

Mountain Monthly

Your Guide to Cloudcroft and the Sacramento Mountains

FREE



PAC Board member and village tournament winner ‘Coach A’ shares her love of the game with Cloudcroft Schools

Game On: Pickleball Finds a Home in Cloudcroft

A once-empty court has grown into organized play, clinics, tournaments, school instruction, and a draw for visitors

by HANNAH DEAN

On summer mornings at Zenith Park, the sound carries before the players come into view: paddles striking plastic balls, players calling scores, and laughter rising from the public courts near the walking path.

For many people in Cloudcroft, that sound has become part of the season.

What began with one hand-marked court has grown into one of the village’s most visible public recreation scenes. Today, Cloudcroft pickleball includes organized play three mornings a week, beginner clinics, school instruction, a local club, and a June tournament that brings players from beyond the village. (See sidebar for tournament details)

Cloudcroft’s pickleball story starts with **Kevin Tharp**.

Before the current courts, organized play, and tournament talk, Tharp was trying to prove the sport could work here. He said the spark came from his wife, Kathy.

“Kathy really is what lit that fire under me,” he said.

Tharp was introduced to pickleball in Tucson after retiring and became deeply involved in the sport as a player and instructor. He taught and played in tournaments across the Southwest. When he looked at Cloudcroft, he saw a place where the game could take root.



It’s not unusual in the summer to see all the courts occupied and players queued up for ‘Next’

At the time, he said, there was no pickleball presence.

“My wife, Kathy, was instrumental in saying, ‘Hey, Kev, will you go up there? You need to just start something,’” he said.

What he found did not look promising.

“I looked at the courts and said, ‘ These are a mess, but we can make them work,’” Tharp said.

After reaching out to village official **Jini Turri** and getting approval, Tharp laid out a temporary pickleball court on one of the old tennis courts.

“I bought the paint and the tape and markers, and I spent literally about three to four hours myself meticulously marking the court,” he said.

When he returned the next morning, the tape had been torn up and left in a pile.

“That’s how that started. It really made me angry,” he said.

Instead of quitting, Tharp went back to Turri and asked for permission to make the court permanent.

“I said, ‘Well, if you’ll let me permanently stripe one court ... we can do this,’” he recalled. “She said, ‘Do it.’”

That first striped court became the start of something larger. Tharp promoted the game, offered clinics, and helped build

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Miles Willett gets the word out with his paper route. See more MOUNTAIN LIFE, p.21.

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Sean O’Connor (L) and Scott Powell (R) keep things running at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Learn more about Powell’s 30-year career with MOUNTAIN NEWS, p. 9



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Bighorn Sheep, a special sight along Hwy 82. Photo: Dwight Raulerson

Dear Readers,

This month’s cover belongs to pickleball and the folks who keep the courts full in Cloudcroft. Pickleball was actually the connection that first got me into reporting – you never know who you’ll meet.

Locals who’ve been on this mountain their whole lives share the court with seasonal residents and first-time visitors. The group is genuinely welcoming, and that kind of easy, cross-community connection is not something you find everywhere. If you’ve been curious, show up.

Looking ahead, mark your calendar for Pickleball in the Clouds this June. Organized by **Samantha Odom**, the tournament is more than a competition – it’s a fundraiser, with proceeds supporting local student athletic programs and community initiatives through the **We Love Cloudcroft** fundraising group. It’s a great reason to come out, bring the family, and put your serve to work for a good cause.



In this issue, we’ve expanded the voices section. Welcome back, **Lynn Melton**, who writes on area history.

Mountain News is your go-to for keeping up with what’s happening in and around Cloudcroft. This issue covers the latest from the village. Flip to that section to get to know Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator **Scott Powell** and his 30+ year role in Cloudcroft.

Jonny Coker interviews Cloudcroft disc golf legend **Ray Haller**. Get to know Haller, a self-proclaimed “frisbee geezer,” village course designer and builder p. 30.

Extra, off the Press

Looking to plan your trip to Cloudcroft? Look no further than **DiscoverCloudcroft.com** for a user-friendly, up-to-date visitor’s guide to help you make the most of your trip. Get the insider tips on where to stay, play, eat, and shop.

Welcome, **Paula Finch**, as the Mountain Monthly’s new sports reporter. Paula joined us as a CHS junior intern last issue and hit the ground running – and

now she’s covering track season for us this spring.

In our April issue, we checked in with Sacramento Ranger District Suppression Fire Management Officer **Joe Kimble** about what fire season on this mountain looks like. Multiple agencies have now enacted fire restrictions across the region due to dangerous conditions. As of April 6, the State of New Mexico added statewide restrictions.

The Village of Cloudcroft has been under Level 2 restrictions since March 27, prohibiting all open flames, campfires, and outdoor grilling outside of enclosed structures, and no smoking within 3 feet of combustible materials. Propane grills are allowed.

The Lincoln National Forest has been under Stage 1 restrictions since March 27 as well.

Acting EMNRD Secretary **Erin Taylor** reminded the public that 9 out of 10 wildfires in New Mexico are human-caused – and preventable.

Recreate responsibly, folks.



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Switchbacks by Rand Carlson

The OTHER Ghosts HAUNT-ing the LODGE

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'RALPH' who quadruple bogeyed the seventh hole and NEVER GOT OVER it.

'DAISY' from ELPASO who comes back to see the PANCHE VILLA Sig.

'BUDDY' who has been seen circling his FAVORITE Tree NEAR the Pond.

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Wooten Spring Park Aims to be “Park First” on 45 Acres near High Rolls

A 19th-century settlement, a Tony Lama family trout farm, and a spring that watered steam engines — the land had a backstory before it had a business plan

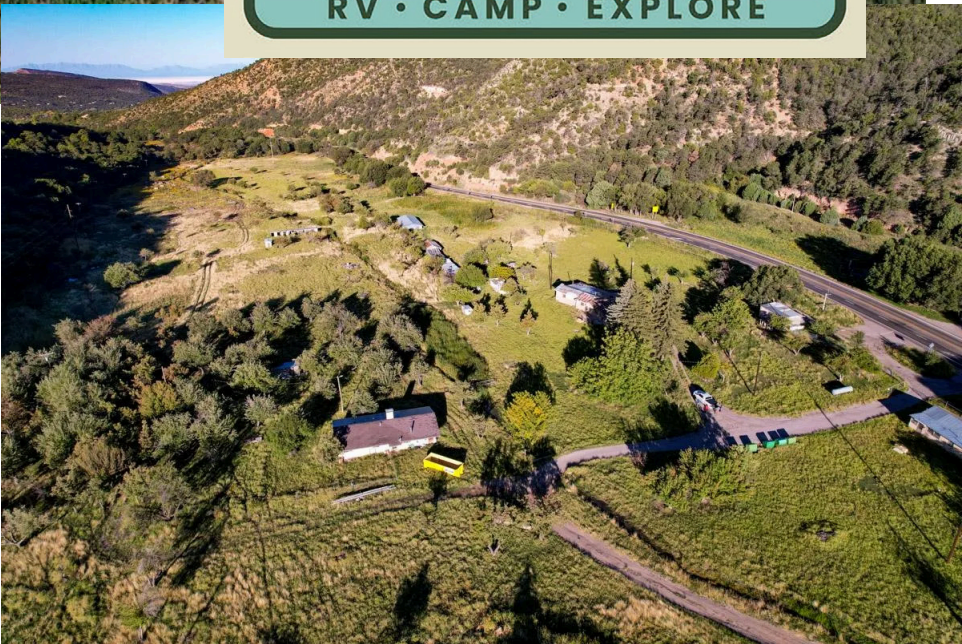
A 45-acre property along U.S. 82 between Cloudcroft and High Rolls is being developed into what its founders call a park-first destination, with RV sites filling about half the land and the rest opened to the public through day passes.

Wooten Spring Park is the project of **Justin Muñoz** and **Bryce Eaton**. The team is targeting a summer 2027 opening, pending permits.

Muñoz said the goal is not a typical RV stop. “We’re a park first,” he said.

The plan calls for roughly two miles of trails along a stream, a half-acre recreation pond, a tent camping area, an orchard, a welcome center, convenience retail, pickleball courts, and a music stage.

“Our vision is to have a place where people can come by RV and stay and enjoy amenities. But also a place where the public can stop in and go to our welcome center, to our gift shop, play on our pickleball courts, enjoy our orchard and our park, and potentially have live music one day.”



In the works: a new public park and RV campground — complete with pickleball courts, a natural spring, fruit trees, and plans for future festivals.

RV hookups will fill about half the property.

The setting drives the project. The parcel includes a mile of creek frontage, spring-fed water, flat usable acreage, and a border with the Lincoln National Forest. It sits about five minutes from Cloudcroft. “It’s a one-of-a-kind parcel,” Muñoz said.

The property was formerly the Mountain Park trout farm, which the developers said was associated with the **Tony Lama** family of El Paso, founders of the Tony Lama boot company.

The project takes its name from Wooten Spring, which the developers said served as the last water stop for steam trains climbing the Sacramento Mountains to Cloudcroft. The spring still runs out of the mountain-side. Muñoz called it “beautiful pristine water” that “gushes right out of the side of the mountain.”

The name reaches further back. Wooten Spring was named for **Benjamin Wooten**, who purchased and developed the property with his wife in the 1800s, according to the developers. The surrounding settlement was once known as Wooten, New Mexico, and had its own post office before High Rolls did.

The partners spent roughly a year looking for the right site. They had been considering another property when this parcel came open and moved quickly to secure it.

“We had to move fast because there was a lot of interest,” said Eaton.

Construction has not started. The developers said they plan to video record the project’s progress and share it publicly, inviting locals and travelers to follow along online.

As planned, Wooten Spring Park will be both a new tourism business and a public gathering place tied to one of the older pieces of recorded history in the corridor, conveniently located between Cloudcroft and Alamogordo.

Follow the project on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/wooten-springpark>

And their website:
<https://www.wootenspringpark.com>

Disclosure: Justin Muñoz is a co-owner of Mountain Monthly.



Village Makes Big Move on Property Acquisition; More News

The council unanimously approved Resolution 2026-14, beginning the formal process of purchasing the U.S. Forest Service land the treatment plant sits on.

Village Clerk **Jini Turri** explained the resolution’s immediate purpose: “This is just to obligate the money that the state has granted us and to start the process with the Forest Service.”

Steps ahead include easements, an appraisal, and a final survey. Land ownership has been a long-standing barrier to financing plant upgrades. As Powell told the Reader this week: “That’s part of the reason why we weren’t getting grants — because we didn’t own the land.”

In the Dark (and Liking it)

The council unanimously activated the Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee under Section 8-3-10 of the village code — for the first time since the dark sky ordinance was adopted decades ago.

The three-member committee will advise Planning and Zoning on lighting compliance and help interpret the ordinance for residents and businesses.

Greg Crinklaw, one of the original ordinance drafters, spoke at the meeting and volunteered to serve. Steph Snedden, fellow original drafter, was also appointed. A third seat remains open; the mayor will accept letters of interest.

The ordinance does not require committee members to live within village limits.

During public comment, a “semi-retired” University of Texas professor, **James Lechleiter**, said he and his wife moved to Cloudcroft within the past year specifically for its dark skies, and spoke in support of the ordinance. He pointed to the concentration of professional astronomy in the immediate area as evidence of what’s at stake.

The **Dragonfly Telephoto Array** — a collaboration between Yale University and the University of Toronto, commissioned in 2013 — is built from clusters of commercially available Canon telephoto lenses with specially coated optical glass that dramatically reduces scattered light.

That design makes it uniquely capable of detecting extremely faint, diffuse galaxies that larger conventional telescopes miss. It has been used to discover previously unknown galaxies and to study galaxies composed almost entirely of dark matter. The array has grown from its original eight lenses to an over one-hundred-lens Spectral Line Mapper now mapping faint gas clouds across wide fields of sky — work that simply cannot be done from a brightly lit location.

Crinklaw said the ordinance is largely sound but needs two updates: language permitting LED street lighting, since the lamp types originally specified are no longer manufactured, and a shift from wattage to lumen limits.

He said most current violations have simple fixes. “Turn it off at night. That solves the problem.”

Library Updates: Three Open Board Seats

Library Director **Sandra Barr** reported that the library is averaging 31 patrons per day. The \$11,000 in GO bond funds has been fully spent on permanent fixtures — couches, chairs, computers, two printers, bookcases, and outdoor umbrellas.

The Library hosted a book sale in the community room in late April. Proceeds fund Friends of the Library, who fund library events. Funds raised go to the Friends of the LThree library board seats are currently vacant.

One seat also remains open on the newly activated Outdoor Lighting Advisory Committee. Letters of interest for both should be submitted to **Mayor Dusty Wiley** at ccvillagemayor@cloudcroftvillage.com.

Leftover Lodger’s Tax Approvals

The council unanimously approved two lodgers tax awards from remaining funds in the current fiscal year, on recommendation of the Lodgers Tax Advisory Board.

The second annual **Pickleball in the Clouds** tournament, organized by **Samantha Odom**, takes place June 6-7 and will receive \$4,579 for promotional materials.

Shane Asbury’s Wanderlust Running Trails and Rails Run is on June 13, and he was awarded \$2,500. Asbury has taken over the three-race summer series from the previous organizer, Cloudcroft Runners.

Public Servant Future Finance

Trustee **Gail McCoy** raised the question of compensating governing body members.

McCoy said she learned at a recent New Mexico Municipal League meeting that Cloudcroft is one of only two villages in the state that do not compensate their governing bodies.

“I think we need more people stepping up,” McCoy said. “Maybe we can get some young blood in here too — that could utilize it, maybe has a good job, but they need to make that extra \$250 (per meeting).”

Village counsel Attorney **Zach Cook** clarified that any ordinance establishing compensation could only apply to members after they next stand for election — no sitting trustee could collect under a new ordinance until re-elected. Adoption would require a draft ordinance and a public hearing.

No action was taken. The council indicated it would return with draft language and figures.

Records Control

The council adopted a records retention policy (Resolution 2026-13) aligned with the New Mexico Municipal Records Retention Schedule. The policy allows the destruction of records once they have met their required retention period.

The council unanimously approved destroying financial records stored by the maintenance shop in a Conex storage container, including payroll files, time sheets, accounts payable and receivable, and general finance records from fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

All carried a retention period of three years after the audit report. Destruction will be handled by Vital Records Control, a certified destruction company.

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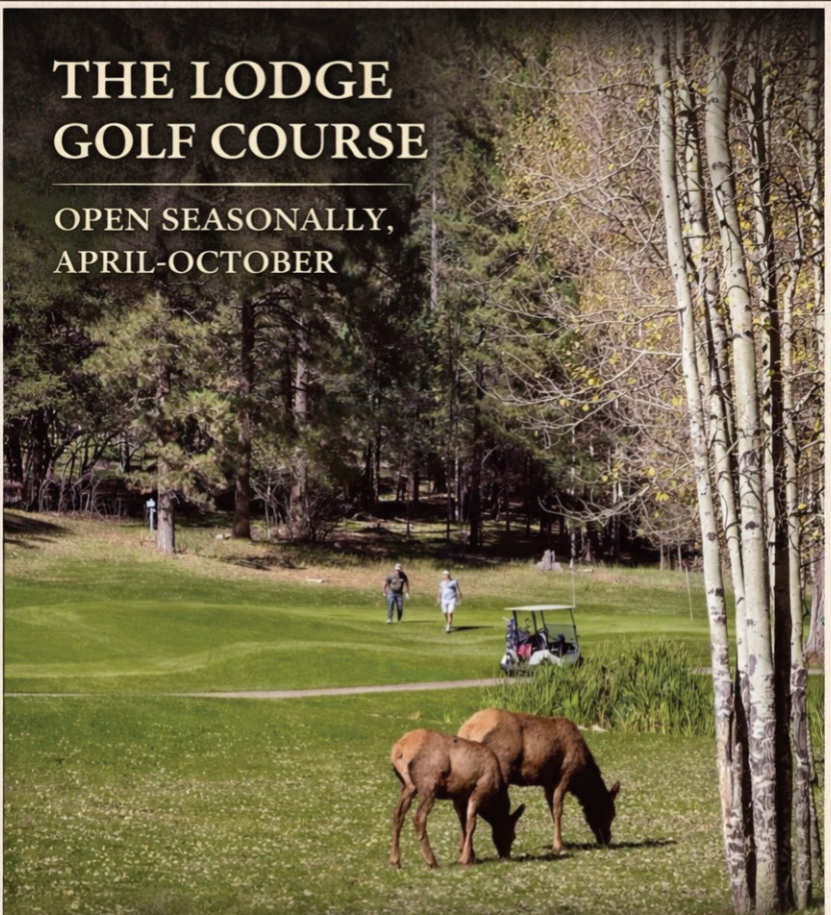
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Public Works Supervisor JJ Carrizal shared that a seasonal homeowner recently caught a 3-gallon-per-minute leak through the app — a leak that, left undetected, would have wasted 4,320 gallons per day and nearly 130,000 gallons in a single month. Public Works was able to turn off the water and save water (and save a customer from a big bill.)

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HOW'S THE MARKET?

MARCH 2026

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HOMES SOLD	5
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$400,000
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	226 Days
ACTIVE LISTINGS	251
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$75,000 - \$1,660,000
LAND:	\$5,000 - \$2,950,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$597,300 - \$2,900,000

RUIDOSO MOUNTAIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	27
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$372,500
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	133 Days
ACTIVE LISTINGS	877
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$59,999 - \$3,081,000
LAND:	\$9,500 - \$3,200,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$225,000 - \$3,650,000

ALAMOGORDO & BASIN AREA

HOMES SOLD	53
MEDIAN SALES PRICE	\$260,000
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	69 Days
ACTIVE LISTINGS	242
CURRENT PRICE RANGES	
RESIDENTIAL:	\$46,000 - \$1,175,000
LAND:	\$20,000 - \$5,000,000
COMMERCIAL:	\$90,000 - \$3,000,000

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Powell has kept meticulous notes for years

No Time to Waste

Scott Powell has spent more than 30 years keeping Cloudcroft’s wastewater treatment plant running. He retires at the end of this year

Scott Powell is waiting for me at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 5 a.m., and shines a flashlight to light the steep driveway at the forested canyon site across the road from the Osha Trail parking lot.

While most of the village is asleep, Powell starts his annual recovery cleaning of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Membrane Bioreactor (MBR) filters.

Within a few minutes, he’s crouching over a tank explaining the finer points of membrane fiber maintenance, unbothered as a man tending a garden. His one sticking point—supposedly “flushable” wipes that gum up the works—he urges folks not to flush them.

Powell has run the Village of Cloudcroft’s wastewater treatment plant for more than three decades. He knows where every pipe goes, which pump sounds slightly off, and why the Italian-designed system uses red lights to mean “running” and green to mean “stop.”

“That took a little bit to get used to,” he says.

It’s one of many peculiar things at this aging plant that he’s had to figure out on his own.

When Powell retires in December, all his institutional knowledge goes with him—so he’s left detailed notes behind in spreadsheets and countless hand-written notebooks for those who come next.

Where He Started

Powell grew up in La Luz. “I didn’t care much for school,” he grins.

When he graduated in 1979, he went to work at Alamo Piping Supply across from the fairgrounds, learning what fittings were and how “crap runs downhill,” he chuckles.

From there: Ponderosa Plumbing, then a year and a half with Statewide Drilling, a well-drilling outfit. He arrived at the Village of Cloudcroft in May 1994.

For years, he coached youth baseball through the Sacramento Mountain Sports Association, running teams for boys and girls on the fields at what is now Elevation Park. Powell remembers coaching Chris Davis, who now coaches

a new generation of players at the same field.

Powell ran both the water and wastewater systems for the village for nearly 19 years. “It just got too overwhelming,” he says. Eventually, the systems were split. He took wastewater. He has been here ever since.

Powell holds a Level 4 certification — the highest available in New Mexico for wastewater operators.

“Somebody fresh — (it can take) at least a good five years to really get up to about level three or so, maybe four years if they have really good experience,” he says.

Robert George, a technical assistance provider contracted by the New Mexico Environment Department who has known Powell for over 30 years, told village leaders at a December 2025 workshop: “It’s very, very hard to find replacements for highly licensed operators. You’re going to have to grow your own.”

When Powell retires, Public Works Supervisor J.J. Carrizal has the right license to keep things running while Wastewater employee Sean O’Connor works towards upper-level certifications. He takes his level one tests this month.

The Plant

Cloudcroft’s treatment plant operates two systems. A trickling filter system, now pushing 70 years old, handles the majority of the flow. Above it stands a membrane bioreactor plant — the MBR — installed in 2017 and brought online in 2018. Powell knows both systems like the back of his hand.

No operations manual was ever written for the MBR. The company that designed and built it was supposed to provide one.

“To this day, they were supposed to be giving us more,” Powell says. “Supposed to give us training. We didn’t get that either.”

What Cloudcroft got instead was Powell. He called other operators around the state with similar equipment. He looked things up. He keeps notebooks — two spiral-bound ones for the annual recovery cleanings alone — and started building maintenance spreadsheets about four or five years ago, once he “finally figured out how to make them.”

“Unfortunately, I didn’t start those years ago,” he says. “But I try to write everything. Something comes up two years from now, you may have to look through the book.”

The notebooks document what went

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wrong, how he fixed it, and how long each step took.

"I try to write whatever I did to fix it."

Every spring, Powell runs what the system calls a recovery cleaning — an eight-hour chemical soak of the membranes, using hypochlorite to strip accumulated organics and citric acid to dissolve mineral scale. Cloudcroft's water is hard. The citric solution is 38 percent concentrated, "but everyone calls it 40."

The entire cleaning process is designed to extend the life of the membrane cassettes, which the manufacturer rates at about 10 years. Powell thinks these will go 12, “maybe 13 or 14, because Cloudcroft doesn’t take industrial waste. It’s residential discharge and a few restaurants.”

During the soak, the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system guides the operator through each step. It is, Powell says, “pretty good about walking you along.”

It wasn't always like this. The original plant — the trickling filter — was entirely hands-on. No computer, no automation. "That was kind of neat, but it wasn't ideal," he says.

The trickling filter, for all its age, still works. George called it “remarkably good treatment” for organics and solids at the December workshop.

The state's draft groundwater discharge permit, stalled since March 2024, would require total nitrogen in the plant's effluent to drop to 10 milligrams per liter. The plant currently runs at roughly five times that.

The MBR, properly tuned, has produced results under 10 mg/L in testing. But Powell noted the readings lately had been “bouncing between 10 and 15, 16 milligrams.” Right now, the MBR handles about 20,000 to 30,000 gallons per day of the flow. Everything else moves through the old trickling filter.

The plant processes between 40,000 and nearly 230,000 gallons daily, de-

pending on Cloudfcroft's population during peak tourist season.

Powell has watched the old infrastructure wear down piece by piece. The secondary clarifier, the filter beds, the pumps — things go bad, and getting parts isn't what it used to be.

"Hard to find parts nowadays," he says. The plant was built in an era when you could call a supplier and get what you needed the same week. Some replacement parts are custom-built, an expensive and time-consuming process.

Cloudcroft (Water) Bears

The biological heart of the plant lives in the activated sludge — a community of microorganisms that do the actual work of breaking down organic waste. Powell checks on them with a microscope when “something seems off.”

"Whenever it looks like something in the plant's acting up," he says. "I've been down there a couple of times in the wintertime just because it's cold. Seeing that everything's still alive."

After the recovery cleaning, the chemical-soaking water is pumped out and hauled away, then returned to the sewer system at the Chataqua Lift Station. This prevents microorganisms from experiencing a shock.

The organisms behave, he says, like people.

"Summertime, it's hot. They're more active. In the wintertime when it's cold, they're more dormant. The younger ones are out playing, running around, and active. The older ones are just sitting there doing nothing and eating. And of course, when they get old and wore out, they die off, just like we do."

“Water bears are good signs. Good sludge.”

He has been trying for years to find a projector that would throw the microscope image onto a screen large enough for a classroom. The plant has hosted school tours over the years.

"That's when people really get it," he says. "I'm always happy to kind of teach them. Be it a kid or an old person or a councilman — just anybody. The more people that understand, the better."

No Manual, No Permit, No Land

The consequences of inaction aren't abstract — inadequately treated water running down the canyon can trigger state fines. Carrizal recently told the Reader that the fines can quickly amass.

In a November 2022 meeting, Carrizal warned the village that it “will result in fines if, during power outages, the Village has to let untreated wastewater run down the adjacent canyon.” The problems flow downhill, literally, with neighboring communities like High Rolls Mountain Park less than five miles away.

The plant sits on U.S. Forest Service land. The village has been working since at least 2015 to either lease or purchase the property, because without clear land tenure, no lender or state regulator will finance major upgrades.

“That’s part of the reason why we weren’t getting grants,” Powell says. “Because we didn’t own the land.”

Powell has watched versions of this loop play out across most of his career; years when things were moving, years when things were put on hold. He waited. He kept the old plant running.

"I'm kind of down here in my own world," Powell says, seated in the small windowless control room. "(The council) always left me alone. I knew what I was doing. If I've got problems, I'd come let you know."

His successor, **Sean O'Connor**, is taking the Level 1 test this spring.

There is the question of what doesn't get written down — the knowledge that lives in Powell's hands and his memory. How the plant sounds on a normal day. Which alarm can wait and which one means get there now. What combination of adjustments brings a struggling system back into range; thirty-one years of that.

"That's the interesting part of the whole process," he says, meaning the bugs, the biology, the fact that clean water comes out the other end of a system that looks, to most people, like it shouldn't work at all. "I mean, a lot of people don't like wastewater. But a lot of people do. And it's like, well, come down and see it."

He'll be here until December.

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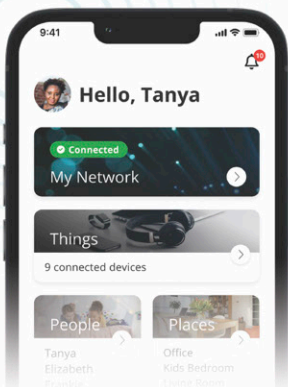
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A sunny day at White Sands National Park

Local Guide

What to Know

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

Village Weekend Itinerary

Stay and Play. Make the most of your summer visit. **==**

Friday Night: Grab cocktails at the Distillery (21+) and catch live music and woodfired pizza next door at the family-friendly Cloudcroft Brewing Co.

For an upscale stay, check in at the Lodge. For a cozy retreat, check out the Cabins at Cloudcroft. If you're traveling with youngsters, the Grand Cloudcroft Hotel's indoor pool will be a hit.

Saturday: Find your zen at Be in the Mountains Yoga. Snag an apres-stretch fresh breakfast next door at High Rollin' Coffee—both located at the Village Plaza next to Mad Jack's Mountaintop Barbecue.

After a stroll at Zenith Park or down the Burro Avenue boardwalk for local shopping, grab lunch or dinner to go from Fernando's Burritos, located behind First National Bank.

Savor the steak frites at Saint Andrew's Lounge at the Lodge—enjoy the home-made horseradish.

Sunday: Grab a hearty breakfast at Dusty Boots Cafe. Snag a mid-morning coffee at Blackbear Coffee Shop on Burro.

Head for a local hike just a short walk from the village: Osha Trail or Mexican Canyon Trestle Trail are two favorites.

Take a Sunday Drive down Highway 130 for scenic views. Stop by the Sacramento District Ranger Forest Service Station on your way out.

Recharge and nosh on charcuterie while people watching from the patio at Noisy Water Winery on the Burro Street Exchange boardwalk.

Head to the Western to end your evening—bring quarters for darts, the jukebox, and pool.

On your way out of town, if you're heading west, catch White Sands National Park. If you're heading east on Highway 82, make your way down to Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Best Burgers

Feed your cravings for fresh, made-to-order burgers in Cloudcroft.

Fernando's Burritos: Classic and perfectly seasoned. Freshly-made french fries on the side. Pro tip: Add green chile or jalapeño. Outdoor seating only.

Saint Andrew's Lounge and the Lodge: Fresh, classic. Served with English-style chips and homemade ketchup. Swanky atmosphere in the bar at the historic Lodge hotel.

The Western Bar and Cafe: Several burger options in hearty portions that pair well with draft beers. Play darts or pool while you wait.

Dusty Boots Cafe: Can't go wrong with any of the burgers, but the green chile cheese burger with fries is hard to beat. Goes well with Ruidoso's Downshift Brewing Co. beer, a new addition to the menu.

Dave's Cafe: Treat yourself with a burger and fries, then step next door to Higher Grounds to top it all off with a milkshake.

Big Daddy's Diner: All the classics, plus low-carb options that come with no bun and a salad.

Day Trip: White Sands National Park

One of the most surreal landscapes on Earth is less than an hour from Cloudcroft — and May is one of the best months to see it.

White Sands National Park sits in the heart of New Mexico's Tularosa Basin, about 42 miles from Cloudcroft via US-82 West through Alamogordo. The drive takes roughly an hour. You'll drop over 4,000 feet in elevation on the way down the mountain, and the dunes will appear on the horizon long before you arrive.

What You're Getting Into: The park preserves the world's largest gypsum dunefield — 275 square miles of blindingly white sand that rolls across the desert like a frozen sea. Unlike typical quartz sand, gypsum dissolves in water. The basin traps mineral-rich runoff, which evaporates and leaves gypsum crystals behind.

May Weather: May is part of the park's spring peak season — warm, mostly dry, and far more comfortable than the scorching summer months when temperatures regularly top 100°F. Expect average highs around 88°F and lows near 50°F. Wind can kick up blowing sand, so check conditions before heading out at [nps.gov/whsa](https://www.nps.gov/whsa) or call 575-479-6124.

What to Do: The main corridor is Dunes Drive, an 8-mile road from the visitor center into the dunefield. The first four miles are paved; the last four are hard-packed gypsum and suitable for all vehicles.

Sand sledding is the park's most beloved activity. Grab a sled before you leave town at High Altitude Outfitters on Burro Ave in Cloudcroft, or purchase one at the visitor center gift shop when you

arrive. There are four marked hiking trails ranging from the easy half-mile Playa Trail to the challenging 5-mile Alkali Flat Trail. Color-coded trail marker posts keep hikers on course — the wind erases footprints quickly out here.

Sunset from the top of a dune is extraordinary. The gypsum is surrounded by the Sacramento and Organ Mountains. Time your visit for late afternoon if you can.

Plan Ahead for Summer: Starting in June, the park hosts its popular Full Moon Night concert series at a natural outdoor amphitheater deep in the dunefield. These free evening events — held monthly through October — feature live music, ranger programs, and extended park hours under the glow of the full moon. Keep an eye on the park's calendar at [nps.gov/whsa](https://www.nps.gov/whsa) and plan a return trip.

What to Bring: There is no water in the dunefield — fill up at the visitor center before heading in. Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat are essential; white gypsum reflects UV intensely. Closed-toe shoes are required for ranger-led programs. Pro tip— sand gets everywhere, but brushes off easily. Camp chairs and a picnic make for a perfect afternoon.

The Details: Entrance fee: \$25 per vehicle, valid for seven consecutive days. America the Beautiful pass accepted. The park is open daily year-round (closed Christmas Day); hours vary by season. The visitor center is located on US-70 between Alamogordo and Las Cruces.

White Sands National Park | [nps.gov/whsa](https://www.nps.gov/whsa) | **575-479-6124**



welcome to the village

Let us show you around

- A**

 - Off the Beaten Path
 - ICAT Trap & Release Program
 - Summit Christian Fellowship
 - Sacramento Mountain Senior Services
 - Black Bear Coffee Shop
 - King's Treasure
 - Bhair Necessities
 - The Fat Rabbit
 - The Little Gallery
 - Aspen and Ivy Boutique
 - Samantha Odom Art Gallery
 - Dave's Cafe
 - Higher Grounds
 - Instant Karma & Chai Bar
 - Base Camp 9k

B

 - Western Bar and Cafe
 - Western Package Store
 - Hotel Cloudcroft
 - Kennabelle's Kreations Bakery
 - Gary Mack Real Estate
 - The Bear Track
 - High Altitude
 - High Altitude Bike Shop
 - Scotty's Propane

C

 - Elevation Park and Disc Golf Course
- D**

 - Otero County Electric Cooperative
 - Cloudcroft Therapeutic Massage
 - Cloudcroft Archery
 - Crystal Tompkins Photography
 - Coco Blu
 - Green Mountain Real Estate & Construction, Skywater
 - Shelley Hughes Architecture PC
 - Osha Trail Depot
 - Osha Trail Lodging
 - Cloudcroft Souvenirs
 - Laughing Leaf Dispensary
 - Eight the Cake
 - Mountain Magic
 - Poke the Bear

E

 - Burro St. Boarding House
 - Cloudcroft Brewing Company
 - The Distillery
 - Sparks and Rec

F

 - Ski Cloudcroft

G

 - Apsen Trails Realty
 - Big Daddy's Diner
 - Tularosa Communications
 - Cloudcroft Animal Hospital
 - Dusty Boots Cafe & Taco Cantina and Motel
- H**

 - The Lodge Resort
 - The Lodge Golf Course
 - 1899 and Saint Andrew's Lounge
 - Seasons Boutique Gift Shop
 - SugarPines RV Park

I

 - Grand Cloudcroft Hotel
 - Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce
 - Cabins at Cloudcroft

J

 - Zenith Park and Playground
 - Pickleball and Tennis Courts
 - Zenith Park Pavilion
 - Byron Ligon Disc Golf Course
 - James Sewell Ice Rink
 - Anglican Church of the Epiphany
 - Family Dollar
 - Brother-N-Law BBQ
 - Magnum's Guns II
 - Crofting Bed & Breakfast

K

 - Sacred Heart Catholic Church
 - Village Plaza
 - Homee
 - Be in the Mountains Yoga & Massage Therapy
 - Road Runner Cannabis
 - High Rollin' Coffee
- L**

 - Mad Jack's Mountaintop BBQ
 - Roots Flower Co.

M

 - New Village Hardware
 - Pre-School and Extended Care
 - Cloudcroft United Methodist Church
 - Summit Inn
 - The Lodge Pavilion

N

 - Presbyterian Medical Center
 - Rick Roger's Auto & Equip Repair
 - Cloudcroft Truck & Auto Parts
 - Cloud 9000 Coffee
 - Fernando's Burritos

O

 - United States Post Office
 - First National Bank
 - Village Office

P

 - Allsup's

Q

 - Future Real Estate
 - The Highland

R

 - Deer Park
 - Cloudcroft Sandwich Shop
- S**

 - Cloudcroft Schools

T

 - Burro Street Exchange
 - The Elk Shed
 - Atelier Art of Hair by Anna
 - Red Wall Jewelry
 - Burro Street Bakery
 - Tree Top Teez
 - Noisy Water Winery
 - Burro Street Trading Post
 - Tree-Riffic Toys and Candy
 - Old Barrel Tea Co.
 - Turquoise Shop
 - Cloudcroft Church of Christ

U

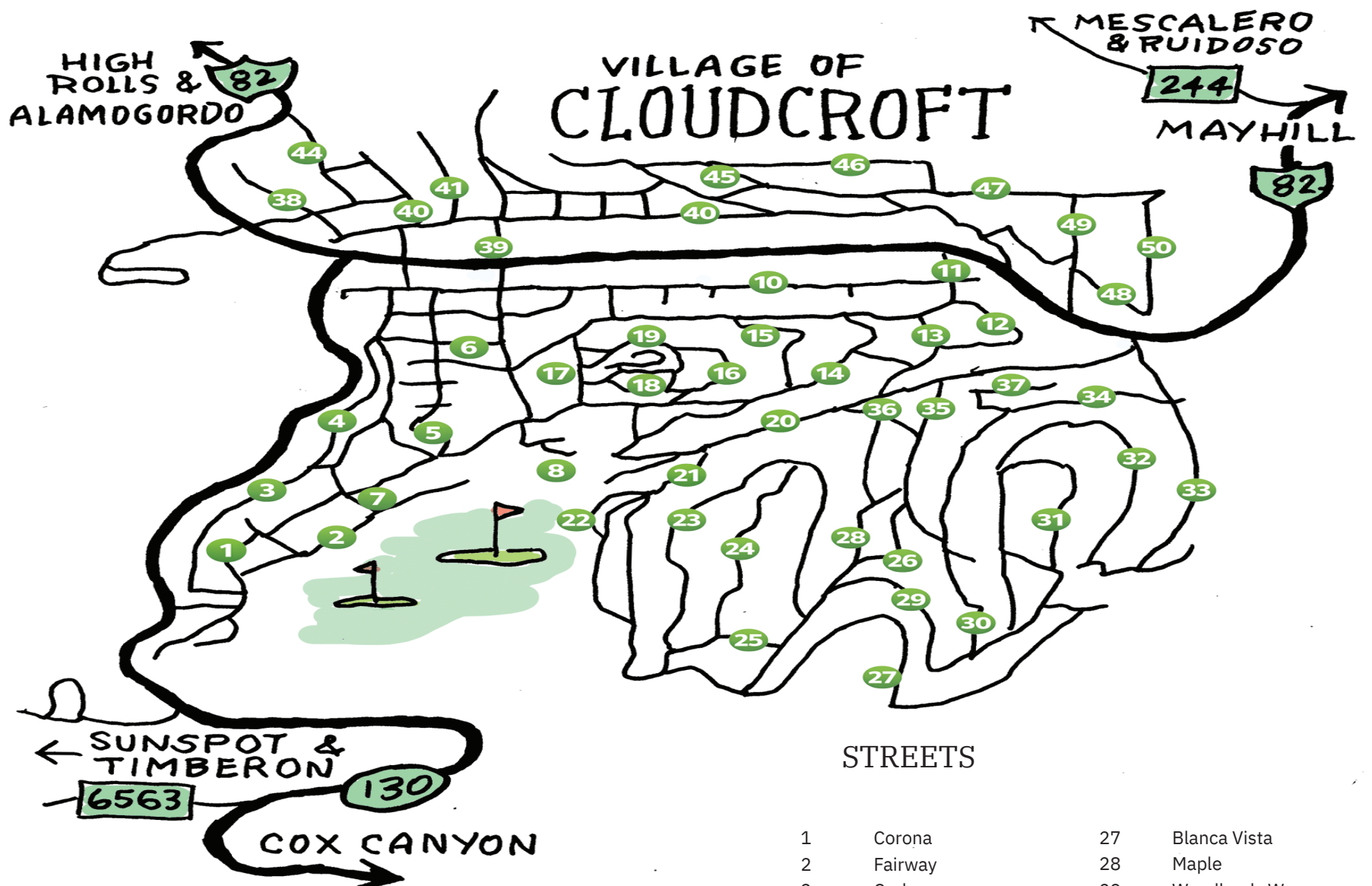
 - Old Red Brick Schoolhouse
 - Michael Nivison Public Library
 - High Valley Weaving School
 - Cloudcroft Fitness
 - Cloudcroft Art Society Co-op Gallery

V

 - Sacramento Mountains Historical Museum and Pioneer Village

W

 - Cloudcroft Fire and Rescue Station
 - Trestle Medical Services



STREETS

1	Corona	27	Blanca Vista
2	Fairway	28	Maple
3	Curlew	29	Woodlands Way
4	Sunset	30	Balsam
5	Wren	31	Julies
6	Coyote	32	Shells
7	Otter	33	Woodland Ways
8	The Lodge	34	Balsam
10	Burro	35	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



FREE Trail Maps

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Downtown Cloudcroft • **HighAltitudeNM.com**

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

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

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

Eat/Drink

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lodging

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

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

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

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

Shopping

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



The Listings

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

The Elk Shed (505 Burro Ave.) Southwest-ern goods, clothes, gourmet pantry staples, and more. Open 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. dai-ly. 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. Fri-day and Saturday, until 5:00 p.m. Sunday. highaltitudenm.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

Osha Trail Depot (102 Mexican Ave. 575-551-2099) Local art, woodworking, and New-Mexican goods. Interested artists in-quire: oshatraildepot@gmail.com. Open

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. every day.

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

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

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

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

The Bear Track (308 Burro Ave.) Bau-bles, 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 embroi-dery shop. Open 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon-day-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. cloudcroftturquoise.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. ccartociety@gmail.com

Off the Beaten Path (100 Glorietta Ave. (575) 682-7284) Regional handmade art se-lection 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 Bur-ro Ave. (575) 649-9951) Original paintings



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Cloudcroft's new online visitor guide, built by locals

WWW.DISCOVERCLOUDCROFT.COM

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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



\$715,000

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



\$630,000

CLOUDCROFT

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



\$395,000

MAYHILL

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



\$283,000

CLOUDCROFT

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



(575) 415-4039
FUTUREREALESTATE.COM



Office locations in Alamogordo,
Cloudcroft, and Ruidoso



\$205,000

TIMBERON

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



\$1,400,000

CLOUDCROFT

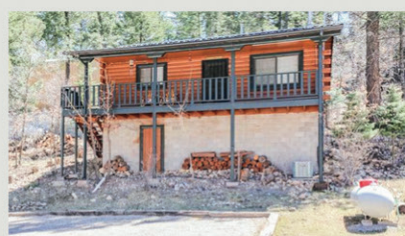
102 Mexican Avenue
Osha Trail Lodging. Unique multi-family investment opportunity. Includes 6 nightly rental units, a retail space, 6 storage units, and a large finished and heated garage.
Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



\$179,000

CLOUDCROFT

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



\$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



\$349,000

CLOUDCROFT

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



\$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



\$259,000

MAYHILL

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



\$90,000

CLOUDCROFT

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

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



\$798,000

HIGH ROLLS

96 Red Rock Road
Architectual 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



\$265,000

CLOUDCROFT

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

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044



\$299,000

CLOUDCROFT

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

Blake Bingham - (830) 496-1836



\$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



\$615,000

HIGH ROLLS

35 Cottage Row
Turnkey Mountain Income Property, 2 homes & RV space. Rare and versatile investment property offers peace, privacy and proven income potential.

Rebekah Graham - (575) 921-5517



\$595,000

HIGH ROLLS

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

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



\$600,000

CLOUDCROFT

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

Annie Daniels - (575) 442-3444



SOLD!

\$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
Architctural mountain retreat with sweeping views, wildlife, and an integrated roll-off-roof observatory for exceptional stargazing.

Megan Corvin - (575) 551-1999



Under Contract

\$204,000

CLOUDCROFT

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

Debbie Loper - (575) 430-7044

Scan Here!



**for more listings
& property
details**



\$325,000

CLOUDCROFT

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

Sylvia Humphreys - (575) 921-1094

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

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

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

Eat/Drink

Big Daddy’s Diner (1705 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-1224, bigdaddysdinernm.com) Comfort food and desserts. Try the fried chicken basket. Open daily 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Black Bear Coffee (200 Burro Ave., (575) 682-1239, mybbcoffee.com) Locally-roasted beans on the west end of Burro. Head upstairs for conversation nooks, enjoy the downstairs gallery wall with rotating exhibition. Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00-3:00.

Brother-N-Law BBQ (209 James Canyon Hwy, (215) 858-0400) Delicious smoked

meats, baked potatoes, sandwiches, and fried okra. Don’t skip the sauce. Open 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. every day but Thursday.

Burro Street Bakery (505 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2777) Sit awhile at this centrally-located joint. Pies, danishes, breakfast burritos, coffee, and more. Open 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily.

Cloud 9000 Coffee (96 James Canyon Hwy) Quick breakfast—smoothies and handhelds. Coffee, tea, and lemonade, too. Outdoor seating only. 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, closed Mondays.

Cloudcroft Brewing Company (1301 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2337, cloudcroftbrewing.com) In-house and regional brews, live music, and fantastic atmosphere. Gnosh on wood-fired pizza, soup du jour, salad, chips & guacamole. Closed Tuesdays. Open 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. the rest of the week—til 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Cloudcroft Sandwich Shop (505 Burro Ave., (575) 551-0065, cloudcroftsandwich.shop) Traditional deli in the Burro Street Exchange. Mural photo op in the outdoor patio. Get any sandwich as a salad, then a monster-sized cookie—#balance. Open 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. every day, closed Wednesdays.

Dave’s Cafe (300 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2127) Classic burgers, fries, and more at a casual setting in the heart of Burro. Open 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Friday-Sunday.

Dusty Boots Cafe & Taco Cantina (1317 James Canyon Hwy, 575) 601-2009) Laid back home cooking—burgers, tacos, salads, and more. For breakfast, try the veggie-loaded Hiker’s Boot omelette and western potatoes. Open 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, closes at 5:00 Sunday.

Eight the Cake Bakery (506 Burro Ave., (575) 682-3088, eightthecakellc.com) Lovely custom cakes. Cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, and local art. Open Thursday-Monday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Family Dollar (309 James Canyon Hwy, (505) 532-2697, familydollar.com) Get the essentials. Discount chain with groceries, toiletries, and home goods. Open 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. daily.

Fernando’s Burritos (96 James Canyon Hwy) Best burrito, barbacoa, and burger in the village. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Outdoor seating only. Open 7:00 a.m.-7:00

p.m. daily, closed Mondays.

High Rollin’ Coffee (109 James Canyon Hwy) Gourmet freshies galore on a rotating weekly menu. Open Monday and Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and Friday-Sunday 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Higher Grounds (300 Burro Ave., 575) 682-2127) Ice cream and milkshake counter next to Dave’s Cafe. Hours vary.

Instant Karma Chai Bar (302 Burro Ave.) Global spice blends, ayurvedic teas, soothing cacao, and more at their countertop. Stay awhile. Open daily from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

KennaBelle’s Kreations Bakery (308 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2712) Follow your nose to this pink patisserie. Custom cakes and orders. Gluten-free options. Open 7:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Closed Sunday.

Mad Jack’s Mountaintop Barbeque (105 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-7577) Legendary barbeque in the old mercantile building. Don’t let the line deter you—it’s worth the wait. Open 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, or until sold out.

Noisy Water Winery (505 Burro Ave., (575) 682-6610) Local wine, cheese, charcuterie, and gifts. Upscale offerings, casual boardwalk venue. Open 10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. daily, open until 7:00 on Friday, and until 7:30 on Saturday.

Old Barrel Tea Co. (505 Burro Ave., (575) 682-7474) Fresh house-blend teas to order, plus provisions. Open 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. Open 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday.

Saint Andrew’s Lounge and 1899 at the Lodge (601 Corona Pl., (575) 682-2566, 223collectionhotels.com/the-lodge) Chef Richard Lepree brings global flair and locally-sourced flavors to the plate. Reservations required on the 1899 side, open Wednesday-Saturday from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Saint Andrew’s Lounge open Wednesday-Saturday from 12:00-8:00 p.m.

The Distillery (1303 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2337) Craft cocktails with New Mexico and in-house spirits for date night—adults only.

Cloudcroft Brewing Company pizza by the slice. Open M, W, TH 4:00-9:00 p.m., Friday 4:00-10:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., and Sunday 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Western Bar and Cafe and Package Store (304 Burro Ave., (575) 682-2445, westernbarandcafe.net) Dark and cozy dive bar with tasty food for lunch and dinner. Beer on tap, full bar. Play pool while you wait. Closed Wednesdays, open 11:00 a.m.-10:00

p.m. the rest of the week.

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

Lodging

Burro St. Boarding House (608 Burro Ave., (575) 682-3601) Rustic and artful digs near downtown. burrostreetboardinghouse.com

Cabins at Cloudcroft (1006 Coyote Ave., 575-682-2396) Retro casitas by the park. cabinsatcloudcroft.com

Crofting Inn (300 Swallow Pl.) Comfy B-and-B. Book on Expedia or Hotels.com

Dusty Boots Motel (1315 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-7736) Themed rooms with a restaurant next door. thedustyboots.com

Grand Cloudcroft Hotel (1207 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 601-2202) Relax in the indoor pool and spa. All king-sized beds. grandcloudcroft.com

Osha Trail Lodging (102 Mexican Ave., (575) 937-3767) Modern, conveniently-located suites. Book on AirBnB or oshatrail-lodging@gmail.com

SugarPines RV Park (601 Columbine Blvd., (575) 682-3375) Easy access in the heart of the village. sugarpinesrvpark.com

Summit Inn (103 Chipmunk Ave., (575) 295-3235) Chic interiors, classic mountain exterior. summitinnnm.com

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

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

Shopping

Aspen and Ivy Boutique (206 Burro Ave.) Bespoke goods, candles, plants, and local art. Open Thursday-Sunday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Base Camp 9K (302 Burro Ave.) Teeny space with quality shirts, hats, and more. Open Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Burro Street Trading Post (505 Burro Ave., (225) 253-2606) Rocks, gems, and original Southwest art and wear. Open 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. daily. burrostreettradingpost.com

Cloudcroft Archery (100 Little Glorieta Ave., (575) 439-7918) Indoor range and bow services. 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, Saturday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Cloudcroft Souvenirs (502 Burro Ave.) Southwestern tchotchkes and take-home memorabilia. Open Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Cloudcroft Truck & Auto Parts (94 James Canyon Hwy, (575) 682-6002) Requisite auto supplies. Open 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday, Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Sunday.

Coco Blu (94 Little Glorieta Ave., (575) 682-3039) Ladies’ boutique with head-to-toe stylish selections and name brands. Open 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and until 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CABINS AT CLOUDCROFT

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www.cloudcroftnm.com





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MAY 2026 Events

Community

Early Voting at Cloudcroft High School, Saturday, May 23, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Mayfair Juried Art Show: Cloudcroft Chamber of Commerce Zenith Park, Cloudcroft, NM | May 23–24, 2026 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Browse and purchase original works from talented artists set against the beautiful backdrop of Zenith Park. A perfect weekend outing for art lovers and families alike. (575) 682-2733 | Chamber@coolcloudcroft.com

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

Enjoy The Great Ice Cream Scheme Melodrama by Cloudcroft Light Opera Company, directed by Shelby Batte at the Zenith Park Pavilion | May 22, 23, 24 & May 29, 30 | 7:30 pm, free admission

Cloudcroft Schools

Career Fair: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday, May 1st.

District Track Meet in Cloudcroft: 8 a.m. Saturday, May 2nd.

Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, May 19th at 6 p.m. in the District Boardroom, 10 Swallow Place.

Last Day of School: May 22nd

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

Michael Nivison Public Library

Storytime and Crafts with Gail McCoy continue Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

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

The Lodge

Mother's Day brunch buffet, Sunday, May 10, featuring a full carvery with prime rib, roast turkey breast, and arctic salmon, plus an extensive spread of light bites, salads, and desserts. Pricing is \$65 for adults and \$30 for children 12 and under.

The Lodge at Cloudcroft will host a Memorial Day cookout buffet on Saturday, May 23rd, serving from noon to 4:00pm. The menu includes steak, ribs, grilled chicken, and sides. Pricing is \$36 for adults and \$15 for children. The Doso Dirtbags will perform live during the event, and the Red Dog Bar will be open.

Reservations for both events are required and can be made by calling 575-682-2566 or visiting thelodgeresort.com.

Cloucroft Brewing Co. and The Distillery

Karaoke night every Monday from 6-9 p.m. at the brewery side, now hosted by K-Cloud's Kris Parks.

Live Music: Chris Baker performs Thursday, May 22, 6–9 p.m. at Cloudcroft Brewing Co. On Friday, May 23, Dynamic Duo plays The Distillery from 1–4 p.m., with Dealer's Choice taking the stage at Cloudcroft Brewing Co. that evening, 6–9 p.m. Live music continues Monday, May 26 at the Brewing Co., 1–4 p.m.

Noisy Water Winery (Cloudcroft)

Hips & Sips Belly Dancing Class: Instructor Claudia Powell leads a welcoming, all-levels class — no experience required, just a willingness to move and have fun. Tuesday, May 5th | 6 PM

Tickets \$20

Yoga in the Clouds: Unwind with a one-hour, all-levels yoga flow led by local instructor Beth Merrell. The ticket includes

a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage. Bring your mat and come as you are. Sunday, May 17th | 6–7 PM

Art

Blackbear Coffee Shop hosts an “artist of the month” on their gallery wall. This month you can catch the work of local artist and Mountain Monthly Editor Hannah Dean. Open during regular business hours.

Otero Arts: Veterans Art Showcase Opening Reception Friday, May 1 | 5–7 PM The month-long Women Veterans Art Showcase opens with a reception featuring artwork by women veterans and active duty military. Portraits of Military Women, a photography collection by Kim Melton, will also be on display throughout May.

A full calendar of related events include empowerment workshops for veterans, civilians, and caregivers (May 15–17), an archaeology lecture (May 19), and a closing drum circle ceremony on May 30 (4–6 PM).

VFW Post 11999

Mayfair | May 23–24 Stop by the VFW booth to meet members, drop off unserviceable flags for retirement, and enter the raffle for a Henry VFW .22 LR Tribute Edition rifle.

Memorial Day Ceremonies | Monday, May 25

9 a.m. — Blue Star Memorial, Zenith Park 10:30 a.m. — James Canyon Cemetery 11 a.m. — Mayhill Cemetery

12 p.m. — Weed Cemetery

Get Moving

Space Race Presented by Spaceport America 20 miles southeast of Truth or Consequences, NM | Saturday, May 9, 2026 | 8 a.m.

Choose your distance: 5K, 10K, or 15K. All participants receive a custom shirt and finisher's medal. Stroller-friendly, with age group awards and a special nod to all the moms finishing on Mother's Day weekend. Register at wanderlust.run

Oliver Lee Memorial State Park — The park's official events calendar currently shows no scheduled programs for May 2026. It's worth checking back at emnrd.nm.gov or calling (575) 437-8284, as events are often added closer to the date. Note that the park's entrance is also under construction through approximately June 2026, which may affect programming.

White Sands National Park — Full Moon Nights Friday, May 1 | 7–10 p.m. & Sunday, May 31 | 7-11 p.m. White Sands extends park hours on Full Moon Nights so visitors can experience the glowing gypsum dunes beneath a rising moon, with live music, ranger-led programs, and special guest artists at the park's outdoor amphitheater. No reservations required; standard park entrance fees apply.

Dark Skies

Eta Aquariids Meteor Shower – Peak Night One of the year's best meteor showers peaks the night of May 6–7th; Cloudcroft's high-altitude dark skies make it an ideal spot to watch debris from Halley's Comet streak across the pre-dawn sky.

New Moon / Milky Way Viewing – May 16th With the new moon bringing near-total darkness, it's a prime opportunity to take in the galactic core of the Milky Way rising brilliantly over the Sacramento Mountains.

Blue Moon – May 31st May closes with a rare Blue Moon — a second full moon in the same calendar month — offering a brilliantly bright night sky worth stepping outside to enjoy.

NM Museum of Space History Launch Pad Lecture: Col. Andrew R. Morgan, M.D. (U.S. Army), Senior Commander of White Sands Missile Range, speaks at the New Mexico Museum of Space History on Friday, May 1. He performed seven spacewalks — a record for a single spaceflight. The lecture opens Astronaut Week at the museum.



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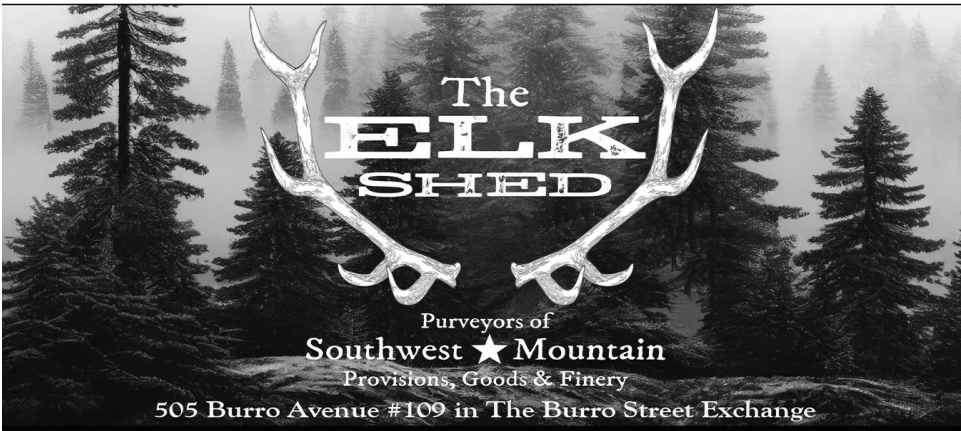
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~~MICHAEL ~STYLIST~~

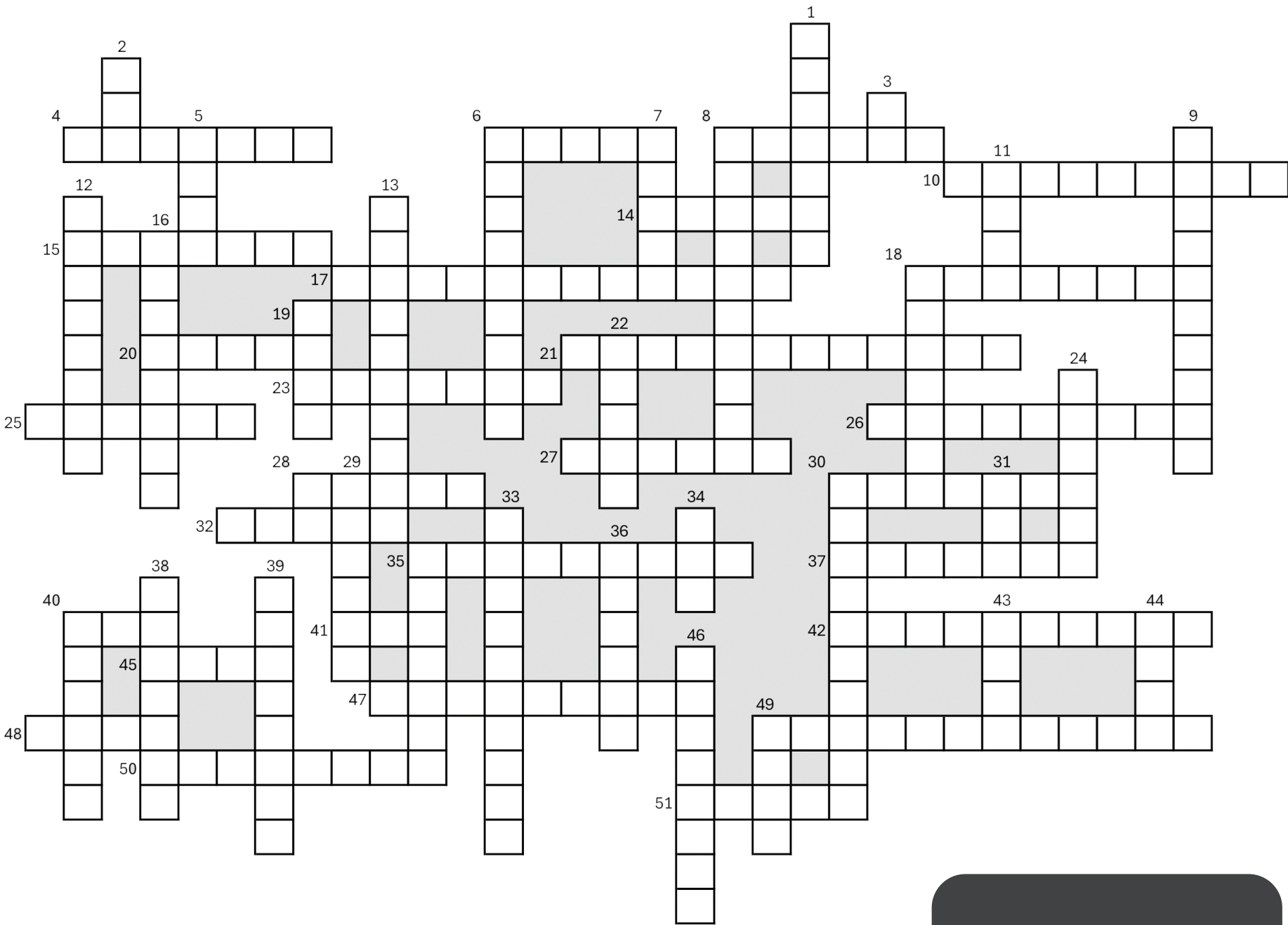
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“Location, Location, Location”



Across

- 4 - MONTHLY MOUNTAIN
- 6 - PINEY _____
- 8 - CANYON WITH A CURVE
- 10 - LAVA FLOWZZ
- 14 - TINY TOWN PEAK
- 15 - BLACK GOLD STATUES
- 17 - JUST SHY OF TWELVE
- 18 - A SERIES OF TOWERS
- 20 - GEOLOGIC ELEPHANT
- 21 - DREAMY CLIFFS OF TRAVERTINE
- 23 - EXTRA-TOURISTRIALS
- 25 - SOUTHERN COLLEGE TOWN (singular)
- 26 - NEEDS A PAYLOAD OF WATER
- 27 - A YELLOW SUBTERRAIN 1949)
- 28 - THE HIGHWAYMEN, AND WOMEN (abbv.)
- 30 - SOON THE SUN WILL SET FOR THIS LEGEND
- 32 - PRIMARY CANYON EAST
- 35 - EL 6500FT (backwards)
- 37 - SMOKEYS START/RESTING PLACE
- 40 - FIRST PART OF 44 DOWN
- 41 - SECONDARY CANYON SOUTH EAST
- 42 - “TOWN”
- 45 - WHAT OUR DRIVEWAYS DON’T GET
- 47 - THE HOMELAND
- 48 - ROOTS OF SAFETY
- 49 - HORSE RACE BAR OF 44 DOWN
- 50 - CANYON WITH SLEDDING NAMESAKE
- 51 - VOTING DISTRICT OF 43 DOWN

Down

- 1 - HAS A PLAZA, MEANS A TABLE
- 2 - DONNA _____ COUNTY
- 3 - IRON (periodically)
- 5 - A NEW _____ (1977)
- 6 - DOWNWARD DELUGE
- 7 - CHRISTMASSY CAPITAL
- 8 - BEETLE BATTLE
- 9 - OLIVERS NEIGHBOR
- 11 - TALL IN SPANISH
- 12 - FAMOUSLY UNDERGROUND
- 13 - A GROSS AMOUNT OF GYPSUM
- 16 - GOLF, SWIMMING, AND AN AIRSTRIIP
- 18 - TOWN/ COUNTY
- 19 - YOU ARE _____
- 22 - ADOBE OASIS
- 24 - OLD TRAIN STOP WITH FARM VIEW
- 28 - THE WHOLE AREA (abbv.)
- 29 - THE “OLD” AREA
- 30 - TOWN/ MOUNTAIN
- 31 - WHERE THE SLASH GOES
- 33 - IS 19 DOWN FOR MOST READERS
- 34 - HIKE ON THE EDGE
- 36 - CANYON WITH A SUNSET VISTA
- 38 - LOCAL RODEO GROUNDS
- 39 - FREEZE!
- 40 - COLD FOREIGN CANYON
- 43 - OUR POWER (abbv.)
- 44 - “BIG” NORTHERN CITY, BY LOCALS
- 46 - THE BASE
- 49 - THE STORE, NOT DISPENSARY



Meet the Puzzler

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



Coaches James McDonald (L) and Chad Barnes (R) strike a pose with the Cloudcroft Little League Team at Elevation Park

Mountain Life

Folks Caught on Camera Living Their Best Mountain Life



Mason Gaffney teaches CPR basics at Math Night



Otero County Sheriff Dept. Officers Benito and Ali visit the Book Fair



Summit Christian Fellowship hosts the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Zenith Park



Cloudcroft's Landry Hunt gets scuba-certified in Puerto Morales, Mexico



Fennec and Sumayyah are all smiles at Math Night



Forest Service LEO Kurt Felix lunches with Cloudcroft Bears on National Be Here Day



CHS Students get some sun at the annual White Sands field trip



The Copelands enjoy Everett's first Easter Egg Hunt



Teachers and Staff train with EMT Penny Hall

The VFD Reports: Cloudcroft Schools’ Project ADAM

Cloudcroft Elementary, Middle, and High School officially became the first schools in New Mexico to be certified and designated “Heart Safe Schools” by Project ADAM. A celebration will be held on May 12.

Project ADAM (Automated External Defibrillators in Adam’s Memory) is a national initiative focused on preventing sudden cardiac death in schools through preparedness, training, and rapid-response systems.

As an affiliate, El Paso Children’s Hos-

pital supports local and surrounding schools in building safer environments for students, staff, and visitors.

Project ADAM honors the memory of Adam Lemel, a teenage athlete who had a sudden cardiac arrest while playing high school basketball. There was no AED available and although CPR was performed, Adam did not survive.

Through Project ADAM’s national effort, over 300 lives have been saved. Today, Project ADAM has over 53 affiliates in 37 states and stands as a leading voice in cardiac preparedness and youth heart safety.

Cloudcroft School Nurse Mandy Ross learned of Project ADAM at a conference and knew that it would benefit Cloudcroft. Cloudcroft Volunteer EMS does a great job, but if no responder is available, it can take AMR more than 30 minutes to arrive.

The chances of surviving cardiac arrest without prompt high-quality CPR and AED use are less than 10%.

Ross says, “I wanted to make sure we

did everything we could to increase that survival rate. As the school nurse, I may not always be available right away when seconds matter most. I wanted to know that our staff could handle a cardiac situation with or without the help of the health office staff.”

“I reached out to Janlin Ciparro who works with El Paso Children’s Hospital and is the Program Coordinator for Project ADAM in El Paso. Under the supervision of Project ADAM and Dr Michael Bell, we built a Code Blue team in each school. We practice drills periodically and each drill, we learn ways to improve.”

“I hope these skills are never used beyond a preplanned scenario with a CPR mannequin, but if there is ever a time that sudden cardiac arrest happens at the school, I know that the individual will have the best chance of survival.”

Janlin Ciparro added, “I feel a strong responsibility to ensure schools are equipped to respond immediately, not just to meet state requirements, but to truly build a culture of safety.”

“It’s not just about having the right equipment; it’s about building confidence and muscle memory so staff can respond immediately and effectively. Every drill is a chance to improve, and that continuous learning is what ultimately saves lives.”

In late March, Cloudcroft hosted a full-day of CPR/AED drills at each school to evaluate emergency response readiness for cardiac emergencies. This was a coordinated effort among school admin, teachers, support staff, Nurse Mandy Ross, Cloudcroft EMS, Janlin Ciparro, NMDOH’s southwest regional health officer and Cloudcroft’s Medical Director Dr. Michael Bell, and others.

NM House Bill 54, Defibrillators in every high school, was passed in both the House and Senate, and signed by the Governor in April 2025. While New

Mexico House Bill 54 represents a monumental step toward cardiac preparedness, Cloudcroft recognized the need to go even further. By expanding its efforts, they have created a model that can inspire others across the state and country.

Cloudcroft’s distant location made coordinating on-site training sessions and drill evaluations difficult, but Nurse Ross took the reins and utilized the tools to prepare the schools and her CERT teams for evaluation day. Her background in emergency medicine made it ideal for her to work virtually and for me to guide her through the program requirements.

One of Cloudcroft’s greatest strengths is its sense of community. The collaboration between school staff, administration, and local EMS was amazing on the day of the site assessments and evaluation drills. During each drill, the communication between the Cloudcroft school CERT team and EMS was strong, and their commitment to student safety was palpable from the very beginning.

That kind of alignment makes implementation smoother and allows programs like Project ADAM to truly take root and succeed.

— Katie Grabowski with Mandy Ross and Janlin Ciparro

Peak Performance

Cloudcroft athletes are closing out a standout spring season. They’ve claimed two state powerlifting medals and are now carrying that momentum onto the tracks as district and state competitions arrive in May.

Gena Davis and Christopher Yousif represented Cloudcroft at the state



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powerlifting meet in Albuquerque on April 10-11, the only two Bears to qualify for the state stage. Davis competed in the 114-pound weight class and Yousif in the 132-pound class, and both came home with second-place finishes. Their performances put Cloudcroft on the podium and set a high standard for the program going forward.

Under the direction of coach Amy Coor, the Bears have used every meet this spring as preparation for the postseason push ahead. On April 17 in Capitan, the girls team placed 4th overall, paced by a dominant multi-event performance from Cassia Moore. Moore swept the jumping events with a 1st-place finish in triple jump and 1st in high jump, then added a 3rd in the 100 hurdles and 3rd in long jump—four scoring efforts in a single meet. She was backed by a 1st-place 4x200 relay run by Tristyn Housler, Rylee Walsh, Moore, and Aurora Trejo, a 2nd-place javelin finish from Delanie Dallas and 5th-place javelin result from Lexi Harrell.

The boys team finished 8th at the April 17, Capitan meet with posted results that point toward a strong district showing. Yousif doubled back from powerlifting to finish 4th in the 200. Fin Abel grabbed 4th in the 3200, Noah Saffle scored in both long jump and triple jump, Dominic Brito tied for 3rd in high jump, Logan McNeil earned points in shot put and Jadon Myers placed 8th in javelin. The team’s 4x800 relay rounded out the scoring with a 3rd-place finish. Coor’s roster has shown the depth that makes Cloudcroft an outstanding team across multiple events heading into district and state.

The district meet comes to Cloudcroft on Saturday, May 2nd, with the state championships to follow in Albuquerque on May 8-9.

Off the track, students interested in cheering on the Bears next year can try out April 30 in the Cloudcroft High School gym. For more information, contact Armando Ortega. On May 12 at 5:30 p.m., the Cloudcroft athletic banquet—organized by Joni Watson—will gather athletes, families and coaches in the high school gym to recognize the hard work and dedication Cloudcroft athletes have put in throughout the year.

With two state medals secured and a district meet on home turf ahead, Coor’s Bears head into the final stretch of spring with plenty to build on. Cloudcroft has already made this season one to remember; and, if these Bears continue to keep up the hard work, June will be the month everyone talks about.

—Paula Finch

Cloudcroft’s Karate Kid Takes First in National Tournament

At the March 6 US Association of Martial Artists (USAMA) National Annual Awards Banquet in Albuquerque, Cloudcroft Freshman Ben Merrell received recognition for being a 2025 National Point Champion, placing first in his division 1st in Sparring,

2nd in Koshiki, Armored Sparring, and 2nd in Take Down Sparring (TDS).

Ben began his karate journey at age 8 while living in St. Louis. The family moved to the Cloudcroft area about 5 years ago, and he began taking classes at Complete Martial Arts in Alamogordo with Sensei Chris Weis.

Weis has guided Ben to three USAMA National Point Championships.

Following the awards banquet, the 2026 Grand National tournament took place at the Isleta Resort and Casino. Ben placed 1st in Sparring, 2nd in TDS, and 4th in Chanbara, Sword Fighting.

Now 15, Ben’s still training at Complete Martial Arts and is now also training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and Mixed Martial Arts at Fat Tree in Alamogordo.



Eddy Cottage at the Pioneer Village in Cloudcroft

Eddy Cottage

The Eddy Cottage on the grounds of the Sacramento Mountains Historical Society pioneer village is a two-room fragment of an eleven-room summer home complex that was formerly located on what is now the Family Dollar parking lot.

Rift Point Lodge, the summer residence of J. A. Eddy, his wife, Susan, and his young daughters, Sara and Katherine, overlooked the expanse of Zenith Park and was about two blocks from the Lodge and the Pavilion, the center of activities in the Cloudcroft resort. Perhaps a sense of the Eddy’s presence in Cloudcroft can be gained from the following:

“On August 18, 1906, Governor Herbert J. Hagerman, accompanied by Attorney General W. C. Reid and Territorial Secretary J. W. Reynolds, arrived at Alamogordo in the private railroad car of General Manager Simmons. ... The next morning, they went to The Lodge at Cloudcroft to attend the New Mexico Bar Association Convention, which met August 21 and 22.

“Sharing a page in Mrs. Eddy’s guest book is a clipping describing her dinner party and reception during the convention. ‘No one could have been a more gracious hostess. Gowned in white linen, lace trimmed and over pink silk, she received her guests, assisted by Mrs. James A. Carroll, who wore an elegant toilet of white liberty satin. Her dinner table was decorated with red candles in a silver candelabra and a bouquet of variegated sweet peas. Among the many guests calling at the reception from 8 to 11 were Ex-Governor and Mrs. L. Bradford Prince from Santa Fe. All finally joined the dancing at the Pavilion.”

—Lynn Melton on behalf of the Sacramento Mountains Historical Society

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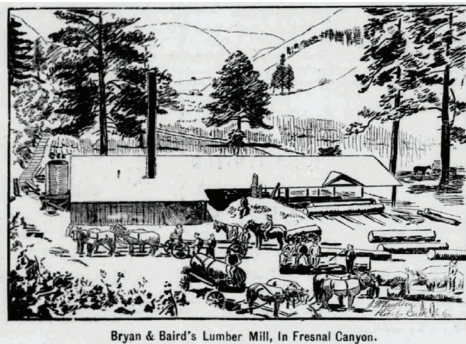
Water Line Trenching & Installation

The First Sacramento Timber

In 1898, newspapers were just beginning to use half-tone printing for photographs. It is likely that the image above was originally a photograph that an artisan converted to a woodcut for printing.

The initial segment of the Alamogordo & Sacramento Mountains Railroad (A&SM), from Alamogordo to Toboggan Canyon, was under construction at this time, and the existence of a sawmill opens up an interesting story about the early use of timber from the Sacramento Mountains.

The sawmill itself relied on steam power; the stack in the left center of the building confirms this. The slabs from logs would have been burned to heat the boiler. Readers who wish to see a restored 1898 steam powered sawmill in action should search in Google for “Georgia sawmill 1898” and view the YouTube video.



Bryan & Baird's Lumber Mill, in Fresno Canyon.

If one takes the man in the lower right center, who is standing beside the log with three men sitting on it, to be 5'6" tall, the dimensions of other elements in the image can be estimated by scaling measurements in the image. The bed of the empty wagon in front of the stack is approximately thirteen feet long. The large log – still on a wagon – in front of the empty is approximately eight feet long and three feet in diameter. The logs near the gable on the building are approximately thirteen feet long and two feet in diameter.

The ends of the logs are square cut; they have been cut with a crosscut saw, not an ax.

Most ties for a standard gauge railroad were eight feet long. Most trestle timbers were fourteen feet long and with either 12" x 12" or 12" x 14" cross-section. The stringers on top of a trestle were usually sixteen feet long, with an 8" x 16 cross-section. Although no finished timbers are shown in the image, it seems likely that it is sawing logs to produce railroad timbers.

The author and two colleagues found the site of the sawmill, in Fresno canyon, southeast of Wooten. It is on Forest Service land, but permission to cross restricted land is required to reach it. Only foundation stones and a rusted iron pipe remain. There was no sign of the tramway shown at the left of the image.

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

Imagined Interview with J.D. Baird

Lynn Melton (LM): Mr. Baird, I came to San Elizario hoping that you are the same J.D. Baird who worked with Gordon Bryan on the 1898 sawmill in Fresno Canyon.

J.D. Baird (JB): Yep, I was around LaLuz then. A few years after that venture ran out, I bought this place. Here I can make pretty good money raising alfalfa.

LM: So, how did it come about? How did a farmer become a lumber man?

JB: Young man, with a question like that you are telling me that it is going to be a long afternoon. Have a seat here on the porch. First, you need to know about Hamilton Kimberlin -- not Ham, he bristled at that. Hamilton was an odd duck. Born in Indiana. He was a private in the Mexican War. I don't know what he did after that. I don't think he was ever married. Anyway, in the 1880s, so I was told, he shows up around LaLuz. He set himself up a homestead in Fresno Canyon. Nobody else was that far up the canyon, and he laid out his claim from next to Wooten spring on the west all the way up the canyon bottom almost to Toboggan Canyon. Well, that only got him about eighty acres, So he thought a while and laid out forty acres on the north side, right near Scarface rock and forty acres on the south side in Willie Watson canyon. The north side was steep and just scrub, but Willie Watson had good timber. Not that he cared.

About 1890, Eli McNew showed up, came from the east, and he homesteaded up on the saddle. J. A. Eddy bought him out for a hundred dollars and started his fancy Cloudcroft. But that's not my story.

Anyway, McNew had four daughters, and as they came of age, his place attracted young men like honey attracts flies. What do you know, by and by, he had four sons-in-law. Eli put them to work cutting roads – you could call them roads, they just cut enough trees so that you could get a wagon through. Three roads – Toboggan canyon, Nelson canyon, and Karr canyon.

LM: I don't see how that gets us to the sawmill?

JB: Easy, young man, I am the one telling the story. Anyhow. In 1894 they put in the post office at Fresno, just a hundred yards or so up Wooten canyon. That meant the hill toppers were coming though Hamilton's property to get their mail. After a few wagon crossing, it was pretty much a road. He didn't mind. He was an odd duck, but he was OK with people.

Hamilton started growing potatoes. One year he was so pleased with himself. He put in four acres of potatoes and managed to get them to El Paso with his wagon. Made one hundred dollars an acre off those four acres. He kept telling us over and over about those potatoes.

Part One of Three. There will be more about the sawmill next month.

—Lynn Melton

Stay on the Roads: Forest Addresses OHV Misuse

Lincoln National Forest Public Affairs Officer Jorden Scott reminds off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreators to stay on approved routes to avoid closures.

The Lincoln National Forest is reminding visitors to ride responsibly this season as reports of OHV misuse continue to rise. Misuse, including unauthorized travel by ATVs, side-by-sides, highway vehicles, and other motorized equipment, can damage sensitive habitats,

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OHVs fuel up in the village

create safety hazards, and diminish the experience of other forest users.

The Forest Service manages a wide range of resources, including habitat, forage, historical sites, rangeland, and more, while also providing opportunities for the public to recreate responsibly. Most visitors do their part, but continued violations may force the Forest to consider additional restrictions or closures in areas where misuse persists.

The Forest Service loves seeing people get out and enjoy their public lands, but we need everyone to follow the rules, so these places remain open and healthy for future generations.

Visitors who witness unsafe or illegal activity are encouraged to report it to the local sheriff's office: 575-437-2210. Instances of OHV misuse on Forest lands should also be reported directly to the appropriate district office so staff can respond quickly and track problem areas. In and around Cloudcroft, that's the Sacramento Ranger District Office: 575-682-2551.

All designated motorized routes are shown on the Lincoln National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM), available on the Forest's website. Riders are urged to review the MVUM before heading out and to stay on authorized routes at all times.

Protecting these lands today ensures that trails remain open and accessible for every rider, hiker, and nature lover who comes after us.

Scouting Around

April was another busy month for Pack and Troop 958, with scouts taking part in a community cleanup and a well-supported fundraiser.

On April 11, our scouts partnered with our charter organization, VFW Post 11999, for a roadside cleanup along Highway 82. Working along the east side of the village between mile markers 17 and 18, scouts and VFW members collected 17 bags of trash over the course



of the morning.

This stretch of highway has been maintained by VFW Post 11999 since 2012 through the New Mexico Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway program. Our scouts are proud to take part in that ongoing effort. The cleanup is a practical way to provide service to the community while also spending time working alongside the veterans who support our program. We are grateful to VFW Post 11999 not only for organizing opportunities like this, but for their continued role as the charter organization for both our troop and pack.

Just a few days later, on April 14, the community showed its support in a different way at our annual fundraiser at Mad Jack's Mountaintop Barbecue. The evening centered around a brisket sandwich meal with chips, a cookie, and a drink, with proceeds helping send scouts to summer camp.

This event helps cover the cost of summer camp, and this year's strong turnout will go a long way for our scouts. We are especially thankful to Mad Jack's for hosting once again and for their continued support of scouting in Cloudcroft. Owner James Jackson made the trip from Texas to be there in person, which meant a great deal to us.

If you have a child who might benefit from scouting, come see us sometime to see what it's all about.

Contact us: info@CloudcroftScouts.org

— Greg Crinklaw

Cloudcroft's VFW Prepares for Patriotic Season

VFW Post 11999 was in action on April 11, as members and our local Scout troop collected litter along Highway 82 between mile markers 17 and 18. The effort resulted in 17 bags of trash. The Post has maintained this one-mile stretch since adopting it in 2012, conducting cleanups twice a year with the help of family and friends.

With spring underway, the VFW is preparing for several upcoming patriotic observances. Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, will begin with a ceremony at 9:00 a.m. at the Blue Star Memorial in Zenith Park, followed by services at James Canyon Cemetery (10:30 a.m.),

Mayhill Cemetery (11:00 a.m.), and Weed Cemetery (12:00 p.m.). The community is invited to attend and honor those who gave their lives in service to our nation.

On Saturday, June 13, the Post will host a Flag Day observance at the Blue Star Memorial, including a formal U.S. flag retirement ceremony. Unserviceable flags may be dropped off at the Cloudcroft Senior Center or at the VFW booth during Mayfair, May 23–24.

Mayfair will also kick off the VFW's next raffle, featuring a Henry VFW .22 LR Tribute Edition rifle. Stop by to meet Post members and learn more about upcoming events and community efforts.

—Paul Benshoof, Commander,
VFW Post 11999

Meet Lumina: Little J Ranch

Lumina came to us alongside her friends—a goat named Molly and a pig named Charlie. After a week of quarantine, we're beginning the careful process of integrating them with the rest of the herd.



New beginnings can be slow and intentional, but they're so worth it.

If you'd like to be part of Lumina's journey and help us care for animals like her, we would be so grateful for your support. www.littlejranch.org

Every donation makes a difference. Thank you for loving these animals with us.

—Katie Jones, Little J Ranch

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Good Info: Cloudcroft Schools Resource Guide

For parents, grandparents, sports fans, and other folks seeking up-to-date info from Cloudcroft Municipal Schools (CMS), here is how to stay in the loop.

Board of Education meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Highschool, 10 Swallow Place, unless otherwise posted. You can catch a livestream of them on Zoom—links are posted at the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools Facebook page.

Each month, Jocelyne Gillespie delivers her superintendent’s letter on the CMS website, highlighting students, staff, and other important administrative messages: <https://www.cmsbears.org/superintendents-message>

Volunteers are welcome with the Parent Teacher Organization, which supports the schools through organizing and fundraising through the Fall Festival, bingo fundraisers, Scholastic Book Fairs, teacher appreciation weeks, athletic events, and more. Email President Callie McDonald at president@cloudcroftpto.org to get involved.



Wild Iris bloom in the Sacramento Mountains

For more parent resources, visit <https://www.cmsbears.org/parents>.

Life in the Sacramentos

May and June are so beautiful for flower-lovers. I’ve included a photo or two that really make this case. Everyone’s planted garden flowers and the wild-flowers naturalized in our local woods are approaching this prime time of the year.

The native drought-tolerant perennial flowers which make such a colorful show at our house by the end of May include aquilegia (columbine), salvia

(sage), achillea (yarrow), centranthus ruber (Jupiter’s Beard), Nepeta faassenii (catmint), bearded iris, perennial Johnson’s Geraniums, and a returning dianthus called Sweet Williams, which, along with pink-flowering creeping thyme, love to spread themselves all over a lawn and patio. We can plant colorful annual bedding flowers available in our local greenhouses in the mountains in May - begonias, petunias, pansies, violas, lobelia, and marigolds - I like to put them in containers or hanging baskets.

Two of my favorite native wildflowers at this time of year are the fleabane daisy and the wild iris. If we have been dry, there won’t be as many, but they still do some blooming. Lower, wetter spots are favored by the wild iris after mid-May. When we lived a little lower-down in elevation, we used to enjoy Homestead Purple verbena canadensis, a spreading wild verbena that volunteered in patches which were especially welcome inside already-prepared garden beds. The aforementioned wildflowers do this too. Yes!

It’s hard to miss, and even harder not to enjoy, the increase in the variety of birds that frequent our hills in the spring, compared to the cadre of year-round birds. I am sure most of us have been charmed in May by a hummingbird sipping from a garden flower; Black-chinned and Broad-tailed hummingbirds already arrived by late March or early April, with males now busy chasing females, serenading them in their swooping courting arcs, and females busy making nests.

The sights and sounds of the male Black-headed Grosbeak, who makes such a melodious warble from a high perch, and the Cordilleran Flycatcher (or the Western Wood Pewee), who arrives near mid-May, just in time for the return of our lowly-regarded miller moths, serenade us with two quick high-pitched notes as they sit in the pines. Nest-making activities abound – at our house, we have hosted Says Phoebe, Cordilleran Flycatchers, Dark-Eyed Juncos, and Steller’s Jays. All of these (and plenty more) like to tuck their nests into the eaves and soffits of houses for better protection of the eggs, the nestlings and the fledglings.

Other grosbeaks arrive around the area, for example, the beautiful Evening Grosbeaks, other flycatchers, e.g., Kingbirds and Gray Flycatchers, various warblers, e.g., the Yellow-rumped Warbler, and the greatly-anticipated Western Tanagers with their bright red heads over yellow plumage (during breeding season). And we begin to see

the small denizens of the woods, like raccoons and skunks, the coyotes cycle back around and we can hear them howling in one of the canyons near sunset, and the black bears start to appear...

I’ll include a poem that I wrote that depicts May in these mountains for me:

*I'll paint a peaceful picture here:
Crickets chirp in the evening haze.
We've seen the last of the day's whitetail deer.
Our patio chimes tinkle in a light breeze.
A trio of bats dip soundlessly in view.
Their fuzzy, round bodies pitch and roll,
Silhouetted against a deep sapphire blue.
Early evening in the forest stirs my soul.
A star or two gleams in the indigo bed,
Sunset crimson deepens the western sky.
A crescent moon hangs overhead
And later, we observed the space station coast by.
A lone cow lows in the pastures below us,
The long, mournful call of a mom to her kin.
This spring evening carries no late-season chorus
Of hermit thrush, nighthawk, poor-will, or wren.
The robins' songs last long into the evening.
Their industry won't be matched anytime soon.
We just sit on our peaceful patio, enjoying
Crickets, cows, and a crescent moon*

—Lyn Canham



Wildlife of the Month: Sacramento Mountain Salamander

As we begin to head into some (hopefully) wetter months, let’s learn about one of the more elusive residents around the forest: the Sacramento Mountain Salamander.

This small amphibian is found during monsoon season under rocks, logs, moss and lichen, and in water. Only getting about 3-4 inches long, this finger-sized creature blends in seamlessly with its surroundings, making it easy to miss. Salamanders occur in high elevation temperate forests, preferring elevations of 7,900 feet and above. This species of salamander is endemic, meaning it is native and restricted to a certain place – that means there’s no other salamander in the world just like this one outside of the Sacramento Mountain region!

As monsoon season approaches Cloudcroft, it is important to be mindful of wildlife that take advantage of the rain and the delicate ecosystems our smaller wildlife depend on. Many people do not see these salamanders, as they live most of the year underground and only emerge when conditions are sufficient. If you keep your eyes peeled and do a rain dance, you may get lucky and see a salamander!

— Christina Olvera

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Mountain Monthly

Flavor Lab



Tiramisu

Contributed by CHS Culinary Program sophomore **Sofie Morgan**

Ingridients:

- 3 cups heavy whipping cream
- 16 oz mascarpone cheese
- .67 cup sugar
- Teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups Espresso
- 6 Tablespoons coffee-flavored liqueur
- 2 packages Lady Fingers
- Cocoa powder for dusting the top



Instructions:

- Add whipping cream to a mixing bowl and beat on medium speed with an electric mixer. Slowly add sugar and vanilla, continue to beat until stiff peaks form, add mascarpone cheese, and fold in until combined. Set aside
- Add coffee and liqueur to a shallow bowl.
- dip the lady fingers in the coffee (Don't soak them, just quickly dip them on both sides to get them wet)
- lay them in a single layer on the bottom of an 8 X 8 Pan or similar.
- Smooth half of the mascarpone mixture over the top. Add another layer of dipped lady fingers, and smooth the remaining mascarpone cream over the top
- Dust Cocoa powder generously over the top. I use a fine mesh strainer to do this. Refrigerate for at least 3-4 hours or up to overnight before serving



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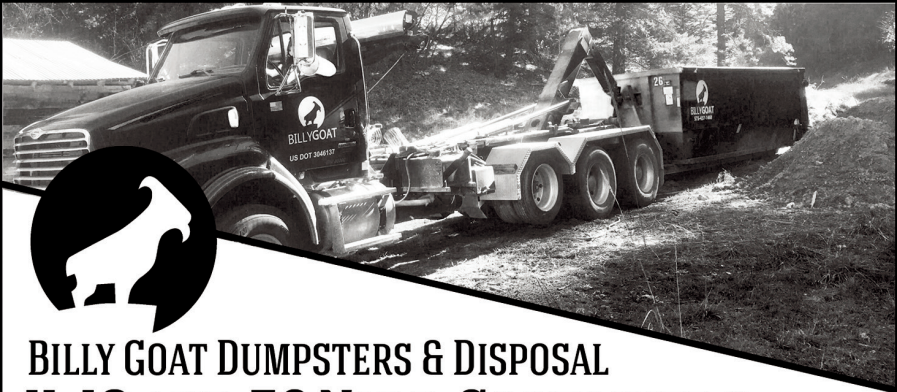
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Greetings from The Lodge

Jonathan Mancillas Hotel Manager/Director of Events

On April 1 The Lodge opened its 127th golf season by welcoming our new Pro Shop manager, Toni Carrizal. We sincerely thank all of you who have supported our golf course over the years. Our golfers are a big part of what makes The Lodge such a special place, and we truly appreciate the community that has grown around the course.

We are introducing a local discount and continuing our 10-Round and 20-Round Punch Cards. These options give you the freedom to play whenever you'd like, while still receiving a great deals. Our 10/20 cards will be \$600 (without a cart) and we offer cart cards for \$175. You can purchase these cards at the pro shop anytime during the season.

We have a new golf package, The Legend's Getaway Pataway Package. Experience the perfect pairing of heritage and sport. Enjoy one night of historic charm in a king, queen or double queen room and 18 holes of golf for two, with a cart, for \$316.

We've expanded the hours that our Al Capone bar, St Andrew's, is open. Now drinks continue Friday and Saturday until 10 pm after food service ends at 8 pm. Also, 1899 serves a breakfast buffet every Saturday and Sunday morning, starting at 8 am and ending at noon on Sunday, 11 am on Saturday. This buffet is included for our hotel lodging guests, and open to the public for \$18 per person.

We're celebrating Mother's Day at The Lodge with a scrumptious buffet fit for a Queen. From prime rib, turkey breast and salmon to cheesecake tarts, chocolate mousse and everything in between, we have the feast your mother deserves. Adults are \$65 per person, while children 12 and under are \$30. Call us to reserve your table at 575-682-2566.

In March and April The Lodge was honored to host four military family marriage retreats with their Chaplains. If you have a retreat for your faith group, we can work with you on discounted room prices and group menus. Please call me, Jonathan Mancillas, at 575-682-2566 and I will happily make your retreat a wonderful one.

I can also help anyone wishing to host their wedding or reception, birthday party, quinceañera, sweet sixteen, retirement or anniversary party at The Lodge. If you have a celebration, The Lodge is the place for a memorable one.

The Lodge will host a Memorial Day event on Saturday, May 23rd with a delicious cookout style buffet of steak, ribs, grilled chicken and all the fixings for \$36 per adult \$15 per child twelve and under. The Doso Dirtbags will provide the live music and we'll open the Red Dog Saloon for the cash bar. Reservations are needed for this event so call us at 575-682-2566 to book it.

We look forward to seeing you here!



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PASSINGS



Tommy David Hatfield

Tommy David Hatfield, beloved husband, devoted father, adored Papaw, and faithful servant of the Lord, entered into the presence of his Savior on March 29, 2026 at the age of 80, surrounded by his loving family.

Tommy was born on March 23, 1946 in Columbus, OH. He graduated from Reynoldsburg High School and then Ohio State University with a double major in Natural Resource Management and Journalism. At the age of 22, he was drafted into the US Army and served during the Vietnam War. It was there that he met and married his beloved wife, Tho Thi “Lan” Nguyen, on October 4, 1971. They built their life together in the beautiful mountains of High Rolls, NM.

Tommy retired as a federal firefighter from Holloman AFB. He was also employed as a firefighter at White Sands Missile Range (main post and the High Energy Laser Systems Facility, HELSTF), Ricken backer Air National Guard Base, and the US Forest Service. The highlight of his career was working at the Smokey Bear Ranger District, where he served as Suppression Crew Foreman. This crew morphed into what is now known as the “Smokey Bear Hotshots,” a crew sent

to fight the hottest parts of a fire.

His work history also included: Fire Prevention Officer and Land Management Team Writer/Editor for the US Forest Service, Public Affairs Officer for the Bureau of Land Management, Instructor of General Forestry at Boise State University, Soil Conservation Technician for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sales Manager for KEY Radio and oil field derrick man.

Tommy was a pillar of his community. For many years, he served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Trinity Baptist Church. He was a member of the High Rolls Mountain Park Lions Club and was a long-time volunteer firefighter for the High Rolls Volunteer Fire Department until just recently when his illness no longer allowed him to serve. He was a friend to many and known for his willingness to always lend a helping hand. He enjoyed outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing and loved to play and watch basketball. March Madness was one of his favorite times of the year.

His love of the outdoors led to the creation of his own tree trimming and firewood business, “Arbor Encantada Tree Service.”

Tommy treasured his family and made every effort to attend his grandchildren’s many special activities. He leaves his family with abundant memories of time spent together.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Tho Thi “Lan” Hatfield; his five children, Carol (John) Wearden of San Angelo, TX,

Kim Hatfield of Williamsburg, VA, Christy (Daniel) Gifford of San Angelo, TX, Kendal Hatfield of Calvert City, KY, and Carly (Blake) Moseler of San Angelo, TX; his sixteen cherished grandchildren: Catherine, Addison, and Megan Wearden; Logan and Kaylan; Alison, Jonathan, Aidan, and Darin Penn and Aedan Gifford; Koryn

and Ashlen Hatfield and Macie Maul; and Kianna Hatfield and Berkeley and Collins Moseler; his great-granddaughter, Emma Hatfield-Joyce; his stepchildren, Ngoc and Thao and their children; his siblings, Susan (Gary) Meadows, Reverend James Howard Hatfield III, and Christine (Jim) D’Innocenzo; his Uncle Joseph Fisher and many cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Howard Hatfield Jr and Ollie Nathalie Fisher Hatfield.

A celebration of life service will be held on May 2, 2026 at 11:00 am at Trinity Baptist Church, High Rolls, NM of by Pastor Steve Fambrough and Pastor Billy Tucker.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to Trinity Baptist Church or the High Rolls Volunteer Fire Department.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” - 2 Timothy 4:7

“If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, Till my change come.” - Job 14:14

In Memory of Gloria Wood

Former Mountain Monthly contributor and friend Sue Preslar remembers Gloria

Gloria Wood, co-founder of this very newspaper, passed away recently, five months short of her 90th birthday.

Born August 28th, 1936, Gloria was from Rochester, Michigan. She and her husband, Gary, came to Cloudcroft after years of running businesses in Santa Fe.

Together, Gloria and Gary built the Copper Butterfly, Mountain Foto, Gypsy’s Wagon, Auntie Gloria’s Fudge Shop, the Whistlestop Ice Cream Shop,

and Artisan Alley.

Gloria served as President of the Chamber of Commerce, helped found the Burro Street Professional Women, and served on committees during an era before lodgers’ tax boards or formal zoning existed in the village. In March 1988, she and Gary founded the Mountain Monthly. She said at the time that she had printer’s ink in her blood.

Gloria had known loss. She lost a teenage son in Santa Fe, and later her first husband, Louie, and her older son died in a plane crash in Las Cruces. She and her youngest son, Paul, continued on.

Sue Preslar first spotted Gloria at one of Cloudcroft’s early art shows — a copper etchings booth, a salt-and-pepper poodle named Pepper on a stool beside her, his curly coat matching Gloria’s own. “I can almost guarantee,” Preslar writes, “it was a schtik. It worked.”

Gloria and Gary retired in 2004 and moved to Alamogordo. In her later years, she moved to Charleston, Maryland, where Paul and his wife Clare cared for her until the end. “I am sure,” Preslar writes, “she got that little town straightened up pretty quick.”

“She was a ball-breaker and a good friend,” Preslar writes. “She was there when I needed her.”



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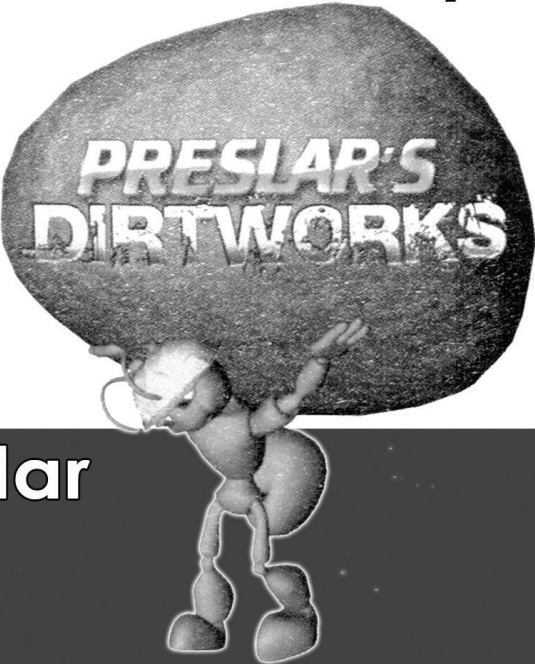
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Faces & Places



Ray Haller enjoys the Elevation Park Disc Golf Course, ranked Number 2 in New Mexico

Elevation Park Disc Golf Course is ranked #2 in New Mexico. Ray Haller built it

by Jonny Coker

“I grew up on Walt Disney’s Motion Picture Ranch,” **Ray Haller** said, recalling when his father managed the sprawling property in Southern California. His dad’s work brought him to southern New Mexico during the filming of the 1971 movie Scandalous John.

Haller followed soon after.

“I came up here and thought, wow,” he said. “It was different than what I was used to, Southern California, the tropics. It was a small town. There was even a horse stable right in the middle of it.”

Fresh out of high school, Haller did his share of exploring the world. He lived in Mexico for five years, Australia for a stretch, and Kingston near Silver City. But Cloudcroft remained what he considers home base, and it’s where he began managing the town’s ice skating

rink in the early ‘90s.

He walked into the Chamber of Commerce in the fall of 1992, with no experience running a rink and a self-described dislike of winter, and talked his way into the job anyway.

“They were so glad to see me,” he laughs. “They got me a coffee and a chair.”

Disc Golf Comes to the Village

It was around 1995 or ‘96 that a friend introduced him to disc golf, bringing a bag of discs up from Lubbock, Texas, where the sport already had a foothold. Ray was intrigued.

At the time, disc golf was gaining popularity, although long before formal courses, Haller remembers a looser version of the game.

“We got tired of just throwing [a Frisbee] back and forth,” he said. “So we’d say, ‘Okay, there’s a fire hydrant over there, you’ve got to hit it from here.’ We made a little course. We didn’t call it disc golf yet.”

By the late ‘90s, Haller was all in. During his seven years managing Cloudcroft’s ice skating rink, he used his off-seasons to travel.

“I went around and played almost 300 courses around the country... for two springs in a row,” he said. “Then I decided, well, I think I know enough now how to put a course in.”

The result of that exploration was Cloudcroft’s first disc golf course,

now called the **Byron Ligon Disc Golf Course**, a nine-hole layout in Zenith Park with ten metal baskets that Ray and longtime local teacher Mr. Booky fabricated themselves.

“I got sponsors from different businesses in town, \$150 each,” he said. “We had ten baskets... and that’s how it was.”

Decades later, Haller would take on a far more ambitious project: designing what is now the Cloudcroft Community Disc Golf Course near the village’s old baseball field. The idea, he said, came casually over a beer with then-mayor **Dave Venable**.

“I said, ‘You could put in a pretty good course around the baseball field up there in the woods,’” Haller recalled. “Five minutes later, he says, ‘That’s a good idea. Go talk to Jini about it.’”

Jini Turri, Cloudcroft’s village clerk, then and now, was, in Ray’s telling, the person who actually made it happen from the administrative standpoint.

“She was really responsible for making it real,” he said.

The Village agreed to cover the materials, including the baskets, signage, tee pads, and some tools. Ray contributed the design and all the labor.

“It took six and a half months to put in,” Haller said. “And when I realized I was going to have to build the thing, I was like, oh God.”

Six-and-a-half months and countless hours of chainsaw work and trail-cutting later, the Cloudcroft Community Disc Golf Course opened its 18 holes to the public in 2019.

“I had no idea what to expect,” Haller said. “We’re kind of far away from major cities.”

Now, Top-Ranked Community Course

Today, it holds a 4.6-out-of-5-star rating on UDisc from more than 500 reviews, consistently ranks as the second-best course in the entire state of New Mexico, and draws players from Holloman Air Force Base, Albuquerque, Texas, Oklahoma, and, on at least one memorable occasion, Budapest, Hungary.

“It’s kind of an odd horseshoe-shaped piece of property,” Haller said. “I jigsaw-pieced it together.”

Unlike flat, park-style courses, Cloudcroft’s layout leans into the mountain environment, with elevation changes, dense trees, and uneven footing. The result is a course that challenges players physically and has earned a reputation far beyond the village.

Haller doesn’t claim perfection in the course’s design. Still, he stands by it, noting the difficulty of working around the property boundaries of the national forest and the village maintenance yard. His advice to others on course design is simple. Choose the right land, and understand the game.

Haller’s happy with what the course has become, and he’s still playing, still learning, even after decades in the sport.

“I need that kind of exercise... going up and down those hills,” he said. “I’m glad people like it.”

Haller’s contributions to Cloudcroft stretch far beyond disc golf, but the course is his most visible legacy. In some ways, the Cloudcroft Community Disc Golf Course reflects the town itself. Scenic, a little rugged, occasionally crowded, but never dull.

“It’s a great area,” Haller said. “We’re an oasis.”

“If I can do it, anybody can.”



Elevation is a key element of the course



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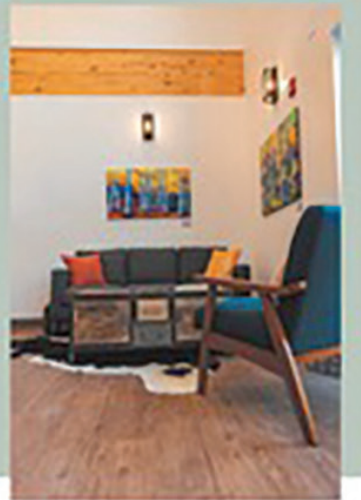
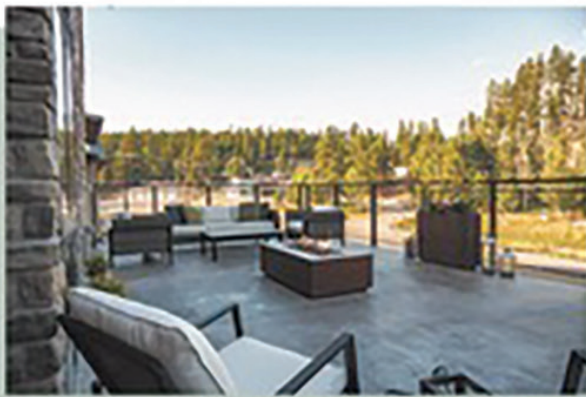
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