

Mountain Monthly

Your Guide to Cloudcroft and the Sacramento Mountains

FREE



Chris Shaw keeps it choppin' at Mad Jack's

Meet Mad Jack's 'Left-Hand Man'

As James Jackson builds his next dream on the Pedernales River, he's left Mad Jack's Mountaintop Barbecue in the very capable hands of manager Chris Shaw —and while still for sale, Cloudcroft's beloved pit is open, smokin' and 'not going anywhere.' by Hannah Dean

It was 20 degrees and barely past dawn on a February Thursday when four people were already shivering in line outside Mad Jack's Mountaintop Barbecue.

BBQ legend and owner James Jackson wasn't there that morning. But the pits were lit, the wood was burning low and slow, and everything inside was running exactly the way it always has. That's not an accident. That's Chris Shaw.

Shaw has been with Mad Jack's for eight years. For the past four of those, he's been the one keeping the fires burning when Jackson is away — and over the last year, Jackson has been away quite a bit, with good reason. He's purchased land along the Pedernales River near Johnson City, Texas, and is deep in the process of building a second location: Mad Jack's Hill Country Barbecue. The project is as ambitious as it sounds.

"We're deep in the Texas Hill Country," Jackson said by phone recently, calling from the job site. "Close to Fredericksburg and the famous wine trail. We've got about 580 feet of river frontage on the Pedernales River, and I

can't think of another barbecue joint that's on the river — so that might make it kind of special."

The new venture is also, he admitted with a laugh, a chance to be closer to his grandkids. "As much as I love Cloudcroft," Jackson said, "we love little Wyatt and Penny a little more."

Get to Know Shaw

Jackson says with unmistakable affection, "You know how folks usually say they've got a right-hand man? Chris is left-handed, so jokingly we always call him my left-handed man. But yeah, he's top-notch. I was lucky to get him."

That luck was the result of a winding road. Shaw's sister Xochitl had moved to Cloudcroft two years before Chris and his family did, operating her shop Mountain vs. Moon in what is now the Mad Jack's bakery space. He came up to visit her, and that's how he first crossed paths with Jackson. They were both from Central Texas — and hit it off.

"He originally was gonna hire my wife Stephanie," Shaw

continued on p. 2

INSIDE



Aurelia Glidden (L) and Savannah Jonnes (R) smile alongside their snow sculpture. See more MOUNTAIN LIFE, p. 22



Former Cloudcroft mayor Michael Nivison dies at 82. p. 6



Antartica's McMurdo Station is Cloudcroft Fire Fighter Harry Crinklaw's new home for the next 8 months. p.28

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“Low and slow.
Good wood and
good music and
good meat.”

— Chris Shaw
on the secret to great barbecue

said, recounting the story with good humor. “She ended up going to the brewery. He was looking for a manager — so I started here.”

Shaw had never done barbecue. He’d been a baker for a while, built elevators, and played guitar in Austin bands for two decades. On day two on the job, multiple people called in sick. “I was just kind of thrown to the wolves,” he said. “I had to grill. I didn’t even know the menu. But I kind of figured it out, I guess.”

Eight years later, Shaw is one of only two people — himself and Jackson — who can work every position in the building. Morning guy, night guy, grill, pit, front of house. He knows the flow of the seasonal visitors, the temperament of the wood-fired pits, and the faces of the regulars.

Same Brisket. Same Atmosphere.

For anyone anxious about what a transition means for the quality of the food, Shaw is direct: nothing is changing. “I won’t change a thing. Keep it exactly the way he was doing it. James got us here for a reason, based on what he was do-

ing. So I don’t want to change anything too crazy — some things here and there — but I’m not going to change the experience or the way that we operate with a brisket.”

Jackson echoed that confidence from Texas. The two are aligned on what matters most: quality. “We’re spending a crazy amount on brisket — all natural, no hormones, no antibiotic brisket,” Jackson said. “We could save about \$2,000 a week if I went to a cheaper brisket. But he’s on board with me about keeping the quality top-notch. Which means everything.”

That commitment shows up in the line that sometimes wraps around the building. On weekends, customers are outside by 8 a.m. — sometimes waiting three hours, sometimes in the rain. Shaw takes that seriously.

“Nobody’s gonna wait in the line for something that’s just okay, or something that’s hit or miss,” he said. “So it’s super important for me to just make sure that it’s top-notch every day, no matter what. You never know who’s in that line — we’ve had YouTubers with millions of followers come through. If they have a bad day, 2 million people just saw that it sucked. And so the pressure’s on, but I can take it.”

One small touch that captures Shaw’s approach: he reads customers’ names off their trays and greets them by name when they reach the counter. “They’re always like, how do you know my name?” he said, grinning. “It makes it a little more one-on-one.”

Jackson, for his part, is confident the warmth of the place will remain intact. “He’s got the personality I need to talk with people,” he said of Shaw. “He’s



(L-R) Chris Shaw, Elyse Shadwell, Kristy Dankert, Javier Sifuentes, Anthony Ciam-ei, and Chris Kennelley.

honest as all get-out, he’s great with customers, and he’s been with me for 8 years. He’s on the same page with me as far as quality.”

The Crew That Keeps It Going

Shaw isn’t holding things together alone.

“I’m really blessed to have such a good crew,” Jackson said.

Elyse Shadwell has stepped up to take charge of all the sausage-making, going above and beyond to fill in wherever needed. “Between her and Shaw, I think we’ve got things covered pretty good,” Jackson said. “She goes above and beyond.”

Kristy Dankert, who also serves as the restaurant’s hostess, has taken over cornbread-making and the baking duties — stepping into a role that had been a point of pride for the operation. Jackson’s fiancée, Gracie Jo Grey, calls it “passing the whisk.”

Setting the Record Straight

Both Shaw and Jackson want to address the rumors directly: Mad Jack’s Mountaintop Barbecue in Cloudcroft is not closing.

“I get that question every day,” Shaw said. “Business as usual. Same standards, same quality. We’re not closing down after we open” — referring to the Texas location.

“Everybody seems to think I’m closing the place,” Jackson confirmed. “We’re not closing the place. I really want people to know that.”

Jackson does acknowledge that the Cloudcroft location is still for sale. Jackson says if a buyer emerged, the transition would include all recipes, techniques, the Mad Jack’s name, and — if they honor the quality standards — the crew.

“Anybody with any sense would probably keep it the same,” Shaw said.

In the meantime, Jackson plans to continue hauling firewood to Cloudcroft and staying a week or two at a stretch. He’ll be posting on social media when he’s headed to town — so keep an eye

on the Mad Jack’s Facebook page if you want to catch him in person.

A Rock-and-Roll Pitmaster

Ask Chris Shaw about standing in front of a crowd, and he’ll tell you it doesn’t faze him. For more than 20 years, he played guitar in Austin — first with a band called Waitsix, and later with a second project called Execution by Music. He played every club in Austin. He knows how to be on.

“In music, you’re in the zone, so it could be two people or a thousand people out there — I’m not seeing it the same way,” he said. “Barbecue is a little different. But it’s so cool to meet all the people from all over the world. We’ve had every continent come through here. It makes the day so interesting.”

Shaw also handles the live music bookings for the restaurant’s summer season — a natural fit given his background. He still plays guitar at home and is thinking about teaching his eight-year-old daughter, Willow.

The parallel between music and barbecue isn’t lost on him. “Half of the experience here is the crew and the people,” he said. “The food is obviously why people are coming. But the other half is the people — they want to feel like they’re coming to our backyard to have barbecue.”

So if you drive up the mountain on a cold winter morning and see a line of dedicated souls standing outside in the dark — know that inside, the fires have been tended since before you woke up, the brisket is on track, and a guy who’s played sold-out clubs in Austin is ready to greet you by name.

Open Thursday–Sunday (check Facebook for seasonal hours)

Tip: Arrive early — they sell out, and they mean it.

Follow Mad Jack’s on Facebook for updates on Jackson’s visits, hours, and music schedule.

Learn the Mad Jack’s story from James Jackson when he dished with CloudcroftReader.com

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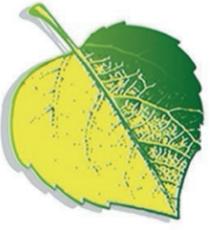
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Home Front The view from here



The Western staff have been competing on the Cloud Puzzle. Find the answer keys each month on the Mountain Monthly Facebook page.

Dear Readers,

The Mountain Monthly began in March of 1988—serendipitously enough, that’s my birthday, too. This paper and I are both 38 years old and looking forward to enjoying the next chapter of our lives.

This month, we get to know James Jackson’s “Left-Hand Man,” **Chris Shaw**, who’s keeping the fires burning and the line moving at Mad Jack’s.

We also feature the story of a Hometown kid, **Harry Crinklaw**, who’s representing Cloudcroft and the Volunteer Fire Department in Antarctica. You may recognize Harry from the ice rink and from Cloudcroft Light Opera Company shows.



The past few months, the village suffered water loss from the “big one,” an elusive leak that Public Works called in contracted help to locate. They found it—and fixed it. The village has been

talking about the budget, with a few new faces on staff. Read about that in Mountain News.

As spring breakers appear in the village this month, we hope everyone remembers that the village is under Level 3 water restrictions. Don’t be a drip—every drop makes a difference in a small village like Cloudcroft. With the wind and drought, be fire-wise, too.

Every business, visitor, every village—all our efforts matter.

Extra, Off the Press

The February issue of the Monthly included the story of Winter Storm Fern, which dumped snow and wiped out power for a lot of the mountain. Thankfully, the Otero County Electric Cooperative crew—including my husband Tanner—repaired things quickly despite harsh conditions.

The February edition also focused on the folks in the village who do bodywork—yoga studios, salons, healthcare, and fitness.

The village, school, forest, and local

businesses have ongoing tales of challenges and triumphs nearly every day.

The Monthly is a team, and we’re happy to welcome new players. Local photographers, reporters, and writers share their craft with the community in these pages, and the village has a voice.

One new column we’re excited to debut is the “Wildlife of the Month” with **Christina Olvera**, a former wildlife biologist with the National Forest Service. Some of our readers (and our cartoonist) said they miss the animal stories.

We’ve been listening to the community—Mary Jo and friends at the Western who love the Cloud Puzzle, folks on Burro who missed the Mountain Life section, and our distribution team, who give us advice from their bicycle paper routes.

I consider myself lucky—not every editor gets direct access to valuable feedback, just by checking the mail or walking down the boardwalk.

Here’s to another year of the Monthly and another year of enjoying this mountain life.



Staff Box

Editor: **Hannah Dean**

Contributing Editor: **Drew Gaines**

Contributors: **Rand Carlson, Lyn Canham, Damon Marez, Christina Olvera**

Community Voices: **Sandra Barr, Hilary Kitzman, Katie Grabowski, Jocelyne Driscoll-Gillespie, Greg Crinklaw, Xander Newton**

Editorial Photography: **Bre Kincaid, Sam Seth, Crystal Tompkins, Dwight Raulerson**

Social Media: **Ray Media**

Operations Manager: **Peggy Anderson**

Distribution: **Miles o’ Paper Distribution Co Stevie Dean**

hello@mountainmonthly.com

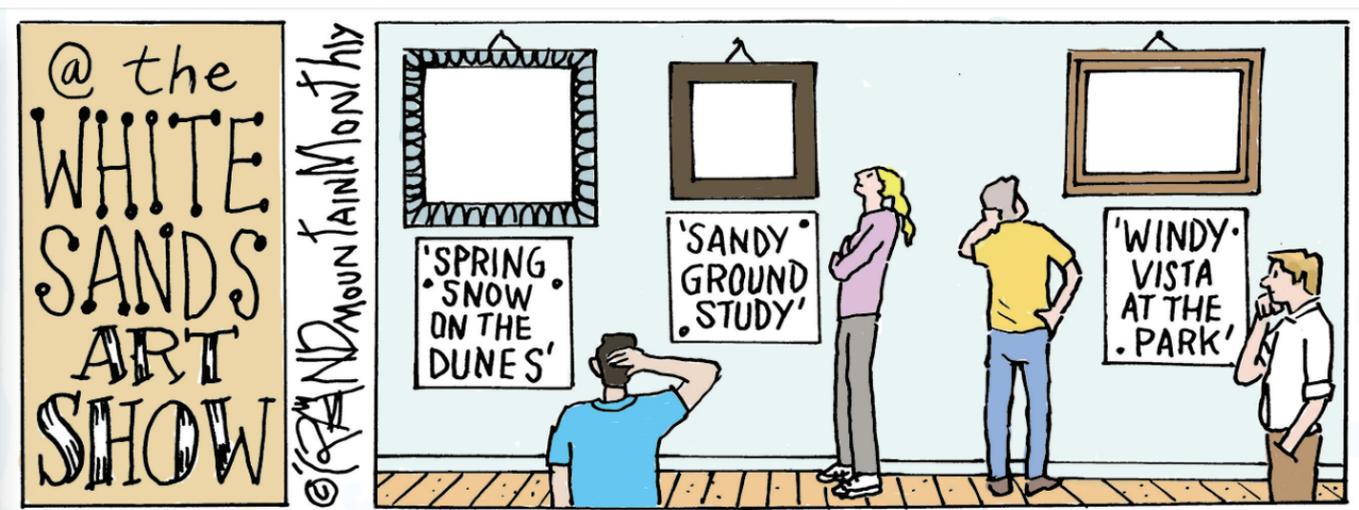
Mountain Monthly, PO Box 495
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Mountain Monthly LLC Members:
Justin Muñoz, Chris Hearne, Hannah Dean

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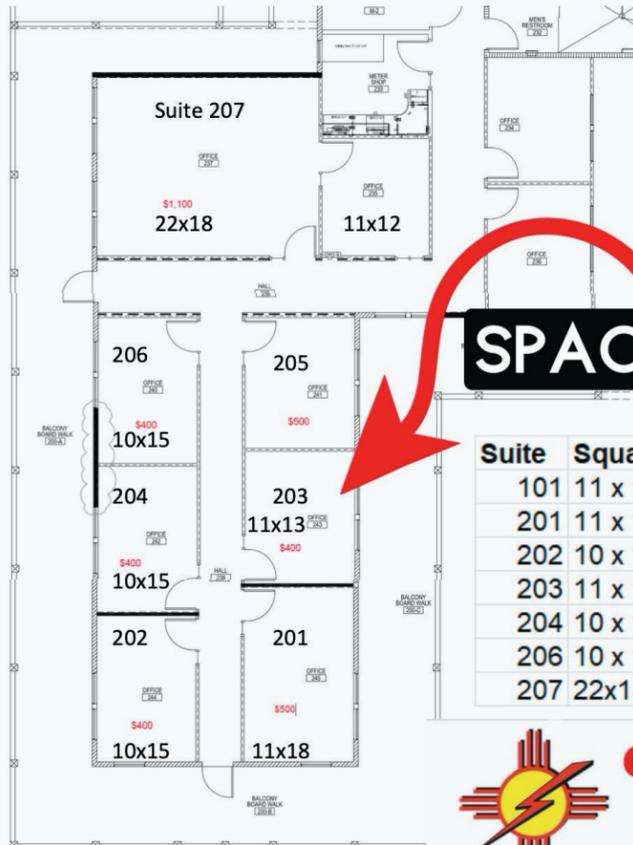
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Michael Nivison served as Cloudcroft's mayor from 1990 to 1994.

Former Cloudcroft Mayor Michael Nivison Dies at Age 82

Former public servant **Michael Nivison**, whose name graces the town's public library, passed away on February 6th, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of public service and community involvement.

Nivison's family, his brother **Randy**, and his widow **Roxanne**, shared his story with the Monthly.

Nivison was born on March 17, 1943, in San Diego, California. Michael was raised by his mother, Betty, and adoptive father, Bill, a retired two-star Admiral, who adopted Michael in infancy. Admiral Nivison's naval career

took the family to postings across the country, including White Sands Missile Range.

Michael attended high school in Las Cruces and later studied at the College of William and Mary before attending San Diego State College in San Diego, California. Michael married Joanne Silvernail in 1963, and they had a son, Michael D. Nivison.

Michael went on to serve with the San Diego Fire Department, retiring in 1980 due to health reasons.

In San Diego, he and Silvernail divorced, and Michael married his second wife, Carol Czarzasty, also known as "Peaches." They later settled in Cloudcroft and established the Sleepyeye Trading Company in the distinctive stone building on Burro Avenue, where High Altitude owner Matt Willett began his bike shop in the back.

In public life, Michael served the Village of Cloudcroft as Trustee from 1981 to 1988 and as Mayor from 1990 to 1994. He later returned as Village Administrator from 1999 to 2008.

He also served as an Otero County Commissioner, including two years as Chairman. Over the course of his career, he made more than twenty-five trips to Washington, D.C. His family says Nivison secured roughly twenty million dollars in grants and funding for the region and championed fire emergency legislation that was ultimately passed in five states: New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, and Montana.

He served on a wide range of advisory boards and committees, working alongside U.S. senators, governors, and federal agencies on issues such as clean drinking water and forest health, as well as the Mexican Spotted Owl recovery plan and the reintroduction of the Mexican Grey Wolf in Catron County.

Nivison's brother, Randy, recalled that Michael was perhaps most proud and passionate about his music.

A singer and guitarist, he wrote and helped produce five albums of original songs he called Americana, all released under the title "Good Man Dyin". He performed nearly every weekend for ten years at the Western Bar in Cloudcroft, and for four more years at the Tularosa Cantina after relocating to the basin in 2010.

Michael is survived by his third wife, Roxanne Richardson Nivison, who was his steadfast life partner beginning in 2012, and by his son, Michael D. Nivison.

Even though he moved off the mountain in 2010, Michael and Roxanne kept a cabin in Cloudcroft until 2024, and loved staying there, especially in the summer months.

The Michael Nivison Public Library, formerly known as the Old Red Brick Schoolhouse, and Michael Nivison Way, a downtown street, stand as lasting tributes to his decades of service to the Cloudcroft community.

"He was, in every sense, a good man," said Roxanne.

A Celebration of Life in honor of Michael Nivison will be held at the Michael Nivison Public Library on Saturday, May 9th, at 2:00 p.m.



P+Z Commission Welcomes Two New Members

Angela Daniel and **Jesse Richards** joined the Village of Cloudcroft Planning and Zoning Commission for their first meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd, making for a full board.

Daniel is the Manager of the Osha Trail Depot. Spot Richards around town with his dog, Thumper.

New Clerk **Jini Turri** attended and advised the group on procedures for



Nivison and his band jam outside the Sleepyeye Trading Co. on Burro

public notice, public hearings, and more. The village ordinances are available online through the American Legal Publishing at: <https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/cloudcroftnm>



Sunspot Solar Observatory Closed Indefinitely

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced it will proceed with demolition and site restoration at the Sunspot Solar Observatory. The decision follows years of reduced operations and a mercury spill that has kept the facility closed for more than seven weeks.

According to the Albuquerque Journal, on January 5, two New Mexico State University researchers working inside the tower housing the Richard B. Dunn Solar Telescope discovered an unspecified amount of liquid mercury that had leaked or spilled onto the telescope platform. Mercury is a neurotoxin, and safety protocols were implemented immediately.

The telescope, visitor center, hiking trails, and surrounding grounds have remained closed since, with no estimated reopening timeline given. Officials at the observatory have stated there is no threat to the public or the environment.

Per the NSF announcement:

“After assessing the engineering challenges, anticipated repair costs and safety and environmental risks, NSF determined that removing and safely disposing of the telescope’s mercury is the most prudent course of action. This process will render the Dunn Solar Telescope inoperable. Following remediation, NSF will move forward with demolishing the telescope and restoring the site.

Until the advent of the NSF Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope and other more advanced facilities, the Dunn Solar Telescope was central to the scientific exploration of the sun, enabling the study of sunspots, solar flares and the dynamics of the solar atmosphere. NSF is working with local stakeholders to develop an educational exhibit about the legacy and scientific contributions of the Dunn Solar Telescope and Sacramento Peak Observatory.”

According to NSF, the Dunn Solar Telescope was originally constructed by the U.S. Air Force in 1969. Its 250-ton optical system floated on 120 gallons of liquid mercury sealed within a bearing – a design that was state-of-the-art for its time. The Air Force transferred the facility to NSF in 1976.

Subscribe to [Cloudfreader.com](https://cloudfreader.com) for updates on this story.



Perfect Storm

Residents of Pineywoods Estates near High Rolls went nearly three weeks without running water after Winter Storm Fern triggered a pipe break, frozen lines, downed trees, and impassable roads – conditions the water association’s operations manager called a “perfect storm.” The community’s aging, poorly documented water system complicated repairs, and many residents grew frustrated not only by the outage but also by the lack of communication from the Pineywoods Estates Water Association board. Service has since been restored, and the boil advisory was lifted. Read the full story, including resident accounts and infrastructure concerns, at [Cloudfreader.com](https://cloudfreader.com)

Finding “The Big One”

After weeks of watching tank levels drop and wells running around the clock, Cloudfreader’s Public Works team – with help from leak-detection contractor McKim & Creed – tracked down a massive break under Columbine Blvd. that had been draining an estimated 2.5 million gallons of water per month. The crew dug out a split steel pipe and repaired it on February 3rd, cutting the flow from the Hilltop Tank line by roughly 60 gallons per minute almost immediately. Read the full story at [Cloudfreader.com](https://cloudfreader.com)

NM Creative Industries Division Gathers for Panel Presentations

NM CreativeCon brings together artists, entrepreneurs, and community leaders from across the state to turn creativity into opportunity. Hosted by the New Mexico Creative Industries Division, this statewide series is designed to strengthen the creative economy through education, networking, and hands-on learning.

Launching in March, locations include Carlsbad and Silver City, NM.

Register here → <https://edd.newmexico.gov/creativecon/>

From the NM Creative Industries website:

As part of the New Mexico Economic Development Department, the Creative Industries Division enhances economic opportunities for New Mexico families by nurturing a vibrant creative economy. We support creative entrepreneurs, small businesses, and organizations through education, workforce development, public infrastructure, grants, and resource sharing.

The Creative Industries Division was created by House Bill 8 in the 2023 Legislature and signed by Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on April 5, 2023.

HOW'S THE MARKET?

JANUARY 2026

CLOUDCROFT MOUNTAIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	10
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$245,000
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	126 Days
ACTIVE LISTINGS	118
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$75,000 - \$1,660,000
LAND:	\$4,900 - \$3,999,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$597,300 - \$2,900,000

RUIDOSO MOUNTAIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	24
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$294,500
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	255 Days
ACTIVE LISTINGS	413
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$1,500 - \$3,500,000
LAND:	\$12,900 - \$3,200,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$210,000 - \$3,400,000

ALAMOGORDO & BASIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	33
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$225,000
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	64 Days
ACTIVE LISTINGS	136
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$64,900 - \$1,175,000
LAND:	\$20,000 - \$5,000,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$135,000 - \$3,000,000

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

Cloudcroft Stops Hauling Water: Plus, Key Takeaways from Council Meeting

The Village of Cloudcroft's February 17 regular session covered department updates, personnel actions, infrastructure grants, lodgers tax allocations, license renewals, and a real property sale.

The meeting concluded with a closed session regarding pending litigation.

Water System Update

Public Works Supervisor **J.J. Carrizal** reported significant progress following a major water leak repair. Before the fix, the system was pushing an average of 167,000 gallons per day — roughly 5 million gallons per month — with more

than 2 million gallons per month “lost into the ground,” he noted.

After the repair, the best single-night performance recorded was 17 gallons per minute (gpm) on the 8-inch line, compared to the previous 70+ gpm at night.

The village stopped hauling water on or around January 31, Carrizal said.

The west pond has been converted to a 1-million-gallon raw water storage reservoir. The 500,000-gallon reservoir is “recovering, sitting at 24 feet of water” against a 40-foot capacity. Carrizal said the village is working with engineering firm CDM Smith on the next steps for well optimization.

Carrizal says if customers have the EyeOn Water app and see water usage when they aren't home, they should call 575-682-2441 to report it.

Zoning Enforcement

In his report, Trustee **Keith Hamilton** told the council the village has been without active zoning enforcement for an extended period. “There's a lot of catch-up that we need to do,” he said.

Planning & Zoning Chair **Rick Donnel-**

ly confirmed the board meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in chambers. He said public workshops are planned to discuss potential ordinance changes, with simpler items tackled first.

Trustee **Matt Willett** raised light pollution as a specific priority. “We have this amazing asset of the dark skies,” he said, noting that current light ordinances have not been consistently enforced.

Volunteer Fire Chief **Erich Wuersching** announced that Otero County will hold a Community Wildfire Protection Plan public meeting on March 5th at Cloudcroft Middle School, from 6–8 p.m. “All Otero County residents are welcome,” he said.

Library Report

Library Director **Sandra Barr** said library numbers are trending upward. New services include her proctoring LSATs and GREs and a collaboration with Sunspot Solar Observatory for summer telescope work.

A new intern, **Maitlyn Barnett**, has been hired and will be paid by Cloudcroft High School during the school year, Barr said. She added that the library has \$1,500 in new books and needs to

match \$2,500 for a GO Bond grant to avoid losing the funds.

Barr raised utility costs as a concern, noting that the library is currently covering the entire building's costs. She requested the governing body's support in addressing the budget.

On Thursday, February 19th, Barr, a former professor and PhD in Art History, will present on forgery and fraud in art from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the library.

Down to Business

The council voted on a full docket:

The sale of village-owned real property to **Debbie Tate** at \$2.71 per square foot, totaling \$2,597.05. The lower of two comparable sale prices was chosen because the property is “non-buildable” and has historically been used as a driveway.

\$1-an-hour raises for employees following a six-month probationary period: Public Works employees David Hunter and Joe Scarfe, and Library Director Sandra Barr.

The appointment of Pastor Larry Evans as chaplain for the Village of Cloudcroft Police Department.

Jessie Willett was unanimously appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board by council vote. The council discussed the legal and ethical considerations of spouses serving together on an advisory board, with Trustee Matt Willett serving as the Parks and Recreation Chair. Village Attorney Zach Cook confirmed it is not prohibited by state statute.

The council accepted a bid from Lincoln Welding & Fabrication for a new informational kiosk at Elevation Park. The kiosk will include trail maps and

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community event posting areas, modeled on Forest Service kiosks. The project is funded through a \$32,000 trails grant, with \$12,500 in required village in-kind match.

CDM Smith engineer **Chad Johnson** presented a scope of work for a preliminary engineering report at a cost of \$92,000. Johnson said the report would assess technologies, costs, and funding options for a new plant. The current plant is aging, and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has issued a new draft discharge permit imposing nitrogen limits.

A new plant is estimated to be three-to-five years out depending on funding, Johnson said. A modular “package plant” approach is preferred to minimize service interruption. Johnson said one of the two existing treatment trains could remain online while the other is replaced, meaning residents would see no outage.

The council voted to postpone approval to the March meeting so members could review the written proposal. Village officials said they believe the study cost would be covered by existing grant funding.

The council allocated \$47,057 in lodgers tax funds to the Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce.

The total, per Lodgers Tax Advisory Board Chair **Julie Bragg**: \$22,690 for Mayfair and Beer Fest promotional costs; \$11,295 in retroactive publication reimbursements; \$6,370 for a new marquee sign; and \$6,702 in non-promotional Mayfair and Beer Fest costs.

The chamber’s new digital marquee sign must comply with the village’s light ordinance; a chamber representative said the sign can be dimmed on a timer or remotely.

Bragg presented a proposal for a 15-hours-a-month administrative position to handle lodgers tax compliance, collections, award letters, and accounting, paid for by the lodger’s tax fund. The council agreed the village clerk would handle these duties in the interim. Formal action was postponed to the April meeting to align with the budget process.

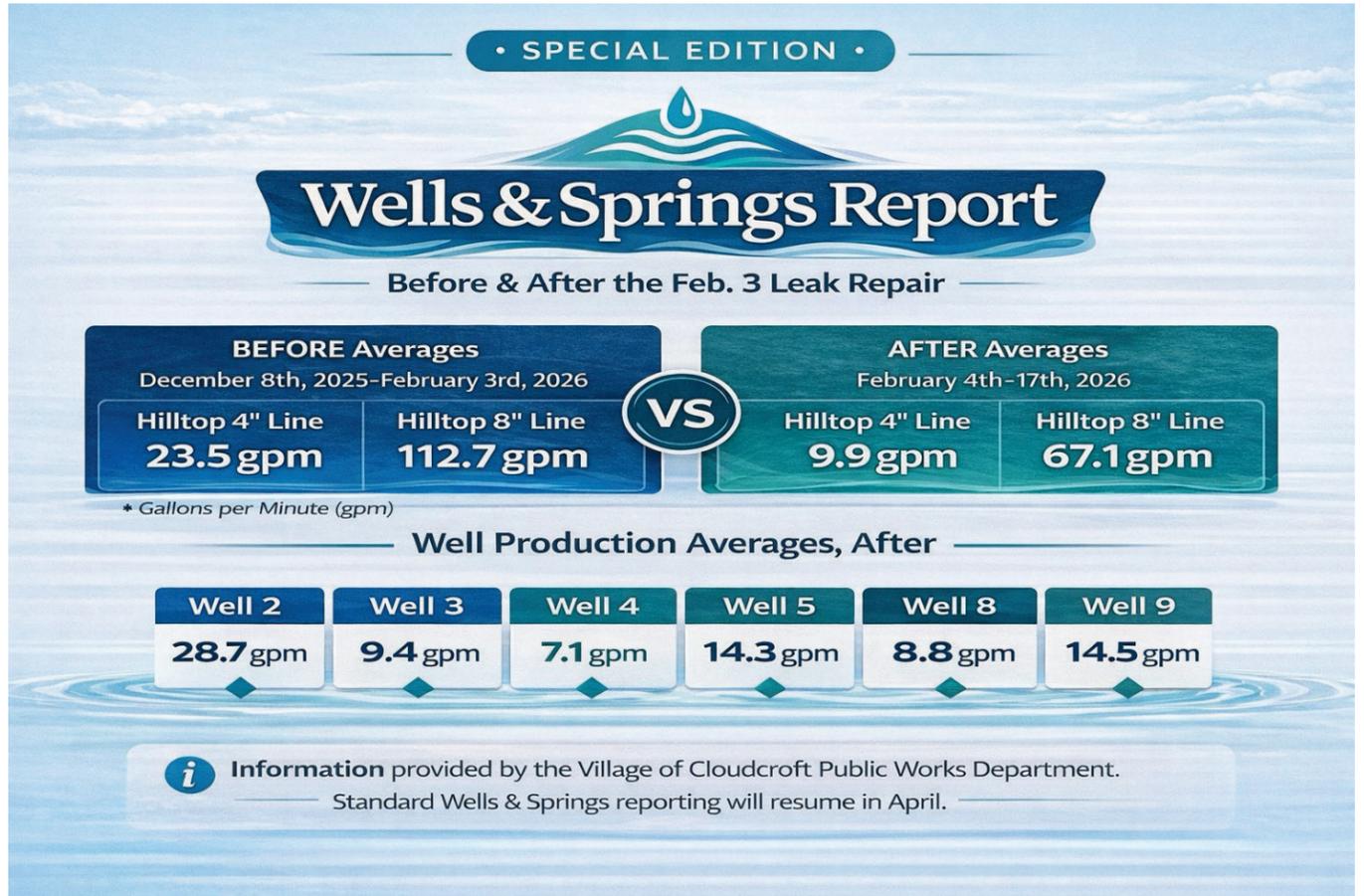
The council unanimously approved accepting \$738,000 in grant funding from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration to purchase a motor grader, backhoe, dump truck, and maintenance equipment. No village match is required.

The council unanimously voted to decline Water Trust Board Project No. WPF-6553, a water storage, conveyance, and delivery grant. Trustee Hamilton said the village could not meet the documentation requirements, including a budget audit, by the following day’s deadline, and made a motion to decline. Hamilton asked if the project could be funded separately in the future. Carrizal said, “Yes.”

He later told the Reader, “We can approach the Water Trust Board again when we have the proper documentation and financial information.”

The council approved the fourth and final quarter financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Village Clerk Jini Turri said approval was a necessary step before the current 2025–26 budget can be fully adopted in the state accounting system. She noted the village is currently operating on a partially unapproved budget, with only the general fund and water/sewer fund formally approved.

UPDATE: Village Water & Springs Report



License Agreements, More Appointments

Cloudcroft Art Society: Renewed through December 31, 2026. Rent is based on a percentage of building utilities. Access code issues that had previously locked the group out of meetings were resolved at the meeting; the mayor agreed to provide updated codes.

Cloudcroft Art Workshops: Approved for June–August 2027, allowing the organization to sign artist contracts in advances.

The council appointed J.J. Carrizal as representative to the Southeastern Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERTPO), with Trustee Hamilton as alternate.

Mayor Dusty Wiley was designated as the village’s representative to the Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District Council of Governments (SNMEDD COG), with Trustee McCoy as alternate.

Closed Session

The meeting recessed into closed session to discuss attorney-client privileged matters related to threatened or pending litigation—more on that, here.

No public action was reported following the session.

After more than two hours since the start, the meeting adjourned.



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Come Meet the Artist Keith Hamilton, Saturday, March 14 from 2:00–4:00

locals/seasonals/visitors

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Bear Witness to Village Meetings

Keep your eye on the Village Council meetings. The Village of Cloudcroft Facebook page announced that meeting livestreams will move to YouTube.

Find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/@CloudcroftNewmexico>

Library Corner

Checking in with Library Director Sandra Barr and Library Aide Gail McCoy

The library is expanding its community programming this month.

Starting this month, Coffee Time launches Fridays from 1-3 p.m., offering free coffee and cocoa in the new lounge area, which was recently furnished through donations. Library Director Barr scheduled the gathering to

avoid conflicts with the senior center lunch, allowing community members to attend both.

The library has also launched a partnership with the Otero County Sheriff's Office, providing decommissioned children's books that officers can carry on calls. Barr and McCoy said that Officer Kaleb with the Sheriff's Office reports the books have helped de-escalate tense situations, noting they change the dynamic of difficult calls.

Other updates include volunteer Russell Davis planting a mix of seeds—cabbage, herbs, and flowers—in the courtyard. The library has received donations of historical books dating to 1913 and is seeking a Victorian-style display cabinet. New windows purchased through a grant are awaiting installation, and tax forms provided by the State of NM are now available to anyone at the front desk.

The library is operating on new winter hours: Monday-Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and is closed on Thursdays. Friday Story Time with Paige continues from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

School Announces Scholarship Opportunities

Some deadlines are only days or weeks away

High school seniors and college-bound students in Cloudcroft and Otero County have access to more than 100 scholarship opportunities with deadlines starting in March. The available funding totals hundreds of thousands of dollars, with awards ranging from \$500 to \$55,000.

Cloudcroft Municipal Schools has compiled a public list of scholarships with application links and eligibility requirements online.

School officials note the list is not comprehensive and encourage students to check Google Classroom regularly for updates and to search independently for additional opportunities.

Awards are available from community groups such as the Otero County Electric Cooperative and Grace Methodist Church; state programs through the New Mexico Activities Association and the Albuquerque Community Foundation; national opportunities from companies such as The Home Depot and Coca-Cola; and college-specific scholarships from institutions such as New Mexico State University and New Mexico Tech.

Most scholarships target high school seniors, though some programs accept applications from juniors and current college students.

Eligibility requirements vary widely, with some scholarships open to all students maintaining minimum GPAs of 2.5-3.5, while others target specific fields including STEM, education,

health careers, business, and engineering.

The highest awards include the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship at \$55,000, the Horatio Alger Scholarship at \$25,000, the Home Depot Path to Pro Scholarship ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000, and the GE Reagan Foundation Scholarship offering \$10,000 to \$40,000.

Application requirements vary, but they often include essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts, and evidence of community involvement or leadership.

Students are encouraged to start applications early and pursue multiple financial aid opportunities.

Letter from the Superintendent

Spring is in the air! As the days grow longer and the weather gets warmer, I hope you can all step outside and enjoy this beautiful time of year. Of course, our mountain community is also watching precipitation and fire risk as the season shifts. Cloudcroft Municipal Schools has developed solid plans to keep students safe in a variety of events, thanks to strong leadership from Mrs. Adams, CMS's Safety Coordinator, key partnerships with local agencies, and regular practice and communication.

We are nearing the end of the third quarter, inching ever so closely to summer, and Bear Country is busy. Our TSA and Science Olympiad students are innovating and preparing for State. Student-Athletes are "locked in," showing commitment and fortitude. Teachers are creatively engaging students and preparing for state testing by supporting a rich space for learning and growth. On the state level, the 30 Day Legislative session just ended, and we



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NM CreativeCon 2026 Regional Schedule



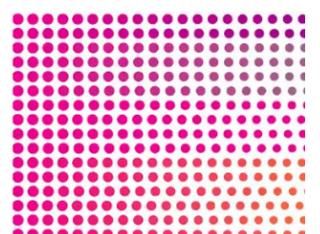
March 7, 2026
Carlsbad (Southeast) | Cavern Theater

Downtown Carlsbad's beloved Cavern Theatre is shining once again after nearly a decade of restoration. Originally reopened in its new location on April 3, 1951, the theatre debuted with a screening of *Up Front*, a World War II comedy inspired by the iconic cartoons of Bill Mauldin. For the next 30 years, it remained a fixture of Carlsbad's cultural landscape, entertaining generations with the biggest films of their time.

One of its final showings before closing its doors in 1981 was *Alien*, the sci-fi horror classic directed by Ridley Scott.

After sitting dormant for decades, the Cavern Theatre has been reborn as a full-service cultural venue, preserving its historic legacy while welcoming a new generation of filmgoers, performers, and community events.

Registration opens soon. To learn more and sign up for updates, visit edd.newmexico.gov/creativecon/ or follow @NMCreativeDiv on social media.







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await decisions that will affect districts across New Mexico.

Looking ahead, we have several noteworthy events this month:

- March 11: P/SAT Day
- March 12: NMASR Testing
- March 13: End of 3rd Quarter; Blood Drive
- March 16-20: Spring Break
- March 24: 4:00pm Math Night; 6:00 Board Meeting
- March 25: Spring/Class Pictures, K-8
- March 26: Report Cards
- March 30 (Monday): Regular School Day for all grade levels
- April 3: No School

We encourage you to visit our Athletics page for the latest schedules as we wrap up basketball season and kick off powerlifting and track and field. We hope to see you out supporting our Bear athletes!

I want to express my sincere gratitude to our families for their unwavering support. Your encouragement and dedication to seeing every student succeed are truly commendable and make a significant difference in our school community. As always, I am available and would love to speak with you. Please reach out via email at jocelyne.gillespie@cmsbears.org or by phone at 575-601-4416. If you would like to stop by, please make an appointment with our administrative secretary, Grace White. Wishing you a vibrant spring.

Go Bears!
Jocelyne Driscoll-Gillespie
Superintendent
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools-



Wild: Mexican Spotted Owl

The Mexican Spotted Owl is a beautiful local resident and endangered species, recognized by its chestnut-brown and white spotted feathers. The owl is closely monitored by the U.S. Forest Service in compliance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including Cloudcroft's own Sacramento Ranger District of the USFS.

They are found in the Four Corners states – New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah – and several states of Mexico. Being nocturnal hunters, they prey on small mammals, occasionally taking the opportunity to snag a small bird or even a bat. During the mating season, females use a unique “four-note” hoot to communicate from the nest while the males hunt for food.

Owlets emerge in late summer – with their round faces and fluffy appearance, they bear a charming resemblance to a Furby from the 90's. Next time you're out for a hike, look up in the trees for a football shape – you may just spot one! If you see these beauties while hiking or hunting, always be mindful to keep a respectful distance and observe from afar.

**Surveys were conducted with the proper permits in coordination with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Photo: Christina Olvera)*

—Christina Olvera

Alamogordo Radio Stations Get New Owners as Longtime Broadcaster Retires

Jon and Valeria Hurt are set to become the new owners of two Cloudcroft-licensed radio stations after filing a \$425,000 deal with the FCC to purchase classic rock “Rock 97.9” KTMN and noncommercial country “Active Radio” KHII (89.9) from Robert J. Flotte’s Cloudcroft Broadcasting.

The Hurts’ company, JVH Media Connect Corporation, will operate KTMN under a time brokerage agreement until the sale closes. FCC approval is expected by late spring. The filing shows a \$380,000 promissory note as part of

the purchase. JVH Media Connect does not own any other stations.

Flotte, now in his mid-80s, has decided to retire after decades in broadcasting. Jon Hurt said the longtime owner and his family “were generous enough to accept” his offer.

For Hurt, the deal caps a winding path to the broadcast business. A 23-year Air Force veteran who landed in Alamogordo in 1997, he spent years working in comics and games before a colleague at New Mexico State University–Alamogordo heard his voice and nudged him toward the mic.

“Hey, you got a pretty good voice for radio,” Hurt recalled her saying. “How about you come with me and let’s go record some spots for the college?”

He agreed – and, as he puts it, “that’s kind of where the bug stuck.”

Hurt went from cutting promotional spots to volunteering at the local station, spending about a year learning operations, from audio processors to transmitters. When Flotte acquired ROC 97.9, a personnel change in the

operations manager role opened a door. Hurt stepped in and has run the station for roughly nine years, handling morning shows, sales and remote broadcasts.

The two stations serve distinct roles. KHII operates as a noncommercial community station focused on supporting local organizations and nonprofits. KTMN is the commercial flagship, broadcasting a classic rock and red dirt format with a regional signal that reaches from Belen to Portales, with strong coverage in Artesia and outside Carlsbad.

Hurt said ownership will give him room to sharpen both signals – tightening on-air sound, adjusting programming and expanding coverage of agriculture, including farm-to-table and food transportation topics.

“I get to stretch my wings a little bit more now that the stations are going to be mine,” he said. “Continue to bring programming that the community likes and wants, educationally as well as entertainment.”

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A

Off the Beaten Path
1CAT 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 Kreaions 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
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

Aspen 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.

U

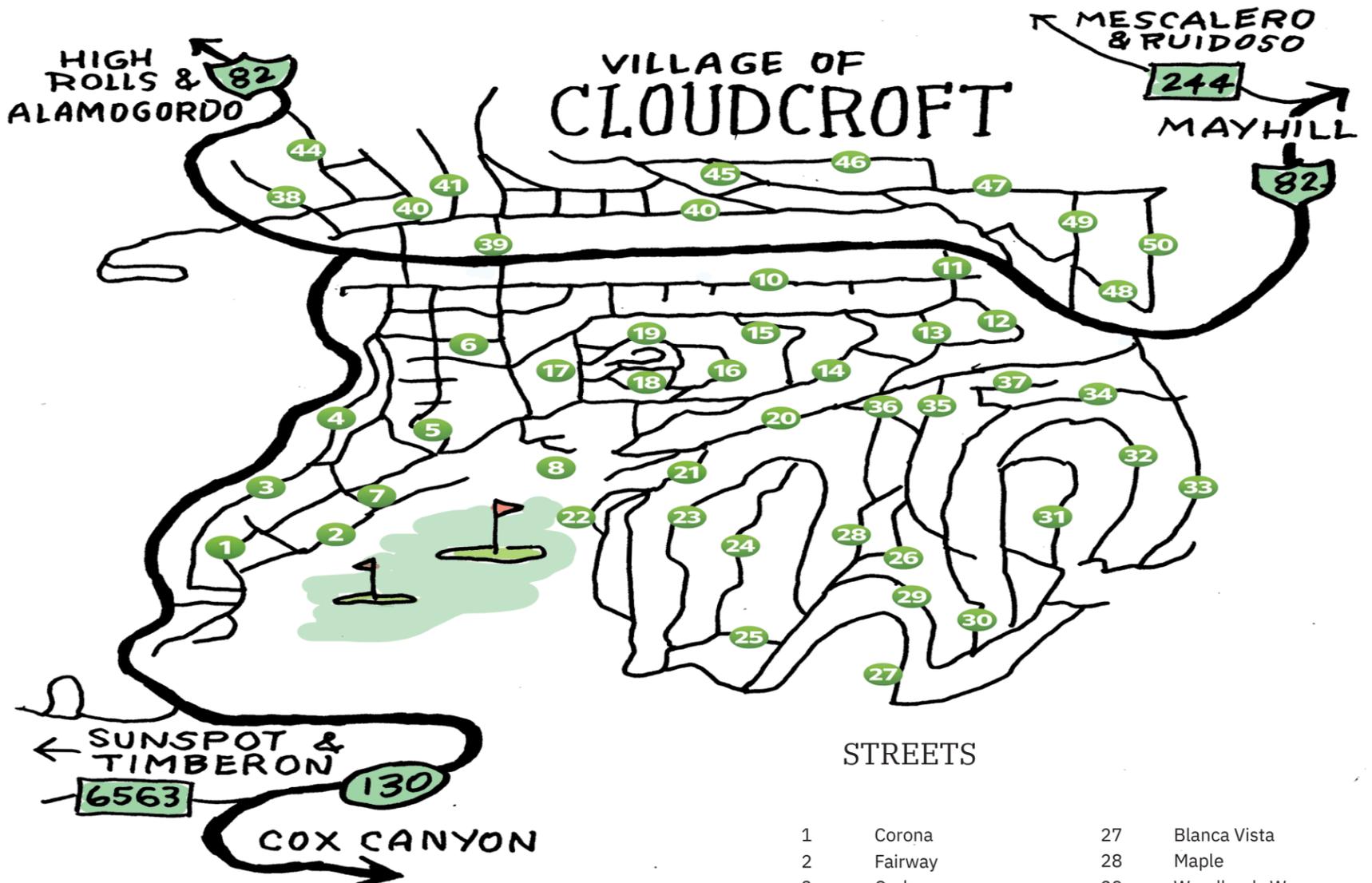
Turquoise Shop
Cloudcroft Church of Christ
Old Red Brick Schoolhouse
Michael Nivison Public Library
High Valley Weaving School
Cloudcroft Fitness
Cloudcroft Art Society Co-op Gallery

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 | Columbia |
| 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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Getting Fresh: Toast of the week at High Rollin' Coffee, located in the Village Plaza.

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.

Spring Greens

The best fresh meals—and company—in Cloudcroft

Saint Andrew's Lounge: The niçoise salad is perfect. In typical **Chef Lepree** fashion, it is loaded up with a nice cut of salmon and potatoes. No one leaves hungry.

The white anchovy Caesar salad and a house salad are also on the menu right now. The house salad is plated with veg serving a Bauhaus look—crisp, colorful, delightful.

High Rollin' Coffee: Owner Beth Offolter rotates weekly menus that feature one entree— a soup, salad, or grain bowl— and a loaded toast. Plus: smoothies, acai bowls, and comfortingly spicy chais and coffee drinks.

In a CloudcroftReader.com interview, Offolter said “Many people thought I was barking up the wrong tree, wanting to offer an organic, non-GMO, super healthy, vegetarian-based coffee shop. But I've been overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation because everyone who has come in either return or says they'll be back. I love that it's all been word of mouth.”

Catch the full interview online: <https://www.cloudcroftreader.com/p/how-i-got-rollin>

Cloudcroft Brewing Company: Salty olives, acidic peppers, bright pepperoni, and crunchy lettuce make for a filling, sharable house salad at the brewery. You can't go wrong with the ranch dressing, either.

Cloud 9000 Coffee: Fresh smoothies to go when you're needing your fruit fix. Located off highway 82 and shares a small outdoor court with Fernando's. We won't tell anyone if you get one of Fernando's signature giant burritos, too.

Sacramento Mountain Senior Services: The Senior Center in Cloudcroft (and High Rolls) serves balanced meals Mondays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Folks aged 60 and up can call for reservations be-

fore 8:30 a.m. Stick around after lunch on Wednesdays for Canasta games at 12:30.

Michael Nivison Library: On Fridays from 1:00-3:00 p.m., drop by your local library for free coffee and cocoa. If you're lucky, library aide, fitness instructor, and nutritionist Gail McCoy will share her vegetarian recipes.

V.I.P. Viewing

Several of Cloudcroft's mom-and-pop shops have leaned into Instagram and video short content for their brand. Here are some worth a like.

Black Bear Coffee Shop: Former BB barista Vivian Willett now manages the shop's social media, which ranges from videos featuring silken lattes

to viral dance-offs to heartfelt stories about the shop, the baristas, owners, and customer experience. Follower beware: you might start craving coffee when you hop online.

High Altitude: This little outdoors store has a flair for the silly. Instagram videos regularly feature the HA family in quirky situations—dancing, trying on new 'fits, and having a good time. They also feature local trails and outdoor-etiquette PSAs. Bonus: you get to see the current floor, racks, and get a taste for what's available in store.

Mad Jack's Mountaintop Barbecue: The barbecue behemoth treats the Mad Jack's Facebook page like his visual diary. Photos of his travel, business updates, and occasional shout-outs to special customers help folks get to know the man behind the myth.



The High Altitude "Bob Sled" team gets wild on Burro

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—burg-

ers, 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 Sat-

urday.

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.

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. the-dustyboots.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 oshatrailodging@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. thelodgeresort.com

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 Bur-



The Listings

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\$335,000

CLOUDCROFT

11 Deadwood Drive
Tucked away on just over a half an acre across two lots, this charming 2 bed/2 bath cabin offers the perfect blend of privacy, nature and comfort
Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$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



\$725,000

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



\$130,000

CLOUDCROFT

13 Hollywood Boulevard
As-is mountain home with 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, and kitchen area. Needs TLC but offers plenty of potential; bring your ideas and make it your own.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$650,000

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 national forest; a true stargazer's paradise.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



SOLD

\$199,500

MAYHILL

1846 Rio Penasco
Unrestricted 7.5 acres with Rio Penasco running through, mountain views, wildlife, and highway frontage. Ideal for a home, business, or RV getaway.
Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



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\$205,000

TIMBERON

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



\$1,350,000

CLOUDCROFT

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



\$179,000

CLOUDCROFT

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



\$320,000

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



\$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



SOLD

\$675,000

TIMBERON

1855 Sacramento Drive
3 Bed/2 Bath modern retreat on 20 unrestricted acres with a large metal building, RV parking, horse-friendly setup, and a serene pond.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$759,000

MAYHILL

2979 US Highway 82
Rustic log-sided home on 6 acres backing forest with vaulted living, loft, primary suite, basement space, horse corrals, and a large workshop.
Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$219,900

CLOUDCROFT

302 Lynx Loop South
Escape to the cool mountain top in this charming, renovated cabin located in historic Camp Cloudcroft. This cozy retreat features 1 bedroom, updated bathroom and full kitchen with new appliances.
Blake Bingham - (830) 496-1836



\$675,000

CLOUDCROFT

11 Maple Crest
Spacious 3,000+ sq ft log-sided home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 living areas, and drive-through garage on 1.3 acres by national forest.

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$828,000

HIGH ROLLS

96 Red Rock Road
Architectural 2BR/2BA mountain estate with panoramic 360° views, reinforced concrete construction, multiple view decks, generator, private well, and adjoining 1.94 acre parcel included.

Tabitha Foster - (325) 450-6309



\$549,900

CLOUDCROFT

606 Fifth Street
5BR/2BA village home with open kitchen/living/dining, large loft, ground-level entry, plus a workshop and detached 1-car garage.

Megan Corvin- (575) 551-1999

Reduced!



\$323,000

TIMBERON

4 Timber Drive
Spacious 4BR/2.5BA home on 2+ acres with pellet stove, open kitchen, big deck, garden area, oversized heated garage, extra storage, and RV hookup.

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



\$499,000

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



\$199,000

TIMBERON

94 Pawhuska Drive
Bright 2BR/1BA home on 0.5+ acres with open living, covered decks, RV carport with power, 2-car garage/workshop with stove, and Airbnb income potential.

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044

Hello Spring!

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Under Contract



\$749,000

MAYHILL

64 Silver Fox Trail
This incredibly well kept home is the perfect place to call your own. Sitting on just under one acre you'll have plenty of privacy on these two lots.

Megan Corvin- (575) 551-1999



\$600,000

CLOUDCROFT

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

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



Under Contract

\$749,000

MAYHILL

67 Silver Fox Trail
Stunning mountain retreat on 2 acres in a gated community, offering luxury, comfort, modern amenities, and beautiful mountain views.

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$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



SOLD

\$610,000

CLOUDCROFT

1091 Woodlands Way
Beautiful mountain retreat on nearly half an acre. High-end finishes throughout, including a designer kitchen, expansive covered deck and refined outdoor living.

Cori Abel - (816) 896-2674
Emily Kellam - (575) 214-9479

ro Ave., (225) 253-2606) Rocks, gems, and original Southwest art and wear. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily. bur-rostreettradingpost.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 Mon-

day-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 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. highaltitude.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, yoga-friendly clothes, books, and yoga. Open 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily. getinstantkarma.com

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

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

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

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

Osha Trail Depot (102 Mexican Ave. 575-551-2099) Local art, woodworking, and New-Mexican goods. Interested artists inquire: oshatraildepot@gmail.com. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. every day.

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

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

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

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

The Bear Track (308 Burro Ave.) Baubles, 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. cloudcroft-turquoise.com

Art

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

Off the Beaten Path (100 Glorieta 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

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.

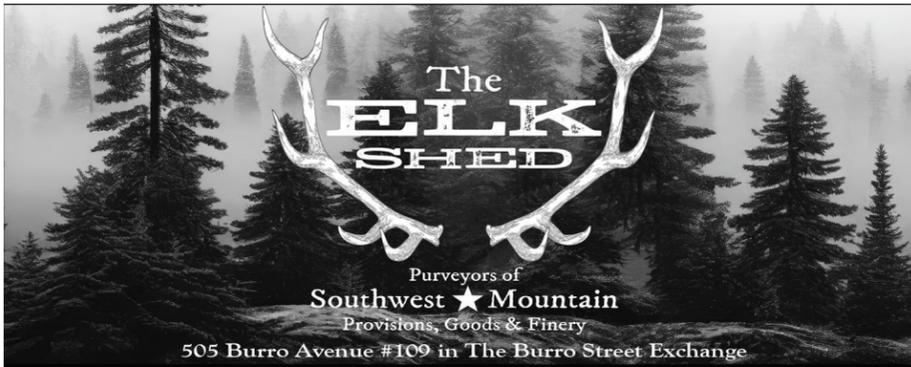
Presbyterian Medical Center (76 James Canyon Hwy (575) 682-2542) Clinic by appointment or walk-in. Open 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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




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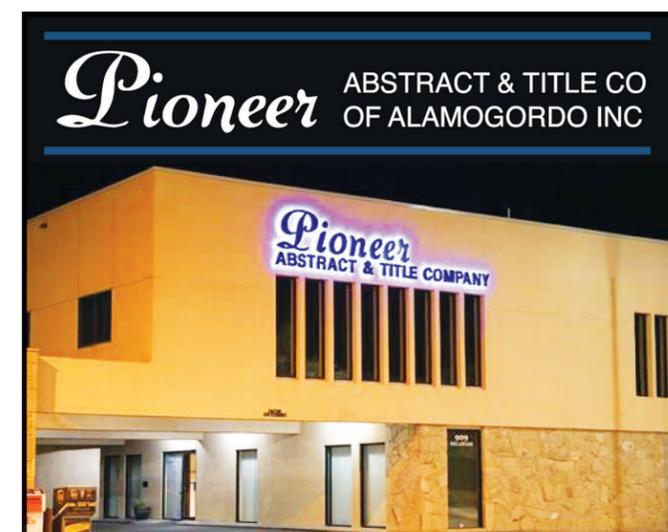


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Bhair Necessities (202 Burro Ave. (575) 518-9011) Classic color, cuts, and products. Available by appointment.

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

First National Bank (301 Burro Ave. (575) 682-2531) Money on the mountain, outdoor ATM. Open 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday.

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 services. 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

Cosmic Adventures (cosmicadventuresnm.com) Snow-mobile tours and more

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 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 Sacramento 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

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 on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. 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

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



Day Trip Elephant Butte Lake State Park

Just outside of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico's largest state park sprawls across 36,000 acres of desert shoreline—and is only 2.5 hours from Cloudcroft.

Elephant Butte Lake welcomes boaters of every stripe—from kayakers to houseboaters—while sandy beaches near the brush provide perfect spots for splashing and if you're lucky, spotting quail on the move.

The park offers 173 developed campsites, many with electric and water hookups, plus primitive beach and boat-in camping for adventurers. Fifteen miles of trails wind through desert terrain. Anglers can cast from accessible piers, while hunters find designated areas during season.

Spring may be windy, and fall brings ideal conditions—summer temperatures soar. Winter offers solitude and birding opportunities along the shoreline. Water levels are currently low.

Day-use 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.—fees apply; camping reservations recommended through newmexicostatetparks.reserveamerica.com.

OHV use is prohibited in NM State Parks.

575-744-5923 | emnrd.nm.gov/spd/find-a-park/elephant-butte-lake-state-park

Sacramento Mt. Senior Services

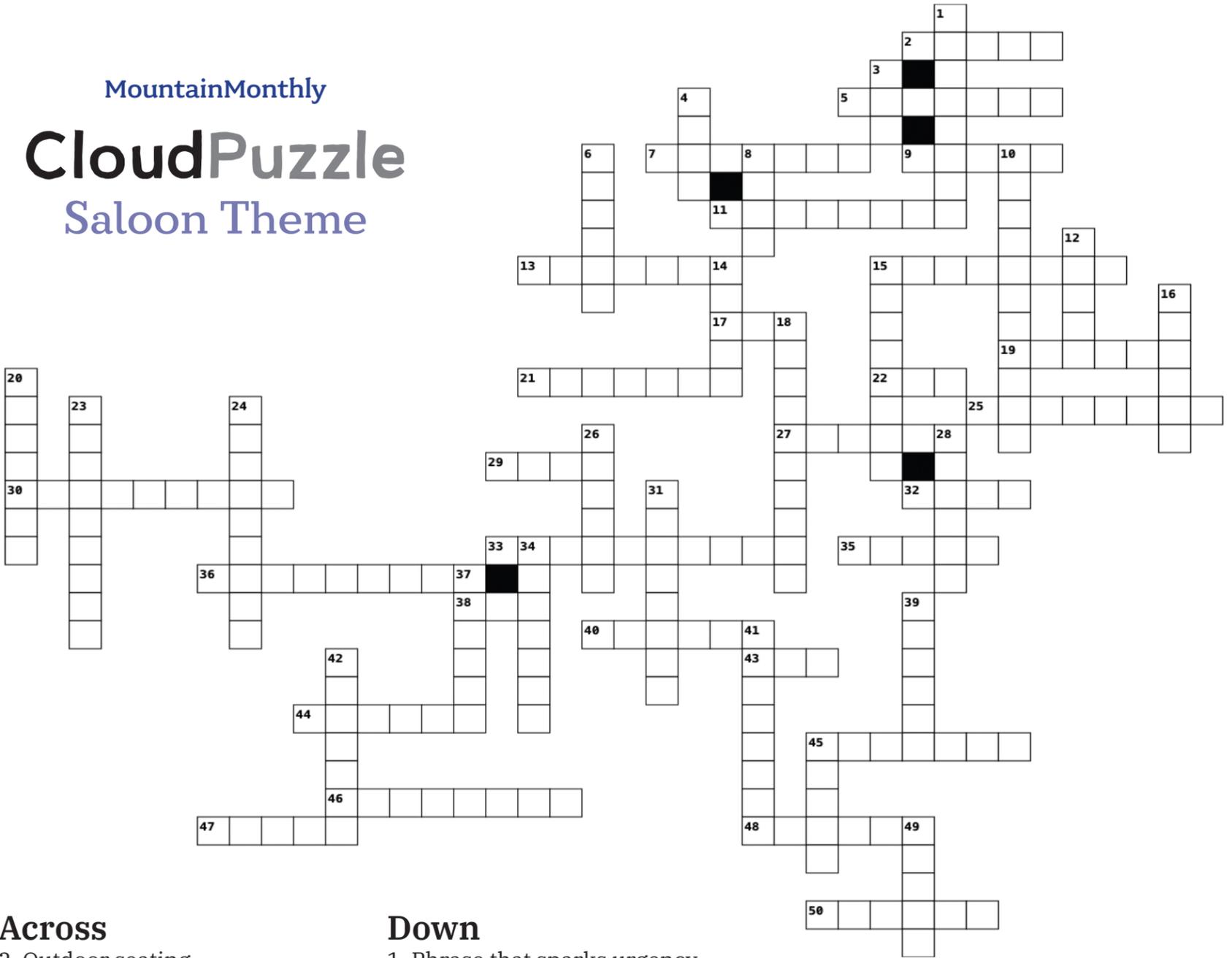
SENIOR CENTER BULLETIN

March 2026 mtnseniors.com

MONDAY 2 Swedish Meatballs Egg Noodles Roasted Brussels Sprouts Braised Red Cabbage w/ red onions Wheat Roll \ Fresh Apple	TUESDAY 3 Sweet & Sour Pork Brown Rice Emperor Veggie Blend Mandarin Oranges Gelatin	WEDNESDAY 4 Beef Soft Taco Pinto Beans Zucchini and Yellow squash Light nonfat Cherry Yogurt Peanut Butter Cookie Banana	THURSDAY 5 Turkey & Swiss Wrap Three Bean Salad Cold Beets Fresh Fruit Salad	FRIDAY 6 Green Chili Salmon Enchiladas Spinach Chuckwagon Vegetables Fresh Pear
MONDAY 9 Polish Sausage Steamed Carrots Medium Baked Potato Sour Cream Wheat Roll Light nonfat Vanilla Yogurt Apricots	TUESDAY 10 Chicken Cordon Bleu Roasted Broccoli & Cauliflower Brown Rice Pilaf Strawberries and Bananas	WEDNESDAY 11 Baked Cod Tartar sauce Baked French Fries Vegetable Medley Wheat Roll Peaches	THURSDAY 12 Teriyaki Chicken Brown Rice Stir fry Vegetables w/ Sugar Snap Peas Fortune Cookie Fresh Orange	FRIDAY 13 Green Chili Beef Stew Spinach Salad 6in WW Tortilla Tropical Fruit Salad
MONDAY 16 Pork Red Tamales Red Chili Sauce & Spanish Rice Zucchini with Tomatoes 6 in Tortilla Mango chunks Light Vanilla nonfat Yogurt	TUESDAY 17 BBQ Chicken Stewed Tomatoes Three Bean salad Cornbread Watermelon	WEDNESDAY 18 Green Chili Cheeseburger Potato Salad Cucumber and Tomato Salad oatmeal cookie	THURSDAY 19 Pork Roast Pork Gravy Wild Rice California Veggies Apple slices and Plums	FRIDAY 20 Chicken Fajillas Pinto Beans Calabacitas Fresh Strawberries
MONDAY 23 Corned Beef & Cabbage Carrots Parsley Potatoes Wheat Roll Lime Sherbet Banana Low-fat Plain Yogurt	TUESDAY 24 Herb Roasted Chicken Thigh Herb Roasted Red Potatoes California Blend Vegetables Wheat Roll / Fruit Cocktail	WEDNESDAY 25 Tuna Salad Sandwich Tomato Soup Creamy Cucumber Salad Warm apple slices ROADRUNNER DAY	THURSDAY 26 Pepper Steak Steamed Brown Rice Green Beans Carrot/Raisin Salad Fresh Pear	FRIDAY 27 Baked Macaroni & Cheese Italian Blend Vegetables Plain lowfat Yogurt w/ Berries
MONDAY 30 Beef & Bean Burrito Zucchini and Diced Tomatoes Applesauce	TUESDAY 31 Classic Chicken Salad Chateau Blend Vegetables Carrot Raisin Salad Wheat Roll Tropical Fruit Salad	<h2 style="margin: 0;">MEALS</h2>		
Monday, March 2 Canasta 12:30 pm CC	Tuesday, March 3 Exercise/Dance with Diane 10:00 CC Vital Signs 11:00 CC	Wednesday, March 4 Canasta 12:30 pm CC Inn of the Mountain Gods Trip 9:30	Thursday, March 5 Dominoes – 12:30 pm-2:30 pm CC	Friday, March 6 Bridge 12:30 CC Big Daddy's Meet there 5:00 pm
Monday, March 9 Canasta 12:30 pm CC	Tuesday, March 10 Vital Signs 11:00 CC Music Talent Performances 10:30-11:15 am CC	Wednesday, March 11 Canasta 12:30 pm CC	Thursday, March 12 Dominoes – 12:30 pm-2:30 pm CC	Friday, March 13 Bridge 12:30 CC Si Seniors Alamogordo Meet there 5:00 pm We may take the van
Monday, March 16 Canasta 12:30 pm CC Board Meeting 5:00pm	Tuesday, March 17 Exercise/Dance with Diane 10:00 CC Vital Signs 11:00 CC	Wednesday, March 18 Canasta 12:30 pm CC	Thursday, March 19 March Birthday Celebration - CC & HR Rowdy Seniors Bingo – CC & HR 12:30-1:30pm	Friday, March 20 Bridge 12:30 pm CC Brother-in-Laws Meet there 5:00 pm
Monday, March 23 Canasta 12:30 pm CC	Tuesday, March 24 Vital Signs 11:00 CC Music Talent Performances 10:30-11:15 am CC	Wednesday, March 25 Canasta 12:30 pm CC ROADRUNNER DAY	Thursday, March 26 Bingo – CC & HR 12:00 pm	Friday, March 27 Bridge 12:30 CC Cattle Baron Ruidoso Meet there 5:00 pm We may take the van
Monday, March 30 Canasta 12:30 pm CC	Tuesday, March 31	<h2 style="margin: 0;">EVENTS</h2>		

CloudPuzzle

Saloon Theme



Across

2. Outdoor seating
5. Boardwalk Dive-Bar
7. Bulb removal
9. Sharp objects
11. TV fave
13. Mountain dress code
15. Peak
17. For tea, coffee, etc.
19. Old-time word that still fits
21. Kid's menu fave
22. Hoppy option
25. Shared space
27. Shareable snack
29. Not credit
30. Keeper of stories and secrets
32. Not fries
33. Often stapled on the wall
35. Sans alcohol
36. Long-bodied dog often found under the bar
38. Not neat
40. Vinyl seating patched with duct tape
43. Running total
44. Bun, patty
45. Item no one actually uses
46. Folks who don't need menus
47. For dipping
48. Or stripes
50. For spills

Down

1. Phrase that sparks urgency
3. Answer to "Would you like green chile with that"
4. Game played with cues
6. Container labeled with a joke
8. Glowing in the window
10. Weekly food special
12. Records
14. One, or two? For sugar
15. Closing time
16. Frame looking out
18. Regional ingredient that improves everything
20. Coin-fed music machine in the corner
23. Old planked path
24. Heat source
26. Bun, steak
28. (The) bear
31. Spinning seat with a wobble
34. Night of courage and chaos
37. Last meal
39. Universal toast
41. Layered decor
42. Music played unironically
45. Blue tip prep
49. The smell, not the bear

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Cloudcroft Schools PTO brings the Scholastic Book Fair back this March

Events: March 2026

Get Out Your Calendar and Mark Dates. Cloudcroft is Happening

Each month, the Sacramento Mountains come alive with art, culture, and community. Here are a few highlights to help you experience the creativity and connection that make life in our mountain region so special.

Cloudcroft Schools

Scholastic Book Fair: Calling all readers! Wednesday, March 25 to Friday, March 27, the book fair will be at the Elementary and Middle School library. Fill your kids' eWallets at: <https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/content/fairs/ewallet.html>

Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the District Boardroom, 10 Swallow Place.

Find the full Calendar of Events for Cloudcroft Schools at CMSBears.org

Get Moving

Chili Pepper Series, Sat.-Sun., March 8-9th, 7 a.m., La Llorona Park, Picocho Ave., Las Cruces. Two-day race series, run one or both days. USATF certified, Boston qualifying course. Walkers welcome, no time limit. No pets; strollers allowed. Registration at RunSignup.com.

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park: Guided Hike to Lawson Springs, Sun., March 1st, 10-11 a.m. Moderate 1-mile hike with views of Tularosa Basin and White Sands. Meet at site 36 (park at visitor center). Pets on leash allowed. Bring water. Regular day use fees. Info: Kate German, 505-660-7381.

Oliver Lee Ranch House Tour: Sat., March 7th, 10-11:30 a.m., Walking tour of Dog Canyon Ranch Headquarters (built 1893, under renovation). Meet at visitor center, follow staff 1.5 miles to ranch house. Bring water. Regular entrance fee (\$10/vehicle for non-NM residents). Info: Kate German, 505-660-7381.

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park programs: Amazing Adaptations, Sat., March 14th, 1-2 p.m., visitor center. Learn animal identification through skulls, tracks, scat. Live Birds of Prey, Sat., March 28th, 1-2 p.m., visitor center. Meet hawk, owl, vulture with Raptors of New Mexico educator Laura McCann. Regular entrance fees (NM residents free Oct. 1-April 30; non-residents \$10/vehicle). Info: Kate German, 505-660-7381.

Sunset Stroll: Fri.-Sun. March 1st-7th, 5 p.m. to sunset, White Sands National Park. Meet at sunset stroll sign parking area, 8 miles from fee station on Dunes Drive (stay left at intersection, just past Backcountry Camping Loop trailhead). Free program; park entrance fees apply.

Moonlight Hike, Tues., March 3, 6:15 p.m., 2-hour hike at White Sands National Park. Hike dunes under a full moon; 6-ticket limit per reservation. \$8/ages 16+, \$4/ages 15 under, plus park entrance fees.

Community

Take a breather and gather at the Mountain Moms program at Summit Christian Fellowship on Wednesdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Village of Cloudcroft Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the village chambers.

Dark Skies

Launch Pad Lecture Series, first Fri. of each month, 9-10 a.m., New Horizons Dome Theater, NM Museum of Space History, Alamogordo. Free entry. Space history and future topics. Coffee and donuts provided. Next session: March 6th.

Starry Night Public Observatory Viewing, Sat., March 14, 8-10 p.m., Leasburg Dam Observatory. The Astronomical Society of Las Cruces operates a 16" Meade SCT telescope plus additional scopes. View nebulae, globular clusters, planetary nebulae, galaxies. \$5/vehicle NM residents, \$10/vehicle non-residents, plus sign-up fee.

Total Lunar Eclipse "Blood Moon" viewing, Tues., March 3rd, early morning. Best viewing: totality 4:04-5:02 a.m. MST (moon turns red), peak 4:33 a.m. The entire eclipse visible from New Mexico with the moon high in the sky. The partial eclipse begins at 2:33 a.m., and ends at 6:17 a.m. Only total lunar eclipse of 2026. Excellent visibility expected in the desert southwest.

Chamber of Commerce

Warm Up Cloudcroft, Sat., March 14th, 2-4 p.m. Self-guided walk-through of participating local businesses with sips, samples, and special

deals. Full list of participants and offers at coolcloudcroft.com and the Chamber of Commerce Facebook page. Become a Chamber member at coolcloudcroft.com

Michael Nivison Public Library

Storytime and Crafts with Paige will continue Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Friday Coffee Time from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the foyer—free coffee and cocoa, courtesy of the library.

Road Runner Food Bank

Check rrfb.org for dates and locations. Mobile food bank: Sacramento Mountain Senior Center, High Rolls.

Alamogordo

Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 p.m.: Board Game Night at the Alamogordo Recreation Center. Open to the community, all ages.

Desert Trails Vendor Village Grand Opening, Sat., March 21, 2113 & 2117 Eddy Dr., Alamogordo. Free admission. Hot Chili Showdown, live music, kids zone, vendor raffle, Paws & Peppers pet costume contest, local vendors, food.

The Lodge

Canvas, Cocktails, & Crimson Skies March 14th private event with a local artist: guided painting and one beverage, appetizers (charcuterie board and hummus bar) for \$50 per ticket. Call 575-682-2566 for reservations.

Breakfast Buffet and omelette bar on Saturday and Sunday mornings starting at 8:00 a.m. \$18 per person.

Thirsty Thursdays: 50% of drinks from 12:00-8:00 p.m. at Saint Andrews Lounge.

Cloudcroft Brewing Co. and The Distillery

Karaoke night every Monday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the brewery side. Follow the CBC Facebook and Instagram for live music schedules

The Western Bar

Enjoy \$1.50 tacos—only served on Tuesdays. Recently debuted seasonal drink menus.

Noisy Water Winery

Cloudcroft location March events: Trivia Night 3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 6:30-8 p.m. Hips & Sips wine and belly dancing class 3/10, 6-7 p.m. Wine Release 3/14. Yoga in the Clouds 3/15, 6-7 p.m., Sip & Paint 3/16, 6-8 p.m.

Live music: Captain Klas 3/14 and Julia Cosby 3/21 St. Patrick's Day 3/17, green beers and ciders all day.

Art

Blackbear Coffee Shop hosts an "artist of the month" on their gallery wall. This month you can catch the digital photographic works of local Laurie Baker. Open during regular business hours.

Otero Arts Inc. First Friday Art Exhibit Opening Reception: "Art Speaks," Friday, March 6th, 5 to 7 p.m., in Alamogordo. Features 3 women fabric artists with art quilts, weaving, and photography.

Children's Workshop: Sand Painting, Sat., March 14th, 10 a.m. to noon, Otero Arts Inc., Alamogordo. Monthly second Saturday. Adult workshop same day, 1-3 p.m.

Mescalero

Xzibit, Warren G & Too \$hort on Sat., March 14th, 8 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.), Inn of the Mountain Gods. West Coast rap legends perform hits including "What's the Difference," "Regulate," "Blow the Whistle." Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets from \$40.

Ruidoso

Ruidoso Parks & Recreation: Walk the Links 5K Run and Walk, Sat., March 14th, 10 a.m., Links Trail (meet at WMRC Dog Park parking lot, 685 Hull Rd.). Family-friendly event, all ages and abilities welcome. First of six races in Run Ruidoso 2026 series. Benefits Lincoln County Food Bank. Onsite registration 8:30 a.m. \$25 (includes \$5 food bank donation).

Have an event on the mountain? Let us know: hello@mountainmonthly.com



A familiar face on Burro: Bridget Lepree on shift at the newly-remodeled Elk Shed

Mountain Life

Folks Caught on Camera Living Their Best Mountain Life



Wyatt Hooper holds up a hand-drawn group project as part of the Flamenco and Wellness program



Cloudcroft 4th graders practiced palmas (hand-clapping) as part of the Flamenco and Wellness education unit



(L-R) Cloudcroft Village reps Trustee Hardwick, Mayor Wiley, Trustee Hamilton, Scott McCoy, and Trustee



The CHS Culinary Program served delicacies and smiles at the late January Bear Facts night, where they were also the honored guests



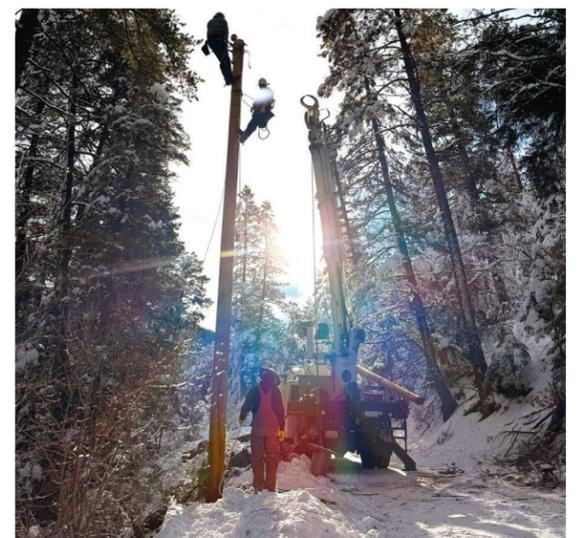
The Cloudcroft Panthers 7- and 8-year-old team competes in the Alamogordo Recreation Center league



The Lackey family enjoys a snow delay during Winter Storm Fern



Waylon Hemphill is an avid reader, a 4th grader, and a Cloudcroft Bear



Otero County Electric Cooperative linemen continue to repair damage after Winter



Stevie Dean and Karsyn Jonnes raise over \$100 for the Cloudcroft Animal Hospital by selling their hand-sewn felt kitties and bead creations.



We caught James Jackson on site at Mad Jack's before he headed back South to the Perdenales River to work on a second BBQ location.



Miyah Beug and Max Preslar announce they've got a baby girl on the way, due early July.
Photo: Crystal Tompkins Photography



Behind the Chair

*A Conversation with Michael,
Your Stylist at Bhair Necessities on Burro*

What's the craziest thing a client has told you?

"A girl talking about being an alien."

"Someone told me they were in witness protection. I was looking over my shoulder, making sure nobody in black Suburbans was driving up because I know too much."

How do you approach music in your salon? You've got quite the collection.

"I find a lot of my music from people that come in here."

Best discovery?

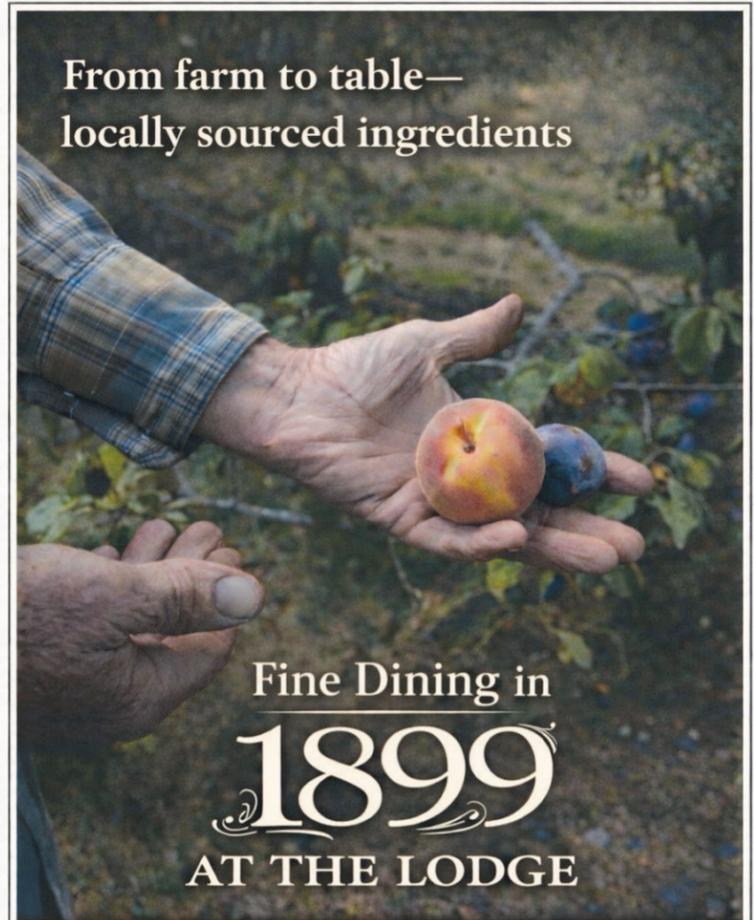
"Moonshine Willie. I don't like heavy metal, though young people frequently request it."

Will you give someone a bad haircut if they ask for it?

"Not anymore. They are a walking billboard."

How did you become a stylist?

"A friend-encouraged wake-up call. Never looked back. I love doing everyone's hair...But especially for people who love doing their hair."



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History: The Road to Today

“From day one, road maintenance in the village has been an issue. Back in the day, it was mostly done by hand.”

“When they finally built the current highway up the hill during the 50s and 60s, Cloudcroft was a dirt road town. As they paved the highway, they also paved the top and bottom of the road to the Lodge, Corona Ave, Glorietta Ave, and Lynx Ave from the bottom of the hill to just past the Y. That was it, we had 4 paved village roads. It wasn't till the late 70's that Burro Ave got paved from what is now the Black Bear Coffee shop to the library. They started pav-

ing the rest of the roads in the 90s.”

“While I was talking to Marty Mills about the roads in Cloudcroft, she remembered that when she was a kid (‘a long time ago’), and it snowed, the grader made one pass on the village roads, that was it. So when it snows, just remember how many roads there are in the Village now. Sit back and be patient, the hard workers of the Village will get to you as soon as they are able.”

“P.S. When I moved to Santa Fe, all the rich people lived on dirt roads, and the common folk lived on paved roads, just opposite of when I was a kid, the rich people lived on the paved roads and the common folk lived on dirt roads. That's perspective for you.”

—By Damon Marez on behalf of the Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum & Pioneer Village

Volunteer Fire Dept. Update

Cloudcroft Sparky's and fire department members are planning for the 23rd annual Sacramento Mountain Wildland Academy (SMWA) during the last 2 weekends in March (3/20-22 and 3/27-29). More than 100 firefighters from all over the southwest came to train last year. Classes include first aid/CPR for firefighters, EMTs, and citizens, as well as chainsaw safety and both introductory and wildland refresher courses. Interested in hands-on, compression-only CPR training? Sign up for the class March 28 9-11am on www.smwa-cloudcroft.com

Cloudcroft has started its first CERT program! A dozen citizens with and without emergency response backgrounds started weekly training in February. The most common reason they said they wanted to join was to do more for their community. Julia Dingee, one of the CERT trainees, said, “Some of the reasons I joined were to get insight into different types of emergency response here, prepare myself, and help the community. My favorite part so far has been to become more familiar with how the Cloudcroft Fire Department works.” New Cloudcroft Fire Department member Brice McCreary brought in his go-bag for search-and-rescue responses with the Civil Air Patrol, as an example of how CERT members can prepare for their own emergency responses.

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own carrying the Cloudfcroft badge across the world. Harry Crinklaw, a longtime volunteer of the Cloudfcroft fire department started working at the fire department at McMurdo Station in Antarctica in February following Air Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) training.

Picture provided by Kathy Denton: Fire department and CERT members work on a team-building project. With only 5 minutes to plan and 5 minutes to build a free-standing tower, they practiced skills important to CERT response -- quickly planning, communicating, and implementing an action plan.

—Katie Grabowski

Scouting Around

February's highlight for Cloudfcroft Pack and Troop 958 was the annual Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet, held at the Cloudfcroft United Methodist Church. The Blue and Gold Banquet is a special tradition in Cub Scouting, marking the anniversary of Scouting America and offering families a chance to gather and celebrate the year's accomplishments.

The Cub Scouts invited the Troop to

join them for the evening, and the event served not only as the Pack Meeting, but also as the Court of Honor for the Troop. Scouts of all ages, along with their families, filled the fellowship hall to recognize rank advancements, merit badges and hard work.

One of the evening's proudest moments was when Dylan Smith earned his Arrow of Light, the highest rank in Cub Scouting. The Arrow of Light represents years of learning and growth. Dylan's next step will be crossing over into the Troop, along with a substantial group of fellow Arrow of Light cubs, in an upcoming ceremony that marks their transition into Scouts BSA.

Troop 958 also celebrated important advancements. Kelton Farmer earned his Second Class rank, continuing his steady progress through the ranks. His next step will be First Class, which will be a significant achievement.

In a moment that meant a great deal to our troop, Connor Smith returned home from school at New Mexico Tech to be recognized for achieving his Life Scout rank. Life Scout is the final rank before Eagle, and it reflects significant leadership, service, and commitment. The troop is proud of Connor's dedication and looks forward to supporting him as he works toward Eagle.

It was also shared that Eagle Scout



Dylan Smith has a big night

Harry Crinklaw, who serves as a volunteer firefighter with the Cloudfcroft Fire Department, has left New Zealand for Antarctica. Harry will serve as a firefighter during the southern hemisphere winter season. Harry is but one of our Cloudfcroft Eagle Scouts who have gone on to become fine young adults. We are proud of them all.

The Blue and Gold Banquet is always a reminder that scouting is about steady progress and shared experiences. From our youngest Cubs to our Eagle Scouts serving far from home, each step forward matters.

If your family is interested in being part of Pack or Troop 958, we welcome new members.

Contact us: info@CloudfcroftScouts.org

Pictured: Life Scout Connor Smith

— Greg Crinklaw

Life in the Sacramentos with Lyn Canham

Most years in the southern Sacramentos, due to dry winters, March can be a little nerve-wracking here.

We have seen our local volunteer fire department (VFD) called out to homeowner fires that get away from them. They had tried to have a controlled burn and the wind came up. The wind! It has actually made its presence known since December, but in this month, in this region, it begins an infamous interval that ends in mid-June: the Very Windy Spring, also known as the Fire Season.

The possibility of wind should always be taken into account if wishing to burn piles of slash built up during outdoor spring-cleaning activities. If so, then 1-3 days in advance, seek a burn permit from the Otero County Sherriff department (using the non-emergency number). It is also a good idea to notify your local VFD. Not infrequently, someone won't lodge their intent and date with officials, and residents in view of the smoke will call it in, and neither the Sherriff's Office (SO) nor the local VFD will be in the know and thus able to tell the caller not to be concerned because it is a permitted controlled burn. So then the SO will call out the local VFD to respond to the smoke, resulting in wasted concern and efforts.

A couple of times a month during this windy period we will have what I call "gypsum skies". The prevailing winds



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out of the west-southwest will scoop up a portion of what is now White Sands National Park and haul the particles across our mountains. The afternoon skies of such days are hazy and white with wind-blown gypsum sands that choke the canyons and obstruct views.

Speaking of wind, for any of you who moved to New Mexico fairly recently, if you find yourself with a runny nose, sneezing, watery eyes, some associated coughing (“hayfever” symptoms), and it’s after February, you may be showing signs of having picked up a common seasonal allergy here: juniper. The juniper allergy usually shows up after one has lived here a few years (it took at least 10 years to show up in me, which should be considered an outlier). Yes, the widespread presence of this conifer with its abundant small, lightweight grains of pollen means it can more easily get into mucus membranes and can affect people who previously had no environmental allergy (like me). By this time of year, copious amounts of pollen billow out of the male junipers. You can tell the males – avoid the overloaded red-colored junipers. The females produce the blue berry-like seed cones – we use them to spice roasts.

But on a brighter note, in most years, we usually do see young green grasses and the earliest flowers at least by the end of March. Of course, green is associated with St Patrick’s Day and this is one reason it is easy for me to remember that our landscape can start looking green by March 17 (I admit that this year, after one of the worst years of drought here many of us have experienced, I am waiting to see if we green up in March). We try to get out in front of the associated hummingbird arrivals by putting one feeder up a week before we think we will see one. For us, that

usually means putting a feeder up by March 10–13, since we have seen them by March 17 before. Last year, we saw a couple of dandelions on March 14 (and our crocus was up), but it took a week or more to get very many. Then our first hummingbird visitor was a black-chinned male on March 23rd. Life gets interesting!

–Lyn Canham

Area Rainfall Report

Volunteers Wanted

Cocorahs.org (the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network) needs volunteers to measure and report rainfall at their house.

We are especially looking for volunteers

in Pierce Canyon, Russia Canyon and High Rolls. The requirements: a Cocorahs rain gauge (\$50), a computer connected to the internet, and the ability to read your rain gauge every morning at 7:00 am and report it on your computer. Even if there’s no rain, report 0.

To sign up or for any questions, text Hans Steinhoff at 575-430-6375.

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Flavor Lab

Cloudcroft High School Culinary Program students take recipes from the classroom to your table.

This month's recipe is provided by CHS Junior **Xander Newton**

Cinnamon rolls

Bread Dough:

- 3 Tbsp. Active Dry Yeast
- 2 Cups Warm Water
- 1/4 Cup Vegetable Oil
- 1/3 Cup Sugar (Plus an extra 2/3 Cup for filling)
- 1 Tsp. Salt
- 5 1/2 Cups Flour plus an extra Cup if needed
- Ground Cinnamon (To Taste)
- 6 Tbsp. Melted Butter

Recipe:

Set your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. In a mixing bowl, put your warm water, yeast, and sugar. Add your oil and let your mixture sit until it becomes foamy. Start mixing in 2 cups of flour at a time, along with your salt.

Look at the consistency of your dough to determine if you need extra flour (Dough should be soft to the touch and just barely sticky). Pull out your dough and knead it into a ball. Let your dough rise for 5 to 10 minutes. Once risen, roll out the dough, spread your melted butter, and add your sugar and cinnamon filling. Roll up your dough into a log, and then cut it in half. Each half should be able to be cut into 6 cinnamon rolls. Set your rolls in a pan and let them rise near your oven for another 5 to 10 minutes. Cook for 20 to 30 minutes, depending on your elevation.

Frosting:

- Two 8-oz packages of Cream Cheese
- 1 Tbsp. Vanilla
- 4 Cups Powdered Sugar

Recipe:

Soften and then whip your cream cheese for 10 to 15 minutes. Add 1 Cup of powdered sugar at a time, alongside vanilla, and continue whipping until everything is fully incorporated. Once your frosting is ready, spread your frosting evenly over each cooked roll.



— Hans Steinhoff

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Faces & Places



Crinklaw arrived safely in the south pole mid-February

Cloudcroft Firefighter Heading to Antarctica

Harry Crinklaw will spend eight months at McMurdo Station

by HANNAH DEAN

Cloudcroft volunteer firefighter Harry Crinklaw is trading the Sacramento Mountains for the world's coldest, driest, and most remote continent: Antarctica.

The 27-year-old Cloudcroft native has signed on as a firefighter at McMurdo Station, where he will spend roughly eight months helping protect the largest community on the ice — a posting that began with his mother insisting he apply for a job he was certain he'd never get.

"But here we are," says Crinklaw.

Crinklaw grew up in Cloudcroft and is a familiar face around town. He started working at the village ice rink when he was a teen and has returned "pretty much every single winter" since.

He also spent his early years under the stage lights at Cloudcroft Light Opera Company, getting involved with CLOC in middle school and high school. His most recent return was as the leading man, Spud Tater, this summer.

After high school, Crinklaw headed west to California Aeronautical University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in aviation science. That background, along with his local fire and EMS experience, made him a strong candidate for the Antarctic posting.

A Family Text, A Long Shot

"My parents or my brother just found a job listing somewhere online, sent it to me, and my mom made me apply," Crinklaw said. "I thought there was no chance I'd ever get it, but here we are."

He has signed a contract to work as a firefighter at McMurdo Station for the Antarctic winter, which runs roughly from February through August in the Southern Hemisphere, the opposite of Cloudcroft's seasons.

"It gets down to minus-65 degrees once the sun sets"

Crinklaw arrived earlier this February and will return to New Mexico in October, just as McMurdo shifts back into its busy summer season with hundreds more people on station.

Fire Protection On Ice

When most people hear "Antarctica," they think of ice, not flames.

Crinklaw said that is part of the point. "As far as I know, there isn't really too much fire danger. They don't even allow open flames on the station," he said. "But having firefighters is more of a preventative measure. You want to be safe."

In an environment where winter temperatures can fall well below zero, and winds can be extreme, a structure fire can quickly become a life-threatening emergency.

"Especially in an environment like that, if you have a dorm building or something burn down, there's nowhere for people to go outside. You can't just hang out," Crinklaw said. "There's a lot of wildland out there to burn," he added.

Another major part of the job will take place on the ice runways that serve the station's air operations. "That's a big part of the gig," he said. "There's a lot of big aircraft coming in for an unusual runway."

Crinklaw completed his Airport Firefighter Training on Feb. 6 in Jacksonville, Florida.

McMurdo Station swells to more than 1,000 people in the austral summer, making it Antarctica's largest settlement, but the population drops sharply when winter sets in.

Crinklaw's first stint will be during that quieter season. "There'll be a total of 188 of us on the station winter," he said. "About 25 to 50 of them will be firefighters."

Despite its remote location, McMurdo functions in many ways like a small town: dorms, community spaces, shared dining, and a tight-knit winter crew. Crinklaw will live in one of the station's dorm buildings.

The rhythms of life there will be different from those in Cloudcroft. "Their summer goes from October until about February, and then the winter is the rest of the time," Crinklaw said. He will be on the winter shift, which includes a period when the sun never rises.

"Apparently, the winter it gets down to about minus 65 degrees once the sun sets," he said.

Extreme Cold, Clear Skies

The United States and other nations operate in Antarctica under the Antarctic Treaty, which designates the continent for peaceful, scientific purposes.

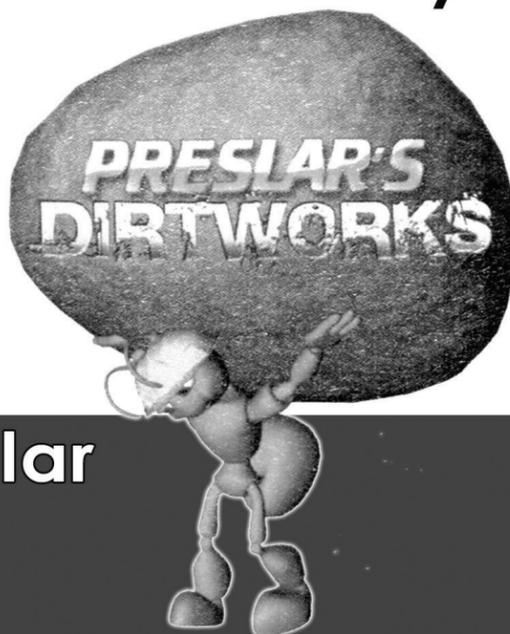
"They do a lot of different scientific research there," he said. "They study the geology, they study the ice cores, and the weather. It's also a really good place for astronomy, with no light pollution. It's a really good view of the stars."

To cope with temperatures that can plunge far below those of a Cloudcroft cold snap, Crinklaw will receive spe-

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cialized gear. “They do loan us some extreme cold weather gear, some nice fancy parkas and stuff like that to help you prepare for the cold,” he said.

Early Training and What’s Next

Crinklaw said his path to Antarctica runs straight through the Cloudcroft Volunteer Fire Department and EMS. He joined the department at 16 as a Junior Firefighter, sponsored by longtime volunteer Jubal Hall, and started running ambulance calls while still in high school.

“It’s given me a lot of time to learn and grow through it and come into my own,” he said. “I’m one of the instructors here for training now, so I feel pretty prepared. I mean, I wouldn’t be able to even have these certifications to apply for this job without what I’ve done here.”

Crinklaw has already logged one long trip abroad — a post-graduation loop through Europe that he credits with giving him “the vibe for traveling.” Antarctica will add a new continent to that list. Friends have told him that once he sets foot there, he will “have to go to all the continents.”

He views the McMurdo contract as both an adventure and a possible doorway. “You get that foot in the door, and who knows where it’ll lead you?” he said. “There are just so many different opportunities that could open up from it.”

For now, he is focused on the coming months, the long night, and the job ahead. “I’m very excited and a little bit terrified, but it’ll be fun,” he said.

Crinklaw grinned and said, “That’s kind of on brand for firefighters a little bit. Always looking for the next adventure.”

A sunny day in Antarctica



PASSINGS



In Memory of Richard H. Davis

April 10, 1945 – February 18, 2026

Richard Hugh Davis, 80, passed away peacefully on February 18, 2026, following a long and courageous battle with cancer. He met every challenge with strength, deep faith, and quiet determination, always surrounded by the love of his family.

Born on April 10, 1945, in Montgomery, Alabama, Richard graduated from Allegheny High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. From an early age, he built his life on hard work, integrity, and unwavering devotion to family and country.

After high school, Richard joined the U.S. Navy Reserves and then entered active duty in the United States Navy, serving four years aboard the USS Saratoga (CVA-60). He later transferred to the United States Air Force, where he served honorably for 26 years.

During the Vietnam War, Richard was a gunner aboard the AC-119 with the 18th Special Operations Squadron. He later served as a gunner with the 20th Special Operations Squadron, flying the UH-1N Huey and MH-53 H/J. Over the course of his distinguished military career, he traveled to 39 countries, proudly serving his nation with courage and commitment.

After retiring from the Air Force, Richard continued his strong work ethic by driving an 18-wheeler for 22 years, traveling more than a million miles across the United States. He later carried on with his family’s legacy by purchasing the Cloudcroft Wrecker Company, which he operated alongside his son, Mike, for four years.

Richard’s dedication to service extended beyond his career. He volunteered with the Village of Cloudcroft Fire Department and, at the age of 68, joined the Sacramento Mountain Wildfire Company, where he worked for 12 years driving his cherished water tender, lovingly named “Princess.” He was also a lifetime member of VFW Post 11999, CDR John David Rider.

Richard was known for his strong character, steady presence, and genuine respect for others. He took great pride in providing for his family and in guiding and mentoring those around him.

Above all, he was a devoted husband to Esther, a loving father to Richard (April), Mike, and Luke, and a proud grandfather to his only grandson, Kaden. He is also survived by his niece, Shelley; his brothers, Chuck and Gary; his sister, Denise; his sisters-in-law, Lucy, Pat, Joyce, and Sue; and many more nieces, nephews, step grandchildren.

Richard’s quick wit and warm sense of humor made him unforgettable. His legacy of love, resilience, and faithful service will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

A funeral service will be held on March 21, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Sacred Heart Mission Catholic Church in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, with burial to follow at James Canyon Cemetery. A reception will follow from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Otero County Electric Co-op Building, 404 Burro Street, Cloudcroft, New Mexico.

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New Mexico landscape painting by Peggy Zuris, the author's aunt. In 2008, Peggy died from pancreatic cancer after potential radiation exposure as a child. Thousands of other New Mexicans suffered similar effects, now called "downwinders."

After 63 Years, New Mexico Downwinders Qualify for Federal Compensation

After years of advocacy by survivors and their families, the RECA law extends to all of New Mexico

by Hannah Dean

My aunt was six years old in the summer of 1962, playing outside with my mom and her siblings in Albuquerque like most kids did, while above her radioactive clouds drifted eastward from Nevada's nuclear test site.

She didn't know it then. Neither did her parents, nor the thousands of other New Mexicans living downwind of atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945 and 1962. Now, for the first time, many of the downwinders qualify for compensation.

On July 4, 2025, after years of advocacy by survivors and their families, Congress passed into law provisions to extend and expand the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), finally including the entire state of New Mexico.

Seven people in my immediate family qualify: great-grandparents, grandparents, great aunts, aunts, and cousins, all with cancers on the RECA eligibility list.

The Department of Justice, which administers the program, is developing a digital filing portal slated to open in December 2025. As of January 2026, the portal has not yet launched.

Here's what New Mexicans need to know.

Between 1945 and 1962, the United States conducted over 100 atmospheric nuclear tests.

The first was Trinity, detonated in the New Mexico desert on July 16,

rays and beta and alpha particles.

According to historians and government records, no public warnings were issued to the people living downwind. Nobody told them to stay inside, to avoid milk from local cows, or to wash the dust off their skin.

A 2010 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report concluded that exposure rates from the Trinity test were measured at levels 10,000 times higher than currently allowed.

Five days after the Trinity test, Stafford Warren, who was responsible for radiation safety during the Manhattan Project, told General Leslie Groves that the nuclear fallout represented "a very serious hazard" over a 2,700-square-mile area downwind of the Trinity site, according to documents cited by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

Despite Warren's warning, they didn't tell the public.

For decades, people living downwind of these tests weren't acknowledged. The original RECA, passed in 1990, covered some counties in Nevada, Arizona,

and Utah. But not New Mexico. Not the place where it all started, where the very first atomic bomb was tested.

Tina Cordova, who co-founded the Tularosa Basin Downwinders Consortium in 2005, told History.com in 2025 that the 1990 act "is an admission on the part of our government of the harm that they did to other downwinders. The question was always: why not us?"

Tularosa Basin

Dan Nowell, 57, grew up on his family's farm in Tularosa, which was homesteaded in 1903. Now in remission from colon cancer, he joins multiple family members—including those who suffered from breast cancer, prostate cancer, and leukemia.

Referring to Tularosa, which sits 64 miles away from the original Trinity site, Nowell says, "It's still a little bit hot."

Nowell, who now manages the weaving school in Cloudcroft, is still navigating the complex RECA application process for his father—"I think they do that on purpose," he says—and hopes the compensation will help ease his retired father's later years after exposure and a "lifetime of farming on contaminated land."

Nowell says, "New Mexico is the last one they actually admit that it's downwinder state. So yeah, hound them."

Who qualifies as a downwinder?

You must meet two requirements:

1. You lived in an affected area during specific time periods. For New Mexico residents, that means you were physically present in the state for at least one year between September 24, 1944, and November 6, 1962.

There's also a critical window: if you were in any affected area for the entire period from June 30, 1962, to July 31, 1962—just that one month when the heaviest testing occurred—you qualify.

1945. The pace of testing accelerated dramatically in 1962, with most tests concentrated in June and July before the Limited Test Ban Treaty banned atmospheric tests in 1963.

These weren't small explosions. Approximately 12 billion curies of radiation were released during 100 atmospheric nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site between 1951 and 1963, according to PBS.

Tests released radioactive iodine-131, cesium-137, strontium-90, and other isotopes, such as carbon-14 and plutonium-239, into the atmosphere and across multiple states—emitting ionizing radiation in the form of gamma



Dan Nowell in the High Valley Weaving School, where he serves as manager. He weaves in his RV, where he has removed the couch to make room for a loom. Currently, he's working on "bog fashion" based on archaeological finds in Scotland.

2. You were later diagnosed with a specified compensable disease.

The list includes leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia), multiple myeloma, lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's disease), and cancers of the thyroid, breast, esophagus, stomach, pharynx, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gallbladder, salivary gland, urinary bladder, brain, colon, ovary, liver (except with cirrhosis or Hepatitis B), and lung.

RECA provides a one-time payment of \$100,000 to qualifying downwinders.

If the person has died, their survivors can apply for equal shares.

The surviving spouse may qualify for the full amount if married at least one year before death. Parents may qualify for compensation if the affected person has no spouse, children, or parents; grandchildren may qualify only if there

is no spouse, children, or parents.

How to file a claim:

The deadline is December 31, 2027.

The Justice Department's online filing portal should be operational soon. Until then, mailing documents are available on the Department of Justice website.

You don't need a lawyer to file.

What you do need:

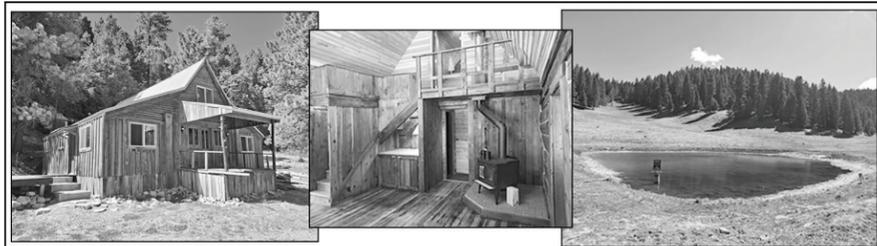
- Proof of residence during the qualifying period (utility bills, school records, tax documents, employment records)
- Medical records documenting your diagnosis
- Identification as described on the claim form

New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez alerted the state to scams following the extension of the RECA program. If you need help with filing, contact New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich's office directly.

If you think you qualify:

Look at where you or your family lived between 1944 and 1962, especially during that critical summer of 1962. Look at the health problems that have appeared in your family.

Then check the eligibility requirements at heinrich.senate.gov/reca or justice.gov/civil/reca. Talk to your relatives. Gather your documents. You have until the end of 2027.



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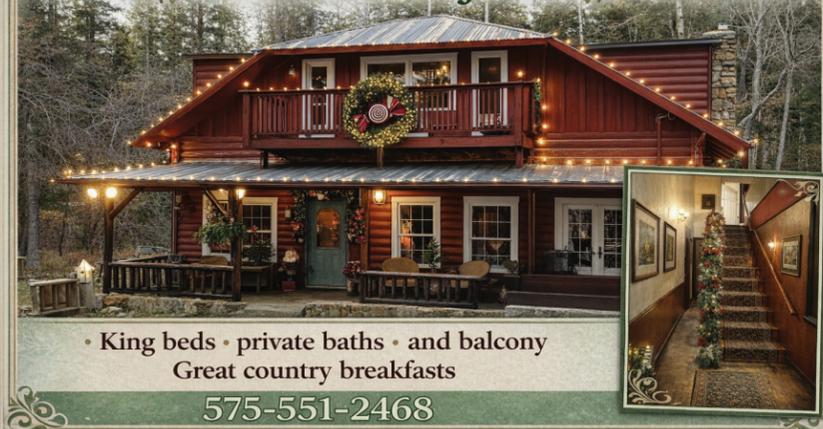
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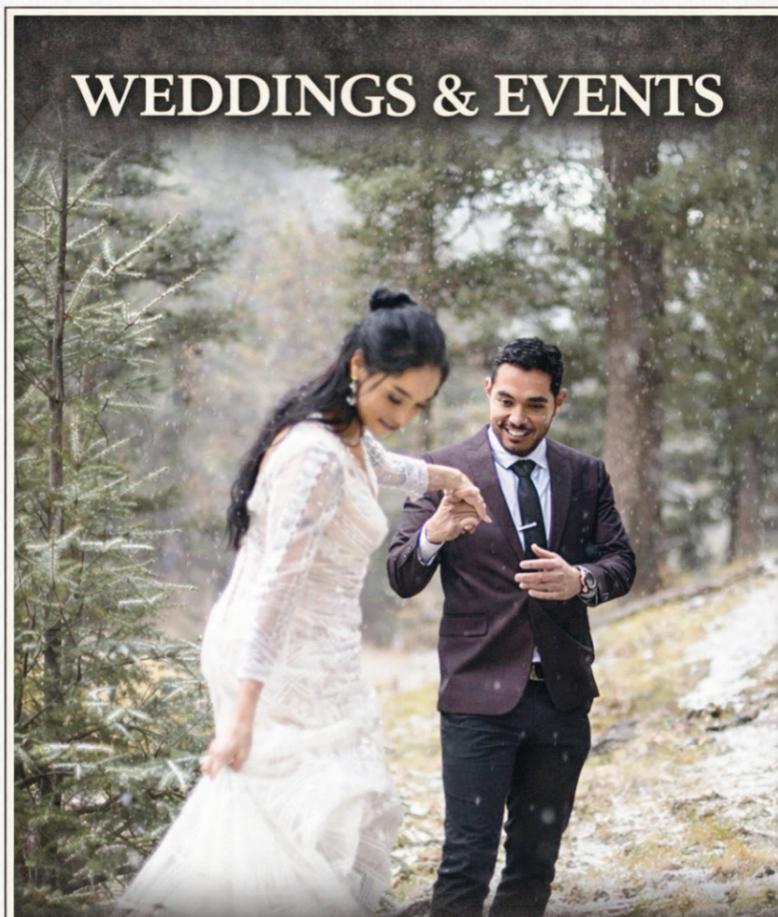
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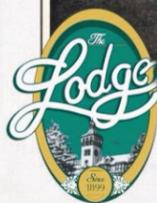


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