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JANUARY 2015

CHAPARRAL GUIDE



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**SIERRA COUNTY
GHOST TOWNS
& PLACES
OF INTEREST**

Off the Beaten Path: Sierra County's Ghost Towns & Places of Interest

Sierra County has many unique and interesting places to visit, from ghost towns to scenic beauty.

ENGLE

Engle was founded in 1879 as a station on the

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. It became a thriving cattle town and shipping point for ore from nearby mines. Construction of Elephant Butte Dam from 1911 to 1916 filled the town with people, but the population declined

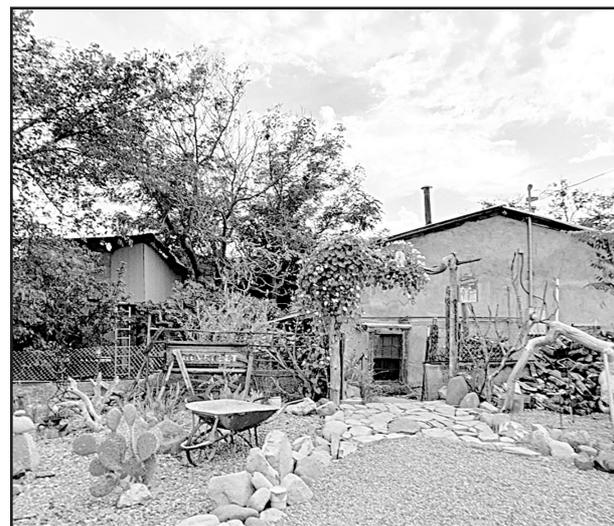
after the dam was completed.

Though few people remain, the town is the headquarters of the historic Armendaris Ranch.

Engle is located 17 miles east of Truth or Consequences on State Highway 51.



OLD ENGLE DEPOT



CUCHILLO

Named a "Traditional Historic Community" in 2011, Cuchillo was settled during the Civil War. The town was named for a nearby creek and a local Apache chief, Cuchillo Negro (Black Knife).

Due to its location – midway between Chloride, Winston's mines and the railroad at Engle – Cuchillo flourished as a stage stop and trade center from the 1880s to the 1930s.

Charming original buildings survive, including San Jose Catholic Church, built in 1907.



HILLSBORO

Hillsboro was founded in 1877, when gold was discovered at the nearby mines.

Despite Native American attacks, the town grew, becoming the County Seat in 1884.

Area mines produced more than \$6 million in gold and silver, and by 1907, the town had a population of 1,200.



LAKE VALLEY

Lake Valley was founded in 1878 with the discovery of silver in the area, and was named for ancient lakebeds in the area.

The town moved twice before settling at its

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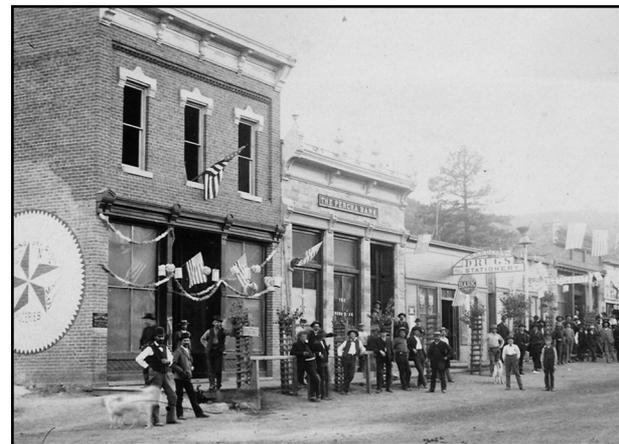


present site when the Bridal Chamber Mine was discovered in 1882. The subterranean mine produced 2.5 million ounces of silver ore so pure it was shipped unsmelted to the U.S. Mint.

A stage stop and railhead, Lake Valley grew to 4,000 people, with saloons, churches, newspapers, a school, stores, and hotels to serve them.

Like the area's other gold and silver boomtowns, the devastating silver panic of 1893 wiped out the town, while a fire destroyed Main Street in 1895.

Lake Valley is a true ghost town.



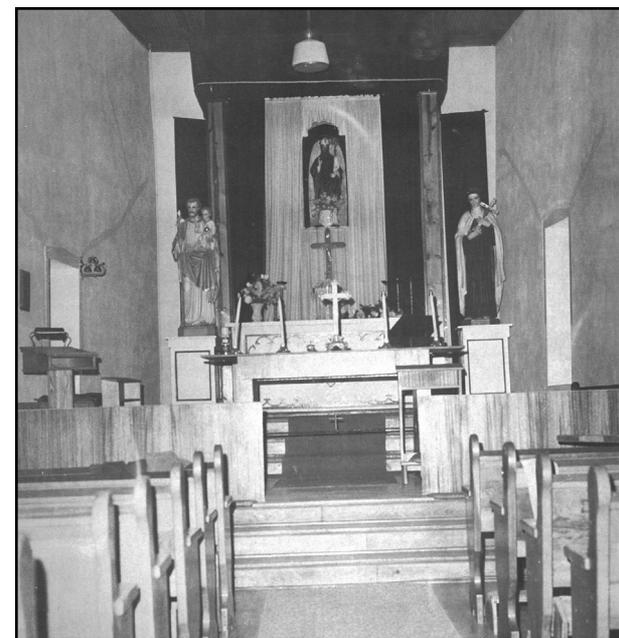
KINGSTON

Kingston was founded when a rich lode of silver ore was discovered at the Solitaire Mine in 1882.

It quickly became the largest town in the territory, offering all of the trappings of civilization and culture, and was also one of the wildest in the Wild West. Numerous hotels played host to the likes of Mark Twain, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, and Black Jack Ketchum. Stage lines served all major routes, and the town supported 23 saloons, some of which advertised fresh oysters 24 hours a day. The town also had 14 grocery and general stores; a brewery; three newspapers; and an opera house where the Lillian Russell Troupe once performed. Albert Bacon Fall and Ed Doheny of the Teapot Dome Scandal got their start in Kingston.

From those glory days, the old assay office and the remains of the Victorio Hotel have been renovated as private residences.

The Black Range Lodge and the Percha Bank Museum remain a big part of Kingston.



MONTICELLO

Monticello was founded by ranchers and farm-

ers in 1856 as Cañada Alamosa (Cottonwood Canyon).

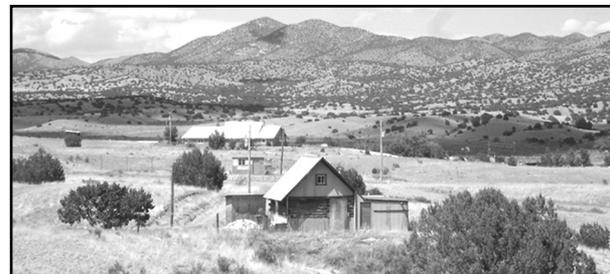
In 1881, its first postmaster, Aristide Bourguet, renamed the town that was located not far from the headquarters for the Warm Springs Apache Agency.

Built in a square around a plaza in order to protect residents from attack, the town features old adobe homes that have been restored by new residents.

Mass is still said at historic San Ignacio Catholic Church, built in 1867, and the local cemetery has graves dating from the 1800s.

Monticello is known today for its proximity

to the Monticello Box as well as for its organic farms including Jardin del Alma.



WINSTON

First called Fairview, Winston was settled in

Continued on next page

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1881 by miners who found nearby Chloride "too rowdy." It had a school, bars, a newspaper, horse races, and featured plays and songfests at one of the local halls.

Miner, businessman, and future state legislator Frank H. Winston, who came to town in 1882, owned several businesses (including the Frank Winston Carriage House) and generously gave credit to customers in hard times. When he died in 1929, the town was renamed in his honor.

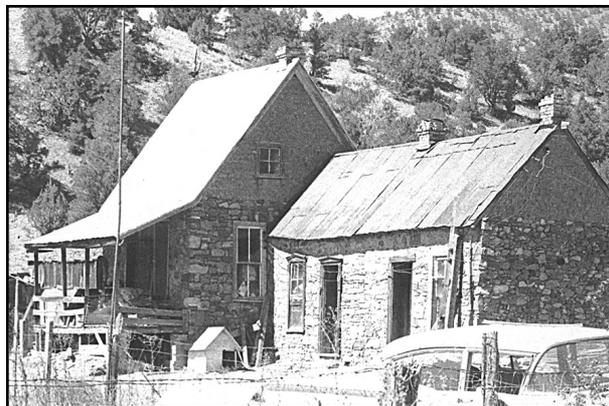
While Winston flourished until the Silver Panic of 1893, today only a few families remain.

Winston's home still stands, along with the 1890 schoolhouse, the old post office, and other historic buildings.

CHLORIDE

Chloride was developed in 1880, two years after Briton Harry Pye chanced upon silver ore, a discovery he initially kept secret.

Chloride, in its heyday, had nine saloons, a general store, a dry goods store, a millinery shop, a restaurant, a butcher shop, a candy store,



a pharmacy, a Chinese laundry, a photography studio, a school, and two hotels. The Black Range newspaper was printed in Chloride from 1882 to 1896.

The demise of Chloride began with the Silver Panic of 1893 and was hastened by the presidential election of 1896, which resulted in a drastic decline in silver prices.

Today, many of Chloride's original structures still stand. The old Pioneer Store is a museum;

next door the former Monte Cristo Saloon & Dance Hall houses a gift shop and gallery, featuring work by local artists. Both are open seven days a week 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A restaurant is open weekends (Thursday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.).

Among the many mines established near Chloride, the St. Cloud Mine is still in operation, though not mining silver.

Side Trips on the Geronimo Trail

There are many interesting things to see along the Geronimo Trail in Sierra County. A side trip to Engle takes visitors to the remains of the old railroad town, once a bustling shipping center of more than 2,000 people that now has four buildings left. The Jornada del Muerto portion of the Camino Real del Tierra Adentro passes through here, and now Spaceport America is located to the south.

Elephant Butte Lake, at the time of construction (1911-1916), was the largest manmade impounded body of water in the United States. It was built for flood control and irrigation purposes, and provides water for farmlands along the Rio Grande valley in New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. It is the only body of water under international boundary regulations. Elephant Butte Lake State Park is now the most popular state park in New Mexico, with an abundance of water sports available.

A trip along State Highway 52 will take you to interesting places like Cuchillo, Winston and Chloride. These historic old towns have many tales to tell, having once been a place where stagecoaches stopped and mining towns boomed, which led in due course to saloon brawls and shootouts. The Pioneer Store Museum in Chloride is well worth a visit, looking much as it did when it closed as a general mercantile store in the 1920s.

Continuing on the pavement, take State Highway 59 all the way to the Beaverhead Forest Service work station, through tall pines and over the Continental Divide. Check with the Forest Service office on road conditions during the winter, as roads can become snow-packed and impassible.

South of Truth or Consequences, along State Highway 187, the drive takes you to Caballo Lake and then to the farming communities along the river valley. Travelers along this picturesque route will see irrigated fields of onions, chili, sorghum, and other seasonal crops as well as many pecan orchards.

Continued on next page

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State Highway 152 will lead you into the Black Range Mountains and the mining towns of Hillsboro and Kingston. South of Hillsboro is the ghost town of Lake Valley, where the BLM has caretakers protecting the property. These towns were all major communities in the mining boom days of the 1880s and 1890s. Lake Valley had the richest vein of silver ever discovered. Hillsboro was the first County Seat of Sierra County, and the ruins of the original courthouse are still standing.

Past Kingston is one of the most challenging and scenic drives in the world. State Highway 152 twists and turns as it climbs more than 4,000 feet in nine miles. The view from the summit, Emory Pass Vista, is incomparable on a clear day, where the view shed is more than 50 miles looking back toward Caballo Lake and the Caballo Mountains. If the weather is clear and you know where to look, you can see Elephant Butte Dam.

If you are in the area long enough and want to venture further afield, there are many other excursions you can take. The Camino Real International Heritage Center is between Truth or Consequences and Socorro, Fort Craig ruins are nearby, and the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is a must-see for birdwatchers during the winter. West of Magdalena, the Very Large Array radio telescope communicates with outer space, and has been used as a location site in several movies. To the west, the Gila Cliff Dwellings give you an insight into the life of the prehistoric people who lived in the mountains and farmed the valleys, raising corn, beans and squash. Between Hatch and Las Cruces are the ruins of Fort Selden, another site with interesting historic tidbits. East of Las Cruces, White Sands National Monument has miles and miles of gypsum dunes that you can drive through. This also has been used as a location site in movies.

Southwestern New Mexico is truly an enchanted part of the state.

Sierra County Attractions/Services

Motels and apartments provide accommodations for the visitor to Truth or Consequences and other travelers, ranging from small, modest lodgings to resort types with health spa facilities.

Restaurants in Truth or Consequences, Elephant Butte and throughout Sierra County offer a full range of foods, from fast service sandwiches and take-out dishes to specialty dinners from charbroil steaks to Mexican food favorites.

Complete medical services are available within the community, provided at Sierra Vista Hospital and doctors' private practices.

Geronimo Springs Museum, located at 211 Main St., offers exhibits focusing upon the history of the city and county. The Ralph Edwards Wing displays mementos of the events of the annual Truth or Consequences Fiesta.

Truth or Consequences also has a well-stocked public library, located on Library Lane, which contains a section about Southwestern history, which is considered one of the finest in the state.



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Many spots are available for picnicking. Ralph Edwards Park, near the downtown area on the banks of the Rio Grande, has more than adequate picnic facilities. Other spots are available along the river between the city and Elephant Butte Lake, and at Elephant Butte Lake, Caballo Lake and Percha Dam state parks.



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Sierra County's Crown Jewels

The crown jewel of recreation in the state of New Mexico sits smack dab in the middle of Sierra County. While jewel suggests a singular treasure, Sierra County actually boasts a trio of jewels in the recreation crown. This expansive desert county is home to Elephant Butte, Caballo and Percha Dam state parks – undoubtedly the state's most sought-after waters.

Though the "butte" (as it's known to lake regulars) – and its lower than average water levels – has been the subject of media scrutiny from time to time, the people of Sierra County and the state park staffers who oversee the day-to-day operations, want the general public to know that our waters are still the best in the state. We invite you to come see why.

draw at Elephant Butte. From water-skiing to jet-skiing and every conceivable activity in between, the Butte has it all. It is recommended that visitors consult with park personnel regarding the best areas to launch watercraft and boats.

If it's a more leisurely outing on the water you're after, dust off the sailboat, windsurfers, kayaks and rafts and let the spring winds take you for a ride. Whatever you desire, the lake's waters are sure to please.

Continued on next page

The Black Range

Located on the eastern edge of the Gila National Forest, the Black Range Mountains stand as a prominent land feature with high, rugged mountains, deep canyons, rincons (narrow valleys), scenic view points, and grassland areas.

Astride the range's crest, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness offers solitude as well as challenging wilderness trips. In addition, the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail runs south along the ridge line of Reed's Peak before heading west along the Divide.

For scenic drives upon paved roads, State Highway 90 from San Lorenzo to Truth or Consequences, and highways 52 and 59 between Beaverhead and Winston pass through areas that are extremely green and offer a profusion of wildflowers. And take the time to visit the Emory Pass Scenic Vista – the view is breathtaking!

For picnics and overnight camping, developed campsites are available at the Iron Creek and Kingston campgrounds. At Iron Creek Campground in particular, visitors are treated to the added bonus of being entertained by the area's many chipmunks.

Primitive campsites amidst beautiful scenery are found in the Turkey Run and Seventy-Four Draw areas, both located southwest of Lookout Mountain and north of the Aldo Leopold Wilderness boundary.

ELEPHANT BUTTE LAKE

Elephant Butte Lake State Park, with its main entrance just five miles from the city of Truth or Consequences, is home to the largest and most popular body of water in the state of New Mexico.

The lake actually is a reservoir that was created with the construction of Elephant Butte Dam – started in 1911 and completed in 1916. It is some 40 miles long, it boasts breathtakingly beautiful water and there are hundreds of miles of shoreline to satisfy the recreational cravings of seafarers and landlubbers alike.

While the water is impounded so farmers downstream can irrigate their farms, outdoor recreational uses of the lake are its biggest attractions.

Fishing probably is the most popular year-around sport at the lake, and it is known for black, white and striped bass, channel catfish, walleye, crappie, and bluegill. Motor and sail boating are also enjoyed year round. Waterskiing, sail boarding and jet-skiing are popular, warm-weather sports from April through September.

Water safety is emphasized by park officials and a flotilla of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is active year round, assisting park rangers by patrolling the lake to offer assistance to boaters in distress, conducting boat safety inspections, teaching boating safety courses, and helping out in many other ways in an effort to ensure visitors to the lake have an enjoyable, safe stay.

Boating and "power" water sports are also a big



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For the camper, there are hundreds of camping and picnicking areas with covered tables – many have cookout grills – plus more than 100 sites fully developed for RVs with electricity hookups. There are also two dump stations.

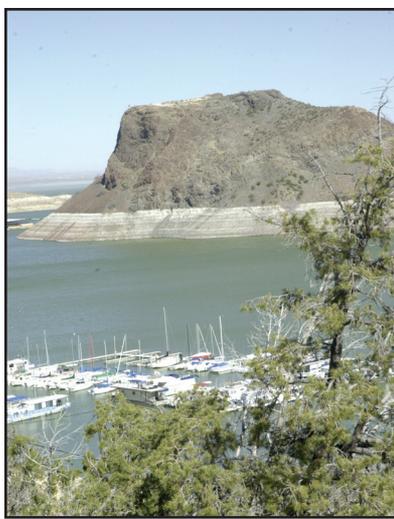
To make the camper's stay even more pleasant, there are five handicap-accessible comfort stations located in the main park area, complete with hot water showers.

If you're worried about activities for the kids, fret not. Playgrounds and one of the biggest sandboxes known to man await the little ones when they visit.

The park is also a haven for birdwatchers. From osprey to bald eagles and from great blue herons to roadrunners, the park's feathered friends are but one of the many attractions.

If it's a group outing, there is also a shelter for large groups with several picnic tables and barbecue grills, with electricity; it overlooks the lake and is perfect for club social activities.

A hike on the Luchini Nature Trail affords outdoor enthusiasts a glimpse of some of the area's flora and fauna. Seventeen native plants are identified along the half-mile trail that runs from the Visitors Center



Elephant Butte Lake State Park

to the playground. With hundreds of miles of beach, just point your feet in any direction, start walking and something spectacular is sure to cross your path.

Concessionaires are located throughout the park's landscape to make your stay more pleasant. Whether it is bait and tackle, sunscreen or a relaxing drink after a day on the water, there is something for everyone (and nearly every budget) at EBLSP.

In addition to the marinas, recreational supplies, fishing supplies and groceries may be found in area businesses located in the Elephant Butte and Truth or Consequences areas.

CABALLO LAKE

Just downstream from Elephant Butte lies equally enjoyable Caballo Lake State Park. Often referred to as the "Butte's little brother," Caballo boasts nearly identical recreational opportunities as its upstream neighbor, with a much more serene appeal.

"It's just very peaceful here," a park volunteer noted. "As a rule, we are quieter. We get a lot of middle-aged and older visitors who want to avoid the large crowds at Elephant Butte, but want to enjoy the same amenities. This really is a family lake."

From sailing to skiing and everything in between, Caballo really is a prime tourist destination.

Located just five miles south of Truth or Consequences, Caballo sits in the middle of Sierra County.

As such, all the luxuries of town can be quickly accessed while those who prefer to remain out of the hustle and bustle can easily escape at Caballo.

Hiking, fishing and birding are among the favorite activities from the lake's shores. From trophy fish to the scores of majestic bald eagles who call Caballo home, this truly is a majestic little haunt.

Camping and RV facilities abound throughout this state park to make your stay as rustic or as comfortable as humanly possible.

PERCHA DAM

Even further south lies the final gem in Sierra County's recreation crown – Percha Dam State Park.

Percha provides a departure from its upstream brethren. Motorized boat use is prohibited, making Percha an ideal spot for finding serenity.

Shaded by an enormous stand of cottonwood trees, the park boasts picnic areas with barbecue grills, RV spaces with electric hookups, shelters, picnic tables and more. For the little ones, a playground with swings, a jungle gym and more are sure to draw a smile.

Swimming is prohibited due to the great force with which the waters of the Rio Grande flow, but fishing remains one of the cornerstones of this lesser-known state park.

Whatever your recreational getaway plans call for, Sierra County's trio of gems offer something for everyone.

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A NM holiday tradition

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Associate Broker

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For More Properties and Details Please Visit Our Websites – GretchenCampbell.com or ColdwellBanker.com



304 Cactus: 3 bedroom 2 bath manufactured home on large fenced lot in Elephant Butte. Beautiful views of Kettletop. Just minutes from the marina. Property offers 2 car carport large workshop/storage shed. Covered patio area. Open living area with dining area. Property sells furnished, just bring your lake toys. \$65,000. MLS# 20145134.



5 Wood Rd: 1980 24X60 Atlanti Double wide. Caballo Lake and Mountain Views. Front and Back covered Decks. The lot is fully fenced, and offers over 2000 sq. ft. of sheds and garages. Room for all of your lake toys. \$59,900. MLS#20144255.



403 Ontario Dr: 3Bed/2Bath beautiful home with Spacious Great room. Large family eat in Kitchen, with loads of counter space, pantry and breakfast bar. Split floor plan. Master suite, includes seating area, with Patio access. Jetted tub and separate shower, with instant hot water. You will enjoy the large covered patio, with East exposure. Three car garage, so there is room for the lake toys. \$159,900. MLS#20142121.



573 Ridge Rd: 3 Bedroom 3 Bath 2300 sq. ft home with beautiful lake views. Huge covered deck with all the out door living amenities. Multiple carports for RV,Boats, and cars plenty of room for all the lake toys and the whole family. Upstairs offers 2 bedrooms 2 baths with large living area and open kitchen. Downstairs offers large living area open kitchen and 3/4 bath. Downstairs could be used as a separate apartment. 0.57 acre lot Borders Bass and Ridge Rd. \$240,000. MLS# 20142577.



HC 30 Hwy 59 Winston: 28.7 acres of beautiful Forest. 2005 32X82 Solitaire, with loads of custom features. Bruce wood floors, tile floors. Fabulous kitchen, with tremendous storage. Panoramic Mountain views from every window. Decks on all four sides of this well maintained home let you take advantage of the wildlife. This forested property is a hunter's dream camp as it sits in Game Management Unit 21-A known for excellent elk hunting. Property is fully fenced. 800 sq.ft. insulated shop, heated with wood stove. \$365,000. MLS# 20144239.



14 Monterrey Point: Beautiful Views of Elephant Butte Lake from this 1.6 acre lot in prestigious Rancho Del Lago. Property offers shared well, electric and phone to property line. CC&R's to protect your investment. Build when you are ready. \$60,000. MLS#20133399.



102 Caballo: 3 bedroom 2 bath Manufactured home on 0.5 acre. Well Maintained 1 acre property with 28X36 garage. Plenty of room for all the lake toys. Fully fenced lot, paved road, just minutes from Marina Del Sur. Perfect weekend getaway. \$119,500. MLS#20142261.



1005 Parway: Pride of ownership shows through out this 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Beautiful views of the city Golf Course. Just minutes from downtown T or C shopping and Hot mineral Baths. 2 car garage has been converted into extra living space. Cabinet filled country kitchen with dining area. Covered patio with golf course views. Attached 1 car carport and Morgan turf shed for additional storage. Easy to maintain landscaping, mature trees and shrubs add to the delightful outdoor environment. New metal roof in 2012. \$160,000. MLS# 20141599.



15 Monterrey Point: 1.476 Acre lot over looking Elephant Butte Lake. Area of fine custom homes. Build when you are ready. Close to Golf, Marina's, great fishing. Hot mineral Bath houses, and the finest of High desert Living! On the way to Spaceport America! Enjoy the beautiful sunrises and sunsets. \$100,000. MLS#20145331.



902 Caballo: Fixer upper. 2 bedroom 2 bath with third room for office or third bedroom. Large corner fenced lot. Attached carport. Guest bath offer walk in shower. Large master bedroom with walk in closet. Large storage room/workshop. \$40,000. MLS# 20145329.



149 Alamosa Village Rd: 3 Bedroom 2 bath 1280 sq ft manufactured home on 5.07 acres. Beautiful mountain and lake views. Property is fenced, plenty of room for horses. Just minutes from Elephant Butte lake. Quiet seclusion in this rural community. \$79,995. MLS# 20140972.



235 W 7th St: Beautiful well maintained Duplex. 1 bedroom 1 bath with open living area spacious kitchen with large pantry. 1 or 2 bedroom 1/1/2 bath with large pantry and walk in closet. Properties are metered separately for electric and gas, each unit has separate fenced yard. New carpet and new metal roof, freshly painted and ready to rent. \$79,900. MLS# 20140558.



113 Kiowa Loop: Well maintained custom home, 2x6 construction, Low E windows, custom shelving, in closets, and kitchen. You will love the sun room, covered decks 2 RV Ports, 1 Boat Port, and over sized garage plus shop. Room for all of your lake toys. On easy care, fenced 0.386 acre lot. Just minutes from Elephant Butte lake and Sierra del Rio Golf course. Lake living at its best!! \$190,000. MLS# 20145198.



300 Underwood: Beautiful custom 3 Bedroom 2 Bath home in Lakeshore Highlands. Fabulous lake and mountain views. Kiva fireplace, high beamed ceilings compliment the living room. Wall of windows frame panoramic views of Elephant Butte lake. Covered patio, outdoor fireplace & fountain. 1275 sqft garage for all of your lake toys. \$495,000. MLS# 20145502.



138 Alamosa Village: Beautiful Horse property. 3 Bedroom 2 bath Oak Creek Manufactured home on 10 acres. Home offers open living area large master suite with walk in closet, master bath offers double sinks garden tub and walk in shower. Horse barn, 2 car carport, work shop and office or bunk house. Beautiful mountain views. Plenty of room to ride. Enjoy the quiet seclusion. \$135,000. MLS#20125449.



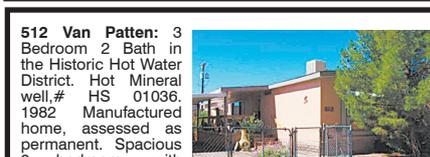
65 Barky Springs Rd: Astounding custom home. Vaulted ceilings, cedar beams, milled in Berlin New Hampshire, and transported to NM. Spacious Great room, with fireplace, beamed ceiling, views of the Caballo Mt range, and the valleys below. Large dining room, with built in buffet, allows for gracious entertaining. The sunroom, offers panoramic views and inviting fireplace. Custom kitchen with Wolfe Range, subzero frig, dual sinks, and wet bar, Rocky Mountain Hardware. Much More! \$650,000. MLS# 20125203.



1201 Caballo #8: 14 X 70 1989 Champion Mobile home Only. Eat in Kitchen with all appliances, breakfast bar. Covered deck with beautiful mountain views. 2 Storage Buildings and 2 Carports, on a fully fenced corner lot in Hilltop Retreat. Space Rent \$185.00 per month. \$28,000. MLS# 20144637.



600 N Pershing: 100X140 City lot. Close to Hot Mineral baths and downtown shopping. Priced to sell \$10,000. MLS# 20140424.



512 Van Patten: 3 Bedroom 2 Bath in the Historic Hot Water District. Hot Mineral well, # HS 01036. 1982 Manufactured home, assessed as permanent. Spacious 3 bedroom, with carport and detached 24 x 29 garage. Enjoy quiet soaks in your private covered spa. Fully fenced yard. Lots of Storage. Close to downtown and shopping. \$85,000. MLS# 20131541.



2368 S Broadway: 2368 S Broadway: Prime commercial location. Close I 25 Access. .63 acre lot. 3700 + sq. ft. building. Large showroom, work bay with 2 garage doors, an office area, including a 2 bedroom, one bath apartment. Unlimited possibilities! Ready to open the business of your choice. High traffic area. \$198,000. MLS# 20130276.



133 Concord: Wonderful cabin, in historic Chloride. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, wood floors, lots of country charm. Ideal Hunting cabin, vacation home, or retire here, enjoy the peace and tranquility. Charming Gazebo, detached garage. MLS# 20143624 \$89,900.



13 Vista del Fuego: 4 bedroom 2 full baths 1 1/4 bath and 1/2 bath. This outstanding home features 2 fireplaces, granite counters, Spacious master suite, large walk in closets, soaking tub and shower, all with lake views. Outdoor kitchen, and 180 degree lake views from the wrap around covered patio, stamped cement flooring, enhances your out door living. Oversized 3 car garage, A truly outstanding home. \$525,000. MLS#20130043.



104 Kiowa Loop: 25 acre lot in Elephant Butte, just minutes from Sierra del Rio Golf course, and Elephant Butte State Park. Hot Mineral baths close by in T or C. Build your home or set up a manufactured home. City water, sewer, electric and gas to property line. Priced to sell at \$11,000. MLS# 20140585.



514 Mescal: Fenced lot in Elephant Butte. Electric water and sewer to property line. Bring your RV or use for storage \$27,000. MLS#20121652.

Truth or Consequences / Sierra County Restaurant & Dining Guide



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6

