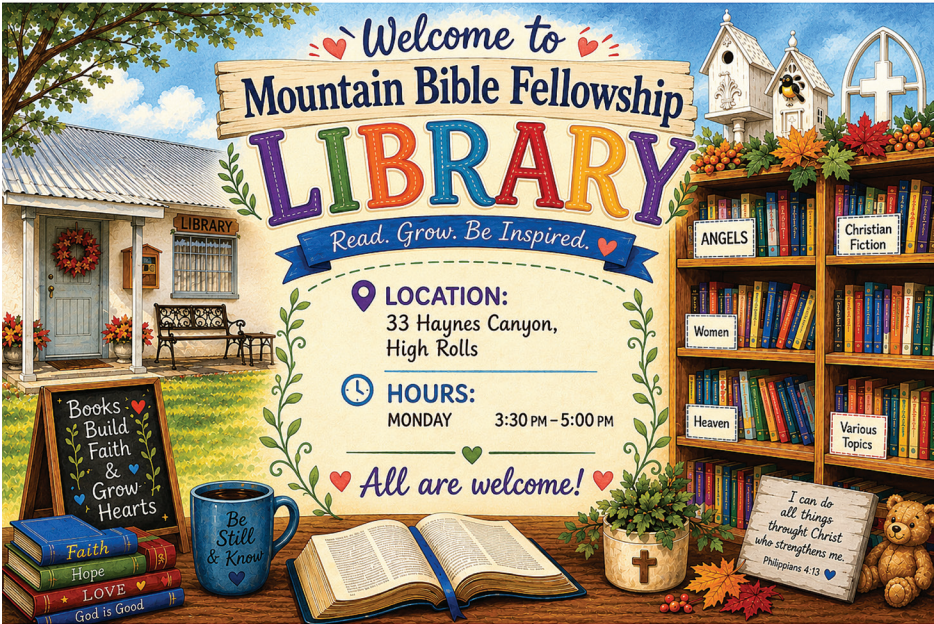
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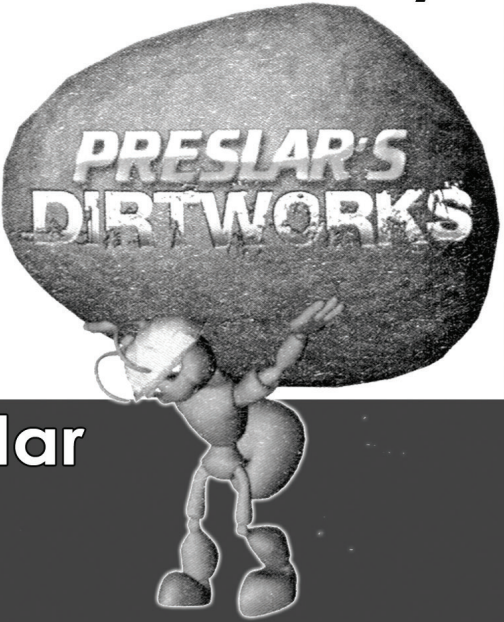
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As soon as the A&SM reached the junction of LaLuz Creek and Fresno Creek, Sumner wanted run the A&SM along the bench where the old wagon road was. The 1875 railroad law allowed a railroad to take over a road, provided they built a new one. Sumner had the railroad grade crews make a new road, mostly up near the ridge. It came down about half way between Bridal Veil Falls and the Pinto curve. Then it crossed Salado Creek on a fifty foot long bridge, ran just below the railroad grade for a long ways, and finally crossed the railbed and joined the good part of the old road near the big spring. Once that road was in place, the crews went back to working of the railroad grade.

So you see, a wagon full of ties or bridge timbers had a good road to get to the selling place.

LAM: Sounds like you had a good thing going.

JDB: If you have been paying attention, you know we were helping to doom our sawmill.

Early November 1898, the A&SM track crews passed by our sawmill. A week later they got to Toboggan and built their wye. They were done, they didn't need our timbers, and we were out of business.

I caught up with J.A. Eddy one day and asked him if he wanted our sawmill. He grinned and said "I just built a hundred thousand dollar sawmill in Alamogordo. I don't think I have any need for a thousand dollar sawmill."

LAM: And then?

JDB: I packed it up and freighted it on the A&SM to Alamogordo and then on the EP&NE to El Paso. Mr. Shiffan was awful nice and gave me two hundred dollars for it.

Note: The Alamogordo Lumber Company rapidly built a logging line two miles to Bailey's Canyon. The first cars of Alamogordo Lumber Company logs arrived on the Alamogordo & Sacramento Mountains Railroad December 1, 1898. The railroad north to the Salado coal fields made use of Alamogordo Lumber Company timber.

— Lynn Melton



Lieutenant Short Remembered

A mountain memorial with basin views in honor of a fallen pilot

June 22, 2026 marks the eighth anniversary of the death of Lieutenant Christopher Carey Short USN. He died at 1130, June 22, 2018 aboard White Sands Missile Range/ Holloman AFB on Red Rio Bombing Range while flying an A29 Super Tucano Light Attack aircraft during a test.

Lieutenant Short loved the Sacramento Mountains and used to hike the Rim Trail. His squadron mates of the 586th Test Flight Squadron erected a memorial to him along it- the Bueller Bench. It's around three miles from the start or end of the Rim Trail in Timberon and easily accessible by car via Forest Service Road 91. It's only a 30 yard walk from the road

July 2026

uphill to the bench. It's a breathtaking view of the Tularosa Valley.

The Cloudcroft VFW, Post 11999, was there to visit and bear witness to his sacrifice. We placed flags and a VFW marker by the bench. Lieutenant Short is buried in Arlington National Cemetery but his presence on the mountain is palpable. Not intrusive but inspirational. The bench is one of those pleasant surprises hikers encounter along their journey that invites further inquiry. There is a plaque under the bench that is a fitting eulogy to an extraordinary pilot and naval officer. It's a reminder freedom isn't free.

So please visit Lieutenant Short and say hello to him. The view is absolutely gorgeous. It's an easy pilgrimage by vehicle and well worth it. It's a "thank you for your service" road trip that turn words into a deed.

—Chris Wright

Life in the Sacramentos with Lyn Canham

250 years ago, right here

There is a certain number being tossed around quite a bit right now: 250. Of course, July 4, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain and King George III, and is America's Semiquincentennial. How does that relate to us in New Mexico?

Around 1776 – 250 years ago – southern New Mexico was a rugged, largely unmapped frontier under the Spanish Empire. Spain had actually been present in New Mexico since 1598, with El Camino Real running through the Rio Grande valley for nearly 200 years by 1776.

Unlike the settled Spanish mission towns of northern NM and their land grants from the Spanish King, the southern region was defined by Apache homelands, along with early trade corridors tracing further north into the Viceroyalty of New Spain from its capital, Mexico City, which were traveled by Spanish expeditions.

In fact, the largest part of southern NM was controlled by various Apache bands, some in present-day Arizona and others, such as the Chiricahua, Mescalero, Lipan, and Jicarilla, in present-day NM, Texas, and Mexico.

They successfully defended their vast territories against Spanish rule as threatened by Spanish expansion. And later, they defended against early American settlers. Thus, the people continually reinforced their reputations as fearsome defenders against any new settlements attempted in the formerly pristine mountain and desert landscapes they had freely roamed.

The cycles of the Southern Athabascan-speaking Apache bands who lived here were tied to game movement patterns, subsistence (knowledge of local water and plant resources), trade, and social organization. Their movement principles did not signal a lessening of connection to the land as opposed to agricultural permanence; their movement patterns defined their connection to the land.

Like their linguistic 'cousins', the Diné or Navajo, various forms of evidence show that their ancestors migrated slowly to the American Southwest from Canadian and Alaskan lands, arriving many hundreds of years ago (the Mogollon and Ancestral Puebloans had lived here for thousands of years). The Diné integrated into the region through settling alongside agricultural Pueblo commu-

Flavor Lab

Shishito Peppers & Umami Mayo

Cloudy's Market owner Dylan Kincaid shares a favorite recipe

Shishito peppers are a mild, bite sized East Asian pepper popular in Japanese cooking, but making its way into other cuisines as you can also find them in some steak houses served as an appetizer. They have a slightly sweet flavor when raw, but develop a smoky, savory flavor when blistered or grilled.

They remind me a bit of a Hatch Green Chile, and roughly one in ten are going to be hot - around the same heat as a jalapeño. These are a versatile pepper that can be used in salsas, salads, creme sauces, sofrito, burger or sandwich toppings, and even as a supporting flavor for desserts. But, we mostly enjoy them as a standalone appetizer shared with friends and family.



Ingredients:

- 1 lb shishito peppers
- High smoke point oil - avocado, grapeseed, or canola
- 3-5 cloves garlic
- 1/2 cup Kewpie Mayo
- 1-2 Tbsp salted butter
- Low sodium soy sauce
- Smoked paprika
- Finishing or flakey sea salt
- 1 lemon
- Sesame seeds

Time: 10-15 min

Yield: 4-6 servings

Shishito Peppers:

Rinse shishito peppers and allow to dry. Lightly oil (use high smoke point oil) a heavy bottom pan (cast iron, stainless, or a wok) and cook over high heat. Once the pan slightly starts to smoke, add the shishito peppers and cook until blistered, making sure to toss often and blister all sides of the peppers.

Turn off heat and add 1-2 tbsp salted butter, minced garlic, and sesame seeds - cook on residual heat until sesame seeds are toasted. Be careful not to burn the butter, garlic, or sesame seeds. Remove from pan and sprinkle with flakey sea salt - or a finishing salt and squeeze of lemon.

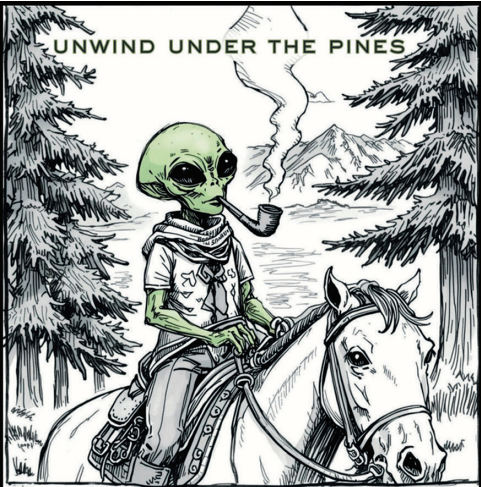
Umami Mayo:

In a small bowl or ramekin, mix 1 tbsp soy sauce with 1/2 cup Kewpie mayo. Continue to stir until incorporated and smooth - it should be a light tan color with a slightly lighter consistency than mayo. If it's too thin, add mayo until you find the desired consistency.

The combination of these two ingredients will produce a salty, savory, umami rich dipping sauce for the shishito peppers. Top the sauce with smoked paprika and sesame seeds - for both presentation and additional depth/flavor.

Notes: I use a low sodium soy sauce as to not over salt the dish. The salted butter, low sodium soy sauce, and finishing salt should help reach the right amount of intended saltiness. You can sub unsalted butter to accommodate for regular sodium soy sauce if necessary. Find the video at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1GZVhuYmtC/>



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nities, while Apache people primarily remained nomadic hunters, gatherers, and warriors.

Since about the 12th century, and certainly during the 18th century, the Mescalero were living in their temporary wikiups and following their mobile lifestyles throughout the Southern Sacramentos (and beyond, of course), exactly where residents are living today. I think it is good to periodically envision that and feel some warmth for those who came before.

Today, those of us who live here as neighbors to the Mescalero Apache can benefit from occasional glimpses of their culture and traditions. The Mescalero are very generous to at least partially share their annual Puberty Rite Ceremony, a 4-day coming-of-age celebration, usually held in early July, which is an ancient and sacred cultural practice honoring the path of young girls to womanhood.

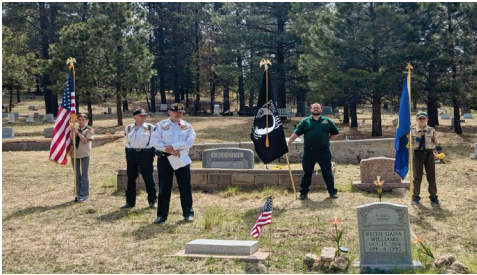
Activities that mark this valued transition require an intense commitment by the girl and her extended family over almost a year of time, and teach young women important Mescalero Apache values, behaviors, language, blessings that are integral to daily life, very old rituals and dances, and not least, feasts and their preparation using time-honored local food sources (such as the heart of the mescal plant that became associated with the very name of the people, and pollen collected from local water plants).

The ceremony binds the tribe as a people while also functioning as a vital cultural teaching every year.

In the evenings, visitors can catch glimpses of these important rituals,

observing the masked dancers as they perform through singing and drumming. Tribal members sell traditional foods, and there is a Rodeo, all held at their Ceremonial Grounds on the Reservation (along US 70 west of Ruidoso).

— By Lyn Canham



Scouting Around

Scouts out and about in the mountains

Memorial Day is always an important occasion for Pack and Troop 958. As scouts, we learn about citizenship and service throughout the year, and Memorial Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices that made our freedoms possible.

Pack and Troop 958 were honored to join members of the John D. Rider VFW Post 11999 for the community's Memorial Day observances. We are proud to be sponsored by VFW Post 11999, which serves as the Chartered Organization for both of our units.

The day began with a ceremony at the Blue Star Memorial in Zenith Park before continuing to the cemeteries in James Canyon, Mayhill, and Weed. At each stop, veterans, family members, and community members gathered to remember those who gave their lives

in service to our nation.

Our scouts participated in the ceremonies by carrying and holding the American and New Mexico flags. Standing alongside the veterans of Post 11999, they helped honor the men and women whose sacrifices are the reason we are able to enjoy the freedoms we often take for granted.

In a Memorial Day message, the VFW reminded us of the deeper meaning of the holiday: that freedom is not free, and that remembering those who died in service to our country carries with it a responsibility to live in a way worthy of their sacrifice. These are lessons that fit naturally with the values of scouting and are important for the next generation to learn.

We thank the members of John D. Rider VFW Post 11999 for their continued support of our scouts and for the example they set through their commitment to service, remembrance, and community.

If you have a child who might benefit from scouting, with its focus on building character and having fun, we would be glad to have you join us.

Contact us: info@CloudcroftScouts.org

—Greg Crinklaw



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PASSINGS



Cloudcroft Astronomer Alan Hale, Who Discovered Comet Hale-Bopp, Dies at 68

Dr. Alan Hale, the Cloudcroft astronomer whose backyard discovery of one of the most spectacular comets of the 20th century made his name known across the world, died June 6 at his home in the mountains. He was 68.

Hale was born March 7, 1958, in Tachikawa, Japan, where his father was stationed with the U.S. Air Force, and was raised in Alamogordo, where clear desert skies and a childhood steeped in borrowed astronomy books set the course of his life. He graduated from Alamogordo High School, earned a physics degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, and later received his PhD in astronomy from New Mexico State University in 1992. He went on to work at the New Mexico Museum of Space History as staff astronomer before founding the Earthrise Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to using astronomy to bridge international and intercultural divides.

In 1995, from the driveway of his Cloudcroft home, Hale had just finished observing a known comet when he swung his 16-inch telescope toward the globular cluster M70 in Sagittarius and spotted an unfamiliar fuzzy object that matched nothing in his charts. After consulting every available database without a match, he fired off an email to the Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams. That same night, amateur astronomer Thomas Bopp spotted the same object from south of Phoenix. The comet bearing both their names went on to remain visible to the naked eye for 18 months, a record, and became one of the great naked-eye celestial spectacles of the modern era.

In his lifetime, Hale observed 533 comets. The International Astronomical Union named asteroid 4151 Alan Hale in his honor.

He is survived by his wife, Vickie Stone Moseley Hale; sons Zachary and Tyler; and three grandchildren.

In Memory of George Collins

A longtime friend of the Cloudcroft Light Opera Company (CLOC), George and his daughter Sharon have been staples of the Zenith Park Pavilion productions.

Arlan Ponder remembers his friend George:

“George was president of CLOC in 1996. He and the family came back to CLOC in 2009 after about a 10 year absence.”

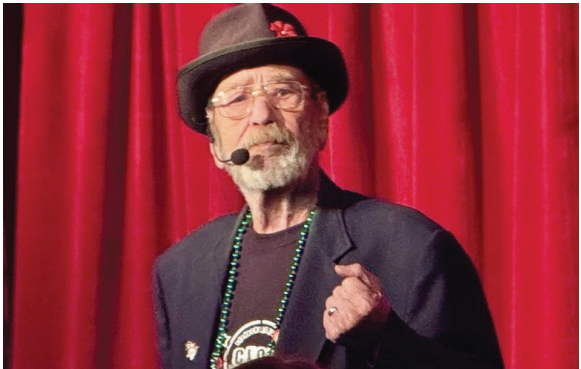
“He took over as our panhandler in September 2009 during the “Red vs. The Wolf” melodrama directed by Joplin Sell and produced by me. I’m not sure when he stepped away, but he came up with the idea to “auction” off the chicken beads at the end of each night. On most melodrama nights he was the first face folks show as they entered the pavilion. He’d always greet people with a LOUD “Welcome. Come on in.”

“He’d also introduce the melodrama each night. Each year we would have to remind him how many years CLOC was celebrating. And most of the time he’d get it wrong, but no one told him because he was so passionate about CLOC.”

“He was elected to serve on the CLOC board of directors in 2011. George was in countless murder mysteries over his extended CLOC career – usually playing the police officer or some form of “authority” during them.”

“Looking back at the old CLOC files, he worked on numerous melodramas as sound tech, producer, set design and panhandler.”

“I’ll never forget what a great friend he was to me and my family. He would do just about anything for you if you were his friend. When his wife Connie died several years ago, he was devastated and we thought that was his end with CLOC. However, he showed back up and gave 1000 percent to make sure something he was involved in starting continued to be a solid part of Cloudcroft’s history and success.”



Friend Michael Shinaberry remembers George:

“George told me one time that his favorite murder mystery was one he did at the Lodge. Very early in the event, he walked outside, lay down on the grass, and played the deceased murder victim.”

“George was proud of his service as part of law enforcement, as well he should be. He worked for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, working aboard helicopters. After moving to the Sacramento Mountains, he served as a dispatcher for the Otero County Sheriff. George was a faithful family man, and some years back was excited about a daughter visiting to surprise Connie, something George had to keep under wraps and had trouble doing so, so bubbling over with expectation. I was there when the daughter and her family surprised Connie while CLOC was preparing for the night’s show; quite the heartwarming family moment as the family, I believe, had driven from Oklahoma (I could be wrong about where they lived, but they did come a long distance).”

“George truly cared about his community, Cloudcroft, about fellow officers with whom he kept in touch, and those officers likewise had nothing but high respect and praise for George’s professionalism.”

“I could always count on George for a joke and

his hearty, distinctive guffaw to relieve tension before the curtain opened, and his interaction with the audience, especially youth, as he sought to be far more than just the guy who passed the hat.”



In Memory of Debbi Sue McLeod-McCurdy

April 13, 1968 – May 15, 2026.

Debbi passed away suddenly but peacefully on May 15, 2026. She was born in Snyder, Texas, and married Mike McCurdy on September 18, 1998.

She was a graduate of Abilene Cooper High School and McMurray University, and later earned her law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law in 1998, practicing law for 28 years. She also served as CFO of Texas Gulf Engineering and McCurdy Creek Ranches.

Debbi and Mike spent the past 21 years in the Texas Hill Country, dividing their time in recent years between their Fredericksburg ranch and their mountain retreat in Cloudcroft.

In Cloudcroft, she was involved with the Chamber of Commerce and owned Osha Trail Depot, where she supported local and aspiring artists. At the time of her death, she was actively raising funds for Cloudcroft’s first-ever helipad.

Memorial donations: The family asks that donations be made to Sparky’s Boot Fund, P.O. Box 351, Cloudcroft, NM 88317, designated for the Debbi McCurdy Memorial Helipad.

For information
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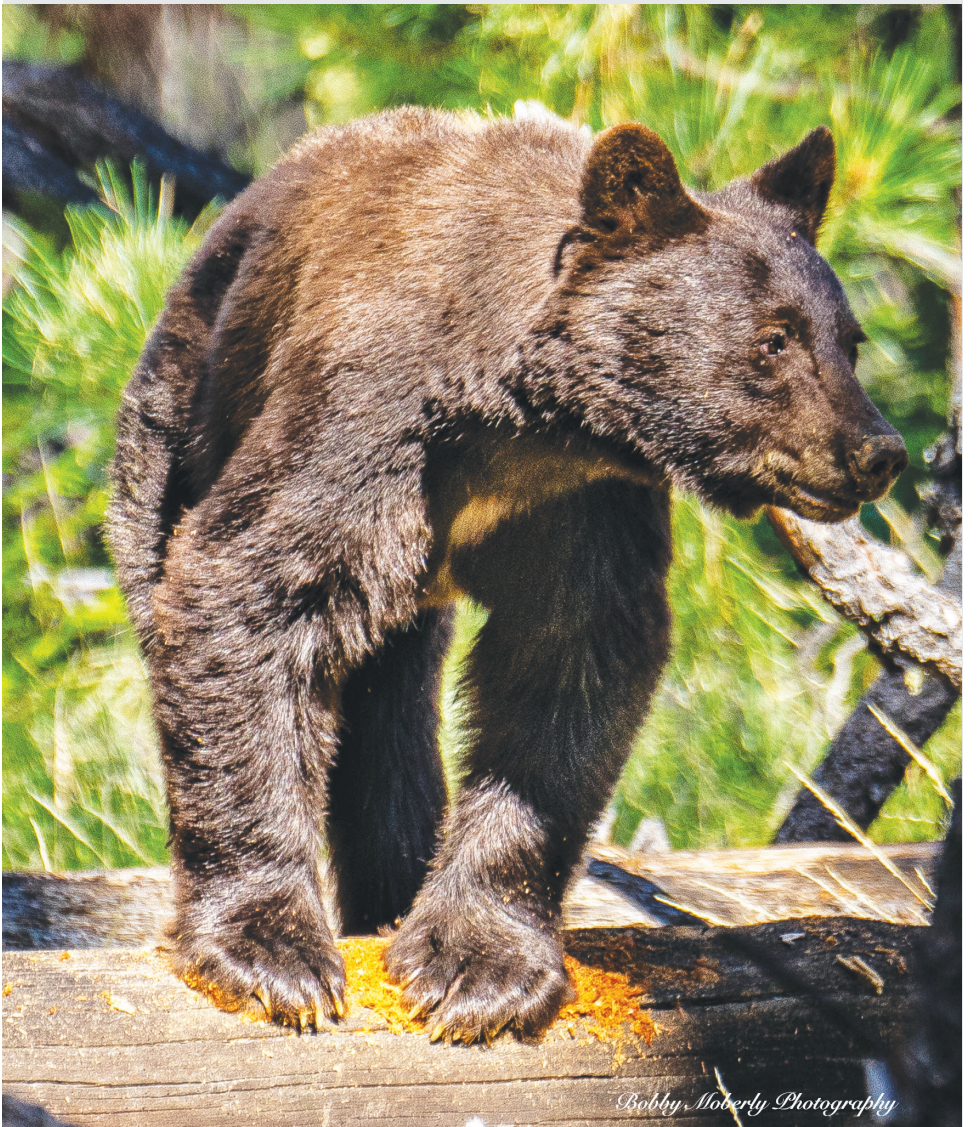
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From the editors of | Cloudcroft Reader & Mountain Monthly

Wildlife of the Month

Black Bear

by Christina Olvera



At some point in a Cloudcroft local's life, they will encounter a black bear.

Although they are called black bears, they are not only black – they are brown, cinnamon, and even blonde. Mother bears (also called sows) give birth around January or February, during the coldest months of winter.

At birth, cubs weigh just less than a pound! Cubs will stay with the mother anywhere from 18 months to 3 years. Once the cubs are old enough to fend for themselves, the mother bear will chase off her young so she can continue breeding and her cubs can discover their own territory. Young males tend to leave their mothers closer to 18 months and will travel miles to establish their own territory by rubbing up against trees, clawing at trees, and making trails of their bathroom duties.

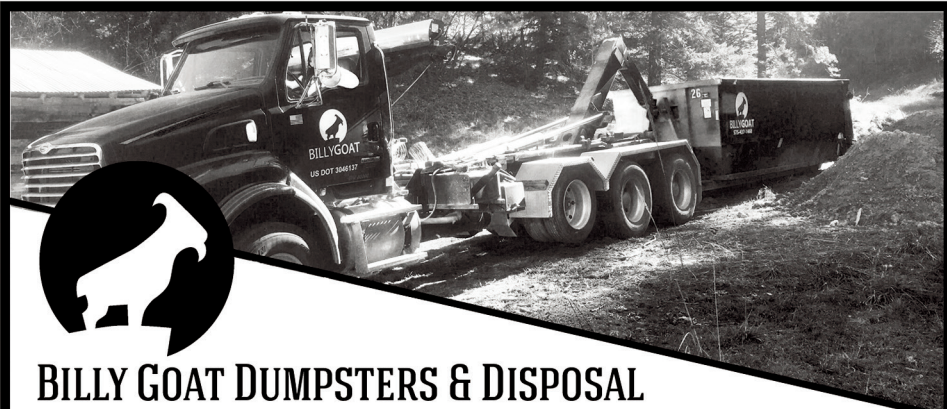
As black bears come out of hibernation and become more active during late spring and summer, let's review some safety tips to keep yourself and others safe while recreating in the forest.

How to be Bear Safe:

1. Make yourself big! Raise your arms above your head.
2. Never turn your back – not even to run away, it is best to maintain composure and show the bear you are not afraid. If you run, it will likely chase you.
3. Yell at the bear – you can scream, yell “go away”, shout your favorite color even, just be LOUD!
4. Stay away from those cubs! The mama bears are extremely protective of their young, and they will come after you if they feel you are a threat to the cubs, so avoid being in proximity to the cute little baby bears.

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Faces & Places



Steve Carpenter and Lisa Adams at the new Allsup's in Cloudcroft, where Adams served as longtime manager before retirement

If you've been to Cloudcroft, odds are you've been to Allsup's.

You've stopped in for gas, or because the road made you thirsty. And when you walked in, there's a good chance that **Lisa Adams** was behind the counter.

Adams retired last month after roughly 25 years at the store. She'd moved up to the mountain from El Paso around 1999, following her son, Kody, who had decided to finish high school in Cloudcroft instead of the city. Her parents had kept property in the area for years, and the family had always loved it.

"We lived in El Paso, and it was getting ugly, and it was easier to be up here," she said. "My son called me and said, 'I'm going to school up here, what do you think?' I told him, 'You're talking apples and oranges there, dude.' He went, and she followed.

She picked up work at Allsup's shortly after arriving, hired by manager **Cheryl Winrow**. It wasn't a position she'd been searching for.

"I didn't care what I was going to be doing," she said. "I just needed the job." She quit briefly for personal reasons, stayed home for about three or four months, and then went back. That was that.

What followed was a quarter-century at one of the few stores that's a reliable constant in Cloudcroft.

The town hasn't always had much in the way of year-round retail. *Mountain Top Mercantile*, Cloudcroft's only locally owned grocery store, closed over a decade ago, and only recently has that void been filled by *Cloudy's Market*. Over the decades, Allsup's, with its limited but carefully maintained shelves, became somewhat of a community hub.

Adams became a manager and took that role seriously. She tracked what people wanted and pushed for it. Sometimes, re-

Lisa Adams Retires After 25 Years at Cloudcroft's Allsup's

After decades behind the counter at the village's station, Adams closes a chapter having turned a gas station job into a community anchor

by Jonny Coker

quested items would draw attention from higher-ups. "I would order stuff that the supervisor would say, 'What are you doing ordering this?' she recalled. "But if I can find it in the order book, I'm going to get it on the shelf for them."

The store, for many stretches, was the only grocery option on the mountain, which gave it a different weight than most gas stations carry. Tourists stopped en route to their destinations. Locals stopped in because there was nowhere else. "I did all my shopping at Allsup's," Adams said with a laugh. "I very seldom leave the mountain."

Summer brought snowbirds, older travelers in campers and RVs working their way across the country, and Adams looked forward to it every year. They'd come through once and come back again the next season, checking to see if she was still there. Usually, she was.

"They left their mark on all of us to be better people," she said of those regulars. "They

were always so sweet, and it kind of rubbed off on us."

Over the years, she met people from across the United States and Mexico, travelers passing through on mountain roads who wandered in. Movie stars came through occasionally; she's forgotten the names but not the encounters. She made a habit of asking where people were from. It almost always sparked a conversation.

The winters had their own character. When storms knocked out power, and the old store had no generator, Adams and a coworker would stay anyway. A two-person rule kept the place always staffed. They dragged Coke cases together for chairs, brought food and books, and waited it out. "We got to know each other a lot better," she said.

Through all of it, she kept a single goal in mind. "We tried to make it a mom-and-pop store," she said. "Keep it as family. Everybody who lives here is family, of some sort."

She's been retired for about a month now. The first few weeks were fine. Then the small house she shares with her son and his wife on their property began to feel small. She's been walking the roads to stay busy, checking in on people, staying off the couch. In fact, she's already picked up part-time work cleaning rooms at The Grand Cloudcroft Hotel.

"I just can't sit at home," she said. "That's my deal."

With her extra time in retirement, she has daughters in the Dallas area she's planning to visit. Former regulars still reach out. A daily check-in text from one, a call from another, and she's still in contact with the current staff at the store.

"The people made my career," she said. "The people. I've very seldom run into anyone who was not nice."



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