

RUIDOSO NEWS

**FIRE DANGER
LOW**

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10, 2010 • OUR 63RD YEAR, NO. 81 • 75 CENTS

INSIDE



1B SPORTS
**Organized
brawl**

6A EDUCATION
**Counting
the days**

4A OPINION
**Best of times,
worst of times**

**4B LINCOLN
COUNTY**
**Capitan's
trustee
candidates
speak out**

INDEX

- Classifieds 10-12B
- Comics 7B
- Community Page . . 2A
- Crossword 7B
- Education 6A
- Letters 4A
- Lincoln County . . 4, 5B
- Opinion 4A
- Real Estate 10B
- Sports 1-3B
- State News 6B
- TV As Seen on TV
- Weather 2A

Snowfall tops in state

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El Niño this winter has been very good to the Sacramento Mountains. So much so that the Rio Hondo Basin received the highest amount of January precipitation in New Mexico.

In their Feb. 5 basin outlook report, the Natural Resources Conservation Service said almost four times the average amount of precipitation fell here last month. The 393 percent of average is

Rio Hondo Basin received most precipitation in January

labeled "exceptional" in the report. That compared to a paltry 19 percent of average in Jan. 2009.

"You have exceeded every other place in the state for the month of January," said Wayne Sleep, a New Mexico hydrologic technician with the NRCS.

And for the water year, which started Oct. 1, 2009, the Rio Hondo Basin is again the big winner in

the Land of Enchantment, with nearly two times average precipitation. The 192 percent amount is almost 2.5 times last year's 78 percent for the same period. The basin report in early January had listed precipitation at 48 percent ahead of the water year average.

Snowpack depths in the mountains above the Ruidoso area are more than 200 percent of average,

or about double last year's, according to the NRCS. The southern part of New Mexico is described as being in much better shape than a year ago. In addition, temperatures stayed near to below average overall, which allowed most of the higher elevation precipitation in the Sacramento Mountains to remain in place to feed rivers and streams that flow into the Rio Hondo during the spring.

"It's looking like runoff will be very favorable for the area down

See **SNOW**, page 8A

HAPPY TRAILS



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

IMBA members Leslie Kehmeier and Chris Kehmeier, and Morgan and Steve Lommele take a break following last week's sessions.

Bicycle group hopes to expand forested trail system

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The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) visited Ruidoso for three days last week to help implement a trail system with the potential to greatly enhance the local economy.

IMBA, which has 30 full-time employees, 500 chapters across the U.S. and two Trail Care crews, knows its field. Thus far, the Association has led and overseen more than 1,000 trail system constructions in the country.

Through the efforts of the Smokey

Bear Ranger District of the Lincoln National Forest, the Bicycle Ruidoso Club, the White Mountain Outdoor Club, the newly formed Ruidoso Trails Fund and numerous individuals, IMBA came to Ruidoso to develop sustainable single-track trails within and around 16,000 acres of Bonito Lake and 2,000 acres each at Cedar Creek and Grindstone Lake.

Currently, mountain bikers have only about 15 miles of trails to ride. If the vision of the U.S. Forest Service and the other proponents comes true, there will be 100 miles of pathways for visitors and residents to enjoy.

"We hope to one day have a one-to four-hour biking experience for people to encounter," White Mountain Outdoor Club member Cody Thurston said. "That is something families could appreciate as a weekend excursion."

The Forest Service has been one of the guiding forces behind this venture, and will continue to be a key player. The service will maintain the trail system on its 1.1 million acres.

"I am excited about the continuing collaboration among the Forest Service, Bicycle Ruidoso Club,

See **TRAILS**, Sports, page 2B

Lodgers tax revenue down slightly

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At the six-month mark of the 2009-2010 fiscal year, lodgers tax collections in Ruidoso lag slightly behind last year.

Collections in November, distributed to the village in December were about half of the amount

for the same month the previous year. Lodgers tax is charged for any short-term room or recreational vehicle space rented within the village limits. The money generated pays for promotion of the village in advertising media, to help promote special events that bring tourists into Ruidoso and for designated projects

such as the renovation of the convention center.

But Lodgers Tax Committee Chairman Cindi Davis said Monday she's optimistic the best of the season is yet to come.

"Absolutely, I expect it to improve with all the snowfall we're having," she said. "I think December was a tad under and the

main reason was Christmas fell on a Friday. We get our best numbers when it falls on a Wednesday, but they won't let us change Christmas. Go figure. Just a handful of days for us makes a difference."

The same thing happens when July Fourth falls on a

See **DOWN**, page 10A

Track bill sails on

■ **HB203** nears House vote; expected to go to Senate

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Legislation that would provide a gaming tax credit for the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino, funded through a possible Lincoln County gross receipts tax, could be decided by the New Mexico House of Representatives today or Thursday.

The House Taxation and Revenue Committee Monday night advanced the bill with just one dissenting vote.

The bill had, however, been amended late last week to trim the annual maximum credit for racetrack casinos. The state legislature's House Business and Industry Committee cut the top credit from the up to \$1 million proposed by the bill's sponsors, to \$750,000 per year.

That is also the new limit Lincoln County would have to advance to the state through a business retention gross receipts tax. The potential new tax, which would have to be approved by voters in a county that has a horse racetrack, would finance the state's gaming tax credit.

The bill, offered by Rep. Thomas Garcia (D-Ocate) and Zach Cook (R-Ruidoso), was introduced in late January after it became clear a state funded gaming tax credit would run into trouble because of New Mexico's financial situation. The new measure was called "a local option" to finance the credit.

See **BILL**, page 8A



WIN! WITH!

DON WILLIAMS

VOTE TO ELECT DONALD A. WILLIAMS FOR MAYOR

PRIDE FOR MY CANDIDATE

VOTE



Quilt project

Mandy Mader's 2nd grade class in Ruidoso made a quilt that was donated to the mobile food pantry, where Reilly Bennett, one of the students,

helps along with his family at these food distributions. Bennett suggested giving a quilt to one of the recipients. The class's community service project for December and January was to make a quilt to

share with someone in the class felt needed it. Each student colored their hand print with special dye sticks. They then ironed them on to a piece of fabric. After arranging the handprint pieces for the

quilt, the class decided to make two smaller ones, instead, and help two people. The students then voted on where the quilts should go. One quilt went to school custodian Sam Bates, whose premature baby girl

was brought home from Albuquerque on Christmas day. The other quilt was given to the mobile food pantry to be given to someone who needed a little warmth.

Also, on the 100th day of school the class made 100 valentines to tape to non-perishable items that will be donated to the Lincoln County Food Bank. The goal is to collect at least 100 items by Valentine's Day.

Homeland Security

The Lincoln County Tea Party Patriots present an address on homeland security by Carlos Castanada Thursday at Cattle Baron restaurant in Ruidoso. Castanada is the Border

Security Liaison for the Department of Homeland Security. The presentation begins at 5:30 p.m.

Candy drive

St. Anne's Guild of the Episcopal Church of

Lincoln County is selling Valentine's Day candy for their fundraising efforts that benefit their outreach charities.

The candy is homemade caramel with pecans, hand-dipped in Ghirardelli dark chocolate. The candy, pack-

aged in a white box, is called 'Fours.'

The cost is \$12 for about one pound.

The candy can be purchased through the church office, 257-2356, or at Josie's Framery, 2917 Suderth Dr. in Ruidoso.

Precinct caucuses

The Lincoln County Precinct Caucuses and Pre-Primary County Convention are set for Feb. 20 at Cree Meadows Country Club.

Registration will begin

at 9 a.m. and the convention at 10 a.m. The purpose of the local convention is to elect delegates to the Pre-Primary Republican State Convention.

"The Republican Party"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

City Bank

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AccuWeather® 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 38°	RealFeel 44°	RealFeel 51°	RealFeel 51°	RealFeel 49°	RealFeel 50°	RealFeel 58°
Humidity 75%	Humidity 62%	Humidity 37%	Humidity 32%	Humidity 47%	Humidity 44%	Humidity 44%
Mostly cloudy	Sun and clouds	Mostly sunny	Sunny to partly cloudy	Partial sunshine	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
Wind: S 6-12 mph	Wind: NW 6-12 mph	Wind: W 7-14 mph	Wind: WNW 8-16 mph	Wind: ESE 6-12 mph	Wind: S 6-12 mph	Wind: W 3-6 mph

RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highs for the day.

National Forecast for Feb. 10, 2010

Legend: Cold, Warm, Stationary, Showers, T-storms, Rain, Flurries, Snow, Ice

Regional Cities

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

Almanac

Ruidoso
Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 36°/23°
Normal high 51°
Normal low 21°
Record high 69° (1951)
Record low -10° (1974)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.33"
Normal month to date 2.1"
Year to date 1.48"
Normal year to date 1.64"

Pollen:
Grass Absent
Trees Low
Weeds Absent
Mold Low
Predominant Juniper

Alamogordo
Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 51°/29°
Normal high 59°
Normal low 32°
Record high 75° (1963)
Record low 15° (1971)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.53"
Normal month to date 0.16"
Year to date 1.34"
Normal year to date 0.93"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: What snowstorm was named after a New York City mayor?
A: The Lindsay storm, February 1969.

Sun and Moon

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:51 a.m./5:44 p.m.

Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 4:42 a.m./2:52 p.m.

Moon Phases

New First Full Last

Feb 13 Feb 21 Feb 28 Mar 7

Extremes

Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 85° in McAllen, TX
Low: -27° in Jordan, MT

Monday's World High/Low:
High: 112° in Vredodrif, South Africa
Low: -60° in Oymyakon, Russia

National Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Abilene	41/33/pc	40/33/sn
Anchorage	28/21/sf	31/20/s
Alamogordo	46/24/pc	50/28/s
Austin	47/31/c	41/32/r
Baltimore	30/20/sn	36/17/s
Boston	34/25/sn	33/23/pc
Chicago	26/12/sn	25/10/pc
Dallas	44/32/pc	39/29/sn
Denver	34/18/pc	43/20/pc
Des Moines	20/1/pc	28/18/s
Detroit	27/19/sn	28/18/c
El Paso	53/38/c	59/37/sh
Las Vegas	59/39/pc	63/40/pc
Los Angeles	62/48/sh	64/48/pc
Minneapolis	18/4/c	23/11/s
New Orleans	50/37/pc	50/37/c
New York City	30/25/sn	30/25/s
Philadelphia	30/23/sn	32/22/s
Phoenix	62/46/l	66/46/s
Reno	47/27/pc	49/30/c
San Francisco	57/45/pc	57/48/pc
San Diego	61/51/sh	61/51/s
Seattle	49/42/r	49/42/r
Tucson	59/39/r	62/39/pc
Tulsa, OK	35/25/s	39/27/c
Wash., DC	30/23/pc	34/22/c
Wichita	32/23/s	38/23/pc
Yuma	64/48/l	69/50/s

W-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, r-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

Regional Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Albuquerque	46/29/c	47/27/pc
Artesia	46/34/c	55/33/r
Chama	38/10/c	37/8/pc
Clayton	40/22/pc	44/23/pc
Cloudcroft	39/21/c	38/20/pc
Farrington	45/19/c	41/18/pc
Hobbs	44/29/c	47/31/r
Los Alamos	40/18/c	39/16/pc
Portales	42/27/pc	45/26/sn
Raton	42/13/c	42/13/pc
Red River	34/7/c	33/2/pc
Ruidoso	40/29/c	44/31/pc
Santa Fe	43/21/c	41/20/pc
Silver City	49/33/sh	54/32/sh
Taos	39/16/c	40/16/pc

Mexican Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Acapulco	88/70/s	88/73/s
Cancun	79/63/pc	80/69/s
Chihuahua	52/37/r	55/28/sh
Ciudad Juárez	52/36/c	59/37/sh
León	70/45/pc	71/50/c
México, DF	72/43/pc	74/47/pc
Monterrey	50/39/r	50/43/r
Morelia	71/45/pc	75/53/pc
Oaxaca	81/50/pc	80/58/s
Pto. Peñasco	61/45/sh	60/42/s
Tijuana	59/48/pc	63/46/s



COURTESY

Altrusa members Carol Mound and Bobbie Milburn of Altrusa present a \$500 check to Kai Brown, middle, president of the Humane Society of Lincoln County. Altrusa contributes annually to the society to help support abandoned dogs and cats in the county. All money donated by Altrusa is derived through local fundraising activities, such as a Fashion Show/Tea at the Alto Country Club, April 10. Tickets to the event are \$20 and available from Altrusa members. The local chapter of the national service organization supports non-profit groups and activities, including low-cost mammograms, scholarships, a food bank and Help End Abuse for Life's domestic violence shelter.

FROM PAGE 2A

of Lincoln County is where the real action takes place," according to County Vice-Chairperson Aubrey Dunn, Convention Chair. "The Republican Party wants to restore ethical leadership and accountability to the State of New Mexico and is working hard to recruit, train and assist candidates to run for local, state and federal office."

Several candidates will have displays at the convention and are eager to meet Republican voters, Dunn said, adding, "The Republican Party of Lincoln County is confident that the Republican voters in Lincoln County will choose the best candidates in New Mexico to not only guide our state out of financial disaster and a history of incredible dishonesty, but to set in motion the improvement of our families in this 21st century."

Each of the 19 precinct organizations in Lincoln County will hold a caucus, followed by the Lincoln County Republican Pre-Primary County Convention. Each caucus will elect delegates to the Pre-Primary County Convention.

The number of delegates is determined by the number of registered Republicans in each precinct.

Those delegates will, in turn, elect the seven delegates and seven alternates to represent the county at the New Mexico Republican Pre-Primary State Convention in Santa Fe on March 13.

All registered Republicans in Lincoln County, from the grassroots to party officials, are urged to attend the meetings on that Saturday, Feb. 20, and to get involved, Dunn said. Refreshments will be served. Cree Meadows Country Club is at 301 Country Club Rd., Ruidoso.

The Republican Party of

Lincoln County conducts regular public meetings on the second Monday of each month at Cree Meadows Country Club in an effort to inform the electorate on issues of the day and political party activities.

Teague's new rep

Chris Chaisson will serve as District Two U.S. Rep. Harry Teague's local representative. He will replace Drew Stout.

Chaisson will hold office hours twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons, at Ruidoso Village Hall. Any issues con-

stituents might have that the congressional representative's office can help with can be discussed with Chaisson.

Chaisson was appointed to serve as a Fellow in Teague's office through the House of Representative's Wounded Warrior Program. Sergeant Chaisson, who was an infantry team leader, was injured during a tour of duty in Iraq.

Chaisson will be based

at Teague's Roswell office. The phone number is 575-622-4178. He has experience working with veterans' service organizations and the Veterans Administration. Any veterans in need of help, or anyone who know somebody that needs assistance with a case, should call the office or visit with Chaisson.

Plastic recycling

It's all about the marketplace. Recycling that is. And, with no market for Styrofoam, it's not recyclable in Lincoln or Otero Counties.

Other types of plastics, grades 1 - 6 except Styrofoam, are very recyclable, if they are clean with no grease, oil or food residue. The recycling symbol on the bottom of the container indicates the type of plastic.

If there is a question about whether a particular piece of non-styrofoam plastic is recyclable, recycle it anyway, except Styrofoam which goes in the regular trash.

You can help the recycling process by bundling clean plastic containers by placing them in a used plastic or paper bag, seal-

ing the top and placing them in a blue or large green multiproduct outdoor recycling container. Bundling improves the chances that the individual containers will make it through the heavy equipment sorting process.

Baled plastic goes to a manufacturer in western New Mexico and is remade into new containers, car parts, carpet and carpet padding and hundreds of other items.

What's the score card on plastic recycling? Although plastic is evident as roadside litter, plastic only makes up about 4 percent of the waste stream.

For more information on plastics recycling, contact Ruidoso Parks and Recreation at 257-5030 or the Solid Waste Authority office at 378-4697, toll free at 1-877-548-8772 or via

email at lcswa@valornet.com.

Ruidoso forum

The Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Candidates Forum for the Village of Ruidoso on Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

This meeting will enable the public to meet the four mayoral, eight council and single judge candidates. The candidates will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and answer questions from the public.

Each candidate is given an allotted time to answer each question. All questions will be collected prior to the forum and organized to better facilitate the meeting.

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BOOK OF ELI (R)
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OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Lisa Morales, publisher
Marty Racine, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, New Mexico

OUR OPINION

The cycles of good times and bad

Weather, economy have one thing in common

The State of New Mexico was flush with cash just a few years ago. Then the oil patch suffered and expenses continued to grow. Many lawmakers refused to see the big picture, that the economy runs in cycles; suddenly, the state's budget has been caught shorthanded.

Fiscal matters are like the weather. Some years it rains dollars and some years we're parched for a penny. Unlike matters in Santa Fe, this has been an excellent winter for Lincoln County, with plenty of snowfall and even ample rain. The lesson is, of course, don't count on this continuing.

As such, we remind residents and visitors to practice preservation and appreciation of all things water. And, this spring, we will remain vigilant about fire danger.

In the meantime, we put up with some of the hassles of El Niño: Dangerous driving, potholes in the streets, snow- and ice-covered highways, slippery sidewalks and driveways, gravel roads and pathways turned to mush, school and government closings, frigid temperatures, corrosive salt on our vehicles – the list is endless.

We don't complain, because lean times inevitably return.

It's, like, so unfair, but there oughta be a law

There oughta be a law ... For all their convenience, there's something about cell phones that brings out the stupidity in some people. Like the guy talking on his cell phone who rode his bike directly into the path of my car and came close to becoming a hood ornament.

Or the texting teenager who swerved into my lane on a busy street.

Or the gal breaking up with her boyfriend while standing in line behind me at the drug store. ("Tell somebody who cares, Rocky!")

Stupidity isn't a good enough reason for a law. There's safety: Sometimes the stupid take other people with them when they exit the gene pool.

Hospital emergency rooms have seen a sharp uptick in injuries from car crashes involving cell phones, not to mention the people who fell, collided with something or stepped into a busy street while texting.

Now in these cash-strapped times, there's another perfectly good reason to outlaw driving and cell phone use – revenue!

Las Cruces last week began fining people who talk on their cell phones while driving. It's \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for the second, a bargain compared to Albuquerque, where a first-time offense will set you back \$100. Santa Fe, Española and Taos also have such ordinances.

HB 10, proposed by the governor, would ban cell phone use by drivers except in emergencies, and in a particularly difficult legislative session for non-budget issues, it's made steady progress. It would pre-empt local laws and raise the fine to \$200.

Changes proposed in the bill's wording by the New Mexico Municipal League would steer money back to local governments. This isn't a trifling matter, when you consider that the House Speaker's plan (HB 119) to ratchet up the gross receipts tax rate for four years would cap local-option taxes.

Local governments receive three-quarters of their revenues

by adding a bit to this tax. About one-third of cities and half the counties would find their hands tied in balancing their own budgets because they've already reached or passed the threshold proposed by the bill.

So if HB 119 passes, local governments will be looking for other ways to raise revenue, and your teenagers can help.

Lawmakers have previously tried to ban texting while driving. Last year two bills passed one legislative chamber but not the other. One, by Sen. Lynda Lovejoy, a Crown-point Democrat, was

inspired by her terrifying experiences riding with the teens in her family.

There's no shortage of studies about cell phone users being as dangerous as drunks on the road. Presently, six states ban hand-held cell phones, 21 states ban all cell phone use by novice drivers, and 19 states outlaw texting while driving. According to the Department of Transportation, cell phone use played a role in 27 percent of crashes with injuries in 2006; the figure rose to 31 percent in 2008.

The state Department of Public Safety and SafeTeen New Mexico both support the ban. People who use cell phones and drive are four times more likely to crash, says SafeTeen President Thom Turbett (who is also an insurance professional).

The usual objection is that the law would be difficult to enforce, and yet law-enforcement officials say the programs have been successful. Cops won't catch everyone who's talking or texting while driving, but they don't catch everyone who's speeding, either. The threat is still a deterrent.

Here's how it works: The first teen caught will immediately text, like, a million of her friends that this is, like, SO unfair!!! Her friends will get the message. Now that's good advertising.

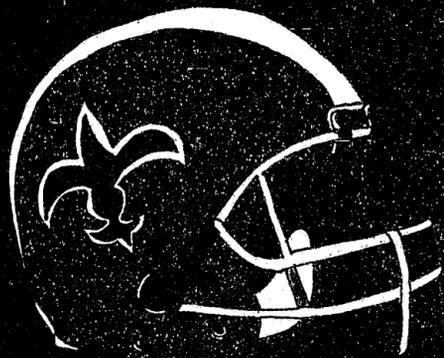
So Rocky, if you're driving while your girlfriend dumps you over the phone, pull over, dude. It could be the law.



SHERRY ROBINSON

ALL SHE WROTE

In 2005, a losing sports franchise owner considered leaving town.



It didn't happen, but something good did.

GUEST COMMENTARIES

Espinosa: Democrats choose to raise taxes

REP. NORA ESPINOSA
District 2

The condition that New Mexico's state budget is in is unfathomable to me. When it comes to finances, my entire life I have followed a simple rule: The amount of money that goes out is always less than the amount of money that comes in. I am unemployed and my husband, who is self employed in the insurance industry, resolved very early in our marriage that we would never over-extend ourselves for indulgences and pay for them with money we did not have. It is shocking to see how many legislators are willing to do just that – allocate public funds for their pet projects and indulgences, even when there is not enough money

to pay for them. Insult to injury, it is I and all of the other taxpayers who are responsible for the burden of debt they incur.

When this session began, New Mexico had a budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year of \$200 million. In the last few weeks that number has increased to \$310 million. During this time my Republican colleagues and I introduced bills that would institute responsible and necessary budget cuts. All of these bills were voted down, eliminating any chance of debate, testimony from witnesses, and other legislative action that is so important to the budget process. I repeatedly asked for information regarding Gov. Richardson's Exempt Employees list to see where we could make significant improvements in our deficit.

Every tax dollar that is being spent to satisfy the salary of the exempt employee is a dollar we could be using to shrink our budget.

Democrats have chosen to raise taxes as their solution to this enormous budget mess, even though taxes will only discourage job creation at a time when we need to do the opposite, and worsen the problem for New Mexico's working families.

We have fewer than two weeks left to fix this problem. The choices that are made now can affect us here in New Mexico decades to come. I ask every person who is reading this letter to please contact as many Democrat legislators as you can to tell them to stop the wild spending and cut frivolous projects.

Kintigh: Film subsidy not appropriate

REP. DENNIS KINTIGH
District 57

Today in New Mexico movie production companies receive checks from the New Mexico State Treasury equal to 25 percent of their approved expenditures. In fiscal year 2009, which ended June 30, 2009, this one program cost you, the taxpayer, \$82 million. I believe this program is an abuse of your tax dollars.

As the State Representative for District 57 (northern Chaves, northern Lincoln, and northern Otero Counties), I introduced a bill (HB52) to repeal the film industry subsidy, also sometimes called the film industry tax credit.

The supporters of this subsidy claim that it stimulates an

industry that creates jobs. I agree that some have benefited, but how many and at what cost? Film subsidies have been the subject of numerous studies.

Some claim the public treasury gets \$1.50 back for every \$1 paid out. Other studies show the return is only 14 cents. If you would like to see the reports, I encourage you to visit my Web site, www.denniskintigh.com, and click on the icon for New Mexico film subsidy. There you will find reports both for and against the program.

The current economic situation is a difficult one that has compelled the legislature to trim budgets, and furlough state employees.

New Mexicans have sacrificed while tens of millions of dollars have gone to out of state

film producers. In this time of declining revenue, does it make sense to give away so much public money for a program about which there is so much debate?

Can we not find economic incentives that offer a better assurance of a positive return on investment? After serious and careful study, I have concluded the film subsidy is not an appropriate expenditure of our dwindling tax revenue.

This subsidy is supported by some of the most powerful forces in and outside the state. From the governor to Hollywood producers to union officials, this subsidy gets articulate and forceful support. But political clout does not equal public good. The ultimate responsibility of the legislature is to ensure the wise use of your tax dollars.

Cook: Support track legislation

REP. ZACH COOK
District 56

We in Ruidoso make up a small community and we rely heavily on tourism to support our local economy. Currently the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino is being threatened by low revenue and is considering relocating. In fact, the race track has gone as far to file an application with the New Mexico Horse Racing Commission asking for permission to move the business to the Las Cruces area.

The loss of the track would have a significant impact on our community's economic well being and would result in significant job loss as well as a large decline in tourism to the area. This session I'm supporting legislation (HB 203) to provide the people of Lincoln County the opportunity to keep the race track in Ruidoso.

The track has a local payroll that is close to \$4.8 million and employs more than 130 people

year-round. During the racing season employment climbs to more than 400 employees, boosting the economy of the entire Ruidoso region. In addition, tourism escalates to nearly 300,000 visitors each year. All of this activity adds up to an impact of more than \$30 million.

HB 203 allows the community the option to vote for a county gross receipts business retention tax. If counties with race track casinos choose to take this option, the track will be able to take a credit against the tax.

Recently a survey was taken to gauge support for such an option. Greater than 74 percent of those surveyed were residents of Lincoln County and nearly 26 percent lived in other counties but took an interest in the issue. The survey found that residents and non-residents alike support the race track casino by an overwhelming margin and believe, rightfully so, that it provides an enormous economic impact to the area. According to an executive summary of the survey,

more than 76 percent of respondents were familiar with tax parity legislation while more than 86 percent responded that they would support a local option county business gross receipts retention tax to help keep the race track casino in Ruidoso Downs.

If HB 203 is not approved this legislative session the Ruidoso region will likely lose Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino. This means that at least 530 of us will lose full-time or seasonal employment. This means that we will lose many of the 300,000 visitors to our corner of New Mexico throughout the year, who help bring in nearly \$30 million a year to the region. This means that our community will lose a major piece of our economy.

I strongly urge you to write, call, or visit your legislators to support this legislation. Without your support, HB 203 will not make it through the process and we could lose Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino.

Downs addresses 'disorganized' addressing system

JIM KALVELAGE
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It is time to repair a "pretty disorganized" street addressing system in Ruidoso Downs.

That is how the chair of the city's Planning and Zoning Committee, Paul Van Gulick, opened a Tuesday public hearing on a new street numbering plan.

Planning and Zoning Department Director Steve Dunigan said it was almost two years ago a tour of the city showed difficulties in the addressing.

"It's always been fairly accepted that we need to fix it," said Dunigan. "A project of that size took some time to get up and rolling and say 'OK, where do we start and how do we do it.' If you're going to address for 9-1-1 purposes you're thinking how would somebody find an address. It's going to be sequential, numeric, from low to high, right to left."

Dunigan told the eight audience attendees at the hearing that he was unable to find any neighborhood that fit an entire sequence.

"So we had to start from

scratch. We truly tried to make this as user friendly as possible. We ran into a lot of dead-ends where we thought we were on track in thinking like an ambulance driver, a police officer, a fire engine driver, an individual, where you could find where you were going. And it was very difficult."

Dunigan said readdressing the city would not please everyone.

"Everybody's house virtually is affected by this and I know there are going to be those inconveniences of having to change your address or business cards."

The meeting brought little in the way of gripes about new street numbers. Questions about impacts to navigation systems like Garmin and TomTom, private driveways with multiple homes, displaying street names, and posting address numbers on buildings were voiced.

"I would caution that if you expect all of this to happen in a hurry, I would hope for the best and expect the worst because you still cannot get La Canada (a city street) on the Internet," said Planning and Zoning Committee member Bonnie Richardson.



A Ruidoso Downs homeowner shows Planning Director Steve Dunigan what her new address could be during a Tuesday evening public hearing.

Others attending the meeting said there are other streets that appear on Google Maps with a name that was replaced with another years ago.

"It took me eight years just to put our house numbers up," said resident Wayne Williams.

Van Gulick said proper num-

bering and posting the addresses is a sign of the times.

"We're gone from the day when you could send a letter addressed to Bill Russell, Helena, Montana, and it would get there, to where you have to have some accuracy in the system," said Van Gulick. "There's people who have

lived here for 10, 20, 30, 40 years, some even more than that. They've had the same number. But the fact is we get new (police) dispatchers and officers. They don't know everybody here, so that's what it's all about, public health, safety and welfare."

Getting all Ruidoso Downs residents to comply with posting the possible new addresses was questioned.

"We start by asking nicely," responded Dunigan. "And we continue to ask nicely. We have an ordinance and there are fines that could happen. But I think we just have to work together. There are some folks that are going to need help to get it done."

A second public hearing is expected to be included in the committee's March 3 meeting. Another public hearing would be required before the city council as well. The council will determine if a new addressing scheme is adopted.

"Once we finalize this, and all approvals are met, our job is going to be to communicate this," said Dunigan.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

New transit manager hired

JIM KALVELAGE
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A new manager has been hired to lead Lincoln County Transit, the 14-month old public transportation program in the Ruidoso area.

Patricia DeSoto will replace Mickey Compton, who had previously said she wanted the job short-term to get the on-call small-bus ride program up and running. Compton was a former public transportation director in Carlsbad.

Ruidoso Downs city councilors were unanimous in hiring DeSoto during a Monday evening meeting. The approval came without any council discussion.

DeSoto has been the city's planning and zoning department secretary since 2006.

A memo to councilors stated DeSoto had met all pre-employment requirements and was recommended for the transit manager's position.

She has a bachelor's in business degree, according to the memo.

Ruidoso Downs personnel office employee Randy Reynolds wrote in the memo that DeSoto has grant writing and management skills, as well as strong accounting, budgeting and technical writing abilities.

During the latter part of the 1990s she had been an administrative assistant to the general manager of the Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative at King Salmon, Alaska. She had also been an administrative assistant to the Naknek Native American Village Council, also in Alaska.

As the planning and zoning department secretary DeSoto's job included the duties of receiving applications for building permits, collecting fees and signing permits.

The transit manager's position has a \$35,000 annual salary.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

Village sorts out watering use for gardens

DIANNE STALLINGS
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An attempt to help vegetable gardeners avoid facing big water bills in the summer looked like it may stall under the weight of metering and billing complexities.

Mayor L. Ray Nunley asked village councilors last Tuesday if they were interested in staff examining the possibility of establishing a water rate specifically for landscaping or sustenance gardening.

In a memorandum to the council, Deputy Village Manager Bill Morris wrote that the issue is to find a way not to penalize customers of the village water department who want to maintain vegetable gardens, because that water also appears on the billing for sewer and for wastewater treatment, but in reality goes directly into the ground and not through sewage lines to the treatment plant.

He asked for direction, because if a process was created, it may require the

installation of a second water meter and a modification to the fee schedule that billing for the second meter would only include a water fee, not sewer and wastewater fees. When he checked village code, he found it dictates one meter per house. He suggested public input be sought on the issue. Councilor Michele Rebstock questioned whether two meters would be cost effective.

"People shouldn't be penalized to the point that the water costs more than the food," Nunley said.

Morris, who moved to Ruidoso from Florida, said he had experience in his government capacity there with houses that used two meters, one inside and one outside, each with its own account. The idea was that water used outside went directly into the ground and was not processed at the wastewater treatment plant, he said. He will research some other approaches and report back.

Councilor Jim Stoddard asked if another approach of establishing a baseline

"People shouldn't be penalized to the point that the water costs more than the food."

usage for a house of 6,000 gallons a month or another "normal" figure, would allow any water over that amount to be charged at a different rate for outside gardening. He agreed that staff should check how it may be done in other cities.

Councilor Don Williams said all the water ends up in the aquifer, the underground channels of water, whether or not it is treated at the plant. "I don't think it would be cost effective," Williams said.

But Councilor Greg Cory said the problem arises from penalizing people with extra fees when the water is not treated at the sewage plant. "How many people are we talking about?" he asked

"I don't know," Nunley responded. "The code enforcement issue is another thing to consider."

"I'd be cautious unless there is a ton a people out there growing vegetables," Cory said.

"How would we separate vegetables from landscaping?" Councilor Angel Shaw asked.

"Anyone who has tried to grow tomatoes here, knows it doesn't work," Councilor Ron Hardeman said.

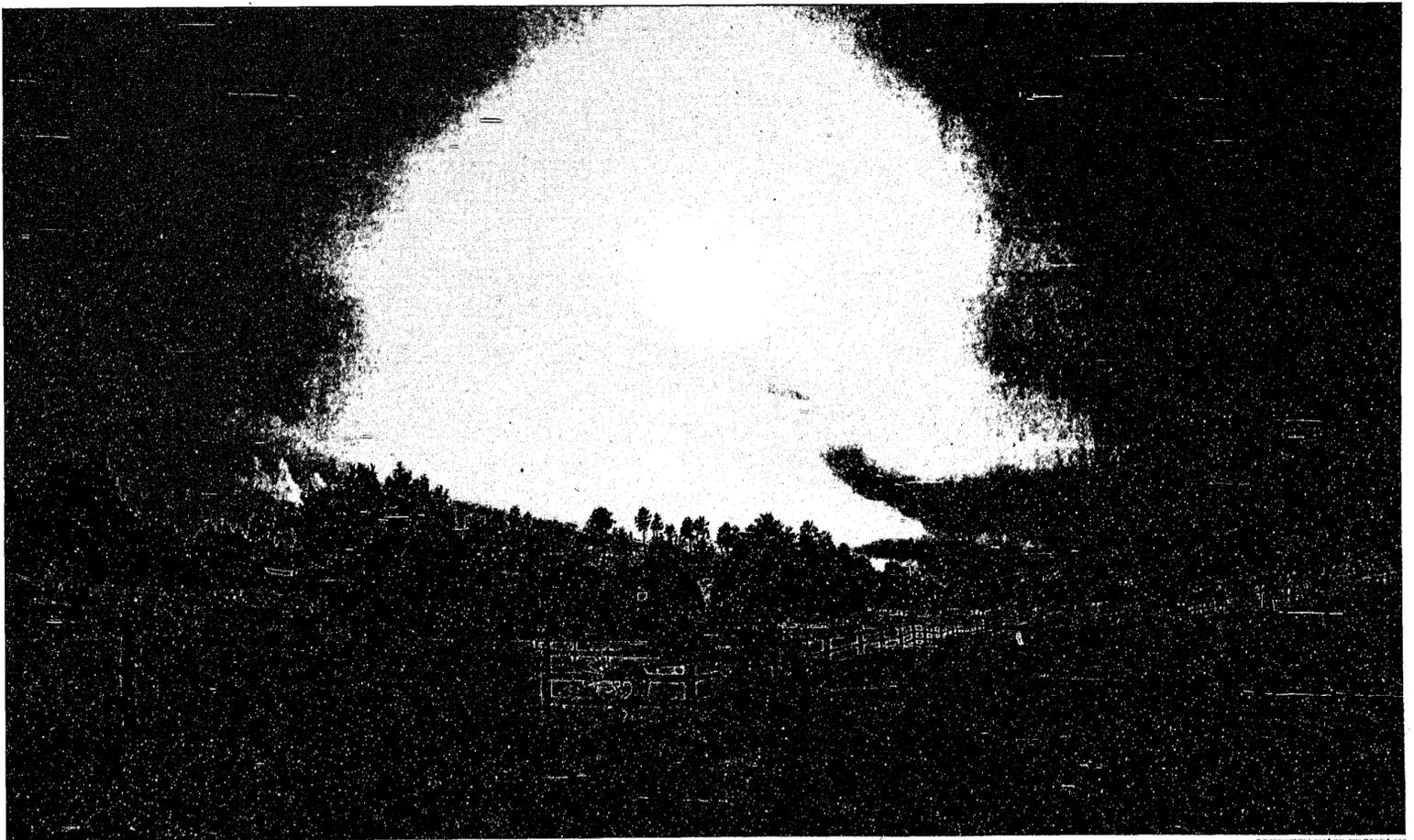
"They're OK in pots," Shaw countered.

"I'd like to have it looked into," Stoddard said.

Village Manager Debi Lee said municipalities commonly provide winter averaging and there should be a method to determine the difference for gardening in summer. Staff will gather information and report back, she said.

As a parting thought, Cory added, "If we lower one person's rate, we will have to make it up on the others."

A Ruidoso News exclusive



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

A sun halo creates an eerie scene in the Rancho Ruidoso area during a snowstorm last week. Halos appear in the skies more often than rainbows and form when light from the sun or moon is refracted by ice crystals associated with thin, high-level clouds such as cirrostratus. The halos can be seen on average twice a week in Europe and parts of the United States. The 22 degree radius circular halo and sundogs are the most frequent. The image was taken with a fish-eye lens, which encompasses 180 degrees.

EDUCATION

Snow makeup day ahead

JIM KALVELAGE
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At least one make-up day will be needed in the Ruidoso Municipal School District because of snow days off this winter.

The school calendar has three days beyond required instruction days this school year, but four snow days have already been taken.

Superintendent Dr. Bea Etta Harris told the education board Tuesday night that one day would be added to the school year, May 28, to make up for last week's snow day. If additional snow days happened, then the Easter holiday break would be shorted, first by holding classes on Good Friday, and then on the Monday after Easter.

"I thought we had stated when we set the calendar

that we specified those days as a make-up in the order of that Friday before Easter, the Monday after Easter, then the twenty-eighth of May," said board member Rafael Salas. "Now we're saying the twenty-eighth is the day to make up first versus the others."

Harris said she was unable to find a policy on which day was specified first.

"In committee it was specifically said that, like Rifle (Salas) said, it would be the Friday if we needed to make up the first snow day," responded board member Kerry Gladden-Eastep.

"So you think that was the understanding of the committee?" questioned Harris.

Salas said that was the

plan of the school board as well.

Board president Susan Lutterman questioned holding classes on May 28 when "all the books are gone."

May 27 is scheduled to be the final day of this school year.

"That would be a useless day," board vice-president Frank Sayner said. "All the twenty-eighth would do is comply with the law."

Noting there could be additional snow days yet this winter, Salas motioned that the order of make-up days be April 2, then April 5, and if needed, May 28.

The school year calendar has a notice that those days could become school days. The motion passed the board unanimously.

A Ruidoso News Exclusive

SCHOOL-TO-SCHOOL LEARNING



COURTESY

Mrs. Micah Woodul's first grade class at the Sierra Vista Primary School in Ruidoso connects with Mrs. Kayce Patterson's first grade class in Carrizozo through an interactive set-up of television cameras and monitors. The students not only introduced themselves, but each student was able to see and meet their "buddy" from the other class. The communications between the 40-mile apart classes will include reading and writing projects over the remainder of the school year.

RHS has new journalism teacher

TESSA TALSMAN
For the Ruidoso News

The New Year has brought a new start, a new semester and new staff members to RHS, one being Mr. Miller.

He graduated from Brigham Young University, receiving his bachelor's degree in mathematics.

With five years of experience

behind him, he has taught in New Mexico and Utah.

Currently at RHS, he teaches algebra, pre-calculus, calculus and success skills. Mr. Miller came to RHS because the school had an opening for the job.

He says it is fantastic here and the students, as well as the staff, have made him feel very welcome.

In his free time, he



Mr. Miller

enjoys photography "and a good game of chess now and again."

Schools H1N1 clinics begin Friday

JIM KALVELAGE
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H1N1 immunization clinics will begin Friday for students in four Ruidoso schools.

The New Mexico Public Health Department office in Ruidoso, in collaboration with the Ruidoso Municipal School District, will conduct a clinic for the Sierra Vista Primary and the White Mountain Intermediate schools on Feb. 12, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The district's high school will host an H1N1 clinic the following Friday, Feb. 19, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The middle school's clinic is

scheduled for Feb. 19, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The clinics will be open to the public, though they will concentrate on school age children.

Parents who want their children to receive the vaccination need to come by the public health office to pick up a consent form. The office is at 105 Kansas City Rd. in Ruidoso. Forms are also available from school nurses.

The form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian before the clinics. Without a signed consent form the child will be unable to receive an immunization.

Health department registered nurse Millie Smith said H1N1 is a dangerous disease and there could be a resurgence of the virus in the next couple of months.

"Don't take a chance with your child's life or with your life," said Smith. "Get the vaccination. The vaccination is very safe."

The public health office has administered more than 4,000 immunizations since October. Smith said there have not been any problems among those who received the vaccine.

The immunizations have been given to people ranging from six months to 98 years of age.

DEAN'S HONOR ROLL



Kirstie Trotter, daughter of Murray and Marilyn Arrowsmith of Lincoln, and Bart Trotter of Ruidoso, was named a member of the Dean's Honor Roll at West Texas A&M University for the 2009 fall semester. She is a 2009 graduate of Capitan High School.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Check delay

A ceremonial check presentation, for a distance-learning grant for middle and high schools around Lincoln County and part of northern Otero County, is delayed again.

After a cancelled event in Ruidoso on Jan. 28, a

scheduling conflict has thwarted a retry previously set for tomorrow.

Terry Brunner, the state director for the USDA Rural Development program, was to have delivered the check to the Region IX Educational Cooperative at the Horton Complex. It will now be

postponed until late March or early April.

A \$499,361 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program grant had been announced in Nov. 2009. The funding would bring instruction from Eastern New Mexico University to the local classes through the Internet.

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Village outlines plan to catch up on audits

DIANNE STALLINGS
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In a workshop earlier this week, Ruidoso village administration officials walked councilors through findings in an 2006-2007 Fiscal Year audit, pointing out steps taken to correct and eliminate future criticisms.

Village Manager Debi Lee told councilors that, by June, the village should be caught up with audits that have lagged since 2005, when a special state audit was conducted.

Councilor Greg Cory, who chaired the session in the absence of Mayor L. Ray Nunley, said one of the challenges is that this audit and the next one to follow are backdated significantly.

"Those responsible for the findings are no longer here," he said.

A nagging complaint by auditors is the lack of an Information Technology emergency recovery system. Lee said in 2005, the council hired a consultant who put together new policies that included security systems.

Those policies were adopted and she recommended more money be set aside for full implementation with an automatic system-wide backup. Under the existing system, each user must back up their work independently and that's not a good system, she said. The finding most certainly will be repeated in the next audit covering 2007-2008, she said.

"These still are catch-up audits," Lee said. "The 2008-2009 audit was due Dec. 1. The exit session on the 2007-2008 is tomorrow (Tuesday). We should be able to bring in the auditors for the new audit by March



DEBI LEE, BILL MORRIS

and have it done by June or July, and then we can get back on schedule."

For most of the findings in the 2006-2007 audit, which was released several weeks ago, corrections are complete. Lee explained new policies and procedures adopted, including daily deposits of money generated at the village's Sierra Blanca Regional Airport, better tracking and a significant increase in fuel sales and the collection and elimination of overdue accounts.

Cross-training of employees also has helped the village catch up on accounts receivable, Lee said. Finance Director Nancy

Klingman has reconciled meter deposit data in the water department.

Lee emphasized that most of the problems will be eliminated with an investment in a more efficient software system. Klingman said employees have to manually reconcile by typing in outstanding checks each month. Lee said that approach is antiquated.

Klingman said all bank accounts except those at Wells Fargo were closed out, because they were not interest-bearing.

Jeff Kaplan, director of Solid Waste and General Services, took over the purchasing department and

reorganized. Lee said she's comfortable with the resulting arrangement.

Klingman also is working on a fixed asset inventory to more accurately reflect property owned by the village.

Lee said staff knows they will see some of the same criticism in the 2007-2008 audit as they did in 2006-2007, "and that's O.K." She said village officials probably were distracted with the July 2008 flood on the Rio Ruidoso and other events that interfered with immediate corrections of the findings.

Cory noted that seven findings were repeat and 12 were new in the 2006-

2007 audit. Klingman said as long as the auditor offers an unqualified opinion, the village is operating soundly, and as long as the findings are addressed, the state will not intervene.

"We can't make some adjustments in 2008-2009, but we will in 2009-2010," she said.

Cory said one of his frustrations and one of his first battles was over the inventory and, four years after, "it's the same song all over again. The challenge will be managing this as we go forward."

Lee agreed that the staff faces "a tremendous amount of work."

"But not long ago, the

village won budget awards," she said. "It was doing really well in finance. I'm guessing the flood event (interrupted upgrades)."

Councilor Ron Harde- man said many findings preceded the flood, although the event did distract the council. "It put a whole new layer of complications. I wouldn't say it caused (audit criticisms), but it did aggravate it."

Lee said she also noticed management lacked stability recently, with a high turnover in key positions.

"We have a great, competent, smart group of employees," she said. "We're on the uphill."

Councilors asked for frequent updates on her progress.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

RE-ELECT JIM STODDARD



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- Ruidoso needs his experience & leadership
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"Jim listens to all input. He weighs cost against benefits and he considers both short and long term values to Ruidoso and its citizens."
Herb Brunell

Jim Stoddard
Ruidoso
Village Council

Straight Talk,
Solid Experience

AG: Census scams 'active'

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

New Mexico residents were warned Monday by Attorney General Gary King's Consumer Protection Division that two scams are active in the state.

They appear to consumers to be from the U.S. Census Bureau, but are fraudulent. One claims to be from the Republican Party and asks for money at the end of the message. The other claims to be a Census of Senior Citizens.

Consumers should be aware that most Census 2010 forms will arrive in the mail. If a Census 2010 worker visits residents, they will be wearing an official identification badge. Census 2010 workers never ask for money or bank account information.

Advance letters will be mailed the first week of March and the official Census 2010 questionnaire will arrive the week of March 15. Persons in rural areas will receive their questionnaire from a Census 2010 worker between March 15 and March 30.

New Mexicans are encouraged to contact the Denver Region Census Center at 1-800-852-6159, if they have concerns regarding a Census 2010 worker or a mailing they have received.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

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SNOW

FROM PAGE 1A

there," said Sleep. It should help with both (the ground-water table and fire danger). There is some controversy on how long it takes to get down to and replenish water tables, but it certainly, over time, will help. And it should reduce the fire danger this spring because of the amount of snow on the ground. It will also be good for irrigation along the Hondo River."

The Sierra Blanca Snotel station, at 10,280 feet, set a Feb. 1 record for snow water equivalent with 19.8 inches of water content in the snowpack. The previous Feb. 1 record was set in 1992 when the water content was 15.2 inches. Snow measurements at the Sierra Blanca location started in 1987.

As a result, the stream-flow forecast for the Rio Hondo Basin is predicting



Leftover snow in Midtown last week made a good foot rest for these weary shoppers.

COURTESY JOHN T. SODEN

lined up, the southern end of the state has gotten the heaviest impact. "The storms are still lining up," said Sleep.

With a moderate strength El Niño ongoing, and additional snow accumulations for the mountains anticipated, the prospects for a better-than-normal spring snow melt runoff is expected to hold.

While the above-normal snowpack could contribute to spring flooding, Sleep feels that would be unlikely.

"It's a little early to say right now. If there's a rain on snow event with rapid melt-out there could be some issues. But it usually melts over time."

A Ruidoso News exclusive

10,300 acre-feet of water, or 139 percent of average, will run off between March and

June along the Rio Ruidoso at a measuring gauge on Ruidoso's east side.

The water supply forecast assumes near normal precipitation into the

spring months. "And the way these storms from the west have

BILL

FROM PAGE 1A

The legislation is in response to a threat to move the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino to a more lucrative location. Track officials have argued they are at a disadvantage because tribal casinos pay the state lower revenue sharing percentages.

Ruidoso Downs city lobbyist H. John Underwood said there is ample optimism that the bill will pass.

"It's a local option situation," said Underwood. "If local people vote for it, it is a local decision to put in the business retention gross receipts tax."

Another amendment to House Bill 203, inserted by the House Business and Industry Committee, would allow only racetracks with

a net take of less than \$15 million during the previous calendar year apply for the credit.

That essentially limits the gaming tax credit to just Ruidoso Downs. It also likely makes Lincoln County the location in New Mexico that would consider the added gross receipts tax, if the bill is passed. Initially the legislation included racinos with a net take of \$20 million a year,

which could have also applied to a pending track at Raton.

And a later amendment, by the House Taxation and Revenue Committee, was called "technical" by Underwood.

"The biggest correction made to the bill involved the credit to the casino part of the racetrack," he said. "If the casino took more credit than was actually received in gross receipts

taxes for the credit, the track would have to pay back an excess credit, or not be eligible to receive more credit. It's because you don't know how much gross receipts tax there is until they have it."

On the Senate side at the Roundhouse, the Corporations Committee approved replacement language for the bill that would have had the state funding a gaming tax

reduction for racinos. The new language matched the local option tax credit.

The Senate Finance Committee, chaired by John Arthur Smith, is expected to consider the measure next.

"That is where the rubber will meet the road," said Underwood.

Smith has been cool to tax relief for casinos.

Underwood predicted the gaming tax credit legislation could be on the Senate floor by next Tuesday or Wednesday. The 30-day legislative session at Santa Fe concludes a week from tomorrow.

The county business retention gross receipts tax would be limited to one-quarter of one percent, in one-sixteenth increments.

An analysis for the Legislative Finance Committee forecast that if Lincoln County voters approved a one-sixteenth or one-eighth of one percent gross receipts tax in order to keep the racetrack in Ruidoso Downs, it would fail to generate enough revenue to cover an up to 50 percent gaming tax credit.

Additionally, the fiscal impact report noted that in addition to the state's current gross receipts tax rate of five percent, New Mexico municipalities and counties also impose local option gross receipts taxes, which in some cases add about four more percentage points.

The report stated that due to increasing use of the local option taxes, the overall tax rate around New Mexico is increasing steadily.

And the legislature is considering a limited-term hike to the state's five percent gross receipts tax rate to help mend the budget.

Any of the county local option gross receipts revenues beyond the amount of a gaming tax credit would be returned to the county for promotion or administration of the county, instructional or general purposes for a public post-secondary education institution in the county, capital outlay to expand or relocate a public post-secondary education institution in the county, or to fund professional services contracts related to implementing an economic development plan.

The county board of commissioners would first have to decide if the business retention gross receipts tax would be presented to voters.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

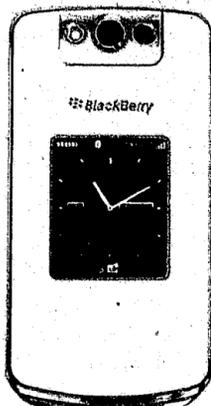
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RUIDOSO NEWS



Council approves new solicitation ordinance

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

A new ordinance regulating solicitation and enacting rules aimed at preventing unwanted activity in Midtown without banning worthwhile causes was approved in a 4-2 vote of Ruidoso village councilors.

Deputy Village Manager Bill Morris explained that the item was postponed previously to define the geographic area. The intent was to provide criteria for solicitation in Midtown because of the heavy pedestrian traffic commingling with vehicular traffic.

"The ordinance would help to limit potential dis-

tractions to drivers along Sudderth Drive," from Country Club Drive to Center Street, he said.

Under the rules proposed by staff, an applicant must secure a special use permit in advance, must have a valid certificate of incorporation from the state demonstrating 501.c-3 approval by the Internal Revenue Service, can only obtain one special use permit for two days in a calendar year and must obtain approval of the council if more permits are requested.

Councilor Angel Shaw asked how the new rules would affect political candidates who want to campaign in Midtown and vil-

lage fire fighters when they conduct their annual Muscular Dystrophy fund raising campaign.

Village Attorney Dam Bryant said the wording would capture all charitable organizations, but Councilor Jim Stoddard said he doubted if the fire-fighters qualified as a charitable organization. Bryant explained the solicitation would be done under the auspices of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Councilor Greg Cory said he's weary of constantly having to postpone action on ordinances and issues.

"It seems almost without fail when we have a public hearing on ordinance changes, they never go through the first time," he said. "I urge you as I leave (his terms ends in March) to conduct workshops ahead so there is some council involvement in drafting these ordinances."

Mayor L. Ray Nunley said he still is not sure of the definition of a solicitor and said he asked about that the last time the ordinance was discussed.

Bryant said the definition is found in village code.

"This is just a special use portion of the code," he said. "The definition already is in the code." Nunley said it would have been informative to include the definition again and Stoddard echoed his opinion.

Bryant said a solicitor is essentially is defined as someone selling or taking orders or offering to sell items of value for future delivery or services or requesting contributions for any noncommercial purposes.

Midtown business owner Jennie Dorgan offered a few scenarios for interpretation, such as if she handed out pamphlets about saving trees. "Am I a solicitor?" she asked. "Is it the action or the material that causes me to be a solicitor?"

Bryant said he finds it difficult to offer advisory opinions on situations "like that."

"This does not affect anybody's activity on their own property or those given permission on someone else's property," he said. "This only covers public rights of way."

Andrea Reed said such restrictions impose on her freedom of speech and that

she should be free to pass out information without going through an application process.

Bryant responded that the rule "impact but does not infringe" on her rights. Municipalities may regulate the time, place and manner, as long as it defines the reason, such as congestion.

Having a 17 year old son, Shaw said she knows that members of the music and chess clubs try to raise money for their programs and do not fall under the auspices of the school district. If they tried to raise money in Midtown, would they need a permit, she asked.

Bryant said they would and that's why school districts in the county have gathered all the money-raising functions to oversee them and distribute the revenue.

Nunley said for years, students have visited businesses to raise money for the events they conduct. "I don't want to throw cold water on that," he said.

Councilor Ron Harde-man said that's an activity inside a business, not on the sidewalk and should not be affected.

"Trust me, some kids solicit outside," Shaw said. "My child did. Now they'll need a permit and its hard enough already to find volunteers."

Bryant said the ordinance can be adapted in any way the council prefers. A group could come to the council and ask for an exception. But Shaw said that would be burdensome to the council. Bryant said the authority could be delegated.

Stoddard suggested taking out the limit on the number of special permits per year and to include some other types of organizations.

Village Manager Debi Lee interjected that staff spent a considerable amount of time on putting the ordinance together and she recommend the council approve it.

Councilor Don Williams offered a motion to approve, seconded by Stoddard that passed 4-2 with Cory and Rebstock voting against. Stoddard's amendment to include a broader category of qualifying types of organizations passed unanimously.

A Ruidoso News exclusive.

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DOWN
FROM PAGE 1A

weekend instead of during the week, she said.

"We expect January to be a little up over last year with this fabulous snow," Davis said. "But we think February and March will give us the full effect of an incredible snow season."

According to the automated SNOTEL measuring system on a snowcourse near Ski Apache Resort, the snow depth in the Sacramento Mountains is about 65 inches.

A chart put together for lodger tax committee members' review shows the village fell short in comparison to the previous year in two of the six months of collections from June through November.

Posted numbers were substantially higher than last year for June, distributed in July 2009, at \$143,267 compared to \$90,558 in 2008. The village led modestly in July at \$169,261 compared to \$167,234 in 2008; for

"In future years, we will allocate both revenue and expense so there is a clear picture for the public," Ruidoso's finance director, Nancy Klingman, said.



September at \$118,258 compared to \$111,405; and October at \$67,955 compared to \$49,151.

The village saw a drop in August with \$133,182 compared to \$209,007 in 2008 when sightseers and government officials flocked into town after a major flood on the Rio Ruidoso.

November, the worst month to date, dipped to \$46,186 compared to \$88,867 the previous year. For the first six months of lodgers tax collected in Fiscal Year 2009-2010 at \$678,132, the village is off about \$38,000 from last fiscal year.

A lodgers tax committee budget summary shows the grand total of all expenses at \$1.75 million with a deficit of \$699,404, to be covered by money from the

beginning fund balance of \$1.3 million, reducing the reserve to \$607,012.

But the village's new finance director, Nancy Klingman, said those figures are misleading.

"They were doing fine," she said of the committee. The figures look skewed because when committee members did not spend their full special events, money last year, they reallocated the dollars into this year's budget.

"That threw off the budget, because it only showed on the expense side and not the revenue side," Klingman explained. "Last year, it would have showed on the revenue and expense sides. So this year looks like an offset, but it truly is just how the numbers worked out, because of the reallocation process."

She met with a few representatives from the committee, including Davis, and, "I told them it is very misleading to the public and this will be the last year," Klingman said. "In future years, we will allocate both revenue and expense so there is a clear picture for the public. They have investments and are in good shape. They watch their money very carefully."

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Illegal dumping gets 1st conviction

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A first illegal dumping conviction for the Greentree Solid Waste Authority went into the books late last year, because of pictures proving the illegal action.

An Alto woman pleaded no contest to the charge.

Bill Dunlap, who is a crime scene technician at the Ruidoso Downs Police Department, and also moonlights as a surveillance monitor contractor for Greentree, said the pictures show the woman illegally disposing of materials at the solid waste dumpsters on Cedar Creek Drive, west of Ruidoso.

A citation issued by a Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy stated Kimberly Conner, 37, was photographed nine times by Dunlap.

"She was caught dead to

right," said Dunlap. "The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office ran the plate after I blew up the photo."

For several years the operational supervisor of the solid waste authority has been on a crusade against dumping.

Dunlap said illegal dumping has been bad.

"It's people who are too lackadaisical to come to the transfer station and pay for it," he said. "They do it because of the cost, and it then costs the solid waste authority and Lincoln County residents money."

Greentree has dozens of motion-activated surveillance cameras posted at trash drop-off convenience stations and at some dumpster and compactor locations.

Dunlap said as a result he has thousands of pictures. But he added the first conviction is very important.

"It sends a message out. We will prosecute you if you do it. There are both local and state ordinances about illegal dumping."

Lincoln County's litter ordinance requires that all solid waste must be put inside a container provided by the Greentree Solid Waste Authority. Lengths over four feet are prohibited.

Dumping on the ground, even if a refuse container is full, is illegal.

Conner's sentence from Magistrate Judge Lorena LaMay called for a \$300 fine and \$67 in court costs. Instead of paying a fine Conner opted for community service and jail time. She served a couple of days in the detention center.

"We will pursue people who illegally dump," said Dunlap. It's wrong. It messes up the neighborhood. I hope we don't get that many more."

Emergency panel reinstated

JIM KALVELAGE
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A federally required panel for counties across the U.S. has been revived in Lincoln County.

The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) is mandated to develop and implement an emergency response plan and review it annually. And the committee is supposed to understand chemical hazards in the community, put together plans in case of an accidental release, and look for ways to prevent chemical accidents. LEPCs should be made up of emergency management agencies, responders, industry and the public.

Lincoln County LEPC secretary Angel Shaw said it was just over a year ago the committee began a return to regular meetings. "I think it was in December of 2008 that Joe Kenmore (the coordinator in the Lincoln County Office of Emergency Services) said we'll get it back up and running," said Shaw. "We're glad it's active again because of the disasters we've had. The flood was a real sobering event."

Flooding in late July 2008 along the Rio Ruidoso and the Rio Bonito caused damage in the millions of dollars, stranded hundreds of people, and resulted in the death of one man.

Shaw called renewing the volunteer committee a vital step.

"It's an information sharing committee. We on the committee represent so many agencies within our county. We can go back and share this information with our councils, with our companies. And I think that's extremely important."

Kenmore, who had been involved with the county's LEPC for years in the past, is the committee's chair. Thomas Schafer, Ruidoso's emergency manager, is the vice-chair.

A proposed set of new bylaws would create 21 positions on the committee. The membership would include emergency management officials, state police, local law enforcement, fire and EMS personnel, public health officials, someone involved in environmental health, a representative of a land use agency, a communications expert, representatives from utility companies, the new media, a transporta-

tion official, a chamber of commerce representative, and public school officials.

A return to at least one regular meeting each month is called for.

The LEPC last year conducted a mock disaster drill that involved 35 responders from 12 agencies. Shaw said more exercises are planned, to concentrate on being an "all hazard" committee.

"We are fortunate enough, or sometimes not so fortunate enough, to live in an area where we can have multiple things happen. We have winter storms. We have floods. We have wildfire. We have hazardous materials that go along our highways. We have health scares, like the H1N1 virus. We really teamed with our health department this last year to help them share that information and coordinate vaccinations within our municipalities. So our employees that have a lot of contact with the public were protected."

Calling it an achievement, Shaw said there has been a lot of "cohesiveness" with the reinvigorated committee over the past year.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

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Committed to Improving the Health of Lincoln County Lincoln County Medical Center's Report to the Community

For Lincoln County Medical Center, 2009 was a very special year. We're especially thankful for your support during the past 60 years. With that support, Lincoln County Medical Center opened and dedicated the Therapy Center, phase 3 of the hospital's strategic plan, in May. Our commitment to improving the health of our New Mexico communities has long been proven, and we are excited about continuing our tradition of caring for people of Lincoln County. As the administrator of Lincoln County Medical Center, I want to share with you our accomplishments.

2009 by the numbers

It was our privilege to care for each and every patient that entered our doors last year

- 12,969 patients treated in the emergency department
- 1,187 patients admitted to the hospital
- 352 babies delivered
- 31,232 patients seen by our Presbyterian Medical Group providers
- 50,548 patients seen on an outpatient basis (not an overnight stay)
- 2,935 critical patients transported by emergency medical services professionals

Our impact on the local economy

- 240 jobs provided for local residents
- \$16,707,770 in employee salaries, wages and benefits

Our facility improvements - Made possible in part by MII Levy Funds

- Purchased over \$700,000 in medical equipment to improve patient care
- New \$3.8 million state-of-the-art 10,000 square-foot Therapy Center
- New Ambulance for the Corona Substation
- Remounted 2 Ambulances for Lincoln County Emergency Medical Services
- Purchased a new refrigerator/freezer for the hospital kitchen
- Installed an electronic hospital post-discharge record system
- Received new bone density machine from the LCMC Auxiliary's purchase and donation

Our continued focus on quality standards and practices

- We are proud of the recognition we have received for the quality of our services.
- Lincoln County EMS was awarded the 2009 New Mexico Department of Transportation Safety and 2009 EMS Region III Organization of the Year awards
- We take pride in the fact that Lincoln County ranked third in overall health and first in health outcomes in the 2008 New Mexico County Health Rankings study conducted by the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.
- Fully accredited by the Joint Commission as a critical access hospital
- LCMC was recognized for achieving 100% on seven hospital quality indicators for the second quarter of 2009, most recent data available, by the New Mexico Medical Review Association

Our focus on community benefit health care:

- \$950,000 in charity care provided to citizens in our communities (unaudited)
- Participated in the Run for the Beach with a 35-member team
- Participated in the Relay for Life
- Participated in the Smokey Bear Fun Run
- Participated in the Walk in the Woods Health Fair and Fitness Challenge
- Active representation on the Lincoln County Community Health Council
- Supporter of several community benefit events and organizations including the Lincoln County Fair, Smokey Bear Days and Leadership Lincoln

The people who care for you

Our continued focus on improving access to medical care

- In 2009, we recruited Suzanne Carden, CNS; Marilyn Nishitani, DNP-BC; Alfred Varela, MD, Internist; and Alan Arrington, MD, Emergency Medicine.
- We are committed to recruiting additional doctors and providers to the community in 2010.

Investing in our people

- We intentionally focus on hiring excellent employees and work hard to retain their talent and expertise.
- This year, we recognized 34 employees for reaching significant milestones in their years of service. Combined, these employees provided over 433 years of service to the hospital.



35-year Employee David Blackmon

<p>5 Years</p> <p>Jennifer Buff Laura Christensen Dr. Tim Harkins Michelle Howard Cassandra Jinzo Janie Lester Linda Morris Linda Najjar Sandra Lynn Nunnally Steve Olson Kathy Passig Kim Portio Sara Proctor Terry Riehl Jan Schnelle Connie Ziarnik</p>	<p>10 Years</p> <p>Wafawn Fitzpatrick Donna Vermillion</p> <p>15 Years</p> <p>Ann Blue Suzanne Dennehy Elizabeth Candelaria Dr. W. Chris Robinson Lindsey Valliant</p> <p>20 Years</p> <p>Jimmy Portio Cindy Wolfel</p>	<p>25 Years</p> <p>Cristobal Barela (29) Elizabeth Bates (27) Sheree Brown (25) Maria Soto (26) Jim Stover (26)</p> <p>30 Years</p> <p>Charla Lathan Michelle Propsner</p> <p>32 Years</p> <p>Sue Lewallen</p> <p>35 Years</p> <p>David Blackmon</p>
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The Valued Contributions of Our Community

A great hospital, such as Lincoln County Medical Center, depends on the kindness and generosity and the commitment of many individuals who, year after year, provide valuable time, energy and support to make this hospital a better place for patients and the community. Please join us in thanking these members of our community for their valuable contributions.

The Board of Trustees: Gary Mitchell, Chairman, Dr. Roger Beechie, Vice Chairman, Scott Shafer, Finance Committee Chairman, Dr. Chris Robinson, Chief of Staff, Al Santos, LCMC Administrator, Mack Bell, Greg Haussler, Maxine Roberson, Auxiliary President, Margie Morales, David Noltensmeyer, CRNA, Alberto Robles and Dr. Vickie Williams for their valuable time, effort and knowledge in providing governance, leadership and direction. We're also appreciative of each of our advisory boards. **Capitan Advisory Board Members:** Preston Stone, Thomas Mann, Pat Garrett, Jackie Patton, Mary Ann Morrissey, Marilyn Nishitani, DNP-BC, Sue Burke, Rose Marie Smith and Gary Tregembo. **Carrizozo Advisory Board Members:** Susan Hightower, Scott Shafer, Thomas Stewart, Archie Witham, Dale Goad DDS, Betty Ann Bell and Melinda Hall DDS. **Corona Advisory Board Members:** Sherrill Bradford, Travis Lightfoot, Terri Racher, Patsy Mulkey, Loreta Sanchez, Dr. Pete Seyl, Joe Mayhill, Inez Perkins, Betty Ann Bell, Eileen Sedillo and Janet Verna.

Community Leaders: Lincoln County Commissioners: Tom Batin Chair, Dave Parks, Don Williams, Eileen Sedillo, Jackie Powell; Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart; Lincoln County Clerk Tammie Maddox; Ruidoso Mayor L. Ray Nunley, Ruidoso Downs Mayor Tom Armstrong, Capitan Mayor Sam Hammonds, Carrizozo Mayor Bob Hemphill, Corona Mayor Bill Hignight, and each of the respective municipal councils; New Mexico State Representatives Zach Cook, Dennis Kintigh and Nora Espinoza; New Mexico State Senators Rod Adair and Tim Jennings for their continued commitment and support to assure that quality health care is available for the citizens of Lincoln County.

Medical Staff Leadership: LCMC Medical Director Dr. Gary Jackson, Chief of Staff Dr. W. Chris Robinson, Vice-Chief of Staff Dr. Mary Martinez, Secretary Dr. Steven Otero,

and Dr. Tom Lindsey and Dr. Leslie Carroll, members at large. Not only have these doctors provided thousands of hours of quality medical care to their patients but they also have taken time from their busy schedules to provide leadership, guidance and knowledge to help make Lincoln County Medical Center a safe place for patients.

Clinical and Professional Leaders
Hospital Administrative Team Leaders: Al Santos, Patsy Parker, Dr. Gary Jackson, Terry Riehl, Dudley McCauley, Deana Moses, Jim Stover and Brad Treptow.
Hospital Department Managers: Chris Barela, Beth Bates, Ann Blue, Vickie Briley, Judy Brown, Brandi Darnold, Estella Davalos, Brecca Dixon, WaFawn Fitzpatrick, Chris Furphy, Mary Hernandez, Ken Hunter, Gisela Jewell, James Martin, Les Nielsen, Marsha Patterson, Joan Pelkey, Jimmy Portio, Michelle Propsner, Rene Scarpa, Barb Valdez and Cindy Wolfel.

Employees: Over 240 valuable, hardworking and dedicated employees who worked tirelessly thousands of hours to make sure that patient and visitors are provided safe, high quality customer care and service.

Lincoln County Medical Center Auxiliaries, who gave us 21,700 hours of their valuable time and more than \$184,000 in fundraising efforts to benefit the hospital system through equipment and fixtures. During the past decade, the LCMC Auxiliary has easily donated more than \$1 million to LCMC. We appreciate our volunteers for the comfort and service they provide to all that come through our doors. Maxine Roberson, Auxiliary President and Joan Pelkey, Volunteer Coordinator provide extraordinary leadership. And a special recognition to Betty Deal, Auxiliary of the Year, for her generosity, kindness and expertise in repairing old dolls that are delivered to the LCMC Thrift Shop. She has invested hours during her 10-year Auxiliary experience to bring joy to hundreds of children.



Auxiliary of the Year 2009
Betty Deal

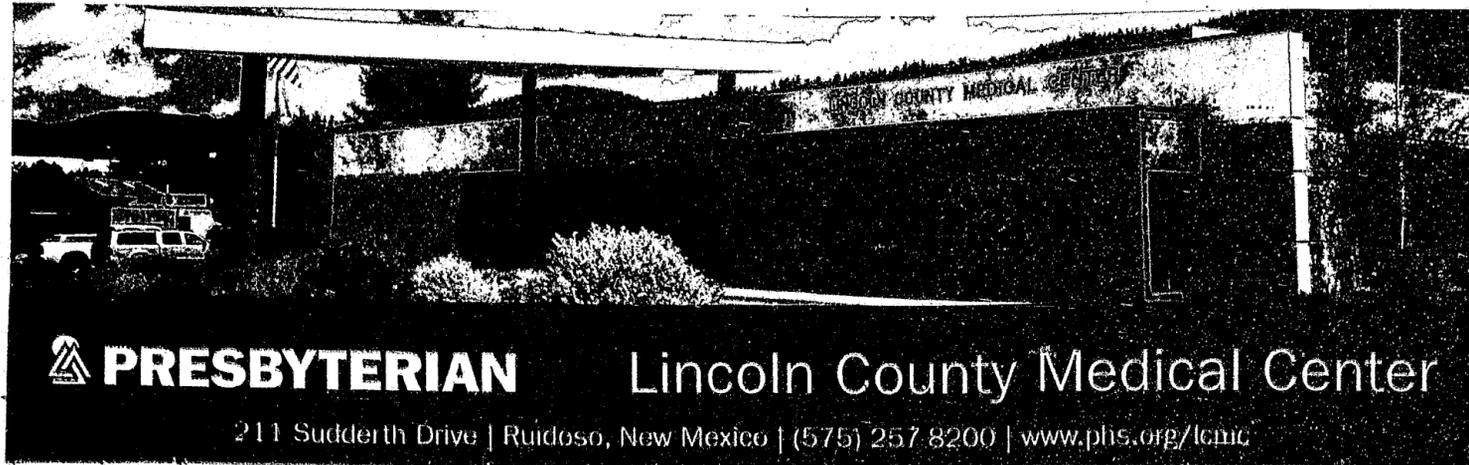
What's Ahead in 2010?

Moving forward, we are committed to:

- Providing quality and cost effective care to the citizens of Lincoln County
- A New Digital Mammography Unit
- An Electronic storage, archival and retrieval of all radiological tests
- A New MRI unit
- A "Fast Track" option in the ER for non-emergent cases
- Installing a newborn security system for the Labor and Delivery department
- Installing a medication safety system in the ICU department
- Recruitment for additional providers and specialists
- Continued support of Lincoln County with their hospital master plan and their Community Development Block Grant application for a new clinic in Capitan

As your neighbor please accept my warmest thanks for your continued support as I reaffirm our commitment to serve the citizens of Lincoln County. The physicians and staff of Lincoln County Medical Center wish you and your family a healthy, happy, safe and prosperous year.

Sincerely,
Al Santos
Lincoln County Medical Center
Administrator



PRESBYTERIAN

Lincoln County Medical Center

211 Sudderth Drive | Ruidoso, New Mexico | (575) 257-8200 | www.plhs.org/lcmc

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10, 2010

CALL US: MIKE CURRAN, SPORTS EDITOR • 257-4001 EXT. 4111 • MCCRAN@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

PAGE 1B

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache

The snow resort is open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may call 464-1234 for the latest ski report and information. The ski report is culled from www.ski-apachesnowreport.com.

Tickets: Season passes are normally available by phone at 464-3600.

New snow past 49 hrs., 3 inches. Season total: 153 inches.

Weather for Wednesday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. Wednesday evening, snow likely. Cloudy, with a low around 25. South wind around 5 mph becoming calm. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Weather for Thursday: A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 37. Northwest wind between 5 and 10 mph. Thursday evening, partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Current conditions: Excellent. Mid-mountain snow depth: 60 inches.

Snow surface: Powder, machine groomed.

Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, East Easy Street, Moonshine - Gulch, Lower Moonshine, Lower Deep Freeze, Ramp, SBT, Capitan Lite, Chino, Meadows, Geronimo, The Face, Elk Ridge, part of Apache Bowl, Game Trail, Bull Run, Lift 8 Lift Line and Gondola Lift Line.

Groomers Pick: Capitan Lite.

Lifts open: No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7 open Saturday, Sunday and holidays and No. 8 Gondola is open Friday through Sundays and holidays.

Snowmaking: No.

A warrior prepares for battle

The life and times of local fighter Levi Price

MIKE CURRAN
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Ruidoso's Levi Price believes there's a price to pay if you want to be successful in the bone-jarring sport of cage fighting.

Dedication, sacrifice and commitment are just words unless you are willing to walk the walk, dream with eyes wide open and test yourself, by yourself, day in and day out for as many as two months at a time.

And not just the physical side of it either. The mental part of it may be just as important.

All the hours of exertion and planning are pointed to minutes of all-out split-second action/reaction point-counterpoint mayhem in a 21-foot diameter, fenced ring.

And your choices better be spot-on because your opponent is trying to turn any mistake you make, any weakness you reveal, into sudden, physical destruction — yours.

"To be at the top of your game in this sport you

must transform yourself into a warrior, a soldier if you will, for the coming battle," Ruidoso cage fighter Levi Price said. "Consistent, devoted workouts must precede the ultimate contention in the ring. And it's not the quantity of training hours that count — it's the quality of conditioning that matters."

Price goes into training hard eight weeks before a scheduled fight, five days a week, 1 1/2 hours a day.

"Good nutrition and rest are crucial to your overall conditioning, too," Price said.

"I like food and that could be a potential weakness for me. So, I bought a book, 'Eat Right For Your Blood Type.' I read it and it gave me insight on how to get full potential from my body through the foods I eat.

"When in training I think about a cheeseburger once in a while. But then I think about how hard my opponent must be training for me and the cheeseburg-



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Levi Price works hard for his upcoming debut as a pro cage fighter at the IMG fights Friday.

Results

Boys Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 4
Hondo 66, Vaughn 41

Friday, Feb. 5

Lordsburg 64, Capitan 59

Saturday, Feb. 6

Carrizozo 60, Mountainair 51

Roswell 78, Ruidoso 30

Tatum 64, Mescalero 25

Girls Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 4

Hondo 65, Vaughn 30

Friday, Feb. 5

Lordsburg 43, Capitan 36

Saturday, Feb. 6

Carrizozo 71, Mountainair 33

Tatum 67, Mescalero 20

Sports On Tap

Boys Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 11

Carrizozo at Corona, 7 p.m.

Hondo at Mountainair, 6:30 p.m.

Tatum at Mescalero, 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 12

Dexter at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 6

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Lovington at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

Tularosa at Capitan, 6:30 p.m.

Hondo at Carrizozo, 6:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 11

Dexter at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.

Carrizozo at Corona, 5:30 p.m.

Hondo at Mountainair, 5 p.m.

Tatum at Mescalero, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 12

Vaughn at Carrizozo, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Ruidoso at Artesia, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 15

Mescalero at Valley Christian Academy, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Capitan at Tularosa, 5 p.m.

Hondo at Carrizozo, 5 p.m.

Corona at Vaughn, 5:30 p.m.

On Deck

Chee Family Fundraiser

Gina Chee and family will be hosting the 14th Annual March Madness Basketball Tournament on March 26-28 at the Ruidoso Middle School gym. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit Gina's husband, Abraham Chee, Sr., who remains in a Lubbock hospital. Any contributions would be greatly appreciated by the family. A trademark may be applied to the tournament T-shirts for donations given. For further info call Gina Chee at 464-3197.

Grizzlies' teams maul Mustangs

MIKE CURRAN
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

The Lady Grizzlies set the stage for a gender double victory Saturday when they took down visiting Mountainair, 71-33.

Their male counterparts completed the double-dip win by decisioning the Mustangs, 60-51.

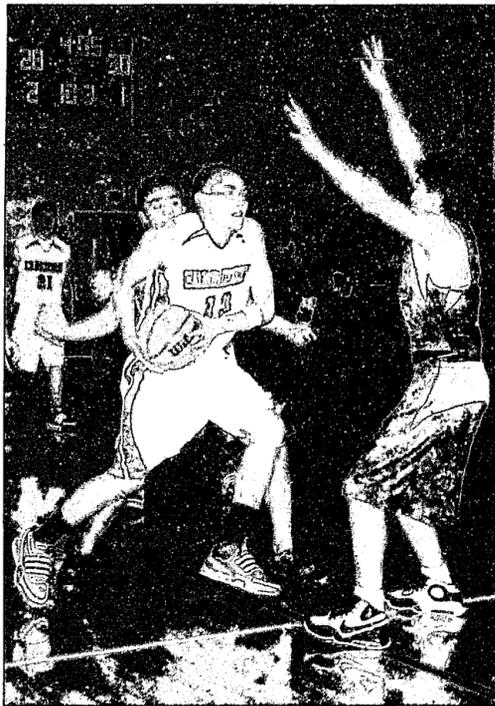
This raised the girls district mark to 1-2 and gave the boys a 2-1 record.

Mountainair has been a tough rival over the past few years and so the two wins have to be pleasing to Billy Page and company.

"The girls put a complete game together against Mountainair," Page said.

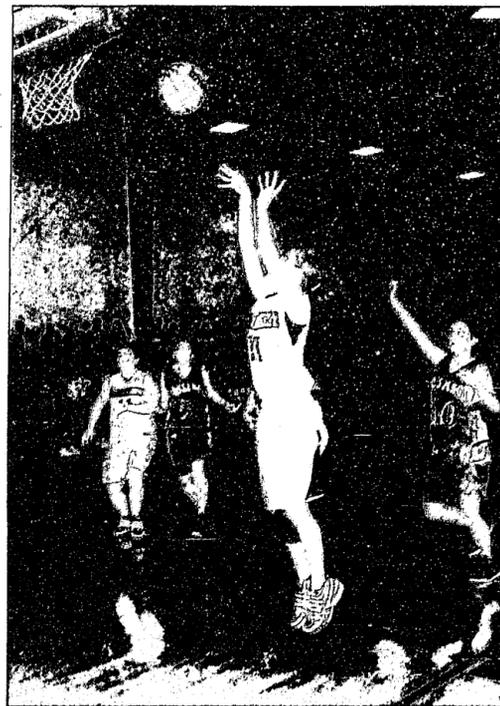
"They're getting better every day and they showed that Saturday.

"They came out in the



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

See 'ZOZO, page 2B Mark Vigil was named MVP in Saturday's 60-51 win.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Dakota Lovelace tries for two in 'Zozo's 71-33 triumph.

Nominations to All American are up

TY WYANT
For the Ruidoso News

The nominations to the 2011 All American Triple Crown are up over at least the past five years, despite the international economic recession, and there is still time to nominate foals of 2009.

Original nominations for the 2010 All American Triple Crown totaled 1,298 foals of 2008 and there are already 1,335

foals of 2009 nominated to the 2011 All American Triple Crown.

Foals of 2009 may still be nominated by paying \$300 on or before February 15.

The 2011 All American Triple Crown consists of the Grade 1, \$2,400,000 (est.) All American Futurity, the Grade 1, \$700,000 Rainbow Futurity and the Grade 1, \$500,000 Ruidoso Futurity.

The All American

Futurity is quarter horse racing's richest event and the guaranteed first-place check is quarter horse racing's richest prize. This year's All American Futurity, quarter horse racing's showcase event, boasts the sport's richest first-place check of \$1,000,000 and that will be boosted to \$2,400,000 for the 2011 running and beyond.

If a horse sweeps the Ruidoso Futurity and the

All American Futurity, then the horse's connections receive the \$4,000,000 All American Triple Crown bonus, the richest in quarter horse racing.

In addition to becoming eligible to the three rich Grade 1 futurities at Ruidoso Downs and the Triple Crown bonus, foals of 2009 also gain eligibility to the 2012 runnings of the Grade 1 All American Derby, Grade 1 Rainbow Derby and the Grade 1

Ruidoso Derby.

The .440-yard All American Derby should have a \$1,000,000 purse this year and that purse is projected to grow to an estimated \$1.3 million over the next few years. The seven-figure purse makes the All American Derby quarter horse racing's richest derby.

To nominate your foals of 2009 to the 2011 All American Triple Crown, call 378-4491. You may use a credit card.

TRAILS

FROM PAGE 1A

Ruidoso Trails Fund, and the International Mountain Bicycle Association (IMBA), Smokey Bear District Ranger Buck Sanchez said. "I appreciate the proactive leadership of these groups.

"This past week, together, we took another step forward in laying the groundwork for a comprehensive approach to managing trail systems on the Smokey Bear Ranger District near Ruidoso and portions of the Village of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation lands.

"Over the next several months, the Smokey Bear Ranger District will be actively involved in IMBA's trail design process."

Those involved see the trails as an addition to Ruidoso's tourist amenities, among them Ruidoso

Downs Race Track and Ski Apache. And the natural beauty, topography and climate of this region are well-suited for such an attraction.

Mountain bike and shared-use trails in Fruita, Colo., and Hatfield-McCoy, W.Va., have rejuvenated those areas by bringing in thousands of tourists yearly.

The Great Allegheny Passage in Pennsylvania brings in \$14 million in annual revenue - and it's only half finished.

Black Canyon, Ariz., is fast becoming another success story. In 2003, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hired IMBA to help restore the area. Motorized and non-motorized factions joined together and helped create two tracks for multi-use for each of the groups to utilize.

One year later, visitors were using the incomplete trails, with 35 miles yet to

be built.

Outdoor recreationalists contribute \$730 billion annually to the economies across the U.S. Of that group, there are 60 million bicyclists whose yearly incomes are double the national average. Mountain bikers usually spend \$39-\$139 a day on their sojourns and stay at a given area for three to four days.

The proposed trails in the Lincoln National Forest could also be used by hikers and wildlife enthusiasts, as well as making areas more accessible to hunters and campers.

When mountain bikers investigate areas of interest, they look for variety, difficulty and total miles of pathways

IMBA, the Forest Service and involved parties are looking to promote trails in this area for cyclists of all ages and abilities and showcase the land's natural beauty. The

Village of Ruidoso received a grant of \$25,000 from lodgers tax, and another \$4,000 was raised through the efforts of the White Mountain Outdoor Club. The money will be paid to IMBA.

At Thursday's initial meeting, local participants started the process of forming a steering committee to coordinate efforts of everyone involved, reach out to the community (for business support, volunteers, etc.) and to establish their next steps.

Once an overall plan is in place, IMBA will return in early March and their Trail Solutions personnel will design trails on designated areas suggested by the Trail Care Crew and other participants.

At that point, volunteers will be needed to work alongside Forest Service crews and others. Trail maps must be created to adequately guide visitors to their intended pathways



RANKIN HARVEY/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Cody Thurston cuts through a wooded trail.

and parking. Signs must be displayed along the trails to provide directions. And, the trail system must be promoted and advertised to

attract visitors.

Those with a stake in the plan feel the results could greatly enhance the economy of Ruidoso.

PRICE

FROM PAGE 1B

er vision goes away."

After six exacting weeks of workouts Price dials it back a notch for the two remaining two weeks of training.

"At that point I want to time it so I reach peak conditioning on the day of the fight," Price explained.

During this time, the Ruidoso combatant also keeps a close eye on his weight and makes sure he's within one pound of his scheduled fight weight (155 pounds) by the day of the battle.

"Cutting weight is a con-

sistent regimen in the life of a cage fighter," the local cager said.

"If you don't do all of these things properly you'll find your clock being cleaned by some 19-year-old.

"It's the price you pay to be in this sport ... or to be good in any sport for that matter."

The 30-year-old Price started fighting February, 2006, in Roswell. He had boxed as a teenager and was always athletic but friends in Roswell convinced him to train and go into cage fighting.

He won that first fight by knocking out his opponent in 47 seconds of the first round. Since then he

has gone on to a 5-2 record. In total he has had seven fights - one in Muay Thai style, three in submission and three Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).

In the Round 4, Nov. 28, KOTC fights at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Price couldn't do battle because of cartilage tears to his left leg.

It set Price back as that was supposed to be his maiden professional fight.

He had announced his intention to join the pro ranks if he won his Aug. 1 fight against Oscar Trejo of Las Cruces.

Even though Price was suffering from a staff infection at the time he took Trejo out in 2:24 of the first

round.

"Life doesn't always present you with ideal circumstances," Price reflected. "But I rose to the occasion and did what I had to do. My left knee is 100 percent and I'm ready to do battle Friday."

In his "coming out" professional clash he will meet Eddie Armendariz of Grants.

Although Armendariz has a losing record he has more total fights than Price.

"I decided to go pro because I wasn't getting any younger," Price said. "So Friday's battle is very important to me."

It's also noteworthy to others, too. These fights

will mark the first time KOTC has been televised live nationally. HDNet will be showing the fights in real time across the U.S.

"The HDNet thing is good for all the fighters on the card, especially for the local combatants and this area," Price reasoned. "It will take this community across the country."

While in Ruidoso, Price works out with his local trainer, Tony Goetz, at the Ruidoso Athletic Club (RAC).

He fights out of Albuquerque for the NHB (No Holds Barred) team and the FIT (Fighters In Training) club. His manager there is Tom Vaughn.

His sponsors - the RAC,

Lincoln County Collision Center, Big O Tires, Picture This Framing, Tony Goetz, Kino Construction, Southwest Floor Coverings, Therapy Associates and Max Muscle Rio Rancho have lessened some of Price's concerns by their contributions.

"I'm feeling great now - mentally and physically and I'm ready to go," Price concluded.

"I'm prepared for a hard fight and I sincerely want to thank my family and all who believe in me and support me.

"And good luck to all the local fighters."

A Ruidoso News exclusive

'ZOZO

FROM PAGE 1'B

third quarter and really put the pressure on the visitors.

"What I like most is that all the players got involved in the scoring, including the bench.

"The Lady Mustangs jumped on us early but the 'Zozo girls got on it and started to pull away, midway in the second quarter."

The Lady Grizzlies also

scored 28 of 42 free throws for the night.

The boys game was a closer affair than the girls 38-point win.

"It was an exciting game," Page said. "We led early-on but it was tight for the first three quarters. Offensively, the boys executed well and they converted turnovers into lay-ups."

Late in the last quarter Carrizozo pulled away by as much as 15 at one point.

"We needed that after out loss to Hondo, Feb. 2," Page said. "We knew we

had to play a good game. You have to protect your home court."

The Grizzlies' win Saturday put them in a three-way tie for the district with Mountainair and Hondo.

"We were all pleased with the wins, especially in front of a packed house, and now we have to take care of business the rest of the way," Page concluded.

The 'Zozo boys and girls teams will have traveled to Vaughn Tuesday and turn around and travel to Corona on Thursday.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ryan Guevara goes for a bucket.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Alexa Borowski tries to get through.

PLEASE ADOPT ME!

NEW ADOPTION FEES: All cats are now \$40. The fee includes spay/neuter, booster vaccinations, rabies vaccination, and microchip. We are also proud to now have an "in-your-prime" program: animals 5 and older adopted by persons 50 and older are half the normal adoption fee (\$40 for dogs and \$20 for cats). Still includes spay/neuter, booster vaccinations, rabies, and microchip.

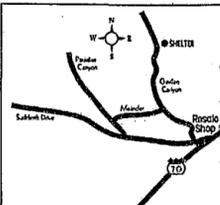


Humane Society

**SHARE THE CARE
HUMANE SOCIETY SHELTER
430 GAVILAN CANYON
ROAD 257-9841**

**adoptNMPet.com/adoptions
OPEN FOR ADOPTIONS MON, TUES, THUR, FRI - 11-5
SAT 11-2 • CLOSED WED & SUN**

Mail donations/memorials to:
Humane Society, P.O. Box 2832,
Ruidoso, NM 88355



LENA

With beautiful, very unique markings, Lena is sure to catch your eye. She has short hair and tortoiseshell points. Lena's most exquisite markings are on her face, with half being black and the other half cream colored. Aside from her good looks, Lena is a very sweet cat. She loves other cats and actually came from a home with 4 cats. She is friendly and affectionate. Lena is sure to make an excellent companion.

SPONSORED BY
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS



CHARLIE

Charlie is a wonderful, handsome large dog. He is likely a Border Collie or a herding type mix. Charlie is just over a year old and weighs 55 pounds. He has absolutely gorgeous markings with merle on his body and a chocolate brown spot on his back and also a chocolate brown mask on his face. Charlie plays very well with other dogs and is excellent with children. He is very gentle and will make a great family pet.

SPONSORED BY
JUANITA MOTE



PORTER

Porter is an attractive Boxer mix and is about 1 year old. He is a large dog and weighs 60 pounds. Porter is very playful and loves people.

SPONSORED BY
MARY BETH FOWLER



SAWYER

Sawyer is a handsome Hound mix and is about 3 months old. He weighs 50 pounds and is very playful. Sawyer has beautiful markings and seems to get along well with other dogs.

SPONSORED BY
LINCOLN COUNTY CRIMESTOPPERS



PEDRO

Pedro is a medium sized Rottweiler mix puppy. He is about 3 months old (as of January 12). Pedro already walks on a leash and is very outgoing.

SPONSORED BY
WALMART



TREVOR

Trevor is a very good looking solid gray cat. He is young, about 7 months old. Trevor is a bit shy at first, but is still very sweet. He has very soft medium length hair.

SPONSORED BY
RUIDOSO NEWS



SONORA

Sonora is a very cute brown tabby cat. She is young, about 10 months old. Sonora is very affectionate and loves to be petted.

SPONSORED BY
RUIDOSO NEWS

CAPITAN BOYS-GIRLS DROP TWO



CHRISTEL GRIEGO/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Scheriyah Romero shoots a free throw while Kersti Davis waits to rebound against Lordsburg Friday. The boys lost their game against the Mavericks, 64-59.



CHRISTEL GRIEGO/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Jordan Dalton gets set in Capitan's 43-36 loss to Lordsburg.

NEW SOFTBALL COACH



COURTESY

Rodney Griego was announced as the new Lady Tigers coach.

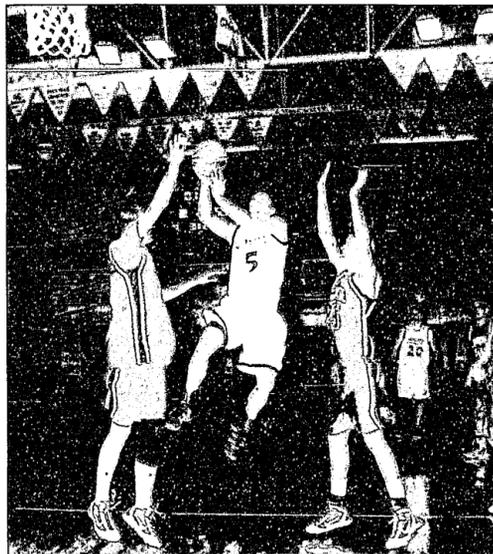
CAGE FIGHTS FRIDAY



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

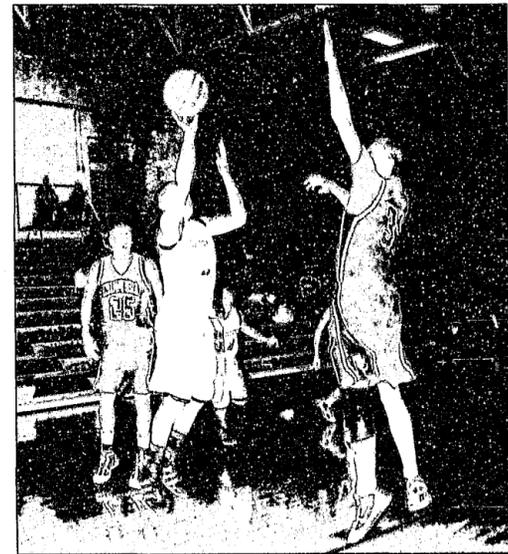
The KOTC cage fights come to the Inn of the Mountain Gods Friday, Feb. 12. They will be nationally televised on HDNet.

RUIDOSO WARRIORS LOSE TO ROSWELL



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Andrew Gilliland flies high in Saturday's 78-30 loss to Roswell.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ralph Miranda tries for two against 18-2 4A Roswell.

The Red Feather Theatre Co. Presents...

Jerry's Cafe

Written by RHS Senior
Lindsey Porter

Feb. 12 & 13 at the RSPAC \$ 10 for dinner and a show! (advanced sales.) \$12 At the door.

Dinner at 5:15 - 6:45 Curtain at 7:00 P.M

Feb. 14 Valentine Matinee \$ 5:00 2:00 pm!!!

Dinner cooked by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Posse

Graphic design by RHS Junior Diana Valdez

LINCOLN COUNTY

Capitan trustee candidates seek village unity

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Three of the four candidates campaigning for a position on the Capitan Village Board of Trustees attended a Meet and Greet session Friday, sponsored by the Capitan Chamber of Commerce.

The event was held at the Capitan Public Library and offered citizens the opportunity to visit informally with each candidate and pose questions accordingly.

Vying for the two positions on the board are incumbent Diane Riska, Dennis Haskell, Ricky Lamay and Gregory Flores. Chamber President Cheryl Barnett said Riska called to say she would be unable to attend.

The *Ruidoso News* interviewed each candidate present, requested a brief biography from each and then asked a list of identical questions. The biographies, questions and responses are as follows:

Biography

Dennis Haskell: "Prior to coming to Capitan, I was the Director of Racing for three major race tracks (horse) back east and I spent the last 10 years working for the Michigan Racing Commission where I was a hearing officer and racing judge. For some health reasons, I took an early retirement.

"We had bought property in Capitan 10 years ago and at first used it for a summer home. We moved out here permanently late in 2004. I'm a family man, married 44 years to my wife Judy. We have three children. We are a member of the Angus Nazarene Church, and I have a Capitan business, Gems by Dennis."

Ricky Lamay: "I was born and raised here and am a fourth generation Lincoln County resident and Capitan High School graduate. I've been in busi-



DENNIS HASKELL



RICKY LAMAY



GREGORY FLORES

ness here in the county and area for 17 years. I have a wife, AnnMarie and one son, Garrett."

Gregory Flores: "I moved here two years ago and I am here to stay. I have companies in five states and my wife Heidi and I have chosen to make Capitan home and run our corporate offices here. I have been in business 24 years and worked more than 12 years as a blue collar worker for the railroad.

"I understand business from the bottom as ditch digger to the top as a corporate officer and owner. I have a PhD in counseling psychology from Columbia University and Heidi and I own several businesses that are run out of our location at 401 Smokey Bear Blvd. through Master Solutions.

Why are you running for trustee and why do you think you are qualified for the position?

Haskell: "We fell in love with Capitan and all our friends are here. There just seemed to be some problems. The attitude isn't good. We thought we could make some changes.

"And with my working experience, I've been a people person throughout my life. I also, in my position through my job, was in

charge of large sums of money and a budget, so I feel that with both those aspects, I'm very qualified to help Capitan and the citizens of the village plan for a better future."

Lamay: "I'm running for trustee because I believe Capitan needs to go back to the way it was where there was more participation and not have so much animosity. I'd like to see everybody get together again.

"I think the fact that I've been here all my life and in business for 17 years gives me a true desire to make Capitan the town we can be proud of again."

Flores: "Capitan doesn't need anything. But a different perspective might help things show up for the village.

I'm running first as a contribution then my business skills. I have attributes to bring to the table. My no-nonsense approach to dealing in business situations.

"It's not about change. It's about how you can add to what is already here where people are delighted by or inquisitive about it. My background gives me a skill set to look at contracts, question and I definitely can't be bullied. I have listening skills that comes without opinion."

How many Village of Capitan council meetings have you attended in the last six months?

Haskell: "Five."

Lamay: "Years ago, I used to go often. Then the fighting and the cussing back and forth started and I decided I wasn't going to go. I've been to a few during this last administration, but now everybody has to be quiet, so there has to be a happy medium somewhere. There is a lot of things I'd like to know a lot more information about before making any decisions."

Flores: "I have been to a number of meetings before and since I ran for trustee two years ago. I view the meetings as the mayor is the CEO of an organization and the trustees are the board of directors. The trustees vote, if there is a tie, the CEO (the mayor) votes to break the tie. The trustees are not voting for themselves, but for the people. It needs to be about the needs of the people, not the trustees themselves."

What are the top three issues that need to be addressed in Capitan?

Haskell: "1. The positive attitude of the citizens toward our local government. Many feel intimidated and that is why the attendance at the council meetings has been so sparse, up until a couple of months ago. I would like to open that up to people who really want to come and be a part of it. There needs to be a review of city hall and make sure we are all on the same page, that we work for the people, they don't work for us. Attitudes in city hall mean a whole lot. Together we can make this town that the tourists we have lost will want to come back to."

"2. Volunteerism. I've seen volunteers evolve into a megaforce. If you can convince people that they are included in decisions, they will act as good stewards to

clean up the village and to conserve our precious water supply.

"3. Kids. We must invest in our children. They are our most prized possession and our future leaders. We must work with the Capitan Schools to promote extra-curricular activities and develop programs that will provide mentoring to our children. There are many very qualified people out there that would be willing to help."

Lamay: "1. I think there needs to be more open government. 2. Everybody should work together. The Chamber of Commerce, the school ... everybody should be one community. There needs to be a bridge between the old and the new ideas. 3. Promote Capitan and Smokey Bear. We are the only town in the United States, in the world, that can say Smokey Bear is ours."

Flores: 1. Growth and development. Having more income come into the community. 2. The finances of the village. 3. A better understanding of the Open Meetings Act and what can or cannot be spoken to the public. Make it clear to the people and not hide behind the law, but be open for the people. If elected to be a trustee, it is no longer about my opinion, it's belongs to the people.

If you could pick one thing about Capitan that you would change, what would that be?

Haskell: "I think we have a reputation of being a 'not too friendly' place. Even though tourism is about our No. 1 trump card, the utilization of Smokey Bear; we sometimes give the impression that Capitan is closed. We sincerely need to open our town back up where people want to come here and get their picture taken with Smokey, they want to go to school here and they want to do business with our businesses.

"We need a volunteer clean-up where it doesn't cost. I was told before that in the past that program worked but got left by the wayside. That would be a great start. Law enforcement is a vital part of day-to-day life in Capitan. However it must be tempered with fairness and equality."

Lamay: "Right now I believe Capitan needs cleaned up so people when they drive through look around and say, 'This is a

nice little place.' And I think it's lost that. We need to create standards for village growth.

Promoting Smokey Bear from one end of the town to the other would bring changes. "When I was a kid, the whole town game together to clean up the town, clean up the fairgrounds for the big events, the Fourth of July rodeo and parade. I used to do odd jobs so I could buy new clothes just for that. Everybody was proud of it. I think that's what we need. The whole town get together and be proud of it, the families, the FFA, the 4-H and more. It needs to be a big deal to this again."

Flores: "Enroll the people in the village to really participate in their community, no matter who they are mad at, no matter who they don't like. That has nothing to do with participation, because government cannot do without the community. There is really nothing wrong with Capitan, but there are some things could be much better."

In closing, if you were at a podium at a forum before an audience of Capitan citizens, what would you say to them?

Haskell: "Regardless of who you are going to vote for, you need to vote. If don't vote, you don't have a say in furthering progress. Progress is in the hands of the people here and together we can do it."

Lamay: "Again, I'd say it's time for Capitan to come together, to get together and make Capitan the town it can be. The one we are proud of, the people want to be part of, come visit, come live in. I think it can start with the factions out there coming together and working for a common goal. Promoting Smokey can give us something to work with in common and a place to start in bringing good things back to our town."

Flores: "I'm Gregory. And by voting for me, you are voting for you. What I have to offer is the best of my ability to be the best person for the village.

"When I'm up there for the village, I'm not up there for myself. I bring to the table years of experience in business and I'm not looking to make any crazy changes. I'm looking for ways to go ahead with this community for its best future. It makes a difference for everybody." *



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan trustee candidates made themselves available to the public Friday night at the Capitan Library. The "Meet and Greet" was hosted by the Capitan Chamber of Commerce.

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Sports and Valentines

It seems like we have been attending Aggie basketball games and having company.

The Aggies have won their last two home games. They are now tied for first place as of tonight (Monday) with Utah State.

Tonight's game with a two point win over Louisiana Tech by two points at the last 35 seconds. A nail-biter for sure.

We had company for the Super Bowl and our guests brought enough food and snacks for 20 people. Most of us were for the New Orleans Saints but Ralph was for the Indianapolis Colts.

Ralph's brother Kenneth and wife Carol, of Willcox, Ariz., were guests last week also. They came to help Ralph celebrate his birthday and our 63rd. wedding anniversary.

While they were here, we made a trip to the El Paso Saddle Blanket Company. Carol was looking for something different to put in the complimenta-

ry bags at their Motel Quail Hollow in Benson, Ariz.

The weather has been fairly nice but we are suppose to get a storm Wednesday. It is to get cold and dry - no moisture this go-around.

I am behind reading the Lincoln County newspapers so hopefully I will get caught up this week. I love reading

Julie's articles, photos and stories. I'm sure there are a lot of local news to catch up with also.

We will be in Lincoln the 14th through the 22nd, so may not get my news in. I need to get my wireless set up first.

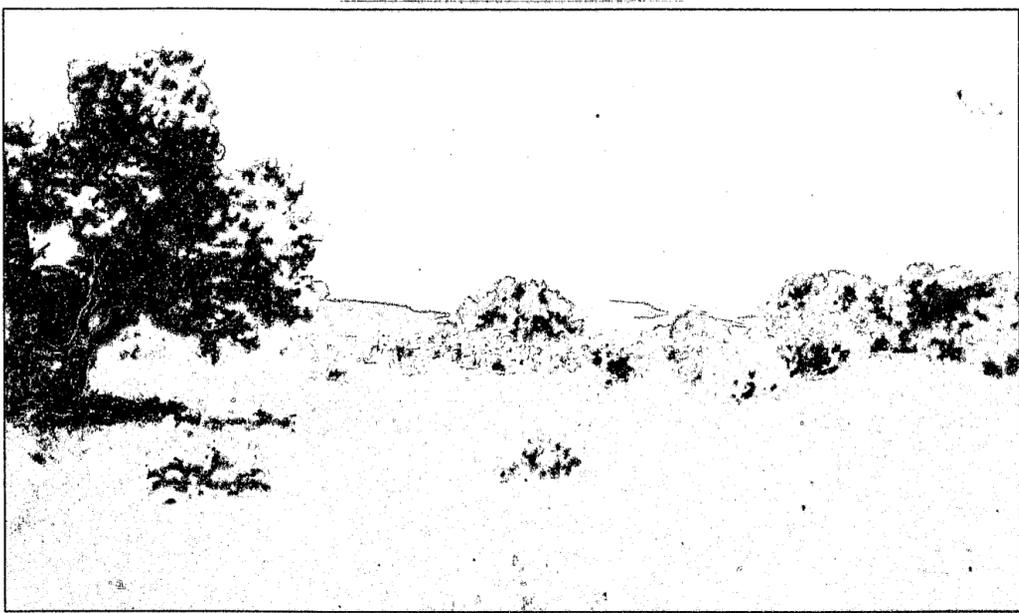
The Dolan House is having a Valentine's dinner the Feb. 14. Their telephone number is 575-653-4670 for reservations.

Caroline and Gene Chrsitman have returned from Colorado. Caroline is very happy as she is able to do without the back brace following severe back surgery a couple of months ago.



LINCOLN TRAILS ROSALIE DUNLAP

CORONA SNOW



COURTESY TRISH COX

Snowstorms continue to blanket the north end of Lincoln County as indicated in a photo taken last week at the NMSU Range & Livestock Research Center. The ranch is a 27,886-acre working ranch laboratory located near the geographical center of the state of New Mexico, eight miles east of the Village of Corona. Land within the research center is characterized by rolling hills alternating with undulating to flat areas with the elevation ranging from 5,720 to 6,700 feet. The moisture to the area is welcomed by ranchers who have had to face drought conditions and forced herd reduction.

Cattlemen question impact of budget

Clean energy, innovation, education and infrastructure are the focus of President Obama's \$3.834 trillion budget for 2011, released February 1.

A three-year freeze on non-security discretionary spending and \$100 billion to states and localities for infrastructure, over \$6 billion for clean energy technologies, \$61.6 billion in civilian research and development, a \$17 million increase in Pell Grant funding and small business tax cuts are highlights of the proposed budget, as well increases in spending for defense, homeland security and veterans affairs.

"This level of spending is just not sustainable," said Bert Ancell, New Mexico Cattle Growers Association (NMCGA) President, Bell Ranch. "This is almost \$4 billion dollars, in addition to the stimulus bill, and the bailouts of the banking and auto industries. Where is the money going to come from?"

Ancell also questions the administration's stated focus on job creation while continuing to increase regulation.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our country's economy, and would

create jobs if given the opportunity," he said. "Business owners want to grow and want to be successful, and would if the government would step back and let them do it. No responsible person is business owner is going to expand, however, if doing business is going to be made even more difficult."

"The government needs to stop regulating people out of business rather than throwing money at the problem," he continued. "Right now, Congress is considering cap and trade legislation, health care reform and expansion of

the Clean Water Act. Any one of those, if passed, would increase the burden on small business owners to put it mildly. No amount of federal "investment" is going to fix that."

The NMCGA has represented the beef industry in New Mexico and the West since 1914 and has members in all 33 of the state's counties as well as some 14 other states.

The association participates in venues necessary to protect beef producers and private property rights including litigation, state and federal legislation and regulatory affairs.

COUNTY BRIEFS

Book Fair

The Carrizozo Schools Scholastic Book Fair will begin on Thursday, Feb. 11 and run through Monday, Feb. 22 in the school library.

Family Night will be from 5:30-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11.

Blood Drive

Carrizozo Schools is sponsoring a United Way Blood drive on Thursday, Feb. 11. All donors get a red Grizzly T-shirt. Register online to participate at www.unitedbloodservices.com or contact Carol Wilson at carol.wilson@carrizozogrizzlies.org or call 575-648-2346 ext. 135.

Valentine Bake Sale

The Carrizozo Woman's Club is holding its annual Valentine's Bake Sale on Friday, Feb. 12, at 9 a.m. until Noon, at the Wells Fargo Bank, 401 Central Ave. in Carrizozo.

The women of the club are famous for their delicious baked goodies, including pies, cakes, cookies, breads and other items.

They have been having this bake sale for many years now and all proceeds go to the Carrizozo Woman's Club Scholarship Fund.

The club provides a scholarship each year to a deserving Carrizozo High School Senior to help them further their education.

Club meeting

The Carrizozo Woman's Club will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 6 p.m., at 11th and D Avenue in Carrizozo.

After dinner the members will hear a talk presented by Gwendolyn Barela from the Lincoln County Museum. The business meeting will follow.

New members are welcome. For information, call Tona Macken 354-0760.

Weed Reunion

Mark your calendars and be part of history. Celebrating 125 years since the founding of Weed and the opening of the Weed School, there will be a Weed Reunion 1885-2010, Saturday, June 5.

Registration is at 9 a.m., a parade at 11 a.m., music and entertainment noon to 4 pm., class recognition 5-7 pm. and dance at 7 p.m.

Concession for breakfast, lunch and dinner will be available as well as the Weed Café will be open Friday and Saturday.

Send or bring old or current photos. For more information, contact Frances and Jimmy Goss at 575-687-3648; Slim and Alvaree Stewart at 575-687-3397; Shirley and Noel Akers at 575-687-3680. For lodging, call Patsy Ward at 575-687-3104.

Download a registration form at www.weednm.com.

CARRIZOZO SCHOOLS SCIENCE FAIR

Fair results

The Carrizozo Schools Science Fair was held Feb. 3.

1st Place: McKenna Sandoval - Emotional Effects of Movie Music;

1st Place: Alexa Borowski - Carbon Footprint;

1st Place: Kenny Vega -

Catapult;

1st Place: Mason Huston - Heating Tools and Hair Damage;

1st Place: Wade Sultimeier - Golf Ball Temperature;

2nd Place: Johnathan Smith - Size vs. Height Rocketry;

2nd Place: Roper Webb - Windmill

2nd Place: Victoria

Ventura - Mealworm Temperature and Development;

2nd Place: Brittany Simmons - Deadly Cancer;

3rd Place: Shayna Gallacher - Antibiotic Resistance in Meat;

3rd Place: Jordan Hill - Collagen/Gel Strength;

Sediments and Water Retention;

Overall Winners

1st Place: Alexa Borowski

2nd Place: Wade Sultimeier

3rd Place: Johnathan Smith

Reported by Carrizozo Schools.

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Chris Wabaunsee

Funeral Service for Chris Wabaunsee, 53, of Mescalero will be Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 10:00 AM in the Mescalero Community Center Gym. Burial will follow at the Mescalero Cemetery.

Chris passed away Thursday, February 4, 2010, at his home. He was born December 15, 1956 at Mescalero and had lived there all of his life. He was a Big Fan of the "Rolling Stones".

He is survived by his sisters, Nettie Frasier, Earldina Botella, Darwina Castillo, Ruby Morgan, and Bernadette Wabaunsee. He was preceded in death by a brother, Berch Tortilla and a sister, Kateri Wabaunsee.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneruidoso.com.

Gilbert C. Samaniego



Passed away in his sleep on Saturday, february 6, 2010 surrounded by his family. He was born to Fabian and Virginia Samaniego in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Gilbert worked for U.S. West until he retired after 25 years of service. He and his wife moved from Arizona to Alto, New Mexico where they made their home. Gilbert became employed by Village Ace Hardware in Ruidoso where he worked with the community for 10 years. Gilbert loved to cook, hunt, fish, and joke with anyone.

He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Patsy; his son, Jacob A. and his wife Barbara of Ruidoso; grandsons, Jacob M. and David of Ruidoso and Samuel of Indiana; his daughter, Loretta Gallegos and her husband Victor and their 6 children of Las Cruces, NM; granddaughter, Tyka of Las Cruces and 3 great grandchildren; two brothers, Fabian of Nevada and Ernest of El Paso, TX; two sisters, Viola Chacon of Las Cruces and Priscilla Salazar and her husband Andrew of California. His faithful companion "Buddy". He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Tony and his youngest daughter Lina Samaniego.

A memorial service will be Friday, February 12, 2010, at 1:00 PM at LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneruidoso.com



Christopher

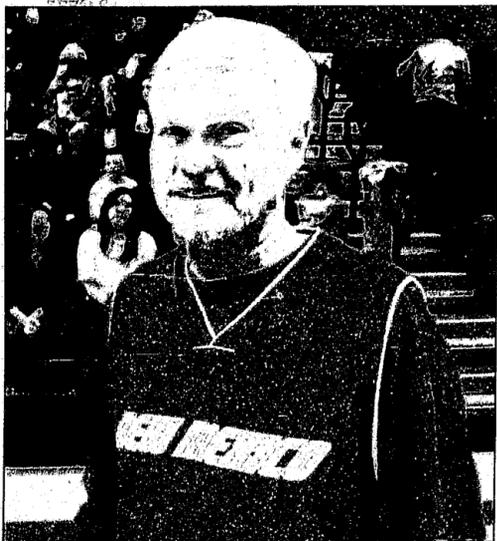
"Chris" E. Yparrea
April 11, 1962 - January 29, 2010

Memorial service for Chris Yparrea, 47, of Capitan will be Friday, Feb. 26, at 11:00 am at Capitan Foursquare Church.

Mr. Yparrea passed away Friday, January 29, 2010 in Ruidoso. He was born April 11, 1962 in Roswell, New Mexico and moved to Lincoln County in 1966 from Roswell. He was born of Bosque decent. He was a good friend, would forgive anything and was a Godly man, wonderful husband, son and brother. He married Connie Bruce on December 1, 2007 in Capitan.

He is survived by his wife, Connie; his mother, Marie Mayfield; 5 brothers, Boyce McFarland, Wainock McFarland, Clarence McFarland, Gene Yparrea and Steven Yparrea; 3 sisters, Joy Garner, Jacque McFarland and Diana Yparrea.

HOOPS FOR HOPE



PHOTOS COURTESY DOROTHY HORNBECK

The 2010 "Hoops for Hope" Legislative Basketball Game took place this past Friday to raise money for the fight against cancer in New Mexico. New Mexico Senators Rod Adair (left) and Timothy Z. Jennings (middle), and House of Representative member, Zachary J. Cook (right), participated in the game and helped to raise more than \$10,000 for the UNM Cancer Center. The game was very close, but in the end the New Mexico Senate pulled ahead at the buzzer to win the game by one point with a 43 (Senate) to 42 (House) victory. This is the first time the New Mexico Senate has won the competition (and legislative bragging rights) in the past 11 years.

Who got hired during the hiring freeze?

KATE NASH

The Santa Fe New Mexican

State government in the past seven months has hired 21 new employees despite an ongoing hiring freeze, state personnel records show.

The records obtained by the *New Mexican* under the state's Inspection of Public Records Act show that three people were added to the payroll at the Spaceport, while several medical-related personnel were hired at various facilities and a trio of transportation inspectors found jobs at the Department of Public Safety.

Others got administrative or clerical work at the Department of Workforce Solutions and the Department of Health.

All the jobs required letters explaining why the hires are needed, and forms attached to the hiring documents for each employee

have "critical business need" checked as the reason the department was applying for the exception to the freeze.

All of the exception requests required approval from the Department of Finance and Administration and the State Personnel Office.

It's unclear from the records if any of the people were transferring from other state government positions, or if they are new hires from outside government.

The hires are from July 1, 2009 through Dec. 22.

Since the hiring freeze took effect in mid-November, 2008 and July 1, 2009, 41 exempt employees and 315 classified employees were hired, government officials have said.

Gov. Bill Richardson ordered the hiring halt as part of a plan to help the state save cash. At the time, he also imposed pay

freezes, reduced government overtime and travel and told agencies to cut back on contracts and computer equipment, among other things.

Lawmakers have complained about all the non-critical exceptions that have been granted since the freeze began.

Sen. Sue Wilson Belfort, R-Sandia Park, has a measure (SB 215) this session that would only allow the state to hire for positions related to health or safety, or jobs that deal with generating revenue for the state.

She says the freeze has been met with a "wink or nod" by too many departments and hasn't been effective at reducing payroll costs.

Her measure also specifically prohibits hiring for clerical or administrative jobs, unless the appointment is made to fill a job that was vacated within

the previous 90 days.

In addition, the bill also prohibits exempt employees from being transferred into other positions during the hiring freeze, unless the transfer is "critical to health, safety or state-revenue-generation activities." Transfers from one job classification to another tend to get more frequent as a governor nears the end of a term.

Between Richardson's announcement of the freeze in mid-October 2008 and a month later when it took effect, the state added 413 classified and eight exempt employees, a spokeswoman said at the time.

One employee, a training and development specialist at the State Personnel Office who makes \$22.00 an hour, started one day before the freeze began, records show.

Among the hires:

- An engineer at the

New Mexico Spaceport Authority, \$32.45 an hour.

- Two administrative employees at the New Mexico Spaceport Authority, one for \$25.24 an hour, another for \$40.86 an hour.

- An engineer specialist at the Office of the State Engineer, \$20.00 an hour.

- A physician at the New Mexico Medical Board, \$62.36 an hour.

- A medical and clinical lab technician at the Miners' Colfax Medical Center, \$19.50 an hour.

- A medical clerk at the Miners' Colfax Medical Center, \$10.00 an hour.

- An insurance claims clerk at the Miners' Colfax Medical Center, \$22.28 an hour.

- A physician at the Fort Bayard Medical Center, \$85.61 an hour.

- An administrative employee at the Department of Workforce Solutions, \$33.60 an hour.

- An office clerk at the

Department of Health, \$12.00 an hour.

- A desktop publisher at the Department of Health, \$16.77 an hour.

- A program director at the New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women, \$23.54.

- An administrative employee at the Department of Health, \$38.19 an hour.

- A training and development specialist at the State Personnel Office, \$22.00 an hour.

- A human resources assistant at the State Personnel Office, \$11.00 an hour.

- An office intern at the Human Services Department, \$11.00 an hour.

- Three transportation inspectors at the Department of Public Safety, \$10.87 an hour.

- A staff architect at the Department of General Services, \$24.50 an hour.

Source: state records of hires since July 1, 2009

Panel derails tougher DWI penalty bill

STEVE TERRELL

The Santa Fe New Mexican

Some state senators cited financial reasons as a Senate committee on Monday effectively killed a bill that would have increased DWI penalties.

Currently there is no mandatory jail time for first-time DWI offenders in New Mexico.

However, Senate Bill 3, sponsored by Sen. Peter Wirth, D-Santa Fe, would impose a minimum mandatory jail term of 72 consecutive hours for a first DWI conviction and 120 consecutive hours for an aggravated DWI conviction.

As an alternative, the bill would allow an offender to serve 30 days (50 days for aggravated DWI) in a "community corrections" program -- which means

the offender would have to wear an electronic monitoring device or have a 24-hour surveillance system in the home.

The bill, backed by Gov. Bill Richardson, also calls for a mandatory fine of \$1,000 (\$2,000 for aggravated DWI). Fines and jail time would increase with subsequent DWI convictions.

"We had policy questions and we had fiscal questions," Wirth told a reporter after the committee vote. Because of the severity of the state budget crisis, the bill was tabled, which almost certainly means it will die in the committee when the session adjourns late next week.

Legislators in recent years have routinely supported bills calling for tougher penalties for

drunken driving.

Senate Majority Leader Michael Sanchez, D-Belen, said Monday that in the past then attitude of the Legislature was "the funding doesn't matter if the policy is good. That's what got us into this financial mess we're in now."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Cisco McSorley, D-Albuquerque, noted that a high-ranking county official from conservative Chaves County had asked the committee to reject SB3 because of the increased expenses it would cause her county jail. "This is the first time in 30 years I've heard Chaves County say 'we've got enough law and order.'"

According to a fiscal impact report on the bill, the proposal would cost about \$1.5 million a year.

"The number of people sentenced to jail time will likely increase, especially if a DWI community corrections program is unavailable," the report said, quoting the state Administrative Office of the Courts.

Only 19 of the state's 33 counties have community corrections programs. "Jail beds are also in short supply in many counties,"

The senators voting to table the bill included conservative Republicans such as Sens. Bill Payne, R-Albuquerque, and Clint Harden, R-Clovis, and Democrats like McSorley, Michael Sanchez, Richard Martinez of Espanola and Linda Lopez and Bernadette Sanchez, both of Albuquerque.

Voting in favor of SB3 were Wirth, John Ryan and Sander Rue, both Albu-

querque Republicans, and Tim Eichenberg, D-Albuquerque.

Harden said he believed the bill would be an "unfunded mandate" for counties.

Some Democrats who opposed the bill didn't cite financial reasons. Sen. Bernadette Sanchez said, "I'd rather see money for treatment instead of increased penalties. I'm sick of bills about penalties, penalties, penalties."

However, the committee did keep alive another bill, SB4, which would prohibit district attorneys from allowing drunken-driving suspects who refuse to submit to blood alcohol tests to enter into plea agreements in which the DWI charge is dropped.

Wirth noted that,

unlike the first bill, the fiscal impact report for SB4 said the financial impact on the state would be minimal.

Testifying in favor of that bill was Dan Koffman of Santa Fe, whose daughter Avree Koffman was the only survivor of a June 2009 crash in which four friends riding in her car were killed. The driver of the other car, suspected drunk driver Scott Owens, is awaiting trial on four counts of vehicular homicide and one charge of causing great bodily harm.

Koffman told the committee that laws such as SB4 "change the culture," which he said currently doesn't take drunken driving seriously enough. It shouldn't be a matter of money versus saving lives, he said.

Bill to prohibit phone use while driving passes House

FROM REPORTS

Santa Fe -- A bill sponsored by Rep. Antonio Lujan (D-Las Cruces) that would prohibit the use of a mobile communications device by drivers and Rail Runner Express train operators passed the House of Representatives today. HB 10cs-Prohibit Cell Phones While

Driving passed with a vote of 35-30.

Rep. Lujan said, "This bill addresses a specific problem occurring on our roads: Texting, talking, or messaging on our cell phones while driving has been proven to increase the likelihood of accidents and the data is out there to show it. This is a public safety issue and this

will ultimately save lives."

Addressing the proposed legislation, House Majority Floor Leader Ken Martinez (D-Grants) said, "A license to drive is exactly that? a license. It's neither a right nor a privilege. It can be taken away if you do not drive responsibly or put people's lives at risk." He added, "It isn't a question of me

doing it (texting) and putting myself in danger; it really is a question of me doing it and putting someone else at risk. That's when the state should intervene."

Under the legislation, using a cell phone while driving would be a penalty assessment misdemeanor and carries a fine of \$25.00. All penalty

assessment fees will be remitted to the Interlock Device Fund administered by the Department of Transportation.

The bill would not preempt the legislation of municipalities. They may have more stringent policies if they so choose.

The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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4.9% shopped for women's shoes

Technological innovation and the economic downturn has changed the way that U.S. consumers shop. Consumers have become more destination shoppers, making more considered purchases and doing their homework before heading to the store. Three-quarters of all U.S. adults read a newspaper in print or online in the past week; over 170 million adults. For shoppers, newspaper advertising is an opt-in medium in an opt-out world.

95% of U.S. adults report that the recession has impacted their shopping in some way. 76% report doing fewer shopping trips. Adults also plan purchases more (67%). Actual purchases continue to be predominantly made in stores (79%) though shopping information channels have dramatically expanded.

59% of adults rank newspapers first as the media used to help plan shopping or make purchasing decisions in the past 7 days. 80% of newspaper readers report looking at advertising when reading the paper.

41% say newspapers are the medium used most to check out ads, more than all electronic media combined. (TV, radio, Internet)

77% of newspaper readers took an action as a result of a print newspaper ad in the past 30 days. 59% clipped a coupon, 52% bought something advertised and 45% visited a store.

60% of newspaper readers followed up a newspaper ad online in some way. 44% went to a website after seeing a print newspaper ad and 28% conducted an online search after seeing a newspaper ad.

82% of readers used a preprinted insert in the past 30 days. On average, adults keep inserts 4.4 days. 59% used to compare prices, 55% used to compare one circular to another, 52% saved until visiting the store and 43% used to make an unplanned purchase.

Scarborough Research 2008
How America Shops and Spends/ MORI Research 2009

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ACTION FIGURES

MOST CONSUMERS DON'T JUST READ THE PAPER. THEY TAKE ACTION WITH IT.



Over 100 million adults read a newspaper each day.

But they do more than just read. They are moved to take action by the advertising in it. So if you want response to your advertising, place it where it will be seen, where it will be used, where it will move readers to act on what they read.

92%

took some action in the past three months: checking ads, clipping coupons, or checking entertainment listings.

80%

report looking at advertising when reading the paper.

82%

used a preprinted insert in past 30 days.

60%

prefer to receive inserts in the newspaper.

41%

say newspapers are the medium used most to check out ads – more than radio, TV, internet, magazines and catalogs combined.

70 Million

people visited a newspaper website in past 30 days.

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