

Mountain Monthly

Your Guide to Cloudcroft and the Sacramento Mountains | JUNE 2026



Bre and Dylan Kincaid grow the village’s fresh grocery store

The Grocery Store Cloudcroft Has Been Waiting For

Cloudy’s — Bre and Dylan Kincaid’s new market — offers fresh groceries ‘up the hill,’ 7 days a week.

by HANNAH DEAN

Dewy red grapes glisten under the light of a tiered open-air refrigerator, surrounded by a luxurious display of rainbow bell peppers, jalapeños, and locally grown varieties of mushrooms, unaware of their status as very welcome guests on the mountain.

There are ribeyes and New York strip steaks, butchered in-house. Beautifully bottled olive oils, all-natural pastas and sauces, gluten-free cookies and pretzels, vegetarian staples, and specialty items you wouldn’t expect to find anywhere up the hill, let alone a short walk from your front door.

Welcome to the village’s newest addition: **Cloudy’s Market.**

Bre and Dylan Kincaid opened Cloudy’s in the heart of the village on May 1 after moving to Cloudcroft in October the previous year.

“There are so many times that I forget to get a jalapeño down the hill,” Dylan chuckles. “That’s what I’m ready for.”

For Cloudcroft, it’s been a long time coming.

There’s a former grocery store on James Canyon Highway that locals and regulars remember well. Before James Jackson filled it

with his award-winning brisket, it was the Mountaintop Mercantile, a grocer, bakery, and sandwich counter at the center of town.

For years, the closest full grocery store was a round-trip of at least 30 miles down the mountain to Alamogordo. An hour in the car, minimum.

Now, we’ve got Cloudy’s. Less than two weeks after opening, the Kincaids say business is steady, and they are expanding their offerings.

Meet Your Neighborhood Grocers

Bre and Dylan spent 15 years in Houston, and for the last five of them, they were ready to leave. They looked at Tennessee, North Carolina, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Washington. They searched Zillow in places they’d never been, trying to map the shape of a life they could feel but couldn’t quite name.



Fresh, locally-grown produce and in-house butchered steaks are on the menu

“We always wanted mountains,” Bre says. “And smaller.”

Dylan had roots here — he lived in Cloudcroft for a time growing up, and it had always felt like home. His grandfather ran a Napa auto parts store on Burro Avenue, and some of Dylan’s clearest childhood memories are of running up and down the boardwalk with a handful of discarded keys. When the opportuni-

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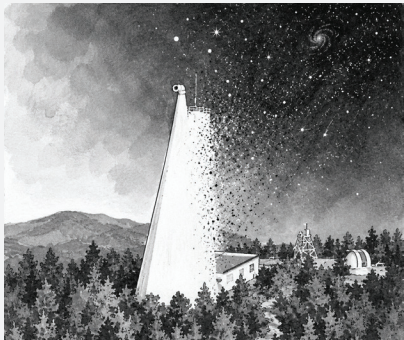


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ty finally came to move back last year, it felt like a homecoming. Cloudcroft, as Dylan puts it, “worked out better than expected.”

Back in Houston, they’d kicked around the concept of a small neighborhood bodega for years — their nearest HEB was only five miles away, but the traffic made it a 20- or 30-minute ordeal either way. They never found the right place or the right moment.

“I’m glad we did it here,” Dylan says.

The confirmation that Cloudcroft needed what they had in mind came before they’d even committed to the idea. On a scouting trip to the village to look at the house they hoped to buy, they took their dogs for a walk through the neighborhood.

One neighbor (now, a friend) stopped them on the street after noticing their Vizsla, Ivy, and mentioned how badly a grocery store was needed. Later that same day, chatting with folks at the grand opening of the Osha Trail Depot, another local said the same thing. Twice in one afternoon, without asking.

“We’re like, okay,” Dylan says. “Let’s do this.”

What Cloudy’s carries reflects what the Kincaids believe about food. “Whole food ingredients, responsible sourcing, things that are going to be good for you,” Bre says.

“We don’t want to price anyone out,” Dylan says, deliberately targeting a range comparable to what you’d find down in Alamogordo.

The Kincaids are excited about items that pique your curiosity.

Dylan hands a bag of shishito peppers “on the house” to some Sacramento Hotshots who come in to buy some salmon filets and an onion. He recommends blistering and serving them with a mayo-and-soy dipping sauce.

“We want to be somewhat of a discovery place,” Bre says, eying a bright pink, intentionally upside-down package of silky peanut butter with a cartoon pony on the label. Ingredients: organic peanuts and salt.



Bre and Dylan Kincaid grow the village’s fresh grocery store. (bottom) Fresh, locally-grown produce and in-house butchered steaks are on the menu

As for their plans? “We’ve got a two-year lease,” she laughs. “We’re here.”

Grab-and-go meals are in their future: salsas, sandwiches, things you can pick up on your way somewhere.

Farther out, they’re imagining ready-made items, take-and-bake dinners, and a deeper bench of locally sourced beef, produce, and anything else the Sacramento Mountains provide.

Bre works as marketing coordinator for Future Real Estate, creating content, photography, videography, and social media for a company that knows the mountain well.

Cloudy’s also has a growing social media presence, and they plan to publish cooking videos under the banner of “Cloudy’s Cooks,” walking viewers through how to use the things on the shelves. You can even follow the market on TikTok.

Learning the Mountain

The first weeks of business have been a real-time education in the logistics of running a small mountain grocery. Getting distributors to route up the mountain is not a given. Some products arrive needing to be packaged in-house.

Sourcing eggs, good bread, and quality dairy from the right providers is still a work in progress. Neither of them frames it as hardship. It’s more like learning the terrain.

“Everything has its minor challenges,” Dylan says. “But the bigger picture, they’re really nothing.”

Since moving to Cloudcroft, the thing that has surprised them most is how



steadily the village reminds them they made the right call.

“I feel like we’re reminded almost every single day in some small way,” Bre says. “That’s surprising to me. I didn’t expect that.”

Dylan doesn’t want to leave anymore. When they lived in Houston, they’d travel somewhere and he’d immediately start lobbying to move there. Now he doesn’t even want to go to Alamogordo.

“I just want to stay here,” he says. “This is where it feels right.”

Cloudy’s Market is open from 10 am to 6 pm, 7 days a week, on Mexican Avenue, next door to the Osha Trail Depot. Follow them on social media for hours, inventory updates, and whatever is coming next — including those cooking videos.



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Home Front

The view from here



Cloudcroft Bear and Sophomore Cassia Moore takes state in Triple Jump

Dear Readers,

This month belongs to Cloudy's Market — and the pair behind it. **Bre and Dylan Kincaid** have been quietly building something worth knowing about: fresh meat, local produce, and a carefully curated selection of pantry and frozen goods, right here in Cloudcroft.



There's something genuinely exciting about watching entrepreneurs choose this mountain and decide to invest in it. Get to know them on the cover.

Mountain News is your pulse on what's happening close to home. This issue includes a follow-up on the situations at Bluff Springs and the Sunspot Solar Observatory. These stories continue to generate real community conversation.

A big shout-out to the Cloudcroft track and field team on their showing at State. **Cassia Moore** got to the podium three times: State champ in triple jump, runner-up in high jump, and 6th in long jump. Track the journey to the championships with Paula Finch's Peak Performance sports column, p. 22. Go, Bears!

Extra, Off the Press

We're recently welcomed two new voices to the Monthly band. **Jonny Coker** joins us as Contributing Editor — you may recognize his byline from his interview with Ray Haller last issue.

And say hello to **Wells Viana**, who took over as our Constructor for the Cloud Puzzle. Give it a go and see how you fare.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors. A heartfelt thank you to the local businesses who sponsored our graduate features last issue.

Now, about summer — it's coming fast and it's looking good.

Pickleball in the Clouds returns June 6–7, and this year the Mountain Monthly editorial team has signed-up to play. Join us on the courts.

We're proud to sponsor the inaugural Museum Fest, developed by the Sacramento Mountains Historic Museum and Pioneer Village. This is a new event with deep roots, and we think it's going to become something this mountain museum looks forward to every year.

Beerfest at Zenith Park is always a local favorite. Music, cold brews, and the kind of good time that only happens at

elevation. Mark it, June 13–14.

And there's more on the calendar beyond what we can fit here. To plug into what's happening in Cloudcroft this season — where to stay, eat, shop, and play — head to [DiscoverCloudcroft.com](https://discovercloudcroft.com). It's the go-to local guide, powered by *Mountain Monthly*, and it'll help you plan your summer or point your out-of-town guests in the right direction.

Keep sending your mountain moments — on the trails, at the games, out on the courts. We love hearing from you.

hello@mountainmonthly.com.



The Kincaids bring fresh meat and a wide-selection of produce to the village



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Heidi Sanchez, speaking in her own personal capacity, has been vocal in opposing the planned demolition of the Sacramento Peak Observatory campus.

Sunspot Faces Sunset

Friends of the Observatory are urging federal officials to pause demolition plans, arguing the campus still holds major value for science, tourism, and educations. by JONNY COKER

The National Science Foundation is pressing ahead with plans to demolish the Sunspot Observatory campus in the Sacramento Mountains following a January mercury spill, and a coalition of former staff and community members is calling for a pause.

Dave Dooling, a former education officer for the National Solar Observatory who worked at Sunspot from 2002 to 2012, is the spokesman for the Friends of Sunspot, an informal coalition of former staff, residents, and observatory supporters formed in response to the demolition announcement.

The group is still organizing, with plans to approach local commissions and, eventually, state and federal legislators.

At a recent Cloudcroft village council meeting, Dooling and Heidi Sanchez, who oversees education and public engagement for the observatory, addressed the council during public comment, asking for support in opposing the demolition.

“Just because the telescope isn’t operational doesn’t mean the rest of the site’s still not viable,” Sanchez said. “To spend all that money to demolish everything – our tax dollars could be used better than that.”

Sanchez, who said she was speaking for herself and not on behalf of NMSU, explained that the scope of what would be lost extends well beyond the telescope itself. The campus includes a fire station, post office, dormitories, housing, visitor center with a museum and gift shop, and of course, the people who live and work there.

“The people who work here are now out of a job, and they’re having to go look elsewhere for employment ...

you have people who live here,” she said. “We get tourism from around the world, and so those people that would come to New Mexico that have astronomy interests or science interests would no longer be drawn to this area.”

Sanchez said she understands the mercury removal must go forward, but full demolition beyond that would be a major loss for tourism and for the scientific training of students who choose to study in New Mexico.

“Most people are very upset, but they think the decision has already been made and there’s nothing they can do about it. And so that’s why I’m trying to be vocal, because I want people to push back on that decision,” she said. “Tearing [the site] down and not seeing that tower there, I think it’s going to leave a void in a lot of people.”

By Sanchez’s count, the Sunspot Visitor Center draws an average of 12,500 people a year and reaches more than 2,150 students through roughly 60 school and youth groups. The site’s structured outreach programs connect with more than 3,400 people annually and partner with organizations across the region, including White Sands National Park and Holloman Air Force Base.

Sanchez said that despite the current state of things, she hasn’t lost hope and would like to see community pushback lead to the National Science Foundation halting demolition plans.

“If people get vocal, speak up, and join efforts to rally together, we can potentially stop what’s happening,” she said. “There’s got to be a path forward for Sunspot in preserving this important scientific and cultural landmark for future generations to

enjoy. Because once you start decommissioning, there’s no way to go back in time and fix things.”

What Happened

The Richard B. Dunn Solar Telescope has stood above the Sacramento Mountains for more than 50 years, producing solar research and training generations of scientists.

On Jan. 5, a liquid mercury leak surfaced inside the Dunn Solar Telescope at the Sacramento Peak Observatory in Sunspot. Eleven days later, a crack was found at the weld between a mercury valve and the bottom of the telescope’s bearing.

On Feb. 24, NSF made its broader intentions official with the announcement that it would move forward with full demolition and site restoration of not just the Dunn Solar Telescope, but the entire Sacramento Peak Observatory campus, including residential and support buildings.

According to internal documents, hazardous materials experts had removed approximately 186 pounds of mercury from platforms inside the telescope as of Jan. 15. In March, NSF awarded a sole-source emergency contract to the structural engineer-

ing firm Thornton Tomasetti to lead structural stabilization and full mercury removal.

“No Immediate Need to Demolish”

While the NSF appears firm in its decision, Dooling argues that more should be done to try to save the Dunn Solar Telescope and the surrounding facilities.

“Give us a couple of years at least,” Dooling said. “There’s no immediate need to demolish it and make it disappear.”

Dooling calls the demolition decision premature and points to the McMath-Pierce Solar Telescope in Arizona — an old scientific facility converted into an education center — as a model for Sunspot.

His vision, which he calls a “Sunspot Science Park,” would include an RV park for amateur astronomers, a science camp for students, and the reactivation of smaller telescopes on the site.

He also contends that the Dunn itself could be rehabilitated, either using a liquid metal alloy called Galinstan as a mercury-free bearing replacement

Dave Dooling, a former education officer at the National Solar Observatory and spokesman for Friends of Sunspot, is pushing for a halt to demolition to allow time for alternative proposals to take shape.



or using rotating mirrors to get the telescope operating again.

“These would be great graduate study projects to figure out which would be the best way to rehabilitate that telescope and bring it back into operation,” Dooling said. “At minimum, it could be preserved and used as a museum with hands-on science exhibits, teaching how the sun works, how we study it, and how optics and light work.”

Demolition itself faces a lengthy regulatory process, including seasonal restrictions to protect the Mexican Spotted owl, biological surveys, geophysical assessments for karst features, and multiple environmental compliance permits. Dooling said that the process alone could buy the observatory time.

If demolition proceeds, the land would return to Lincoln National Forest management. In an email, a Forest Service spokesperson said staff are already thinking about what comes next.

“As the permit holder and the agency responsible for the facility, NSF is the lead decision-maker. NSF determined the appropriate scope of remediation, selected the cleanup method, and made the final decision regarding demolition as part of its mercury remediation contract,” the spokesperson said.

“Forest Service staff have begun internally discussing the future of this land and how it best serves the community. While no decisions can be made at this time, ideas have included establishing a recreation site, a campground, or even an interpretive location. These ideas are only conceptual and are far from implementation.”

Considering Costs

Dooling acknowledged that the odds are long, particularly given the upheaval across federal agencies and a proposed White House budget that would cut NSF’s operational funding roughly in half. But he is not ready to concede.

“Estimates on the cost of demolition 20 years ago, and this is an internal estimate at Sunspot in one of their annual reports, the cost of remediation would be anywhere from \$7 to \$30 million, which means today it would be on the order of \$10 to \$45 million when you factor in inflation,” Dooling said. “It would be more cost-effective for them to just let us sit there for a couple of years while we get some funding put together, get an organization put together that can pick up and run with it.”

A 2018 Environmental Impact Statement commissioned by the NSF put the cost of demolition at \$14.1 million

in 2015 dollars, far above the \$2.2 million the NSF was contributing annually to keep the observatory running as of 2016.

Dooling argued Sunspot is well-suited to serve as an educational tool for future generations and that the site is needed to continue advancing humanity’s understanding of the sun.

“Our ability to forecast space weather is about as good as our ability to forecast the weather on TV back in the 1960s,” he said. “We need to do much better, because society is so technically fragile.”

Bluff Springs’ Road to Recovery: An Update

Deputy Forest Supervisor Amanda Ginithan weighs in nearly a year after Lincoln National Forest closures due to illegal off-highway vehicle (OHV) damage to springs.

On Aug. 12, 2025, the Lincoln National Forest closed four areas of the Sacramento Ranger District to dispersed camping, off-road vehicles, and campfires after illegal riders tore through a fragile mountain creek.

The agency cited “illegal off-highway vehicle use, resource damage to sensitive riparian areas, and ongoing restoration efforts.”

The incident was allegedly captured on video.

“The investigation conducted after last year’s incident directly resulted in citations issued to attendees and organizers,” said Amanda Ginithan, deputy forest supervisor for the Lincoln National Forest.

The creek at Bluff Springs has long been one of the most visited spots in the Sacramento Mountains, a gathering place for campers, hikers, and families seeking shade and running water high in Lincoln National Forest.

Hikers can still reach the springs on foot via the Willie White Trail (T113). What’s closed: dispersed camping, OHV use, the parking lot, the bathrooms, and the Willie White Spur (T112) bridge.



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The Forest Service does not formally count visitors at the site, but staff said the area drew heavy use before the closure, especially on weekends and holidays.

Crews seeded and mulched the damaged ground almost immediately, timing the work to stabilize soil ahead of monsoon season, when erosion risk peaks. After that first pass, managers stepped back and let nature take its course. That is why the closure itself sits at the center of the restoration plan.

“As long as recreators stay responsible and avoid disturbing these sites, we should continue to see healthy recovery when summer growth kicks in,” Ginithan said.

Early signs are encouraging. Field reports show vegetation returning and soil stabilizing in areas that took the worst damage.

Fragile Ecosystem

Bluff Springs anchors a sensitive riparian ecosystem.

These ecosystems supply food, cover, and water for a wide range of wildlife and serve as migration corridors and habitat connectors. In the arid West, where water is scarce, that role matters more.

Ginithan described the Bluff Springs area as supporting “spring-fed wetlands, lush vegetation, and habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including several threatened and endangered species.”

The springs are home to several federally listed species, including the endangered New Mexico meadow jumping mouse and the threatened Sacramento Mountains thistle, a plant that grows only on the travertine formations at sites like Bluff Springs. Travertine is a porous calcium-carbonate rock that forms when carbon dioxide is released from cool, mineral-rich spring water, the same geology that built the Bluff Springs waterfall.

The Scope of the Closure

The closure covers multiple areas around Bluff Springs. A second, overlapping order extends through Dec. 31, 2026, and covers the Bluff Springs Recreation Site itself: the parking lot, the vault toilets, and the Willie White Spur (T112) bridge. That order gives engineering crews time to finish maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

The Aug. 31, 2026, deadline for the broader OHV and camping closure is a target, not a guarantee. Ginithan said the timeline could shift depending on conditions.

Specialists in wildlife, range management, and botany will conduct summer surveys. Those results will determine whether all areas reopen together or if some need more time.

There is a complication. Illegal OHV use has continued in the surrounding area, Ginithan said, including new damage near Bluff Springs. “User-created damage occurring nearby may influence whether the closures are extended,” Ginithan said.

The Forest Service said it has no plans to make any portion of the closure permanent or convert the areas to hike-only use.

When the areas reopen, the agency plans a mix of deterrents: more signs, boulders, or fencing to block vehicles from leaving designated routes, and more law enforcement on the ground.

“The goal is to maintain access while protecting the recovering landscape,”

Ginithan said, “and we’ll continue adjusting our management strategies based on how the area responds and how visitors behave.”

What Comes Next

Cloudcroft typically sees a surge in summer visitors, and the Forest Service said it is preparing, with extra field staff and law enforcement where resources allow. The agency will not release the season’s raw data, but Ginithan said it hopes to publish photos of the rehabilitation work so the community can see what a year of protection has done.

“Every responsible driver who stays on designated routes makes a difference,” she said. “It helps protect sensitive areas, supports long-term recovery, and keeps these places available for multiple uses in the future.”

For now, Bluff Springs rests. Springs running, soil knitting back together, grasses reclaiming the banks. Whether that recovery is enough to reopen the area on schedule will depend, at least in part, on whether the rest of the forest’s visitors leave no trace.

For maps and the current closure order, visit the Lincoln National Forest alerts page at fs.usda.gov/r03/lincoln/alerts or call the Sacramento Ranger District at 575-682-2551.

Making Headway: Books, Budget, Courts, Tourism, Hires, Sunspot

Cloudcroft Council clears a packed May agenda as clerk targets December for full state compliance

A blue-to-orange ombré sky over Burro Avenue gave way to the fluorescent lights of Village Council chambers Tuesday evening, May 19.

There in the harsh light, Cloudcroft got what it’s been asking for: a plain-language update on the ongoing efforts to clean up the books and file the FY 26-27 budget, due to the state by month’s end.

Mayor **Dusty Wiley** called the meeting to order, with Trustees **Keith Hamilton**, **Danny Hardwick**, **Gail McCoy**, and **Matt Willett** in attendance. Department heads, board members, Lodger’s Tax applicants, and members of the public filled the room. Sunspot Solar Observatory advocates were there during public comment.

Village Clerk **Jini Turri**, who, for the past five months, has been piecing together the village’s finances one spreadsheet at a time, got the ball rolling.

Budget: “December Is Going to Be the Magic Month”

Turri stood behind the dais, passing the council printouts, addressing the crowd, and explaining where things actually stand.

“We are 99.99 percent done with fiscal year 2024-25,” she said.

The good news: working projections show no deficits in either the general fund or the water-sewer fund.

The harder news: two budget years remain open simultaneously, and every submission moves through three separate state systems — the village’s own records, LGBMS for state review, and finally the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). Each requires

manual entry, and each is subject to being kicked back for revision.

The village has been untangling cash balances that previous administrations never properly rolled over, working alongside an outside accounting firm and third-party contractors.

Turri set a target. “I think December is going to be the magic month,” Turri said, “I’ll be able to stand in front of you with my finance team and say, look — we did it. It’s all tied in together. Things look good. Let the games begin with the village all on board, doing everything it’s supposed to, in full compliance with the state.”

The 2026-27 budget must be submitted to the DFA by the end of May.

After meeting that requirement, Turri said her team needs to re-do the FY 25-26 budget filed with the state because the numbers were wrong and it was never approved by the DFA.

Treatment Plant: Two Problems, One Aging System

In April, the Reader reported that state-contracted expert Robert George wrote in a formal letter that the plant’s clarigestor — the steel vessel handling solids settling for both treatment systems — had deteriorated to the point of emergency. “Unlike many situations that are characterized as ‘emergencies’ in the realm of wastewater treatment, this actually is one,” George wrote April 14 to the New Mexico Environment Department.

At Tuesday’s meeting, Public Works Supervisor **J.J. Carrizal** reported a separate problem: the trickling filter’s rotary distributor bearing has failed — the spinning arm has stopped turning.

The last time this specific repair was done was approximately eight years ago, at a cost of \$30,000. Carrizal has reached out to a Utah-based company that did the previous repair for two

HOW'S THE MARKET?

APRIL 2026

CLOUDCROFT MOUNTAIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	11
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$320,000
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	79 Days
ALL ACTIVE LISTINGS	263
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$75,000 - \$2,200,000
LAND:	\$4,000 - \$2,950,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$340,000 - \$2,900,000

RUIDOSO MOUNTAIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	20
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$272,000
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	148 Days
ALL ACTIVE LISTINGS	857
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$55,000 - \$2,950,000
LAND:	\$9,500 - \$3,200,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$225,000 - \$3,650,000

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HOMES SOLD	48
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$227,550
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	56 Days
ALL ACTIVE LISTINGS	249
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$64,900 - \$1,125,000
LAND:	\$16,000 - \$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

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16 MYSTERY PATH

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Featured Print: 'Trakes a Village' by Ruidoso, New Mexico Artist- Deborah Wenzel

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bids: one for the company to complete the work, one for village staff to do the work under the company's on-site supervision.

"We need several men to help get it done," said **Scott Powell**, the plant's longtime operator, who has guided repairs and is nearing retirement. Last time, bearings and seals took more than two weeks to arrive.

Powell explained that the MBR side of the plant remains operational, providing partial treatment. Bids are expected by the end of the week.

Pickleball Courts Get a Fresh Surface

The village's pickleball courts hope to get a fresh start before the **Second Annual Pickleball in the Clouds** tournament.

The village took decisive action to repair the surface, which is still pocked with dead spots — areas that absorb the bounce of the ball — after repairs last summer.

Since their introduction in the summer of 2024, the pickleball courts have suffered from dead spots. A resurface patch last summer helped, but after winter, new dead spots appeared.

Instead of trying another repair, Wiley decided to have the contractors tear it out and replace it with a traditional acrylic surface and moisture barrier — the same system used in Ruidoso and Roswell.

"The courts are three years old. We need to make sure that we get it right," Mayor Wiley later told the Reader.

"We'll have pickleball players show up for the tournament, and we want them to be really thrilled to come back to Cloudcroft," Wiley said.

As for any expense in excess of the warranty coverage, Turri said, "Some of the proceeds that we collected from the ski area this last year will be sufficient to cover this."

The new playing surface will have a one-year warranty.

"In It For the Long Haul"

Maitlyn Barnett was approved as a seasonal Library Aide. With her hire, the library will open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning June 13.

Malary Davis was hired as MVD Clerk, selected from 17 applicants through an interview panel that included Mayor Wiley and Chief Schoolcraft. Davis is known in the community through her work at the adjacent First National Bank.

Reader Contributing Editor **Drew Gaines** was hired for Public Works. Gaines stood and addressed the room. "My wife and I want to make this our permanent home," he said. "And in order to do that, I need some full-time work. I would love to serve this village in public works, working with J.J., working for the community. I'm in it for the long haul. We want to stay here and make this where we retire."

The council approved the hires unanimously.

Ashley White, Utility Billing Clerk, received a \$3-an-hour raise. White has stayed with the village through significant staff turnover and administrative upheaval.

"She was probably hired at a pay rate that was below her skill level and her

production level," Trustee Hamilton said.

Gail Overstreet Stone and **Bob Higgins** were both appointed to the Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee. The committee was activated for the first time in the dark sky ordinance's history at the April meeting.

Friends of Sunspot

During public comment, **Dave Dooling** — who served as education officer at Sunspot Solar Observatory from 2002 through early 2012 — and Heidi Sanchez, Education and Outreach Coordinator at the observatory, who runs the gift shop and serves as president of the Sunspot Community, asked the council to support efforts to stop demolition of the facility.

Traffic Enforcement, Holiday Presence

Police Chief **Roger Schoolcraft** kept his report short. Over the past 30 days, officers have issued citations to drivers who exceeded the limit by 12 or more miles per hour. "Today alone, I issued five citations," he said.

Lodger's Tax Awards

State law requires lodger tax receipts to be used for tourism and promotion. Turri gave the Lodger's Tax Advisory Committee a budget of \$130,000 to work with. Over three months, the committee reviewed applications and recommended grants totaling \$102,797 to the council for approval for FY 2026-27.

The awards cover a broad calendar of events: High Altitude Classic; Cloudcroft Lumberjack Days; Cloudcroft Ultra, Cactus to Cloud, and Trails to Rails; Cloudcroft Quick Draw (a new live-painting and auction event) and the Art Dash Party; Pickleball in the Clouds; and Chamber Events including Christmas in July, Art & Wine in the Cool Pines, Labor Day Hoopla, Heritage Day Car Show, Christmas Market, Mountain Christmas Village, Mayfair, and Beerfest.

To spread the word, the village approved a total annual promotional spend of \$13,020 with Mountain Monthly to purchase a full-page print ad and social media ads for the next fiscal year, highlighting village tourism and events.

(Disclosure: Cloudcroft Reader owners Chris Hearne and Hannah Dean co-own the Mountain Monthly with Justin Muñoz.)

The council approved all recommendations, subject to the final budget.

Meetings Move to Second Tuesday

Effective immediately, regular governing body meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 9. Meetings are livestreamed on YouTube at @CloudcroftNewMexico.

—Hannah Dean





Let the smell of sugar, butter, and fresh bakes lure you into Kennabelle’s Bakery on Burro. Try the pistachio bread.

Local Guide

What to Know

Discover the best of Cloudcroft with our monthly local guide — a handpicked selection of favorite places to shop, eat, and play in the mountains.

Village Weekend Itinerary

Make the most of your June visit.
[DiscoverCloudcroft.com](#)

Friday Night: Start the weekend with a seasonal cocktail — or a mocktail — at the Western Bar & Cafe, which has anchored Burro Avenue since 1950. Or, duck into a few shops before they close for the evening.

Families will find the **Grand Cloudcroft Hotel’s** indoor pool an easy sell with the kids. Summit Inn and Osha Trail Lodging are a short walk from Burro. For a historic stay with a ghost story, check in at The Lodge.

Saturday: Lace up and head to Zenith Park for a round of disc golf — the remodeled 9-hole Byron Ligon Disc Golf Course is the family-friendly par-3 starter, and it’s free. If the group is up for more, the full 18-hole Community Course through the forest is one of the better wooded layouts in southern New Mexico. Both are walkable from the village.

Grab a matcha or classic latte like the Hotshot (smoky!) from **Blackbear Coffee Shop** on the west end of Burro.

When you’re ready for gear, head to **High Altitude** on Burro, the best place on the mountain to outfit the whole group for the weekend, or the season. While you’re on the block, step around the corner for two of Cloudcroft’s best side-street finds: **CoCo Blu** for a date-night dress, and **Cloudcroft Archery and Guns** next door for the traveling outdoorsman — archery pro shop,

indoor range, and enough gear to keep you busy between hikes.

For dinner, make it a trip: take the scenic byway to Timberon. **Connie’s Corner Deli** on Sacramento Drive is a from-scratch, rotating menu of comfort food.

Sunday: Sleep in. If you’re a church-goer, there are several right in the village. Find them on our map, p. 12. Then head up to Elevation Park for a free disc golf round or head to the **Lodge** for a Scottish 9-hole course. Grab breakfast after at Dusty Boots Café, or swing by Eight the Cake for organic espresso and a cinnamon roll.

If you want to skip the shops, make an afternoon of it on the Rim Trail. At 31 miles total, it rewards as much or as little as you give it. Even a short out-and-back from the different trailheads puts you on ridgeline with views stretching toward White Sands. Pack water and give yourself more time than you think you need.

For dinner (and dessert), you’ve got options. Make a reservation at 1899 at The Lodge. **Chef Richard Lepree’s** changing dinner menu often features



Beer brewed right here in the village using reclaimed rainwater.

strawberry mille-feuille. Big Daddy’s Diner on James Canyon Highway stays open until 9 PM daily with homemade pies, full American and New Mexican menu, and no reservation required.

On your way out of town, if you’re heading west, catch **White Sands National Park**. Heading east on Highway 82? Carlsbad Caverns National Park is worth the drivet.

Best Brews in Cloudcroft

Where to enjoy a cold one at 8,676 feet

Cloudcroft Brewing Co.: The mountain’s flagship craft brewery, on the far eastern end of Burro Avenue. House-brewed ales, IPAs, and lagers rotate on tap alongside in-house spirits — Mountain Smoke Whiskey and Skywater Vodka for when the mood strikes. Order a beer flight to find your favorite, then stay for wood-fired pizza and live music Friday through Sunday. The outdoor beer garden is the best warm-weather seat in town. Closed Tuesdays.

The Western Bar & Cafe: Cloudcroft’s original watering hole, going strong since 1950. Walls and ceiling covered in signed dollar bills, a bar that pours cold beers, a full bar, and a kitchen turning out green chile cheeseburgers and amazing fries. No pretense, pull up a stool. Closed Wednesdays.

St. Andrew’s Bar at The Lodge: The historic cocktail lounge inside the 1899 Lodge — golf memorabilia, mountain views, and the most atmospheric bar in Cloudcroft. Order a craft cocktail before dinner at Eighteen99 or linger for a quiet nightcap after. Casual or refined, and is worth dressing up for.

Dusty Boots Café: Grab a cold beer with your patty melt or chicken-fried steak — the down-home roadhouse vibe earns its place on this list. Saturday German nights are a sleeper hit:

schnitzel and bratwurst pair well with a cold one at 9,000 feet. Don’t skip on the well-stocked old-fashioned candy shop and ice cream counter next door, which leads to our next section.

Sweet Tooth Guide

Select dessert destinations

Cloudy’s Market: Independently owned bodega on Mexican Avenue, just north of Burro. Grab a frozen dessert like mochi, or Mexican wedding cookies. Specialty single sodas and drinks available.

KennaBelles Kreations Bakery: The one you smell before you see it. Flaky chocolate croissants, cinnamon rolls, pistachio bread, pies, cupcakes, fruity cream cheese pastry. Gluten free options. Get there early; the goodies vanish. Open Mon–Sat from 7 AM.

Cloudcroft Sandwich Shop: The surprise entry on the sweet list. Beyond the subs and paninis, the Sandwich Shop bakes jumbo fresh cookies daily and serves soft-serve ice cream — a perfect mid-afternoon Burro Avenue stop. Grab a cookie for the trail. Open daily 11 AM–4 PM, closed Wednesdays.

Higher Grounds at Dave’s Cafe: The coffee and ice cream shop tucked next to Dave’s Café, the sweeter side. A scoop on the boardwalk on a warm June afternoon is a Cloudcroft rite of passage.

Osha Trail Depot: Pistachio brittle that is crunchy, light, and delectable. Small-batch latin flavors from Carolina’s Chocolates, New Mexican jellies, and New Mexico roasted Kith+Kin coffees to finish it all off.

Tree-Riffic Candy and Toys: Buy candy by the pound, and shop old-fashioned candy brands. Build-a-toy workshop and more kid favorites.



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

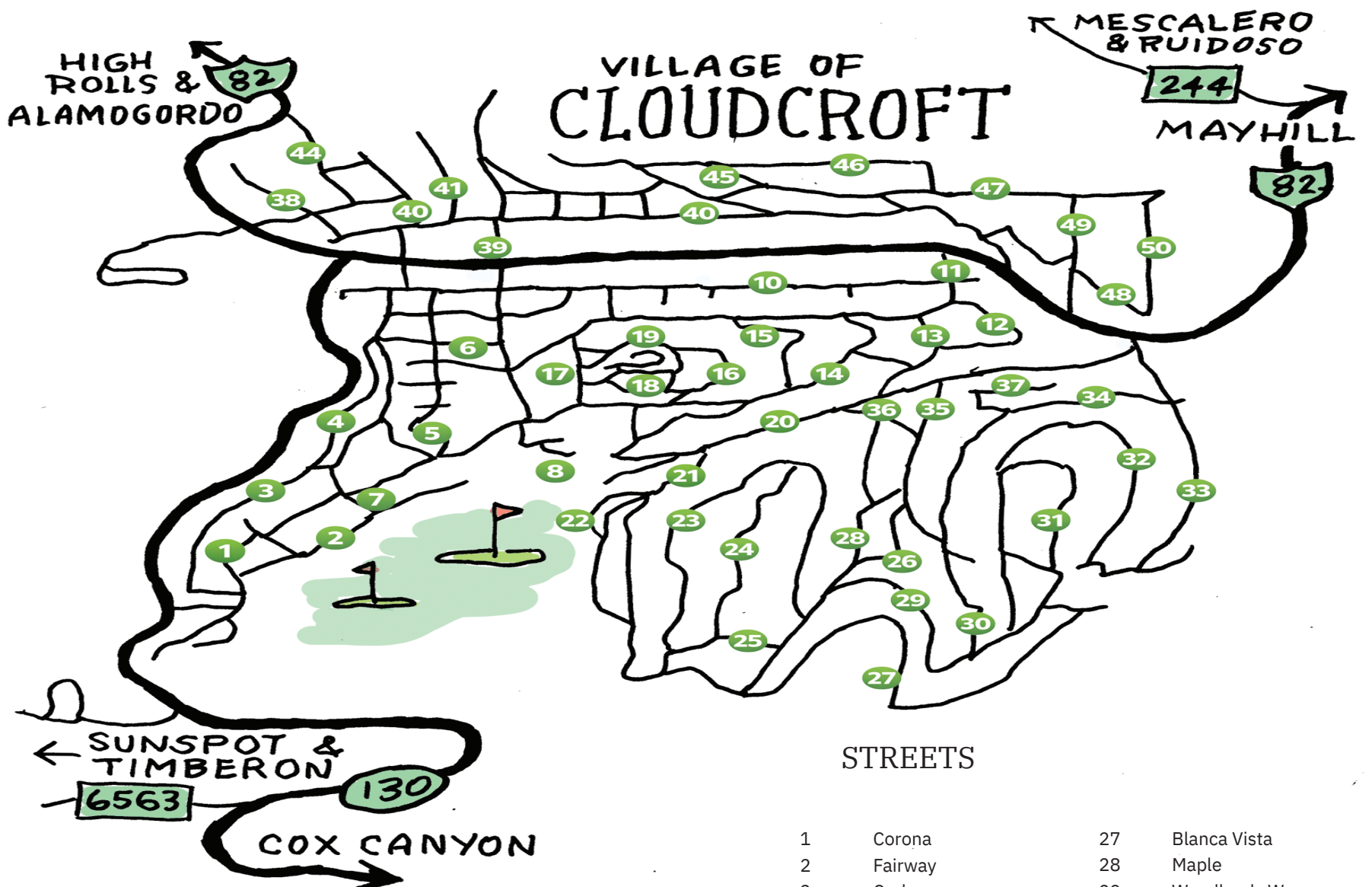
 - Old Red Brick Schoolhouse
 - Michael Nivison Public Library
 - High Valley Weaving School
 - Cloudcroft Fitness
 - Cloudcroft Art Society Co-op Gallery

V

 - Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum and Pioneer Village

W

 - Cloudcroft Fire and Rescue Station
 - Trestle Medical Services



STREETS

1	Corona	27	Blanca Vista
2	Fairway	28	Maple
3	Curlew	29	Woodlands Way
4	Sunset	30	Balsam
5	Wren	31	Julies
6	Coyote	32	Shells
7	Otter	33	Woodland Ways
8	The Lodge	34	Balsam
10	Burro	35	Columbine
15	Squirrel	36	Beaver
16	Fox	37	Balsam Circle
17	4th	38	Glorietta
18	Bear	39	Swallow
19	Coyote	40	Little Glorietta
20	Chautauqua Canyon	41	Mexican
21	Big Bear Ln	45	Nyuca
22	Sugar Bear Ln	46	Geronimo
23	Little Bear	47	Victoria
24	Sugar Pine	48	Paqua
25	Oak Alley	49	Skywater
26	Daisy Way	50	Rainmaker Loop



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STAY



SHOP



HIKE



EXPLORE

SCAN TO
EXPLORE



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From the editors of

Cloudcroft Reader & Mountain Monthly

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 stylish selections and name brands. Open



The Listings

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10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and until 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.

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) Cloudfcroft 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 in-

quire: 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. cloudfcroftrturquoise.com

Art

Cloudfcroft 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. ccartsociety@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



INSTANT KARMA

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 Cloudfcroft over the past 10 years.



Scan to join Club Veg



Set the date

June 13th, 2026

Time: 12:00noon

Annual Old Timers Reunion

POT LUCK LUNCHEON, PROVIDING BRISKET AND ROLLS AND DRINKS

The 46 Annual Sacramento Mountain Historical Society's "Old Timers Reunion" will be held in the Otero County Electric Meet-

HONORESS:
Kathleen Wells
Foye Wells
Frankie Mancillas

Please Bring a side dish or dessert
See you There!

CLOUDCROFT MUSEUM FEST

Saturday July 18, 2020 • 10 AM – 4 PM

At the Pavilion in Cloudfcroft

Cloudcroft, NM • The Lodge Pavilion

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



HISTORY PRESERVED

MUSEUM SAMPLER

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

EXHIBITS • DEMONSTRATIONS • HANDS-ON FUN

LOCAL HISTORY FOR ALL AGES



ENGINEERING HERITAGE

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.

In partnership with the Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum & Pioneer Village.



SEE THE VIEW
SHARE THE PAST

HONORING OUR PAST • CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY • INSPIRING OUR FUTURE

Contact: Lynn Melton • Email: lynnelt@gmail.com • Cell: 972-998-8567



\$349,000

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



Under Contract

\$425,000

CLOUDCROFT

801 Panther Avenue
Updated mountain duplex surrounded by pines with two private living spaces, vaulted ceilings, pellet stove, and great live/rent flexibility.
Blake Bingham - (830) 496-1836



\$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



\$630,000

CLOUDCROFT

1084 Woodlands Way
One-year-new luxury home with open living, soaring ceilings, designer finishes, chef's kitchen, spa-like primary suite, and an oversized deck.
Cori Abel - (816) 896-2674



\$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



Under Contract

\$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



SOLD!

\$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.
Blake Bingham - (830) 496-1836

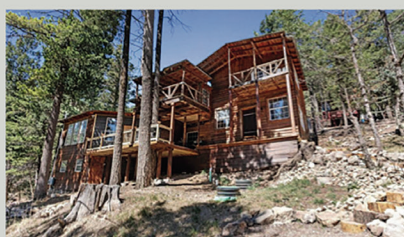


SOLD!

\$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



\$319,000

CLOUDCROFT

11 Vine Street
Welcome to the Treehouse! This unique multi-level home is nestled high in the treetops of the Sacramento Mountains. 2/Bed 1/Bath with a spacious living area.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$439,000

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



Under Contract

\$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.

Blake Bingham - (830) 496-1836



\$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



\$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



\$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



\$600,000

CLOUDCROFT

63 Sullivan Canyon Road
Log home on 5 private acres bordering the national forest with vaulted living, loft, wood stove, hardwood floors, generator, hot tub, and stunning canyon views.

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



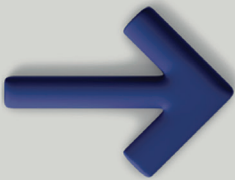
\$204,000

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

Allsup's (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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Ruidoso, NM 88345
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575-378-1100

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THE CABINS AT
CLOUDCROFT

Close to everything but
off the main roads.
Beautifully sited
within the Village



3, 2, 1 Bedroom Cabins
Fire Places ! Kitchen
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www.cloudcroftnm.com



Page 18

Mountain Monthly

Events



Locals enjoy Beerfest at Zenith Park. Join them June 13-14 for live music, brews, food trucks, and vendors.

Community

Cloudcroft Beerfest Zenith Park

June 13-14 | Noon – 8 p.m. Saturday; Noon – 6 p.m. Sunday. The annual Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce Beerfest returns with craft beers and wines from Southern NM breweries, live music, food trucks, artisan vendors, and family-friendly activities. Admission for 21+ includes an official Beerfest glass; non-drinking guests and guests 18 and under are welcome. **Tickets available at the gate.** (575) 682-2733 | Chamber@cool-cloudcroft.com

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 CMSBears.org.

Timberon Community Pool

The Timberon Community Pool did not open in May and is not currently scheduled to open this summer. For updates, contact the Timberon Water & Sanitation District at (575) 987-2207 or visit timberonwater.com.

Michael Nivison Public Library Storytime and Crafts

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.

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

Blackbear Coffee Shop hosts an “artist of the month” on their gallery wall. This month, stop in to see the striking scratchboard wildlife work of artist Winston McInnis. Open during regular business hours, 200 Burro Ave.

Otero Arts: The Women Veterans Art Showcase continues through the month, featuring photography by Kim Melton and artwork by women veterans and active-duty military. Closing drum circle ceremony June 30 (check with Otero Arts for time and details).

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

Summer Solstice & Milky Way Peak – June 14 (New Moon) & June 21 (Solstice) June 14’s new moon brings near-total darkness – one of the best Milky Way windows of the year. June 21 marks the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, and the astronomical start of summer.



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SALON : DEN : CURIOSITIES

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~~MICHAEL ~STYLIST~~

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The ELK SHED

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505 Burro Avenue #109 in The Burro Street Exchange

MOUNTAIN MAGIC

Cressie Brown
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The biggest little store in town!
508 Burro Ave



TIMELESS ELEGANCE, RESTFUL STAY

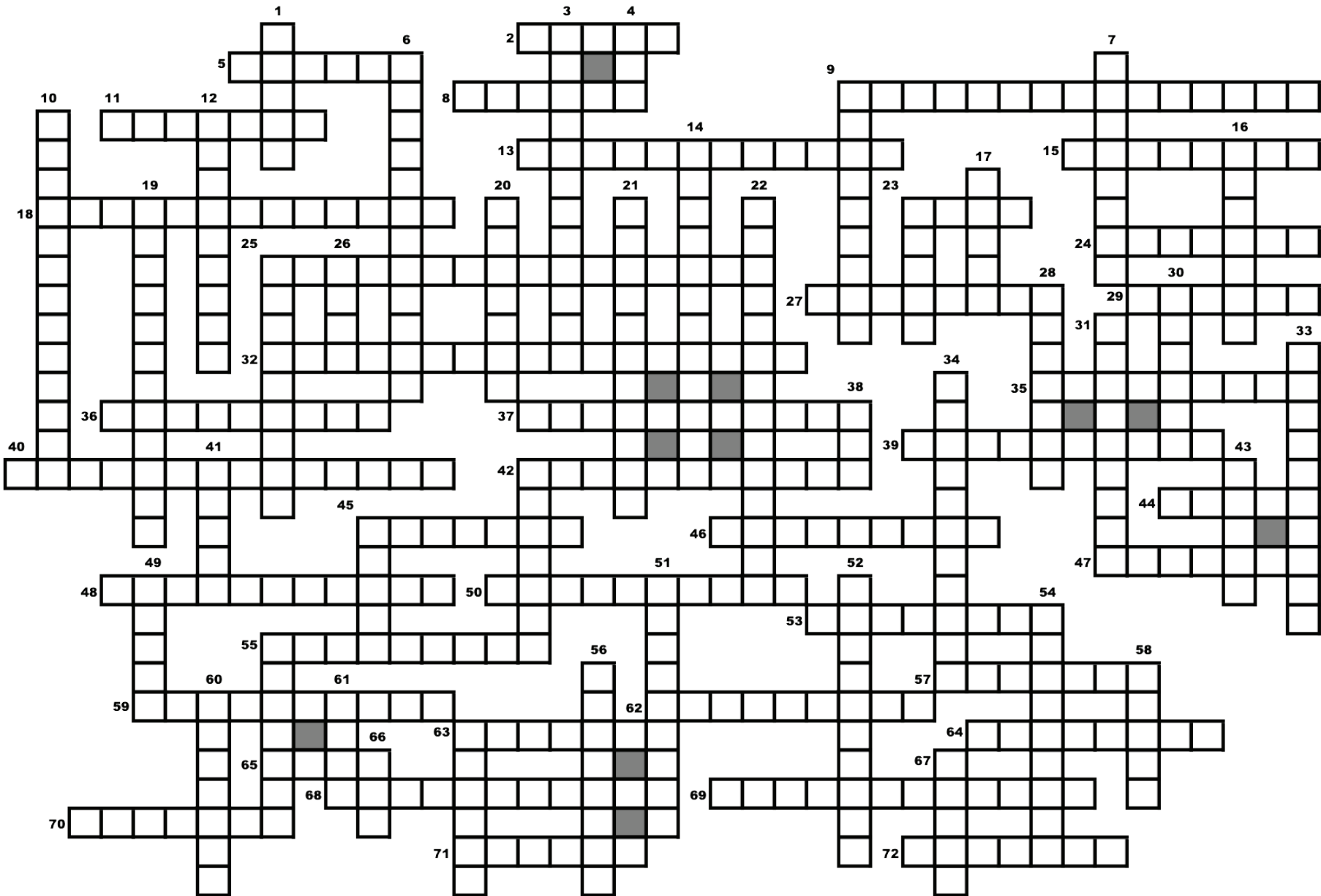


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For reservations, call 575-682-2566
www.thelodgeresort.com



“It’s Business Time”



ACROSS	DOWN
2 JUNGLE BOOK BARBER	1 REAL ESTATE AGENCY GIVING A COMFY HOUSE FEELING
5 LAST NAME OF THE GREASE MONKEYS	3 THE "OG" (stands for outdoor gear)
8 SOLD IN A CAN: INHALE	4 QUAIN T QUARTERS
9 THE CROFTING, FOR ONE	6 GO 'LEOS WAY' @ THE
11 CAN BE FOUND LAYING ON THE GROUND	7 SOLD IN A CAN: DO NOT INHALE!!!
13 GIGGLY GRASS	9 ROASTING BEANS (@ 9000-ish feet)
15 DAD DOES DIRT, SON DOES TREES (plural)	10 THE HIGHNESS' HOARD
18 DAN AND SHELLEY'S CONSTRUCTION CO	12 FORMER MAYORS 4 DOWN
23 COMMON NAME THEME (a mascot even)	14 A VERY QUICK RETRIBUTION (Indian style)
24 ASSEMBLY FOR COMMERCE / FESTIVALS (the_____)	16 WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS BEING FAT ON BURRO
25 ROUND THE CORNER LOCAL ART GALLERY	17 SHIRTS AND SOUVENIERS (think wizards or a sleight of hand trick)
27 FORMERLY A MERCHANTILE, NOW A MEGA MEAT MARKET	19 COFFEE, PASTRIES & UNIQUE ART (4 + 4)
29 VILLAGE, POST, DEPOT, SPACE, etc..	20 PALE ALES, PIZZA PIES, WHISKEY POURS, AND NOW TACOS @ THE
32 FREQUENTLY PHOTOGRAPHED FRONTAGE (with coffee and pies)	21 THE BUISINESS/ BAKERS NAME
35 BURRO SHOP SELLING THIS PRIZED GEMSTONE	22 GIFT SHOP 'BELOW' BURRO
36 BIG PRINT IN THE FOREST MUD (or on a dumpster probably)	23 5 STRINGED BLUEGRASS INSTURMENT (totally off theme)
37 RV PARK ON 82@MM30 (add an 'ER')	25 TEAS AND TEA ACCESSORIES
39 RUIDOSO BASED WATERING HOLE	26 NO. OF FOSSIL POSTS @ 14 down
40 UPSCALE STORE FOR SHINY WEARABLES	28 LPG PURVEYOR
42 TREE & VINE (all sorts of nifty finds)	30 THIS SUCSESSFUL AGENCY HAS A BRIGHT
44 NEWLY RENOVATED BUILDING ON BURRO (finally!)	31 BIG OL' BURRITOS (and burgers too)
45 SHOP FOR A BLOUSE OR SKIRT (but not exactly blue)	33 GET YOUR BOLTS, NUTS, PAINT, etc. @
46 FIRE & FUN (- the +)	34 IN THE SHADOW OF 27 ACROSS, BUT BELOVED BY LOCALS
47 LONG STANDING DOWNHILL PLAY AREA	38 _ WATER PROPERTIES
48 SCREEN PRINTING SHIRTS UPSTAIRS	40 HISTORIC HILLTOP HOTEL
50 CURRENT MAYORS COCINA	42 COMPLETELY REBUILT: (Bigger. Brighter. Busier?)
53 WHERE BIGFOOT OVERWATCHES THE 82	43 THE BACK OF THE BOAT
55 WHATCHA DOIN UNDER THE LIBRARY?	45 KEEP C.C. ____ (non-prof)
57 WHATCHA DOIN IN THE HIGH VALLEY?	49 FLORAL SHOP ON CURLEW
59 SENIOR SERVICES & THE MOUNTAIN	51 COMFY DINER BOOTHS (@ village edge)
62 BRAD AND MELANIE WILL LEND A HAND/ TOOL TO REPLACE THESE	52 BETH'S BREVES AND BREAKFAST
63 JUDY'S SEASONAL CREATIONS (and last name?)	54 FORMER MAYORS COCINA
64 "HOLE IN THE WALL" WHERE YOU START AN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE	55 THE 4 ANNUAL CYCLES (gift shop within 40 down)



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 insane.

Enjoy! dude.wells@gmail.com



Mrs. Stanbrough's class waves flags to honor Army veteran Shilo Harris with the Combat Hero Bike Build program's ride through Cloudcroft

Mountain Life

Folks Caught on Camera Living Their Best Mountain Life



Mitchell and Haley White are wed by Judge Mark Tatum at the Lodge Pavilion



Trustees Hardwick (L) and Hamilton (R) enjoy their lunch break catching up on local news



Forest Odom paints a custom mural for one of the Monthly's outdoor kiosks



Cloudcroft alumn Arthur Davis West graduates from the University of the South Sewanee, Tennessee in Neuroscience and Rhetoric



Michael (L) and Scott (R) get a fresh haul at Poke the Bear



Public Works installs a French drain near the Zenith Park pickleball courts



Gracie Groesbeck meets Daisy Duck



The Burro Street Bakery roundtable



CHS Bears ran all the way to the top at State this year

Peak Performance

May was busy on the mountaintop, and Cloudcroft athletes did not disappoint: hosting two major meets, sending competitors to the A-2A State Championship in Albuquerque, holding cheer tryouts, and closing the year with a sports banquet honoring athletes across six programs.

Homefield Success

Cloudcroft made the most of its home track at the Mountain Top Invitational on April 24, with the boys winning the team title and the girls finishing a strong second against six visiting teams. Sprinter Aurora Trejo led the girls with a runner-up finish in the 100-meter dash, while Cassia Moore dominated in the jumps and hurdles, stacking wins in the 100 hurdles, long jump, and triple jump.

The 4x200 relay of Trejo, Tristyn Housler, Rylee Walsh, and Moore also took first, and Walsh added key points in pole vault. On the boys' side, Fin Abel ran to a personal record in the 3200, Soren Moore captured the 300 hurdles, and the 4x800 relay of Tyler Meszler, Angelo Harrell, Alex Dunn, and Ocean Odom crossed the line first to cap a big distance day. In the field events, Logan McNeil won the shot put, Odom took first in javelin, and Noah Saffle and Edison Moore piled up points in the triple jump.

Those performances set the tone for the District 3-2A Championships the following weekend, hosted in Cloudcroft on May 2. The boys finished second overall, and the girls took third, sending 14 athletes to the state championship.

Christopher Yousif sprinted to a win in the 100-meter dash and a second-place finish in the 200, while Abel swept the 1600 and 3200 to keep Cloudcroft in the standings. Saffle claimed the long jump, Soren Moore won the triple jump, and Odom placed in the javelin. The boys' 4x100 and 4x200 relays—both run by Yousif, Jadon Myers, Soren Moore, and Saffle—added second-place finishes. Trejo led the girls with a win in the 100 and a second in the 200; Cassia Moore took titles in the 100 hurdles and triple jump; Walsh cleared 8 feet, 6 inches to win the pole vault; and the girls' 4x200 and 1600 sprint medley relays both delivered big points.

Taking State

The following weekend, at the A-2A State Championship in Albuquerque, Cassia Moore turned in the performance of the meet for Cloudcroft, winning the triple jump and placing second in the high jump to put the Bears on the state podium.

Delanie Dallas, also on the state podium, placed sixth in the javelin, Housler finished 12th in the long jump, and Trejo advanced to Saturday's final in the 200 with a seventh-place prelim time and added an 11th-place finish in the 100.

The girls' 4x100 and 4x200 relays both placed ninth. On the boys' side, Yousif, Dominic Brito, Triston Tompkins, Abel, Saffle, and McNeil represented Cloudcroft across sprints, hurdles, distance, and field events.

Off the track, the Cloudcroft cheer team held tryouts in the high school gym, building a new squad that will bring energy to next year's football and basketball seasons.

On May 11 at 5:30 p.m., the annual sports banquet organized by Joni Watson brought athletes, families, and coaches together in the high school gym to recognize standout performances across cross country, volleyball, basketball, powerlifting, and track and field—with special recognition for the senior class whose leadership carried the sports program throughout the entire year.

—Paula Finch

Weed Goes Bluegrass in July

It's the 30th anniversary and the Weed Community is going to make this Festival something really special.

You aren't going to want to miss this one! There are five fantastic bands lined up to perform this year, and some great Bluegrass music is in store. These bands have banjos, fiddles, bluegrass guitar and great vocals. They are: Vintage from Roswell NM, Old Time Radio from Ruidoso NM, Acoustic Gap from Albuquerque NM, Blue Sky Country from Roswell, NM and Capitan Gap Revisited from Colorado Springs CO.

This festival will be held as it is every year at the Weed Community Center at 21 Weed Road in the heart of Weed, New Mexico on Saturday, July 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person or \$30 for your immediate family.

This year for the 30th Anniversary festival celebration, there will be an indoor bouncy house and face painting for the younger kids along with the playground. AND, they are welcoming vendors this year who will also be in-

doors with all types of wares including jewelry, craft items, clothing, foods, etc.

A classic, tasty fried fish lunch with all of the trimmings is being catered along with another option if you prefer, and is available to purchase, so go spend the day in the cool pines. Buy one drink and fill your cup with tea, water, or lemonade ALL DAY FREE! Chairs are provided, but you are also welcome to bring your comfortable lawn chair.

Sunday is completely free, and there will be a short devotional starting at 9 a.m. followed by good bluegrass gospel. Cinnamon rolls and coffee are free and everyone is welcome.

This 30-year tradition in this small mountain community is the annual fundraiser this community holds to keep the community center open and available for the community to use. The hope is that folks from all of the surrounding communities will join the Weed Community for some outstanding bluegrass and enjoy the visit with old friends and neighbors. There are almost always jam sessions going on outside all can join in, bluegrass merchandise and great door prizes too!

For more information about the festival, call John Bell 575-687-3316.

—Mitzi Baker

Local Responders Level Up

Advanced EMT Training and High School Wilderness First Responder Program Boost Mountain Readiness

The Sacramento Mountains provide unique challenges for EMS response.

Steep terrain, limited road access, unpredictable weather, and long distances to the nearest hospital mean that even routine calls can quickly become complex. When transport times stretch to 45 minutes or more, the level of care provided before reaching the ambulance or hospital becomes critical. Advanced training directly improves patient outcomes by allow-



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ing responders to begin higher-level interventions sooner — stabilizing patients earlier, managing airways more effectively, and administering treatments that previously had to wait until arrival at the ER.

To strengthen our community’s readiness, multiple local EMTs recently completed their Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) training. At the same time, Cloudfcroft High School students stepped up their own skills through the Wilderness First Responder (WFR) program, preparing the next generation of responders for emergencies in remote environments.

Local EMTs Complete Advanced Training

Lewis Hournbuckle, Wei Gutshall, and Penny Hall of the Cloudfcroft Volunteer Fire Department successfully completed their Advanced Emergency Medical Technician program this spring. Once state-certified, their scope of practice will expand beyond EMT-Basic to include advanced airway management, IV therapy, fluid resuscitation, cardiac monitoring, and a broader range of medications. These skills are especially valuable in rural EMS, where responders often manage patients for extended periods before reaching definitive care.

Hournbuckle says he did it, “to further serve the community’s needs. It will provide better prehospital care during transport to the hospital.”

Additionally, Maria Crump of James Canyon Volunteer Fire Department completed her AEMT program. She is already putting her training to work in a different way — by teaching Cloudfcroft High School students enrolled in the Wilderness First Responder program.

High School Students Train as Wilderness First Responders

The WFR curriculum prepares individuals to manage medical and trauma emergencies in remote settings where help may be hours away. Students learn patient assessment, splinting, wound care, environmental injury management, evacuation techniques, and decision-making under pressure. Their final in-field assessment, held in May in the Lincoln National Forest, was evaluated by EMTs from the community and a proctor from Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU).

WFR training is uniquely valuable in rural areas like ours. When hikers, hunters, or residents experience emergencies deep in the forest or far from paved roads, the first person on scene is often not a professional responder — it’s a neighbor, a passerby, or a young person who grew up in these mountains. Giving students these skills builds confidence, competence, and a culture of readiness.

“It’s amazing what we’re making happen here — the pathways we’re building for these kids,” said instructor and EMT Maria Crump. “They get to see real professionals, real skills, and realize, ‘I could be that person.’ That spark is powerful.”

Regional Training Expands Skills Even Further

Additionally, EMTs from across southern New Mexico gathered in Ruidoso this spring for the EMS Region 3 Conference, a multi-day training event focused on advancing rural emergency care. Attendees refined their

skills through hands-on workshops and earned specialized certifications, including Wilderness EMT and Tactical EMT. Several local firefighters also participated, using the conference to level up their own capabilities in rescue, medical response, and scene management. This regional collaboration strengthens not only individual responders but the entire emergency network that supports our mountain communities.

ENMU’s Role

ENMU’s EMS program provided instructional support and testing oversight for both the AEMT and WFR students, strengthening the connection between local responders and regional training resources.

Community Impact

The impact of these programs is already being felt. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians improve readiness for backcountry rescues, long transports, and seasonal emergencies ranging from hypothermia to cardiac events. Meanwhile, high school WFR students are gaining real-world skills that prepare them for future careers in EMS, fire, search and rescue, or healthcare.

Together, these efforts strengthen our volunteer agencies, support recruitment and retention, and build long-term resilience in our mountain communities.

As instructor Maria Crump explains, “We know our community better than anyone. Training our own young people — and leveling up our responders — is how we stay strong.” AEMT graduate Lewis Hournbuckle echoes that message, adding, “We can always use more help from community members on the mountaintop who want to become trained as EMTs to help their friends and neighbors.”

Get Involved

For fire safety information or volunteer opportunities, including the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), contact the Cloudfcroft Volunteer Fire Department at info@cloudfcroftfd.com.

—Hilary Kitzman



Scouting Around

On April 18, Pack and Troop 958 gathered at Alameda Park in Alamogordo for one of scouting’s most meaningful traditions: the crossover ceremony.

The ceremony marks the transition from Cub Scouts into Scouts BSA and symbolizes an important step toward greater independence and responsibility. During the event, the Cub Scouts crossed a bridge to troop members waiting on the other side, where they were welcomed with their new troop neckerchiefs. This year, Aubrey, Dillon, and Jet officially crossed over into Troop 958.

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Ad campaign funded by Sacramento Mountains Foundation

In past years, these ceremonies have often been held at Bluff Springs in the Sacramento Mountains, a setting that always felt especially fitting for our outdoor scouting tradition. Unfortunately,

the area remains closed indefinitely by the Forest Service because of extensive vandalism caused by vehicles. It is disappointing to lose access to a place that so many local families have enjoyed over the years.

One of the goals of scouting is teaching young people to become good stewards of the outdoors. Whether that means cleaning up campsites, respecting trails, or simply learning to appreciate public lands, conservation has always been a central part of the program. Moments like this are reminders of why those lessons matter.

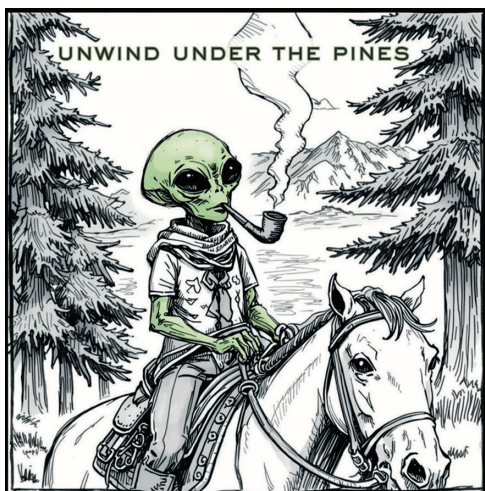
The troop is now preparing for a busy summer, including a week at Camp Geronimo in Arizona. Located in the mountains near Payson, Camp Geronimo has been hosting scouts for decades and offers everything from hiking and aquatics to merit badge classes and outdoor skills training. With several new scouts joining the troop, this year's camp should be a fun and enriching experience for both first-time campers and returning scouts alike.

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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VFW Post 11999 Celebrates 15 Years of Mountain Assault Program Supporting Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU) Warriors

Cloudcroft, NM – From July 17–19, 2026, members of CDR John D. Rider VFW Post 11999 will host their annual Mountain Assault Program, marking 15 years since the program began and celebrating the 12th Mountain Assault event supporting Soldiers assigned to the Fort Bliss Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU) and their families.

Originally launched in 2011 as the “Warrior in Transition” event, the program was created to give wounded, ill, and injured Soldiers an opportunity to step away from the challenges of recovery and rehabilitation. Over time, it evolved into Mountain Assault, a long-standing tradition focused on restoration, fellowship, and strengthening family connections.

Although the program began fifteen years ago, in-person events were paused for three years during the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout that period, VFW Post 11999 continued fundraising and support efforts to ensure the program would continue serving Soldiers and their families.

This year’s event will bring up to 40 warriors and their families from the Fort Bliss Soldier Recovery Unit in Texas to Sacramento Camp near Cloudcroft, New Mexico, for a three-day, two-night retreat. Participants will receive free meals, lodging, and activities in a peaceful mountain setting.

The Soldier Recovery Unit (SRU) supports Soldiers who are wounded, ill, or injured and require extended rehabilitative care, helping them transition back to active duty or civilian life as productive Veterans.

Located at approximately 7,500 feet elevation, Sacramento Camp provides a refreshing escape from the surrounding desert climate and offers participants an opportunity to relax, reconnect with family, and enjoy the tranquility of the Sacramento Mountains.

“For fifteen years, this program has given Soldiers and their families an opportunity to step away from the demands of recovery, reconnect, and know that their service and sacrifices are appreciated,” said Commander, Paul Benshoof. “The continued support of our community has made Mountain Assault possible, and we are proud to continue this tradition.”

VFW Post 11999 encourages community members and local businesses to help support this important effort and ensure future Soldiers and families can continue benefiting from the Mountain Assault experience.

For additional information or to learn how to support the Mountain Assault Program, contact Commander Paul Benshoof at benshoof@tmpb.com or 702-701-1691.

—Sean M. Lofland,
Junior Vice Commander, VFW Post 11999

Life in the Sacramentos

Welcome to the hottest month of the year here in the Cloudcroft area. For more than a century, visitors have streamed up the mountains from all directions to escape valley and basin heat. Where we live several miles northeast of the Village, it is warmer. Cloudcroft itself usually tops-out in the mid-80s in June, sometimes up to even 87° on the mountaintop.

Many of us don’t have any form of air conditioning in our mountain homes, not even the swamp coolers used in dry climates, because this is the only month or two during the whole year that it gets fairly hot, before the cooling annual monsoon season arrives.

Even if the rains haven’t started, at least the winds generally stop howling by about mid-month, when the weather shifts from the West to East storm systems to a slowly-building monsoon ridge over the Sierra Madre mountain range in Mexico and on into the Southwest. A traditional start date for monsoon rains in the southern Sacramento Mountains has been held to be about July 4 – July 7 because the precipitation has so often reliably started then, but it can start after the middle of June or later in July.

The wildflower meadows that I seeded on all four sides of our house in 2011 remain to this day, but there has been a lessening of blooms, as well as some opportunistic spreading, since then.

True-native wildflowers that start to bloom in June – the yellow Evening Primrose, orange Wallflower, the white Common Yarrow, violet New Mexican Vervain, Fleabane Daisy, the wild Geranium Maculatum, Rocky Mountain Penstemon, and Penstemon Virgatus, a violet native penstemon with purple stripes inside its bells – mix in pleasantly with planted wildflowers like Blue Flax, Corn or California Poppies, Dianthus (Sweet Williams), and Blanket Flower (gaillardia). Perennial flowers from May can still be blooming, such as Catmint, Sage, Jupiter’s Beard, and Vinca Major. June perennial flower arrivals include Golden Spur and Rocky Mountain Columbine, Munstead Lavender, and all of the Yarrows.

Beautiful butterflies that visit these flowers in amazing profusion in June include the Tiger Swallowtail, the Black Swallowtail, the Mourning Cloak, and Ladies, Fritillaries, and Checkerspots, but not necessarily the endangered “Sacramento Mountains Checkerspot”, at least where we live NE of Cloudcroft.

Other welcome pollinators include a few types of bees. What look like and might be Honeybees are more likely to be native bees. Honeybees could be seen if you live near a beekeeper. Valuable little bees called Mason bees are common. They are prolific pollinators. And it’s always extra fun to see Bumblebees hovering in and out of flowers, as they seem less frequent than in the past.

Sacramento Mountain animals seem to become increasingly visible starting in June. After all, once they have birthed their young, they escort them into the world and begin their training. So, Mother’s Day for wildlife is mostly in June. It’s possible to see black bear mothers with a couple of cubs (stay safely clear of the family), wild turkey hens with 30-40 pullets, and sometimes large herds of hundreds of elk, mostly cows with their new calves, attended by one or two bulls. The calves can be



Baby elk get their footing in Cloudercroft. Photo by Bobby Moberly

heard squeaking loudly as they run in play with fellow youngsters. Does of both types of deer are very pregnant.

I’m not certain, but I think the mule deer give birth earlier than the white-tail deer, by late June, whereas the whitetail fawns don’t arrive until closer to mid-July. Whitetail deer coats turn color in June to what I call their summer “orange” (it also gets called “red-brown”). Mule deer don’t turn color, they stay tawny-brown. The bucks of both deer species are infrequently seen, probably due to all of the mothering going on – they also have shed their antlers and are harder to identify!

You can’t help being invigorated with all these fresh-faced youths around.

—Lyn Canham

The First Sacramento Timber: Part 2 of 3

Author **Lynn Melton** 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: Sawmill?

JDB: I’m getting there.

Hum, my best guess it was about December 1897. Hamilton and me were in Baze’s saloon in LaLuz, just jawing and wetting our whistles. In comes Sumner – H.A. Sumner. We never did find out what the H.A. stood for. He and his surveying crew had been in LaLuz since November. LaLuz was his headquarters for surveying the Moun-

tain road, you know. . Sumner usually didn’t spend much time with the locals. Seems like he was a lot smarter than us.

He sat down with us – just off his horse from El Paso – and he let loose. According to Sumner, J.A. Eddy had settled his eyes on using timber on government land in the Sacramentos to build his railroads, up from El Paso and up into the Sacramentos. Along towards the end of September, W.A. Hawkins – the triple smart lawyer guy for the Eddy brothers – had told him that he didn’t think the law would stretch that far. Five miles maybe, not fifty and a hundred miles. That didn’t sit well with Eddy, and he kept pushing. Eddy had showed Sumner a letter from Hawkins to C.D. Simpson – vice president on the railroad --- that said what Eddy wanted was waste of time. Eddy got to fussin’ and cussin’. Said he was going to have to pay good money to get East Texas ties and timbers, and freight on top of that! After a while, Sumner picked up and left. More work for his surveying crews I guess.

Pretty soon I says to Hamilton, “Do you know any private land with timber on it?” And he says “That would have to be my land – everything to the west is scrub.” Now I can’t for sure tell you who grinned first, but we both did ear-to-ear grins with chuckles for seasoning. By and by, Hamilton says “I bet I could make more money selling ties timbers to Eddy than I ever did wagoning potatoes to El Paso. By now his face was lit up like a kid with his hand in the cookie jar.

A few minutes later, he got somber. “I’ve got trees, but Eddy wants ties and timbers.” “Leave it to me”, I says.

The next day, about the same time, Sumner comes in, and I wave him over. After a bit of lubrication, I says, “we’ve been thinking about Mr. Eddy’s tie and timber problem. Hamilton here had the true living foresight to put his homestead where there is some of the finest timber you will ever see. But some how, some way, when he did so, he forgot to have a sawmill. I can foresee that, if some how, he found a sawmill, he might make Eddy a sweet deal on ties and timber.” Sumner gave me truly odd look. But later on I decided he had already

figured out beforehand what I was going to say.

“Anyway, must have been just after the New Year, Sumner finds me and hands me a letter on plain paper.

“The bearer of this letter may spend up to one thousand dollars for a sawmill and ancillary equipment ordered through The Steffian-Krakauer Hardware Company, El Paso, Texas.

Signed

W. A. Hawkins”

LAM: So J.A. Eddy bought you a sawmill.

JDB: One way I read it he did, and one way I read it he didn’t.”

It wasn’t until several months later, when Hamilton flat out said “I’m seventy-six years old, too old for farming,” and tried to sell his land that I saw what Hawkins must have had in mind. Hamilton was a good guy, but he would let things slip. He had done his five years on his homestead, made it productive, all that stuff. But he never got around to applying for his patent. Hawkins probably had checked the records and knew that, without the signed patent, the Government still owned the land.”

Anyway, about mid-January I rode to El Paso and looked up Steffian-Krakauer Hardware.. They didn’t carry sawmills, but they had a drawer full of sawmill catalogs and the like. I tried to figure it out as best I could, but after Mr. Steffian said he recommended DeLoach, I settled on a Deloach No.1½, steam boiler, stove pipe, extra blades and drive belts, a keg of nails and a keg of bolts sets, fittings, oil, tools, roofing tar, the whole kit and caboodle. Nine hundred and fifty-two dollars and forth-eighty cents, F.O.B. El Paso.

To be continued. More about the sawmill next month.

Author’s Note: There is no evidence – documents or lore – to support the purported W. A. Hawkins letter. Yet, ask yourself, how are two locals in LaLuz going to come up with the money to buy a sawmill?

Transcription of the Hamilton Kimberlin Patent. The United States of America, To all whom these Presents shall come, Greeting: Homestead Certificate No. 1168. Application 2659

Whereas there has been deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Las Cruces, New Mexico , whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress approved 20th May 1862, “To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain,” and acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Hamilton Kimberlin has been established and duly consummated,

in conformity to law, for the Lots numbered one, two, three, and four of Section two and the Lots numbered three, four and five, of Section in Township Sixteen South of Range eleven East and the South West quarter of the South East quarter of Section thirty-two in the Township fifteen South of Range twelve East of New Mexico Meridian in New Mexico containing one hundred and fifty-seven and eighty-six hundredths of an acre according to the Grand Plat of the Survey of said Land, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General.

Now know ye that there is, therefore, granted by the United States unto the said Hamilton Kimberlin the tract of Land so described: To Have and to Hold the said tract of Land with the appurtenances thereof unto the said Hamilton Kimberlin and to his heirs and assigns forever; subject to any vested and accrued water rights for mining, agricultural, manufacturing, & other purposes, rights to ditches and reservoirs used in connection with such water rights as may be recognized and acknowledged by the land customs, laws, and decisions of courts, and also subject to th right of a proprietor of a vein or lode to extract his ore therefrom, should the same be found to penetrate & intersect the premises hereby granted, as pro-



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vided by law, and these is reserved from the lands hereby granted a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States.

In testimony whereof, I, William McKinley, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety eight, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty third.

By the President, William McKinley

By C.M McKearns, Secretary C. H Brush, Recorder of the General Land Office

Little J Ranch Report

When Wilbur came to Little J Ranch, he was severely overweight and in desperate need of a hoof trim. Carrying extra weight puts so much strain on his little legs and feet, but we’re committed to helping him get healthy, comfortable, and thriving again.

If you’d like to help support Wilbur’s care and recovery, you can donate at www.littlejranch.org

—Katie Jones

Library Corner

Checking in with Library Director Sandra Barr

The Michael Nivison Public Library in

Cloudcroft has a full summer schedule ahead. The library is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Storytime with Gail continues every Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Maitlyn Barnett was approved as a seasonal Library Aide. With her hire, the library will open Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning June 13.

Summer Programming

The library is also launching a summer lecture series with Library Director and Art Historian PhD, Dr. **Sandra Barr**. Sessions run Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. on June 11, July 2, July 23, and August 13. A bonus lecture on van Gogh is set for July 16. The library is closed on those days, so attendees should use the side entrance.

Barr describes the series as “fun, chat-ty, not boring” — the same lectures she gave at the University of Arizona and Cornell. Topics cover Greek sculpture, architecture, painting, and culture, presented chronologically. Of the van Gogh lecture, she notes he is “very misrepresented in the movies.”

June kicks off with the announcement of a Photo Hunt on June 1, followed by a Daniel Tiger Scavenger Hunt on June 13 (noon–2 p.m.), a Book Tasting on June 15 at 5:30 p.m., and a Bug Hotel-making workshop on June 20 at 1 p.m.

July brings a 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.

August wraps up the summer with Battle of the Bands on August 1 at 1 p.m. and a Nature Scavenger Hunt on August 7 at 11 a.m.

Flavor Lab

Recipe brought to you by Cloudcroft Schools Culinary Student Ocean Odom, CHS Sophomore

Grilled cheese:

- 2 slices of sourdough
- 2 slices of Gouda cheese
- 2 slices of Colby-Jack cheese
- 1 tbsp butter

Recipe:

Heat a pan on the stove or a hot pan to medium heat. Butter one side of both pieces of bread, lay down the side without butter on the pan to crisp up a bit, after they are crisped, lay down both pieces of butter side and put all the cheese on one piece of bread. After a couple of seconds, flip the other piece of bread onto the one with cheese. Grill to your desired crispness.





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Art in the Wild

Winston McInnis

June Blackbear Coffee Shop Artist-of-the-Month

Winston began his self-taught art career after retiring from 30+ years in Texas Municipal Government, serving as Superintendent of Parks and Recreation departments for the towns of Lakeway, San Angelo and Burnet.

At first, he dabbled in acrylics and sculpting. Then, in 2019, his wife introduced him to scratchboard art, and he has been working exclusively in the medium ever since.

Primarily due to his upbringing in a Texas ranching family and his later years living in the mountains of New Mexico, he has a deep interest in ranch and wildlife subjects, and the majority of his work reflects that passion.

Winston begins each scratchboard piece with a durable board made out of Masonite. It is covered with a fine layer of clay-like substance, and then coated with black ink.

The scratchboard technique involves the use of abrasive tools to directly remove the dark surface layer to expose the white layer underneath. Winston uses many different tools to remove the ink on the top layer of his boards, including x-acto knives, scalpel blades, tattoo needles, steel wool and sandpaper. Each creates a different effect.

Scratchboard works can be left black and white, or colored inks can be added to the exposed, scratched-off white areas. If colored, the artist often re-scratches the area to further refine the color intensity. Large and complex pieces can take hundreds of hours to complete due to the many layers of tiny scratches that cover the board.

Winston's scratchboard works have been displayed in numerous Texas and New Mexico galleries. His pieces titled "The Battle" and "Cold Pursuit" were selected for the 2026 Stars of Texas Juried Art Exhibit, and they are currently on display at Black Bear Coffee Shop.

When not working on new scratchboard pieces, Winston often can be found on one of the area hiking trails or around the village with his two white labs.

He is an active member of the International Society of Scratchboard Artists.

For more information, Winston can be reached at entwei@hotmail.com.



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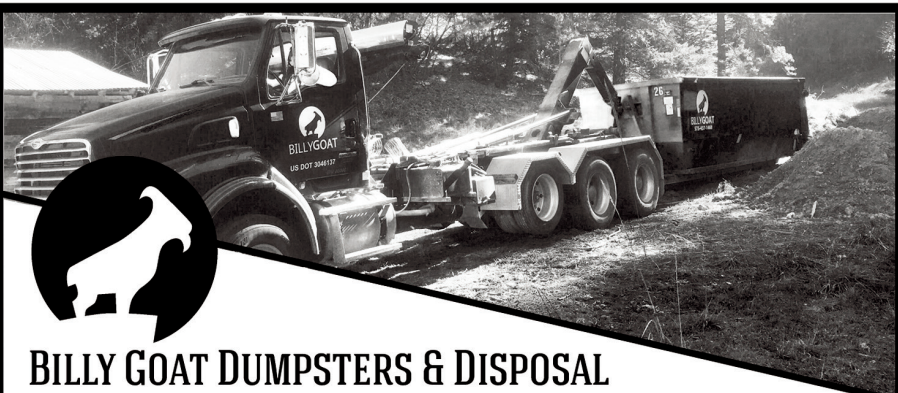


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Faces & Places



The Trout Warriors visit Cloudcroft, invited by Susan Maynard, who saw a similar program firsthand.

On a Tuesday evening in late April, a group of five men sits next to Susan Maynard at the family-style picnic tables in the back of Cloudcroft Brewing Company, chatting over cold pints and pink lemonade.

They are fly fishermen — or learning to be — and they had driven hours from across New Mexico and West Texas to chase trout in the waters near Cloudcroft. But the fishing, it turns out, is almost beside the point.

The group was Trout Warriors, a program run through Enchanted Circle Trout Unlimited (ECTU) that uses fly fishing as a form of healing for disabled and combat veterans.

Founded in November 2023, the program has quietly grown into something remarkable — over 80 fly fishing events, retreats, and guide trips since its launch, more than 3,000 participant hours logged, and more than \$79,000 invested in veterans who have given far more than that to their country.

Their guide and driving force is Doc Thompson — a professional fly fishing outfitter, published author, and long-time Orvis-sponsored guide who has fished New Mexico waters for over 30 years and has flies named after him sold by Orvis. On this trip, the credentials take a back seat to the calling.

How They Found Cloudcroft

The visit to the Sacramento Mountains happened because Susan refused to let illness stop her from saying yes.

A cancer fighter and survivor since 2010, and while living with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, she participated in Casting for Recovery — a national nonprofit offering fly fishing retreats for breast cancer survivors — at a private ranch in southeastern New Mexico in 2025. Doc was her personal guide that weekend.

“Doc did most of the casting,” she said with a grin, “but I caught that one fish

Elevation is a key element of the course

and I was thrilled to death.”

Doc later said, “She did a lot of the casting. Don’t let her fool you.”

What the experience gave her was harder to quantify than a fish count. The retreat offered private cabins, three meals a day, volunteer oncologists, group discussions, fly tying instruction, and a full day on the water — fifteen women survivors, the youngest 29, the oldest nearly 80, spending four days together.

When Susan got home, she told Doc about Cloudcroft. She said if he was ever in the area, to come find her. He took her up on it.

Susan and her husband Jim Maynard hosted the Trout Warriors group at Cloudcroft Brewing Company, treating the veterans to dinner and a tour of

Doc described the effect of an activity like fly fishing as an act of recovery. “The concentration that fly fishing requires stimulates the brain and mind to help ease the stresses of TBI, traumatic brain injury, and PTSD, and just trying to aid in resetting the brain.”

The group included Nathan Dial, a 25-year Army veteran and recently former mayor of Estancia (he lost a narrow re-election race in November 2025); Robert Park, an Iraq veteran who learned about the program from his twin brother; Mark Jensen, a Sunland Park resident who served alongside Nathan in Afghanistan and was still stationed at Fort Bliss when he first joined the program; and James Stenholm, a younger veteran whose story echoed the program’s larger mission.

Mark described the program’s somewhat counterintuitive approach with

to civilian life and it’s a very slow pace. You get angry at people. Fly fishing — walking out in nature — it teaches a good practice of patience.”

Mark connected the program to Hemingway’s Big Two-Hearted River — a story about a World War I veteran who healed himself by returning to nature and the sport. “Those small, detail-oriented tasks take your mind off of what you’ve been through,” he said. “And that’s kind of what this group does — in addition to camaraderie, connecting with people who’ve been through some of the same things.”

“The biggest part is reconnecting,” James offered, “with the brothers you’re going to miss.”

More Than Catching Fish

Trout Warriors now serves participants ranging from a Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam-era veteran in his eighties to post-9/11 combat veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The program is coed and designed to accommodate the full spectrum of mobility. Doc plans outings carefully so participants in wheelchairs or using walkers can reach the water.

“It may take him 15 minutes to get from the vehicle to the chair to start fishing,” Doc said of one mobility-impaired participant, showing a photo on his phone from an outing on the Rio Grande. “But look at him. He’s out there.”

Doc described the educational philosophy simply: “It’s more than just taking somebody fishing. Every stream is different, and every species acts differently. It’s not just knowing how to catch fish.”

The mission runs deeper still. Doc spoke of participants who call him late at night, not knowing what else to do. “I’ll say, ‘All right, what are you doing tomorrow? Let’s go fish.’ Just knowing they can do that gives them a little encouragement — somewhere to push through.”

He’s seen the program’s impact in the most direct terms. One participant, he said, broke down in tears, marking two years since they had stopped sleeping with a pistol under their pillow and

Trout Warriors:

Finding Peace in

the Rio Peñasco

A fly fishing program to heal disabled veterans. Four vets made their first trip to the Sacramentos to fish the Rio Peñasco, invited by Susan Maynard

by Hannah Dean

the grounds before they retired to the Cabins at Cloudcroft and rested up for their fishing adventure the next day at Mulcock Ranch.

‘Big Two-Hearted River’

This outing brought together four veterans — three Army, as they were quick to point out, with good-humored jabs at their Navy companion — for a multi-day fishing trip into water most of them had never explored.

a grin: “Doc takes a group of people who are inherently impatient, cranky, quick to anger, and introduces them to the most frustrating, aggravating sport there is.”

There was laughter around the table. Then it got quieter.

“The biggest thing this group gives is teaching patience,” James said. “In the military, it’s always go, go, go. You get

reached for a fly rod instead. “When you hear those stories,” Doc said quietly, “you know what this is really doing.”

It’s not just about the camaraderie they find in the group—it’s about giving disabled vets something to connect to when they are alone.

“We want to give them the knowledge that, hey, I’m struggling right now. I know that if I get out on the water, it will benefit them. We try to work towards making them basically somewhat self-sufficient at fly fishing.”

The program is free to participants, sustained by the donors and supporters of ECTU. Beyond guided outings, Trout Warriors offers fly tying meetups, Fly Fishing 101 beginner clinics open to disabled vets and active-duty military, and winter Zoom sessions where Doc brings in other professional guides and tiers. One program member builds his own fly rods and teaches classes in Eagle’s Nest.

A Sky Island and Its Waters

Fishing in the Cloudcroft area is a first for all four veterans. They planned to work stretches of the Rio Peñasco and surrounding streams, targeting rainbow and wild brown trout — and possibly brook trout, which Doc noted is on the rarer side for New Mexico, one more feature of the Sacramentos’ distinct sky-island ecology.

Low snowpack this season means the streams are running lean — the snowmelt that feeds mountain streams and creeks is the lifeblood of the fishery. But Doc has worked enough New Mexico water to know that conditions shape an experience without canceling it.

At one point, the table swapped stories about memorable water. Robert de-

scribed a creek near Vermejo no wider than the tabletop — and the foot-long cutthroats they somehow pulled from it.

That sense of wonder — at the fish, at the water, at the country that surrounds it all — is part of what the program is really offering. “When you catch the fish, it’s pretty amazing,” Doc said. “But it’s not so much about catching the fish as just being out there.”

How to Get Involved

Learn more or support the program at ec-tu.org/trout-warriors or find Trout Warriors on Facebook.

And if you happen to run into Doc at a local brewery — ask him about the trip. He’ll tell you it’s not really about the fish.

“A kingfisher flew up the stream. It was a long time since Nick had looked into a stream and seen trout. They were very satisfactory. As the shadow of the kingfisher moved up the stream, a big trout shot upstream in a long angle, only his shadow marking the angle, then lost his shadow as he came through the surface of the water, caught the sun, and then, as he went back into the stream under the surface, his shadow seemed to float down the stream with the current, unresisting, to his post under the bridge where he tightened facing up into the current.”

“Nick’s heart tightened as the trout moved. He felt all the old feeling.”

—Big Two-Hearted River
Ernest Hemingway



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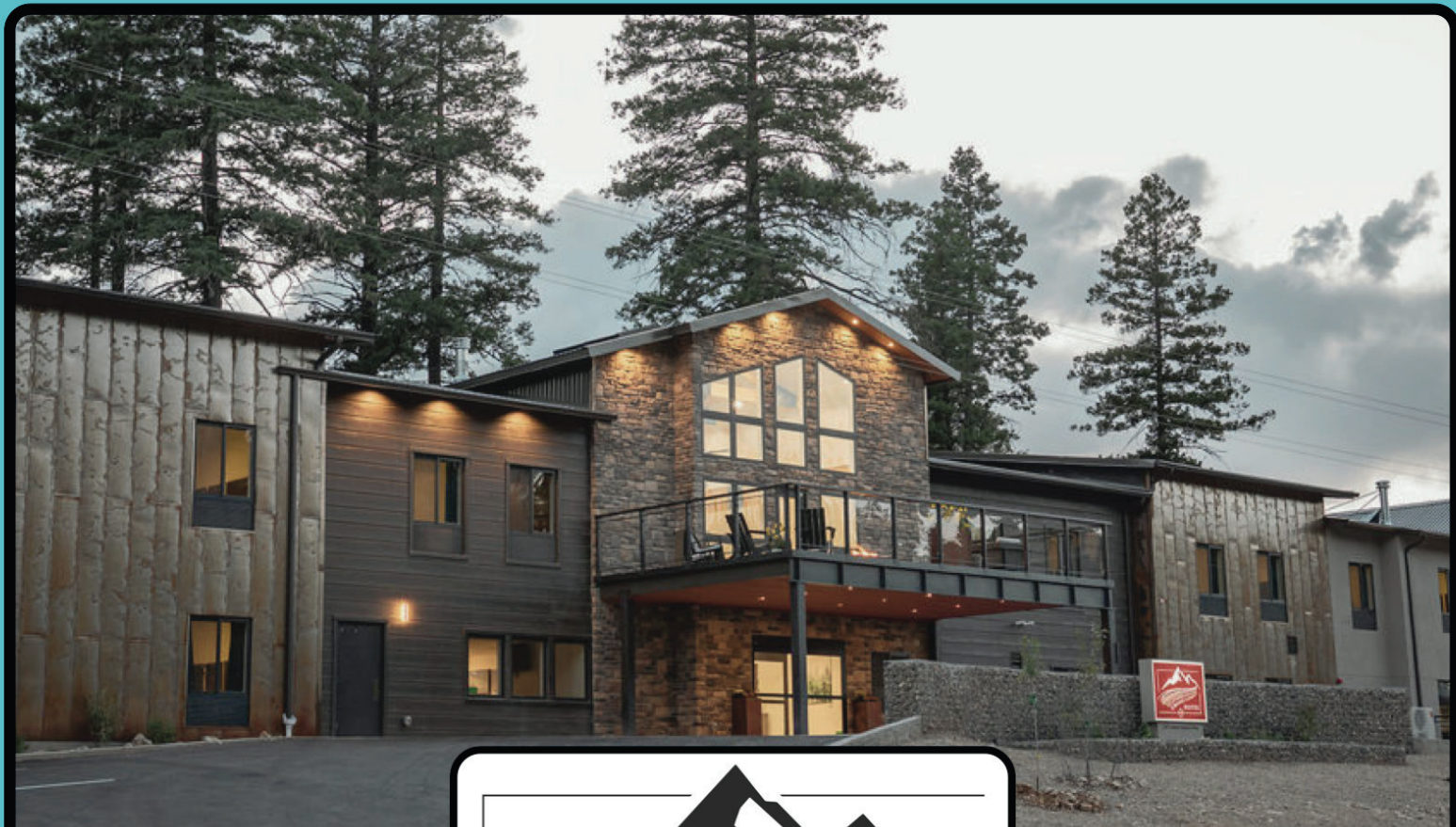
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