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# RUIDOSO NEWS

FIRE DANGER  
LOW

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 2010 • OUR 63RD YEAR, No. 84 • 75 CENTS

## INSIDE



### 1B SPORTS

Striking gold in Flagstaff

### 6A EDUCATION

Reviewing performance

### 4A OPINION

Capitan: A village divided

### 4B LINCOLN COUNTY

Judging in Capitan

## INDEX

- Classifieds . . . . . 9-12B
- Comics . . . . . 8B
- Community Page . . 2A
- Crossword . . . . . 8B
- Education . . . . . 6A
- Letters . . . . . 4A
- Lincoln County . . 4, 5B
- Opinion . . . . . 4, 5A
- Police . . . . . 7B
- Real Estate . . . . . 9B
- Sports . . . . . 1, 2B
- State News . . . . . 6B
- TV . . . . . As Seen on TV
- Weather . . . . . 2A



The eight candidates for Ruidoso Village Council addressed a public forum last week, attended by about 200. Alphabetically, they are, left to right top row: Rick Albers, Denise Dean, Don Dutton and Franklin "Sam" Pirelli. Bottom row: Rafael "Rifle" Salas, Gloria Sayers, Jerry Shaw and James Stoddard.

DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

# Council candidates outline their goals

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Facing a municipal election March 2, eight candidates for three seats on the Ruidoso Village Council responded to questions about infrastructure, affordable housing and other issues last week during a forum sponsored by the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Introducing themselves to the audience of about 200, the people running for four-year terms in the nonpartisan election were:

• Rick Albers, who said he's a native of New Mexico, graduating from high school and college in-state, but then moved to Odessa, Texas, where he met his wife. "She brought me up here for the first time and we've never looked back," he said. "We owned two homes here and a commercial building that we've leased out, so we have some experience with the trials and tribulations that face Ruidoso on a daily basis."

His wife took him to his first village council meeting and he's spent the last 4 1/2 years going to every meeting he can attend, Albers said. He learned a lot, but not everything he needs to know, he said. "I learned there are a lot of competing visions. To think I have one that is better probably is not true," he said. "As a councilor, I will try to act as mediator and try to unite some of these visions in a way that is positive for Ruidoso."

• Denise Dean, former owner of Ruidoso Office Supply and active in the Lincoln County Food Bank, who said she is running on two issues. The first is better communication between village hall and its citizens. To that end, she would like to schedule quarterly meetings

at village hall to allow the village's "extremely intelligent citizens" to share their ideas and share their concerns with the council. She would ensure that e-mail queries sent by those who could not attend the meetings were answered on a timely basis. True leaders are willing to listen to the voices of others, she said.

Dean said she also intends to become closely involved with village finances and will monitor all expenditures to separate needs from wants and to ensure the village tightens its belt.

• Attorney Don Dutton, a member of the village Planning and Zoning Commission and former member of the state Gaming Control Board, who said he and his wife have been business owners, property owners and residents for years in Ruidoso. That gives them a unique perspective of where Ruidoso has been and where it is going, he said.

Ruidoso is many things to many people, Dutton said. The village is a work place, a retirement haven, a playground, a second home, a college town and more, he said. For the village to be all things to all people, village officials must have a flexible proactive plans for infrastructure, water storage, for water and sewer plants and their delivery systems.

"I intend to be a team player," he said, working with the mayor and council to allow the village manager, division heads and staff to ensure Ruidoso is a more friendly and efficient village, not only for visitors but residents. "Citizens are the engine that drives the community and visitors are the fuel for

that engine," Dutton said.

He suggested creating a youth council to find out what the village needs to stop the loss of graduates to other areas of the country.

• Franklin "Sam" Pirelli, a locksmith and former firefighter, who said he would speak for citizens and employees of the village to the best of his ability.

"I would like to work for the people of Ruidoso in every thing I do," he said. "I have lived here all my life and enjoy living here."

• Rafael "Rifle" Salas, who said his resume can be seen in the parks and in recreation programs around the community. A former Parks and Recreation director for Ruidoso, he knows that many of the projects required a community effort.

"There is no T in people and the people are you, the residents of Ruidoso," he said, adding, "T" also is for integrity and it takes integrity and honesty to serve the village with forward-thinking decisions for the betterment of all residents' lives.

• Gloria Sayers, who said she is not a politician, just a citizen "stepping up." She was a military wife for more than 20 years, raised three children, is grandmother of six, earned a master's degree in counseling and guidance, and worked in education and gaming.

Her first priority is common sense government. "You only have to look at Washington, D.C., to see what happens when you stop using common sense," she said.

The second is fiscal prudence. "Government must stop wasting my money and yours." The third is to protect resources, including

water, and fourth is economic diversity. Ruidoso can use parks and recreation to attract families, can encourage the expansion of Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso and develop a plan for maximum use of the convention center, she said.

• Former mayor and council member Jerry Shaw, who said she's running because she would like to bring her past experience in elected office back to council.

She didn't run for mayor because the council "is where he action is," she said. Councilors hear directly from citizens about problems and their votes usually decide issues. The mayor only votes in cases of ties, which seldom occur, she said.

"I have the distinction of being first woman elected to council and then the first woman as mayor," she said. Noting the women running for office with her, she said, "Times have changed and I'm glad."

"I'm a 38 year resident of Ruidoso," she said. When she first moved to the village in 1964, "It was really hard to make a living and I understand the problems on the street. I was a business owner. I've seen many changes, but I'm not an old fogey and think I still can bring something."

• Jim Stoddard, incumbent village councilor and retired director of the R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard Foundation, who said he intended to serve just one term when he first ran four years ago. "But I felt an obligation to see some unfinished projects finished correctly," he said.

See FORUM, page 11A

WIN! WITH!

# DON WILLIAMS

VOTE TO ELECT DONALD A. WILLIAMS FOR MAYOR

PAID FOR BY CANDIDATE

DATE



**Alto Lakes**

The Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District Board will meet at 9 a.m., Thursday, in the Conference Room of the ALW&SD Office, 214 Lake Shore Dr..

**DWI council**

The regular meeting of the DWI Planning Council is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Sheriff's Substation (next to the library), Kansas City Road in Ruidoso.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- Call to Order
- Introduction of new members and guests
- Report on prevention implementation by secretary
- Report by other members on prevention activities
- Report by chairman
- New requests

**Diabetes class**

People with diabetes in Lincoln County will have another chance to learn how to prepare good-tasting and healthy foods at the new Kitchen Creations cooking school sponsored by the Lincoln County Extension Service and the New Mexico Department of Health Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.

Kitchen Creations offers recipes and up-to-date information for nutrition and meal planning. People with diabetes, as well as their family members or caretakers, are encouraged to attend.

Classes will be held Tuesday beginning March 9 for four weeks at 5:30 p.m. in the Ruidoso Middle School Home Economics

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

**Advantage Bookkeeping & Secretarial Services** specializes in bookkeeping and secretarial services for small businesses, sole proprietors and individuals. They are experienced in business consulting for startup and financial management. They do complete payroll processing, including monthly, quarterly and annual payroll reports, plus state and federal tax returns. Secretarial services include professional resumes, letters and correspondence, and manuscripts. They offer copy, fax and notary services. **Below:** After taking a year hiatus, Kristian Markland opened Maison along with his wife Karina Ramirez. Maison is an American Bistro with a menu ranging from soups, fresh salads, quiche and sandwiches on house-baked bread for lunch, to fresh made pasta, prime steak, and braised dishes for dinner, all prepared by the Kristian, himself. Desserts are made by Karina and include cakes, homemade ice cream, and classic pastries. Maison has a small menu of all hand-crafted items with the freshest ingredients available. The menu changes seasonally. The wine list offers affordable wines and some special bottles for the connoisseur. Hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday for lunch and Tuesday through Saturday for dinner.



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**VALENTINE'S DAY (PG-13)**  
4:25 7:00 9:35

**PERCY JACKSON (PG)**  
4:25 7:05 9:40

**WOLFMAN (R)**  
4:40 7:10 9:30

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**AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso**

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel: 54° Humidity: 27% Mostly sunny and warmer Wind: W 8-16 mph	RealFeel: 46° Humidity: 37% Chilly with clouds and sun Wind: W 10-20 mph	RealFeel: 48° Humidity: 46% Partly sunny Wind: W 8-12 mph	RealFeel: 41° Humidity: 36% Breezy with times of clouds and sun Wind: SSW 10-20 mph	RealFeel: 39° Humidity: 58% Cloudy, snow possible; chilly Wind: N 7-14 mph	RealFeel: 43° Humidity: 61% Mostly sunny Wind: WNW 7-14 mph	RealFeel: 62° Humidity: 46% Mostly sunny Wind: ENE 3-6 mph

**AccuWeather.com**

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**National Forecast for Feb. 24, 2010**

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are for selected cities.

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**Regional Cities**

Forecasted and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2010

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**Almanac**

**Ruidoso**  
Statistics through Monday  
Temperature:  
High/low ..... 41°/16°  
Normal high ..... 53°  
Normal low ..... 22°  
Record high ..... 67° (1982)  
Record low ..... -6° (1987)  
Precipitation:  
Monday ..... 0.12"  
Month to date ..... 0.46"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.92"  
Year to date ..... 1.61"  
Normal year to date ..... 2.24"

**Alamogordo**  
Statistics through Monday  
Temperature:  
High/low ..... 56°/30°  
Normal high ..... 62°  
Normal low ..... 34°  
Record high ..... 75° (1996)  
Record low ..... 20° (1987)  
Precipitation:  
Monday ..... Trace  
Month to date ..... 0.53"  
Normal month to date ..... 1.44"  
Year to date ..... 1.34"  
Normal year to date ..... 1.21"

**Pollen:**  
Grass ..... Absent  
Trees ..... Moderate  
Weeds ..... Absent  
Mold ..... Low  
Predominant ..... Elm

Source: Eddie L. Gaines, MD, of the Allergy & Asthma Clinic

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**National Cities**

City	Today	Thu.
Abilene	52/41/s	59/39/pc
Anchorage	33/22/c	28/19/sn
Atlanta	42/28/r	47/28/pc
Austin	52/28/s	61/45/s
Baltimore	44/28/c	39/28/sf
Boston	38/35/r	40/32/r
Chicago	24/16/sf	28/15/pc
Dallas	48/33/s	55/42/pc
Denver	48/24/pc	45/21/c
Des Moines	18/2/pc	24/12/pc
Detroit	33/20/sf	28/19/sf
El Paso	58/37/s	65/40/pc
Las Vegas	62/42/c	68/44/pc
Los Angeles	64/52/r	68/52/s
Minneapolis	16/3/pc	21/5/pc
New Orleans	52/34/r	56/41/s
New York City	44/32/r	38/30/sn
Philadelphia	45/31/c	37/28/sn
Phoenix	68/47/pc	69/49/pc
Reno	50/29/r	52/33/pc
San Francisco	62/49/r	60/54/pc
San Diego	65/55/c	64/55/s
Seattle	49/42/r	52/42/c
Tucson	66/42/pc	70/42/pc
Tulsa, OK	38/26/s	46/30/pc
Wash., DC	46/31/c	42/26/sf
Wichita	38/22/s	39/25/pc
Yuma	73/52/pc	76/52/s

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

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**Regional Cities**

City	Today	Thu.
Albuquerque	46/31/pc	49/30/c
Artesia	58/37/s	66/39/pc
Chama	40/13/pc	39/8/sn
Clayton	50/26/s	51/24/sn
Cloudcroft	46/24/s	44/12/pc
Farmington	44/22/pc	45/20/sn
Hobbs	60/33/s	64/35/pc
Los Alamos	42/20/pc	41/19/sn
Portales	54/30/s	56/31/pc
Raton	48/18/pc	45/18/sn
Red River	38/10/pc	34/7/sn
Ruidoso	54/35/s	49/29/pc
Santa Fe	46/22/pc	46/22/sn
Silver City	54/34/pc	58/34/pc
Taos	44/19/pc	44/19/sn

---

**Mexican Cities**

City	Today	Thu.
Acapulco	88/70/pc	87/69/s
Cancun	81/61/r	79/58/pc
Chihuahua	59/32/s	75/37/e
Ciudad Juárez	61/37/s	64/41/pc
León	70/37/s	78/40/pc
México, DF	72/41/pc	75/41/s
Monterrey	63/39/s	75/52/s
Morelia	74/44/s	79/43/pc
Oaxaca	73/46/c	89/50/s
Pto. Penasco	72/52/pc	70/51/s
Tijuana	46/52/c	64/52/pc

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**Sun and Moon**

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:37 a.m./5:56 p.m.  
Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 1:35 p.m./3:23 a.m.

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**Moon Phases**

Full Last New First  
Feb 28 Mar 7 Mar 15 Mar 23

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**Extremes**

Monday: National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 81 in Punta Gorda, FL  
Low: -24 in West Yellowstone, MT

Monday's World High/Low:  
High: 116° in Nullagine, Australia  
Low: -59° in Sholokotsy, Russia



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Ruidoso mayor L. Ra y Nunley, greets a well-wisher at Friday's retirement party at Mountain Annie's. Nunley is stepping down after the March 2 municipal election.**

**FROM PAGE 2A**

room. Call 648-2311 to register.

Fee for the class is \$5 per person. Space is limited.

**Tire recycling**

A tire recycling amnesty event has been scheduled for Feb. 26 and 27 at Schoolhouse Park in Ruidoso for Lincoln County and Mescalero residents, public institutions and businesses.

Passenger vehicle, SUV and light truck tires will be accepted at no charge. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, and 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27.

No heavy equipment or large truck tires will be accepted. Tires on rims may also be dropped off. 868 tires were collected from across Lincoln County in the early September tire recycling event.

Tire recycling is the process of recycling vehicles tires that are no longer suitable for use on vehicles due to wear or irreparable damage (such as punctures).

These tires are among the largest and most problematic sources of waste, due to the large volume produced and their durability. Tires are not desired at landfills due to their large volumes, which quickly consumes valuable space.

The high cost of fuel and the economic recession in mid-2008 also caused tire recyclers out of the El Paso area to cease buying and picking up tires from several commercial tire companies in Lincoln County. In Lincoln County, discarded tires collected at recycling events are used in an engineered tire bale fencing project at the GreenTree Transfer Station and Recycling Center on Highway 70 east of Ruidoso Downs.

For more information on the upcoming tire amnesty event, contact the Solid Waste Authority office at 378-4697, toll free at 1-877-548-8772, via email at lcswa@valornet.com or at www.lcswa.org.

**Lodgers committee**

Lincoln County Lodgers Tax Committee meets at 10

a.m., today at Capitan Village Hall

1. Call to Order.
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes - Minutes follow as submitted Nov 18

4. Funding Request: \$1,200.00 Purpose: High Mesa Artist Studio Tour/ Highlighting Artist on HWY 37 - Advertising. Date of Event: April 10 11, 2010. Presenter: Richard Rumpf, High Mesa

5. Funding Request: \$8000.00 Purpose: Advertising - Military Appreciation Weekend (MAW), June 9. Presenter: Millie Woods

6. Funding Request: \$5,000. Purpose: National Advertising Promotion AspenCash Motorcycle Rally. Date of Event: May 20-23. Presenter Patric Pearson.

7. Funding Request: \$5,000. Purpose: National Advertising Promotion - Golden Aspen Motorcycle Rally, Sept. 15, 19. Presenter: Patric Pearson.

8. Acceptance A Lodgers Tax Report - November, December 2009 - January 2010

9. Acceptance A. Budget Report Ending Nov. 30, Dec. 31, 2009

10. Other Items (for discussion only - no action will be taken)

A. Outstanding Purchase Orders as of Nov, 30-11/Dec. 31, 2009 .

B. Awarded Funds summary - November, Decem-

ber 2009 January 2010 C. Lodgers Tax Committee 2010 Meeting Dates

11. Adjournment

**Free tax help**

Free tax preparation is

offered to all middle to low income individuals and families of all ages.

The help comes from volunteer tax counselors and auxiliary personnel under the auspices of AARP in cooperation with the

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Internal Revenue Service. Help has been offered nationwide for 42 years and in the Ruidoso area for the last 20 years.

Help is available at the Ruidoso Senior Center on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. till noon.

For those outside the Ruidoso area, contact your local senior center to schedule a local tax preparation day in your town.

**Genealogy program**

Learn more about searching your ancestry on the Web at the Ruidoso Public Library during "Digging for your Roots" program today, Wednesday, at 2 p.m. in the Archive Room.

The program introduces interested patrons to the library's genealogy Web services, Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest®.

Library Director Beverly McFarland will explain the

available sources and how to navigate the databases during the presentation.

Both programs are located on the Library's Website www.youseemore.com.

Ancestry.com is available only at the library on the public computers. Heritage Quest Online is available from your home computer on the Library's website by logging in with your library card number.

The Ruidoso Public Library is located at 107 Kansas City Rd. Library hours are: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Correction**

A headline on the Feb. 19 Business page that stated "PNM electric costs to rise Feb. 19" inadvertently included the publication date.

PNM electric costs will rise in the future, and did not increase last Friday.

**Celebrate Young Talent**  
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Semi-Finals: March 27th  
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Adult Reference & Phone	
Description of Performance/Skill	
Equip. you bring:(CD/Props)	
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Initial next to item to show compliance:  
I agree to follow CYT Rules On-Line:  
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Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to PO Box 643 Alamogordo, NM 88311  
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**RUIDOSO NEWS**  
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# OPINION

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Lisa Morales, general manager  
Marty Racine, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday

### OUR ENDORSEMENTS

## Capitan: A village divided

Vote for Tippin, LaMay and Haskell

These are trying times for Capitan, a village divided by four years of Sam Hammons' administration.

Hammons, who's seeking a second term, asserted during a recent candidates forum that his door is always open. Tell that to those he belittles publicly and privately.

Tell that to concerned citizens he berates and insults in his monthly report mailed with the water bill.

In 2006, Hammons removed a popular, effective police chief, Robert Bird, over citizens' wishes. He furnished a "letter of complaint" against Bird fabricated by Lilly Wood, whom he had appointed to the board of trustees.

Some allege that today's police department, under Chief Randy Spear, is conducting a "reign of terror" on the citizenry; many feel targeted for harassment with minor traffic violations.

Capitan has become so identified as a speed trap that residents and visitors are steering clear of the city limits, denting the local economy. The town is perceived as an unfriendly destination.

In 2008, Village Clerk Kay Strickland, a Hammons' pick, mishandled the municipal election, submitting 86 unsigned early votes. The village has incurred exorbitant attorney fees due to procedure.

There is a feeling that the mayor is accountable only to a select few – a perception toxic to any sense of community. Therefore, the *Ruidoso News* supports George Tippin for mayor and Dennis Haskell and Ricky LaMay for the two trustee seats.

Tippin cares about his community. He brings experience and institutional memory to Village Hall, having served as a trustee from 2002-06. He knows the lay of the land.

Named the 2008 Chamber of Commerce "Volunteer of the Year," Tippin is active in civic affairs. He founded the Capitan Farmers Market and he and his father sponsor anti-litter campaigns. His wife is a well-known shopkeeper. And residing in the downtown core, Tippin is visible and engaged.

Conversely, the third mayoral candidate, Bernie Reimann, has not been involved in community business for years.

His platform is centered on ousting Spear, Strickland and the traffic cop, Sean McGarry. But it is irresponsible for a candidate to preemptively fire village personnel. Not to mention – he couldn't, as mayor, summarily replace employees without ratification by the board of trustees.

Tippin is prudent to wait until he's in office, then take the police department under advisement after consulting the chief, the board of trustees and concerned citizens.

Because Officer McGarry is not necessarily the problem.

Police Chief Spear is not necessarily the problem.

And for that matter, Clerk Strickland is not necessarily the problem.

The problem – an attitude – stems from the top: from the mayor. Just by treating folks with dignity, Tippin will immediately improve the atmosphere at Village Hall and make possible more substantive progress.

He'll need a fresh board of trustees: LaMay, a fourth-generation trustee, a fourth-generation county resident, and Haskell both have the town's interest at heart. Both are calling for unity and open government; for managed growth and a cleaner image. Both have extensive business backgrounds and will promote Capitan's better side.

In December, a broad contingent of Capitan citizens gathered to discuss strategy for the March 2 municipal election – specifically how to unite against the incumbent.

For mayor, most supported Tippin, who independently had announced his candidacy months earlier. A few wanted Haskell, who, in the name of unity, opted instead to run for trustee.

With that decision, one disgruntled member of the group found another man willing to do her bidding – Reimann.

So much for a unified front.

A history lesson: In the 2006 Capitan election, Hammons won with less than 50 percent of the vote.

The totals in that race: Sam Hammons, 216 votes. Ed Davis, 185 votes. Mary Brothers, 69 votes.

It's said that those who neglect history are doomed to repeat it. Let's hope Capitan gets it.

## Carrizozo: Move forward

Vote for Petty, Gross and Fitzgerald

The *Ruidoso News* urges residents of Carrizozo to vote for Mike Petty for mayor in the March 2 election, and for Lee Gross and Judy Fitzgerald to the board of trustees.

All three are fiscally shrewd and responsible. All three are detail-oriented.

Petty is a native of Carrizozo who made a point to retire in his hometown after serving as a police officer in Farmington, where he managed budgets and a staff.

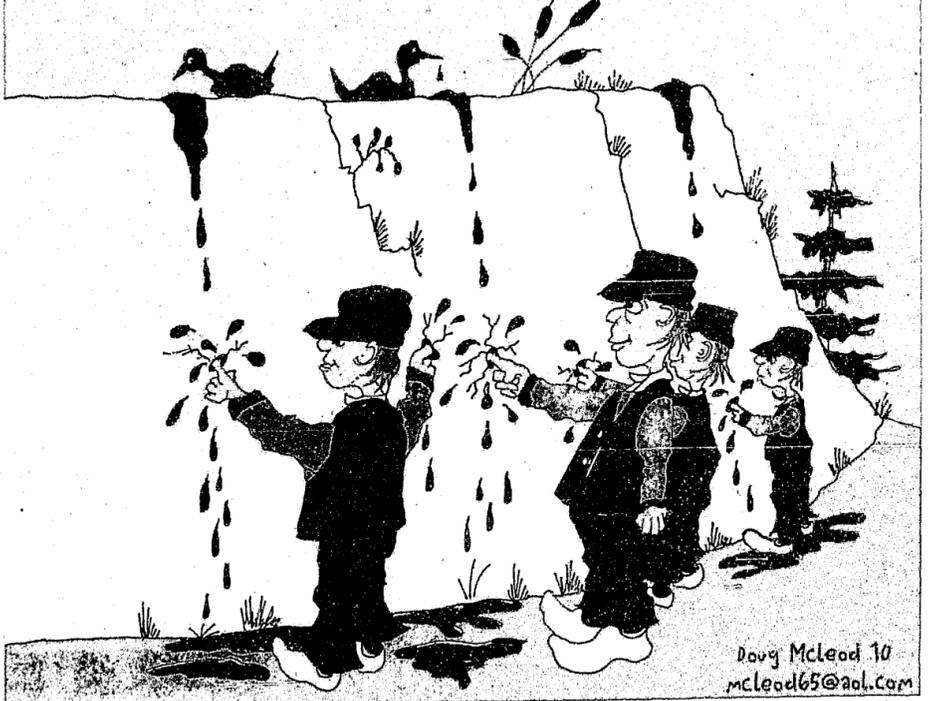
At Petty's request, current mayor Bob Hemphill has familiarized the candidate with the town's budget.

Just as Carrizozo is on the cusp of growth, Petty is capable and forward-looking. His opponent, Manny Hernandez, a three-term mayor, is mostly running on his record.

That is not exactly comforting. During his watch, numerous water bills were allowed to become delinquent, the police department suffered management issues and the budget was often treated as a suggestion.

Gross, who retired from the IRS, can write grants, and he will find the money for Carrizozo's needs. Fitzgerald, a longtime volunteer, will keep a sharp eye on the budget.

Re: Grindstone Dam. This has worked before...



### YOUR OPINION

## Senate committed to fiscal responsibility

To the editor:

THE NEW MEXICO Legislature returns to the State Capitol this week to complete work on a state budget for the upcoming fiscal year amid certain unyielding realities: state tax revenue is way down, federal funding that helped the state get by, so far, is ending soon and the economy is not recovering nearly as fast as anyone had hoped.

The New Mexico Senate recognizes these realities and, while taking no joy in them, is committed to approving a responsible state government spending plan that relies just as much on less spending as it does on more taxes.

The fiscal crisis in which New Mexico government finds itself is not temporary and will not be overcome with temporary solutions.

The state is expected to receive just \$4.8 billion this fiscal year – \$1.2 billion less than two years ago and a level not seen in years.

Revenue for the next fiscal year, the budget that the legislature is working on right now, is projected to be \$5.1 billion, or 6 percent more than the state is receiving this year.

But no one I know who runs a business is planning on revenue growth of 6 percent, and no workers I know are counting on getting a 6 percent pay raise next year, so it is hard to imagine that state revenue from personal income taxes, corporate income taxes and gross receipts taxes will grow that much next year.

If growth is only 2 percent, the state will be short \$200 million.

Compounding the problem is that the state is counting on \$200 million in federal funds for next year's state budget that will not be available after that year. The state will have to make this up in fiscal year 2012's budget.

I applaud and am proud of the Senate's resolve to responsibly address this fiscal crisis. New Mexico government will continue to play a strong role in educating our children, providing health care and healthy meals for residents who would otherwise go without and protecting our streets and neighborhoods.

But there is a limit to how much taxes can be raised to cover state government spending. Now is the time to balance tax increases with spending cuts and enact a sustainable state government spending plan.

Working together, we will get through these difficult times.

Timothy Z. Jennings  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Roswell

### Wonderful visit

To the editor:

WE RECENTLY SPENT 10 wonderful days visiting Ruidoso. Some friends of ours have a cabin near the Cree Meadows Country Club and this is probably our 10th visit.

I would like to recommend a few places that we really enjoyed while we were there: The Village Buttery, Pena's, Texas Club, Landlocked and River's Edge.

For locals and visitors, please try to keep these places in business; they make Ruidoso such a great place to visit.

Sara James  
Garland, Texas

### Not just for tourists

To the editor:

LIKE MOST PEOPLE in Lincoln County, I was under the misconception that Mountain Annie's was a tourist attraction.

It could be. Last Saturday night my wife and I spent the evening there dining and dancing. We really enjoyed ourselves. Nice surroundings, nice people and ate dinner and danced at a price that was affordable.

Try it. You might find that there are places in the area that are not just tourist-orientated.

Gary and Jo Lanning  
Ruidoso

### Unsung heroes

To the editor:

THE NEST IS Lincoln County's only domestic violence shelter, and unfortunately, remains busy most of the time.

Imagine, if you can, working day in and day out with victims and their children: hearing the abuse stories; listening to the fears and worries during the day, then hearing the cries screams as the nightmares and night terrors set in; putting Band-Aids on the little boo-boos and calling 911 for the big ones – the broken bones and broken spirits; teaching basic life skills; role modeling positive parenting; believing and guiding without enabling or taking control; being a friend, a coach, a taxi driver, a surrogate mom, a confidant, a prayer partner, a solid presence in the midst of life's confusions and challenges.

That's what the ladies who staff The Nest are called upon to provide 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

These are truly amazing women who are called to this field of work, but it's not enough to just have the heart for it.

Staff of The Nest must under-

go a thorough background investigation. They must have a valid New Mexico Driver's License and a clean driving record. They must complete a 40-hour course re-garding domestic violence. CPR and First Aid training are required, as well as Fire Safety and Food Handlers training.

Each year, at least 20 additional hours of training are required to keep staff up-to-date on resources and strategies that will benefit the precious survivors they serve.

If ever there was a work of love, this is it, and the staff of The Nest, these amazing, unsung women, give of themselves unselfishly each and every day.

Most often they will never know the final outcomes of their influence nor ever receive the thanks they truly deserve, but as a community, we can at least support them in their efforts to provide a safe haven for victims of domestic violence and to advocate for positive social change.

Susan Garrett  
Ruidoso Downs

### It's warming, really

To the editor:

IN HIS LETTER of Feb. 19 William Haralson points out that the claim that the Himalayan glaciers will melt by 2035 is based on the work of a single researcher. That alone does not discredit the prediction. Has any other work been done that predicts that the Himalayan glaciers will grow in size?

He still believes that seven scientists predicting global cooling during the 1970s outweigh 44 scientists predicting global warming in the same era, and ignores the fact that the first, and most significant, of the 2007 IPCC reports has never been refuted.

"Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperature since the mid-20th century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic [human-caused] greenhouse gas concentrations," the report reads.

The phrase "very likely" translates to a 90 percent probability, the report's authors note.

If a tree removal expert tells you that there is a 90 percent probability that the dead tree next to your home is going to fall on your house in the next five years, will you say that it is too expensive, or too inconvenient, to have it removed, and therefore you do not believe the expert is correct?

Ellen Wedum  
Cloudcroft

## OPINION

## Economics 101 for lawmakers

We should have a mandatory economics class for legislators - not the inputs and outputs I slogged through at UNM but a nuts-and-bolts class on how local and state economies work.

This legislative session I tried to call attention to economic engines - golden geese - because when revenues drop and budget cutters look for targets, they can hinder economic recovery if they're not careful or stoke those engines that create the jobs we need.

The geese in previous columns were tourism promotion, the Ruidoso Downs Racetrack, the film industry and economic development incentives.

In December Tourism Secretary Mike Cerletti proposed

a tax of one quarter of one percent on restaurant food that would provide about \$6 million a year to promote tourism in the state. This would cost you 2.5 cents for every \$10 you spend in restaurants. And the industry can demonstrate that every \$1 spent on advertising produces a \$40 return in tourism spending.

What happened? Not only did this minuscule tax go down in flames, but

the Legislative Finance Committee wanted to slash the Tourism Department's budget by \$1.6 million; the marketing budget would be \$1 million. Neighboring states spend many times that amount.

This is like eating your seed corn, folks.

Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs had better luck. After three tries to get a tax break that would

keep their racetrack and casino in place and foil a move to Las Cruces, supporters proposed a local increase in the gross receipts tax to help offset the racino's tax bill.

These economic-development taxes have worked in other places - most recently to help support the Rail Runner and the spaceport - and in this case it allows tourists to shoulder some of the cost.

As for film incentives, Roswell Republican Rep. Dennis Kintigh made his usual stab at killing them.

Kintigh, a prime candidate for that economics class, asks how else the state might spend the \$80 million. Here's a lesson: In one year, the film industry spent \$320 million here, which filtered down through the economy to 3,000 salaries of people who pay taxes and buy stuff and to several hundred film-related businesses that pay taxes and hire people. Add to this: car rentals,

hotel stays, restaurant meals, supplies, warehouse leases and home purchases.

The state rebated \$80 million. Kintigh assumes the \$80 million is just sort of magically there, but it wouldn't exist without the industry spending.

Kill the rebate, kill the industry. He doesn't say how he'd fill that hole.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman John Arthur Smith, a Deming Democrat, would cap rebates but admits his bill was just a message. Obviously, we need more discussion. We also need a new cost-benefit study.

But, Sen. Smith, instead of blasting random proposals across front pages that scare business away, how about sitting down with the film people to learn how their industry works? They understand that in times like this everybody has to give a little. Can't both sides work together to save money without starving this goose?

A few lawmakers have questioned the use of this and other economic development incentives. Sen. Tim Keller, an Albuquerque Democrat, pointed out that New Mexico offers 47 exemptions, credits, deductions and rebates, and we don't know whether they're effective.

We've been down that road many times, and the result is the same: Mess with the incentives and you send prospective employers to other states, say economic developers. Ask more information of those who receive incentives, and the goose squawks.

In the mid-1990s I covered a tax-reform study committee. The idea was to do away with all the gimmicks and have one nice, low tax rate. Special interests - everyone from manufacturers to the Girl Scouts - massed to protect their breaks.

Do we have the political will for a real study and real reform? I doubt it.



SHERRY ROBINSON  
ALL SHE WROTE

## Budget transcends political boundaries

## A JOINT STATEMENT BY NEW MEXICO HOUSE REPUBLICANS

With so much at stake and so little time left in the 49th New Mexico Legislative Session, we would like to lift the curtain on how the budget process is unfolding. The story this year has so far been a dramatic one as we and our Democrat colleagues clashed, debated, maneuvered, and finally come together in an effort to allow the budget to transcend political boundaries.

When this session began, New Mexico had a budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year of \$600 million. The Legislative Finance Committee proposed a budget to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee that would reduce that deficit to \$200 million. Rather than taking that recommendation and working to scale it back even further, the House Appropriations and Finance Committee added \$90 million to it, creating a total deficit of \$310 million with most of the balance temporary dollars.

The possibility of raiding our already depleted rainy day funds

permeated budget discussions despite figures that proved they should be left alone to replenish. Once a thriving 13% of recurring appropriations, the state reserves have been reduced to 2.5% of recurring appropriations, or about \$133 million.

It was clear from the beginning that the chances of receiving large amounts of temporary additional federal money is slim. The \$23 million of federal money that is headed our way for education and the federal funding for the Medicaid program that will allow New Mexico to reduce general fund appropriations by \$70 million are temporary. We will have to replace them next year.

A few weeks ago, Rep. Ken Martinez extended a hollow invitation when he said, "Even if you [the House Republicans] will not vote for any type of revenue enhancement I think you can have a hand in the policy making by just giving us your good ideas."

In fact we had provided the powerful House Rules Committee that is controlled by Democrats ten of our "good ideas" in the form of bills that would institute responsible and

necessary budget cuts that are not temporary. All of these bills were voted down, eliminating any chance of debate, testimony from New Mexicans around the state, and other legislative action that is vital to making responsible budget decisions.

It appeared that Democrats had chosen taxes increases as their solution to this enormous budget mess.

They seemed oblivious to the reality that increased taxes would only halt job creation by compelling the businesses and individuals that pay these taxes to reduce the number of their employees, curtail any plans to expand, or move out of state to compensate for the new taxes they have to pay.

Fortunately, Friday's budget and tax votes indicated a shift in thinking among some of the House Democrats. The bi-partisan votes indicate an abandonment of party-line agenda in favor of objective analysis. Eight Democrats voted against HB9, a bill to impose a surtax for three years on certain personal income, making the margin of victory for the bill only four votes. Democrat and Republican opposition to HB270, a bill to

*Budget and tax votes indicated a shift in thinking among some House Democrats. The bi-partisan votes indicate an abandonment of party-line agenda in favor of objective analysis.*

take away itemized tax deductions, caused the bill to fail 34 to 33, with 10 Democrat votes against it.

There are still some large flaws in our pending budget and tax legislation. For instance, there are a lot of temporary dollars in the six main House budget bills.

Temporary tax increases are burdensome because they are tax increases that later go away and leave government thirsty. They also add a variable to the fiscal landscape and make it

more difficult for individuals, families, and businesses to plan. Another problem is that we are simply spending too much and must further decrease our fiscal year 2011 expenditures.

In the face of great challenges, it is important to remember that the budget process is only half over. As the budget bill moves to the Senate, we hope the tax and spend liberals will recognize the long term ramifications of this problem and help create permanent solutions rather than temporary fixes.

## Build in the wrong place and you're on your own

LINDA M. HASSELSTROM  
Writers on the Range

Recent news stories lament the "disaster" of mudslides in Los Angeles caused by heavy rainfall on steep slopes where wildfires have burned off trees and shrubs. "Let the buyer beware," the old saying goes; but somehow, the buyers always say, "We didn't know."

Ignoring logic, developers bulldoze fragile soil, remove rock and create flotillas of houses on hills covered with mesquite and other brush rich in flammable resins, all guaranteed to be set on fire by lightning or arsonists. Every time the slopes burn, every time the houses slide, the rest of the nation holds its breath and watches dramatic videos of frightened people evacuating. Firefighters risk their lives to save people who choose to ignore evacuation orders. The same thing will happen again next time.

Yet none of this uproar, expense and suffering is necessary; it's a consequence of ignoring natural law. The causes are clear and the effects predictable, and they're expected to get much worse as climate change accelerates.

John McPhee's 2000 book, *The Control of Nature*, summarizes how Los Angeles got into this mess and predicts what will happen next. (The book also describes the likely consequences to New Orleans of the Corps of

Engineers' playing with the Atchafalaya River.)

How often have you seen this scenario? The TV camera slowly pans over a devastated landscape while a solemn voice describes the latest tragedy. The camera focuses on a disheveled man standing in front of wreckage. He's lost his dog and his pickup truck and his family members are distraught. But when that microphone appears, he grins pluckily and says, "We'll rebuild."

"There oughta be a law..." say some of the voters who pay for these foolish choices. In fact, there already is: natural law. And as Ann Zwinger wrote in *Credo: Shaped By Wind and Water*, "Ignorance is no defense in the court of natural law."

A 2008 study by Stanford University scientists demonstrated that humans have learned how to ignore cause and effect because our culture aids and abets them in doing so. Unfortunately, says Deborah S. Rogers, who participated in the study, people have learned how to avoid natural selection in the short term. But ignorance is unsustainable.

In short, we've rewarded people for being uninformed by providing rescue from Mother Nature. Hike up a mountain without adequate knowledge or gear? No problem; volunteers from Search and Rescue will save you. Lost in the desert? Just dial 9-1-1.

It's past time to start obeying a law that's been on the books literally forever. You say you want to build your mansion among dense pine trees on the side of a mountain? Use fireproof materials, thin the trees, and bulldoze escape routes. Good luck: You're on your own.

A few years ago, fire threatened a subdivision in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The subdivision had only one narrow access road. Two firefighters tried to save a house as the woods blew up, and got trapped on the porch when the fire crowned. A helicopter-load of slurry saved both the men and the house.

But the homeowner tried to sue; he wanted the fire department to pay for cleaning up the pink slurry.

A team of citizens - I was a member - was formed to plan how to avoid such scenarios in the future. Firefighters offered to educate subdivision dwellers and suggest tree-thinning and more escape routes. We decided that the driveways of homeowners who didn't comply would be marked, and no attempt would be made to save those houses. Judging by recent Western fires, however, not all fire departments have followed our lead.

The attempt to repeal natural laws is expensive. We reward people who make ignorant choices when we rescue them from the consequences of their actions. But natural selection is

*A few years ago, fire threatened a subdivision in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The subdivision had only one narrow access road. Two firefighters tried to save a house as the woods blew up, and got trapped on the porch when the fire crowned. A helicopter-load of slurry saved both men and the house, but the homeowner tried to sue the fire department to pay for cleaning up the pink slurry.*

still in force, and the more we reward ignorance, the more of it we get.

You want your desert house to have a lawn? Sorry. Desert living requires sand, rock and cactus, and no swimming pool. Water is too precious to waste on self-delusion. You want a lawn? Move to where grass grows naturally.

You want to build in the trees? Stock your own firefight-

ing tools. You've built on a flood plain? Buy a raft and water wings. Please don't call on the public for help - and don't count on a bailout from an insurance company or the federal government.

LINDA M. HASSELSTROM is a contributor to *Writers on the Range*, a service of *High Country News* ([hcn.org](http://hcn.org)). She writes in Hermosa, South Dakota.

# EDUCATION

## Performance assessment reviews underway

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Schools in the Ruidoso Municipal School District are beginning the process of self-assessment reviews toward improved performance for students.

The actions come as most of the schools in the district failed to meet adequate yearly progress (AYP) benchmarks under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

In fact, the district's White Mountain Elementary, former White Mountain Intermediate, and Ruidoso Middle School last year moved into the restructuring category for repeated years of failing to

achieve AYP.

Districts' responsibilities increase significantly when schools continue to not meet AYP.

The self-assessment review will lead to revisions to a school's Education Plan for Student Success (EPSS), a plan that is based on trend data and the academic achievement of the school and district.

"This is new to all of us because this is a brand new process," said Patty White, the district's associate superintendent.

"I think it really will be a good process. It's very similar to what the schools just went through, at least those schools that are in the school improvement process."

Schools are required to make improvements if they miss AYP.

The self-assessment process is described as being highly dependent on collaboration, cooperation, communication and advanced planning.

The New Mexico Public Education Department's Priority Schools Bureau has staff that can assist with the process.

"It's a series of data collection tools," said White. "And then that information will go to the district's EPSS committee."

"They will use that to review and revise the EPSS for the 2010-11 school year. And that will be due in June."

But the information col-

lecting must be completed before June.

"All these surveys and the data review will be due to the P.E.D. (New Mexico Public Education Department) by April 30. It's really a short timeline in order to gather all of this," said White.

"The district's administration, principals, the school board and a parent focus group will provide input that will largely come through surveys."

"They advised us to get eight to 10 parents from across the district, kind of a cross to represent all our different groups, ethnic groups, special ed, ELL (English Language Learners), those kind of things. From their input deter-

mine four strengths and four areas of opportunity to improve."

Teachers will also be asked to supply information.

"They recommend at least 20 to 30 percent of your staff," said White. "Send it to everybody but try to get 20 to 30 percent at a minimum."

District education board member Rafael Salas said there are some "interesting and good" questions that the various participants will face.

The state education department has provided the district with a 65-page guide that spells out the self-assessment process.

"Then all that information is brought back to the

district EPSS committee and they'll, along with correct (testing) data from the different schools, review that and kind of see what is the data telling us," said White.

"And then from that our priorities will be surfacing I hope, and then we will review and revise the EPSS. So it's a lengthy process and there's a lot of information, but I think in the end it will be a very good product."

A revised EPSS is required in June.

## Nob Hill accreditation renewed

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

The Ruidoso Municipal School District's Nob Hill Early Childhood Center had its accreditation renewed for another five years.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accreditation program looked at ten areas for pre-kindergarten programming.

The school's standards for leadership and management, community relationships, families, and health, all scored higher than 100 percent.

Relationships and

assessments were rated at 100 percent.

Teaching scored 95 percent; physical environment, 92 percent; curriculum, 86 percent; and teachers, 83 percent.

A score above 100 percent is allowed because of extra credit for NAEYC's emerging criteria.

In a letter to the school's Head Start Director Melina Romero, the NAEYC Academy for Early Childhood Accreditation congratulated the administration, teaching staff and families of the Nob Hill Early Childhood Center.

"Here in Ruidoso we got our first NAEYC accreditation back in the Roger

Sowder and Sandy Gladden, Mike Gladden era," said Romero.

"And I think we were the first public school combined with Head Start in New Mexico to get that recognition."

"And we've kept it going all these years." Romero said the criteria have been changed "to raise the bar" both by NAEYC and Nob Hill.

"I can remember when that happened and we've been very proud of that," education board president Susan Lutterman said of the continuing accreditation.

The accreditation is valid until Feb. 1, 2015.

## Write an essay; win some money

KYLE BEDELL  
RHS Journalism

On Feb. 12, all classes were sent to the Ruidoso

High School Performing Arts Center to listen to guest speaker Major Joe Fletcher talk about his time in Afghanistan and Iraq, helping with Hurricane Katrina victims, and some of his various experiences there.

Mostly, his speech was about leadership and how doing the right thing can be really simple.

After his speech, Mrs. Ames-Brown and Mrs. Autrey went on stage to explain a Patriotic themed contest.

For grades Kinder-

garten through second, a 2-D colored drawing, painting, collage (poster board size).

Third through fifth graders write a 250-word essay, typewritten and double-spaced.

Sixth through 12th graders write a 500-word essay, typewritten and double-spaced.

All the entries are due March 12, 2010.

Any high school student that enters the contest with an eligible essay will get one lunch off campus.

Winners receive savings bonds.

Winners will be announced May 8, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at the Ruidoso Downs Race Track.



Major Joe Fletcher on stage during his speech.

PHOTO BY JESSICA SNOWDEN

**I Believe**  
*in Ruidoso*



**10 Qualities of a Leader**

- 1 They speak the truth.
- 2 They lead from the heart.
- 3 They have rich moral fiber.
- 4 They are courageous.
- 5 They build teams and create communities.
- 6 They deepen themselves.
- 7 They are dreamers.
- 8 They care for themselves.
- 9 They commit to excellence rather than perfection.
- 10 They leave a legacy.

**elect**

**Joan Zagone**  
for  
**MAYOR**

PHOTO BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JOAN ZAGONE FOR MAYOR  
DEBBIE BINES MA. CAMPAIGN CHAIR

### EDUCATION BRIEFS

#### No audit findings

The Ruidoso Municipal School District received a clean fiscal bill of health from its certified public accountant.

The district's 2009 fiscal year audit, assembled by Miller and Associates of Roswell, was free of any problems.

"It is an unqualified or a clean opinion," Ryan Miller to the district's education board. "There are no significant deficiencies. We had no findings."

Two findings from 2008 were resolved and not repeated, said Miller. Both of the previous year's findings involved the National School Lunch Program.

One had involved categorizing children eligible for free or reduced cost meals.

The other was for two late filings with the New Mexico Public Education Department.

"My hat's off to Yvonne (Perez) and her staff," said Miller. "You guys are in good hands. There's not too many audits that come to our office where we don't have at least one or two findings and we've had some that have been up over 20 findings."

Perez is the district's finance director.

#### Dean's list

Carter Quinn Jones of Ruidoso was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester at Samford University. To qualify for the honor, a student must

have earned a minimum 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 while attempting at least 12 credit hours of coursework. The Dean's List is the highest academic recognition given by the school at the end of each semester.

#### ENMU Preview Day

Eastern New Mexico University - Portales will host its annual Junior Preview Day - "Kick Back with the Greyhound Pack" on Saturday, March 13 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Campus Union Ballroom on the Portales campus.

"Kick Back with the Greyhound Pack" introduces juniors in high school to the opportunities at ENMU by meeting faculty, staff and other ENMU students.

Juniors will learn about how to pay for college through financial aid, what majors and careers are best suited for them, and what ENMU offers to make college a successful and enjoyable step in their lives.

Along with touring residence halls and discussing campus activities, students will be eligible for door prizes, including iPods and \$500 scholarships.

For more information and registration, visit [www.enmu.edu/jrpreview-day](http://www.enmu.edu/jrpreview-day) or call 1-800-FOR-ENMU or call 575-562-2178.

#### ENMU in film

The Administration

Building at Eastern New Mexico University will be turned into Germany's Gestapo Headquarters for a student-produced film called *Krieger: An Arise of Warriors*. James Perkins, a student in a directed study class is the producer, director and writer.

The Administration Building will be draped with Nazi flags, propaganda posters, banners, etc. A "switchboard" of toggle switches to open massive computer-generated doors in the building.

The full-length 90-minute science fiction film, which will use at least 13 ENMU students as actors and crew, is a post-apocalyptic tale about Germany actually winning world War II through the use of atomic bombs.

Much of the world has been wiped out, and Germany controls most of the rest—except for China and Russia.

Most of the action takes place in a fictional Texas, which has used its constitutional powers to secede from the United States.

Perkins, with his wife, Silver, and Jake Rachinski are making many of the costumes and props themselves.

The three also act in the movie, and are shooting it on Perkins' digital camera. He expects to do some of the editing at ENMU.

For more information, contact Perkins' production company, "Beyond the Box Productions" at [beyond.the.box@hotmail.com](mailto:beyond.the.box@hotmail.com), or call 575-415-6061.

**We are on the Web**  
Read us at  
[www.ruidosonews.com](http://www.ruidosonews.com)

**West Texas A&M University**  
A Member of The Texas A&M University System

Sybil B. Harrington  
College of Fine Arts and Humanities

proudly certifies

**John "Clay" Allen**

RHS Graduate 2009  
Music Major

as a member of the

**Fall 2009 Dean's Honor Roll**  
in recognition of  
outstanding academic achievement  
and the pursuit of excellence in the classroom.

  
Dr. James A. Reznick, Dean




# County treasurer monitoring investment fund

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Lincoln County's treasurer says she won't rest until she sees every cent of the county's money returned from The Reserve Primary Fund.

When Lehman Brothers collapsed in September 2008, the Fund was heavily invested there, and the state investment pool was invested in the Fund.

Although County Treasurer Beverly Calaway managed to pull out most of the county money from the pool, a percentage was held against future losses from those investments. A federal district court ordered The Reserve Primary Fund to distribute the money it was holding.

"On Jan. 1, 2010, the Reserve Primary Fund announced it would make another distribution ordered by the U.S. District Court of New York, the sixth to Primary Fund shareholders, but they still are holding \$160 million to cover contingency expenses," she said.

The last distribution to the county Jan. 29 was for \$69,960,96 and was deposited in the State Treasurer's local investment pool. She withdrew the money and deposited it in a bank account that was collateralized at 102 percent.

"Even then, \$17,347 is being held," Calaway said. "That's not bad after what happened to investors two years ago, but I'm not standing up and applauding anyone yet. This is public money and 100 percent

should be released."

She asked county commissioners at their meeting last week to direct County Manager Tom Stewart or County Attorney Alan Morel to write the New Mexico state treasurer and attorney general requesting continued legal action against the reserve fund until all the money is returned.

"I can handle that," Stewart said.

"I think we need to," said Vice Chairman Eileen Sedillo, sitting in for absent chairman Tom Battin.

"I won't rest until we get every cent back," Calaway said. "This is public money and they have no legal basis to hold it for their contingency, because of their wrong doing."

The sixth distribution of \$3.4 billion, represents about 95 percent of the Fund's remaining asset value of \$3.56 billion. Including the sixth distribution, \$50.5 billion or about 99 percent of Fund assets as of the close of business Sept. 15, 2008, will have been returned to investors, according to information from the Reserve Primary Fund.

The money being held and not invested affects the interest earned by the county, she said.

"They (the State Treasurer's Office) are pretty secretive about the distributions, which I don't understand why they are not more open about giving us information," Calaway said. "I watch the Web site and that's where I first read about it."



**Calaway: "I won't rest until we get every cent back. This is public money and they have no legal basis to hold it."**

Commissioner Dave Parks said a few years ago, "The state treasurer was telling everybody that was safe money and not to worry."

Calaway said the state Transportation Department invested in the pool. Officials there received no information from the state

treasurer and, "had no idea they had a loss. I'm been very disappointed with the communication."

Parks said the Santa Fe officials invested money in the pool and were waiting for the results of a trial. "When they were ready to disperse it, it wasn't there," he said.

Moving to her financial report for commissioners sitting as the Board of Finance, Calaway said for financial statements ending Jan. 31, 2010, the seven month mark, the county has received 62 percent of the budgeted revenues for the 2009-2010 fiscal year, which ends June 30.

"Our current property tax collection is at 74 percent, delinquent property tax at 101 percent and interest earned on investments at 42 percent," she said.

The average interest rates on county investments in January were 1.22 percent on certificates of deposits and debt reserve and .50 percent on money market and the operational account.

Cash held by the treasurer's office was \$16,144,217.98 compared to \$14,718,577.52 in January 2009, Calaway said.

As of Jan. 31, she collected 64.37 percent of the \$22.9 million billed for 2009 property tax.

"The New Mexico Delinquent Property Tax Division's title examiner, Sherry Hayne, is in Lincoln County researching our delinquent properties," Calaway said. "Our delinquent list for 2006, 2007 and 2008 began with 127 accounts."

Our list now is down to 31, with \$200,569.52 being collected on the delinquent tax list.

"The Delinquent Property Tax Bureau's research and the threat of delinquent properties being advertised in local papers,

is instrumental in our excellent record of collections in Lincoln County."

As of Jan. 31, her office collected 99 percent of delinquent properties from 2002 to 2007.

Commissioner Jackie Powell congratulated Calaway on the high percentage of delinquent tax collection in the county. Parks said one of the highest in the state.

Calaway said part of the job is ensuring mobile homes that move out of the county are removed from the tax rolls.

"We always have a lot of interest in Lincoln County (for annual delinquent property tax sales)," Calaway said. "They think it is a beautiful resort area and they want to pick it property for nothing. My job is to ensure the taxes are collected before the sale."

In tracking the county-enacted one-eighth of a 1 percent gross receipt tax for indigent health care and the county detention center over the past few fiscal years, she noted a 12.97 percent decrease in the last six months of FY2009-2010.

"We will carefully watch these funds and report the information to Mr. Stewart," she said.

Stewart told commissioners, "It's great working with Beverly. We are always conservative with our revenue projections and on the safe side with expenditures, so there are no surprises."

A Ruidoso News exclusive

## Proud Banker...Proud Dad



Vink Miller and daughter Kerbi

You might recognize Vink better in his suit. That's how you see him in his office at First National Bank or around town where the bank president participates in a variety of community projects. However, you might also recognize him as the proud dad who can be seen in the stands cheering the Lady Warriors on as part of your hometown crowd.



*"I am proud to represent First National as we mark our 25th anniversary of providing first rate services to our customers. To be a great bank, you need to have great people, and at First National ours are the best. We are very active in commercial and personal lending and we are ready to serve you and all of your banking needs."*

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**Community ★ Commitment ★ Customer Service**

# Planners grant variances for steep lots

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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One of the major reasons for granting variances to setback rules in zoning districts is tied to the mountain topography of Ruidoso.

Two variances were granted last week by village Planning and Zoning commissioners to accommodate steep lots with limited building areas.

The first approval will allow James Lattimer of El Paso, Texas, to add a 3-foot by 10-foot addition to the rear of his mobile home at 101 Sandstone Place in Wingfield Subdivision, Second Addition.

The side setback would be 3 feet, 9 inches, instead of the required 10 feet. No trees would be removed.

The second addition is a 13-foot by 19-foot addition to the main living space. The variance would allow a 6 feet, 1 inch setback from the west front yard setback.

On a map, the lot at the corner of Dropping Juniper Road and Sandstone Place appears to have plenty of other buildable space, but an onsite visit shows otherwise, said agent and surveyor Eric Collins.

No other space is available for the additions, he said. The 0.283 of an acre lot sits in and is surrounded by a M-1 low density mobile home zoning district.

With no objections from neighbors or from the audience at the meeting, Commissioner Bill Hirschfeld offered a motion for

*An El Paso couple built a covered walkway, which was red-tagged. They hadn't applied for a permit, which rankled one Planning & Zoning commissioner.*

approval, which passed 5-0. Commissioner Ray Alborn was absent.

Commissioner Beth Hood asked how to ensure the work is completed in a timely manner and Deputy Village Manager Bill Morris, who recently assumed the leadership role in the department, said the owner has one year to complete the work from the date he pulls the building permit.

In the second variance request, Hood offered a motion to approve a request from Martha and

Francisco Sonora of El Paso, for a variance to build a covered walkway at their home at 312 Mustang in the Airport West subdivision.

The home is located on a 0.2563 acre lot in an M-1 zoning district.

The staff report stated that the walkway would allow access to a rear entry of the house and needs to be protected from snow and rain. Construction already was underway when the work was red-tagged.

"We've been there two

years," Martha Sonora said. When they received notices from the village forestry department to clean out some trees and remove debris from the lot, her husband found it difficult to haul up the material and her son, a builder in Texas, suggested a staircase.

"The work stopped because we neglected to take out a permit," she said. "We were unaware."

But Commissioner Don Dutton pointed out their son is a builder and should have known that building permits are required for such work.

"I appreciate what you want to do," he said. "But it's disconcerting sitting on this board" and hearing someone didn't know a permit was needed.

"Generally, they are absentee owners saying, 'Gosh, we didn't know that we needed a permit.'"

He asked Morris what penalty will be imposed. The deputy manager said the owners must pay a double construction permit fee. Dutton warned that the time may come when the board will refuse to allow construction if someone fails to obtain a building permit in advance.

Staff noted that a small portion of the home sits 2 feet within the front yard setback. The covered entry will not encroach into the side yard setback until it wraps around the east side of the house, where the covered deck will intrude into the setback by 7.27 feet.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

## RE-ELECT JIM STODDARD



*"Jim's very strong record of commitment and dedication to helping Ruidoso grow in a responsible manner has been impressive. As chairman of the Lincoln County Commission, I appreciate Jim's ability and integrity."*  
Tom Battin

### We Support Jim Stoddard

Dub & Katherine Williams  
Jaunice Battin  
Galen Farrington  
Ray & Mary Nunley  
Mike & Sandy Gladden  
Greg & Aida Cory  
Frank & Becky Walston  
Chuck Duncan  
Bill McCarty

- Works to equalize residential water rates
- Asks tough questions, demands straight answers
- Ruidoso needs his experience & leadership
- Insists Ruidoso gets equitable wastewater treatment fees

### Jim Stoddard Ruidoso Village Council

**Straight Talk,  
Solid Experience**  
Paid for by the committee  
to elect Jim Stoddard,  
Greg Cory - Chairman

## Land swap might help preserve Moon Mountain

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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A possible trade of land owned by the Village of Ruidoso on Ski Run Road for acreage around Moon Mountain and near two local schools could go a long way toward protecting the state trust land from future residential or commercial development.

Village Councilor Jim Stoddard mentioned the transaction during a candidate forum last week. He's running for re-election to a second four-year term on the council in the March 2 municipal election.

The 60-acre site on Ski Run Road was targeted to become part of a new

*The owner of 200 acres along Warrior Drive and Gavilan Canyon is interested in a trade.*

municipal cemetery, but a rock ledge underlying most of the property meant it wasn't suitable for graves.

Apparently, the owner of 200 acres along Warrior Drive and Gavilan Canyon is interested in a trade. Both parcels are appraised at about \$1 million in value, Stoddard said.

He did not identify the owner, but probably it is Bill McCarty, who is known to own substantial acreage in the area and has entered land transactions previously for school sites.

"We're waiting for the

final survey," Stoddard said. "The concept is that the trade would give the village the land surrounding the bottom of Moon Mountain. We've been working on this for a while. With a change in state land commissioner (the incumbent cannot run for re-election in November), the candidates (for that office) I have spoken to seem a lot more agreeable about working with Ruidoso. I can see us using that land for recreation, biking and hiking. I really believe we can do something."

When he served on the advisory board for Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso, former campus president Jim Miller and he talked about developing a forestry classroom on the mountain. At the time, former village forester Rick Delaco also was on board with the idea, Stoddard said.

"Once we get this transaction completed, we will be in a whole lot better position," Stoddard said.

The trade also would give the village the land around the new High

School well.

"There's water there," which can tie into the village supply, he said. "There also is a gorgeous cliff included (on the right headed south on Gavilan) and it would be wonderful for rappelling enthusiasts and rock climbers, if we could connect it to the River Walk Trail (along the Río Ruidoso). I think it has real potential."

While acquiring the land around the mountain would cut off most of the access for other use, some residents contend the only permanent solution is for the village to buy or swap for the state land and then annex it into village boundaries.

### — County manager's report —

## Light bulbs may illuminate savings

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Changing out standard light bulbs and fixtures for higher efficiency light ballasts and florescent lights will save big dollars for the Lincoln County courthouse complex, says the county manager.

He reported that on Jan. 25, the county's electrical contractor ERM Electric, began installation of the items in the courthouse complex.

"The project to date cost \$7,553.63 and more than half of the complex has been completed," County Manager Tom Stewart told county commissioners at their meeting last week. "The process reduced energy consumption at the courthouse electric meter from 150 amps to 80 amps. If this reduction holds true, the process should save us about 46 percent of a \$62,000 annual electric bill."

In other reports to commissioners, Stewart said:

• The financial picture for claims filed against the county's indigent health care fund, aimed at reimbursing expenses incurred by non hospital-related health care givers for people who are medically indigent, not enrolled in Medicaid, continues to be in good shape.

This month, Indigent Health Care Fund provider Scott Annala processed 58 claims. Of those, 49 were approved by commissioners for a total of \$40,485.42, bringing the year to date to \$169,366.94.

*County feels that higher efficiency fixtures will save money at the courthouse.*

"Last year, the average IHC monthly payment was \$35,136.44. Last year, we spent a total of \$421,637 of the budget for claims. The average month (eight months into the fiscal year) is \$21,170.87," Stewart said.

"At this rate, the current projected budget requirement is \$254,050.41 of the \$472,069 currently budgeted."

Under the Sole Community Provider program, which reimburses the county-owned Lincoln County Medical Center for uncompensated care, 72 claims were processed and 60 were approved by commissioners for a total of \$54,930.

Annala reported about 7,000 people who applied under the state health insurance program are on a waiting list as legislators try to decide on funding. About 44,000 are enrolled in the subsidized program, which has positively impacted the county's indigent health fund by diverting people into the state program.

• On Feb. 5, he spoke to members of the county's Predator Control Board on the use of proceeds from the per-head tax on livestock. "It is time for ranchers to reconsider imposition of the tax for the next five

years," he said of the timing of his meeting.

The tax is combined with Taylor Grazing Act revenue to finance the Wildlife Predator Control Program operated by Brian Archuleta of the Wildlife Service Office in Roswell under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

For the program to become self-sufficient, a \$1 per head tax would be needed to make up for the subsidy from the county's general fund. However, Stewart said he would not propose a doubling of the per-head tax, because he understands that USDA wildlife personnel serve others than just ranchers.

The currently imposed 50 cents per head tax is supported by the proposed increasing budget of USDA operations, he wrote. The question is for the five year projection of that budget and its effect on contributions from either the county general fund or a slight increase in per head tax, Stewart wrote in a memorandum to the predator control board.

He submitted a chart that showed previous years and Fiscal Year 2009-2010, with the per head tax projected revenue at \$24,759 and the Taylor Grazing fee revenue at \$29,431 for total projected revenue of \$54,190.

The commissioners this year will add \$29,810 to those revenues out of the general fund to meet the needs of the USDA program. That brings the total year budget to \$84,000.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

## Parks & Recreation receives Wilderness Camp grant

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Another grant was received by the Ruidoso Parks & Recreation Department for its popular Wilderness Camp.

The latest \$4,000 award, representing the second out of three grant applications submitted by department officials to various groups, came from the Easton Sports Foundation to purchase archery equipment for Wilderness Camp and other youth programs.

The first grant called Sticks for Kids was awarded in December and department officials are waiting to hear if they will receive a planning grant from the Community Development Block Grant program to pay for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

### Grant submitted

The department also will submit for the Recreation Trails Program Grant due in April, said Parks & Recreation Director Debbie Jo Almager.

The Wilderness Pacers, a walk, jog or run group, will begin events at 6 p.m., March 15, running through Oct. 18.

They are open to all ages. The concept is to predict the time it will take a person to walk, jog or run a 1 mile or 3 mile course without wearing a watch.

The department will have pre-determined courses set where the

group will meet. The competition is not with others, but against oneself, Almager said. The person who comes closest to their predicted time will earn a T-shirt.

The group will meet from 5:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. each Monday, with a start time of 6 p.m. Staff from the Parks & Recreation Department will be on hand to time all individuals.

A donation of \$1 per week will be accepted to purchase the shirts for the weekly winner.

Walk in the Woods participants can have their card signed and earn two points.

The schedule is as follows with the course locations to repeat beginning at Sierra Blanca Trail at The Links Public Golf Course March 15, meeting at the dog park;

March 22, at the Cedar Creek Fitness Trail, meet in the parking lot; March 29, at Hale Lake Road, meet at the bottom of the road; April 5, at Wingfield Park to Grindstone Lake Trail, the Triathlon route; April 12, at the Ruidoso High School Track and Cross Country Trail;

April 19, at Grindstone Lake Trail, meet in parking lot of the disc golf course; April 26, at Ski Run Road, meet at Eagle Creek Softball Complex parking lot; and May 3, Alto Lake, meet in parking lot.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

# Club Gas strikes again; Ruidoso resident wins lottery

**FROM REPORTS**

Albuquerque — Eleanor "Jane" Johnston of Ruidoso won big money playing the New Mexico Lottery's "Big Money" Scratcher.

On Friday, the retired homemaker claimed the game's third and final \$100,000 prize.

"This is the best ticket I've ever played," Johnston told lottery officials.

Johnston purchased the \$10 ticket at the Club Gas store on Nov. 28 after she and husband Patrick finished a dinner out to celebrate their 38th wedding anniversary. Although she revealed the prize the next day, Johnston waited nearly three months to confirm it as a top-prize winner. On Feb. 13, she took the ticket back to Club Gas where the clerks delivered the good news.

"They said, 'Jane, you're going to Albuquerque,'" Johnson recalled.

Prizes of \$100,000 or more must be claimed in person at lottery headquarters in Albuquerque.

After paying some medical bills, Johnston plans to take a vacation and make donations to an animal shelter and food bank.

This is the second-largest winning lottery ticket sold by Club Gas, located at 1137 Mechem Dr. in Ruidoso.

In January, the store sold a jackpot-winning Hot Lotto ticket to Ruidoso resident Bill Swann. The ticket paid a prize of \$3.54 million.

Earlier this month, Amy Fralick of Ruidoso won a \$5,000 Scratcher prize. Fralick purchased her lucky ticket from Gateway Shell located at 418 Sudderth St. in Ruidoso.

**County benefits**

All net revenues from the sale of New Mexico

Lottery games benefit a tuition assistance program

for New Mexico residents attending the state's public

colleges and universities. Since 1996, the lottery has

Eleanor Johnston of Ruidoso claimed \$100,000 in the New Mexico Lottery's "Big Money" Scratcher.

COURTESY PHOTO



raised \$424 million for education and more than 61,000 students have attended college on Legislative Lottery Scholarships.

As of the Spring 2009 semester, 620 high school graduates and GED recipients from Lincoln County have received \$2.6 million in Legislative Lottery Scholarships. More information about Legislative Lottery Scholarships is available at [www.nmlottery.com](http://www.nmlottery.com).

First in the Ruidoso News

# County Republicans choose delegates, officers

JIM KALVELAGE  
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More than 100 active Lincoln County Republicans, along with many candidates and candidates' representatives, gathered at Cree Meadows Country Club in Ruidoso on Saturday morning for the Pre-Primary Mass Meeting of the Republican Party of Lincoln County.

The day began with a meeting of the Lincoln County Republican Central Committee to announce

convention officers and committees, and to fill two vacancies in the Republican Party of Lincoln County.

Convention officers included Chairman Aubrey Dunn of Capitan, Secretary Karyl Williams of Capitan, Parliamentarian Tom Battin of Ruidoso and Sergeant-At-Arms Craig Westbrook of Capitan.

Westbrook headed the Credentials Committee, Battin led the Rules Committee and Capitan's Robin Dunn chaired the

Vote Tabulation Committee.

Elected to fill party vacancies were Karyl Williams as party secretary and Ruidoso's LaVonne Adams to be a member of the New Mexico Republican Central Committee.

Precinct Caucuses were conducted with each of the 19 precincts in Lincoln County electing delegates to the Lincoln County Republican Pre-Primary Convention.

The purpose of the convention, which immediately

followed the caucuses, was to elect seven delegates to the New Mexico Republican State Pre-Primary Convention in March. Members of the Lincoln County Delegate Contingent will include John Billingsley of Alto, Sally Moore from Capitan, Ruidoso's Tom Battin, Aubrey Dunn of Capitan, Alto's Karen Clontz, Glen Cheng of Ruidoso and Terry Franklin from Angus.

They will head to Albuquerque on March 13.

The next big event of the Republican Party of Lincoln County will be the Lincoln County Republican Gubernatorial Forum, set for May 13. All five Republican candidates for Governor of New Mexico will attend to answer questions from the audience and from the print and broadcast media.

Attending will be Susana Martinez, Janice Arnold-Jones, Doug Turner, Pete Domenici, Jr., and Allen Weh.

According to John

Billingsley, organizer and chair of the Lincoln County Republican Gubernatorial Forum, "Our goal, like the candidates, is to restore ethical leadership and accountability to the State of New Mexico."

The next regular monthly meeting of the Republican Party of Lincoln County will be March 8 at Cree Meadows Country Club in Ruidoso with dinner at 6 p.m. and the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

"I'll provide a Government by the People"



Don Williams  
for Mayor of Ruidoso

**PLATFORM/ISSUES**

- Return Government back to the people
- Friendly and Transparent Government
- Infrastructure
- Commission Term Limits
- Down Town Committee reinstatement
- Controlled Growth
- Fiscal Accountability
- No person or Organizational Agendas

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Veteran USAF
- Certified Municipal Officer (NMML)
- Leadership New Mexico
- Leadership Lincoln
- 6 Years Village Councilor
- 3 years Lincoln County Commissioner

**ASSOCIATIONS**

- National Association Of Parmentatians (NAP)
- Military Appreciation Week-CEO
- Ruidoso Valley Festival of Lights Director
- Ruidoso Water Contingency and Conservation Committee
- Ruidoso Affordable Housing Committee
- Ruidoso-Lincoln County Extra Territorial Zone Committee (ETZ)
- Southeastern NM Economic Development District Council of Governments (SMEDD/COG)
- Southeastern Regional Planning Organization (SERPO)
- American Society for Quality Control (ASQC)
- Certified Professional Engineer California Board of Registration
- Texas A&M University International Standards Organization (ISO)

**WHY VOTE FOR DON WILLIAMS**

Originally from central New York, I entered the USAF out of high school. After serving two tours I was discharged in Roswell and became employed with General Dynamic Astronautics. Upon completion of the Atlas Missile Silos in Roswell I was transferred to the South Pacific (Johnston Island) and eventually to United Technology Center at Vandenberg AFB, CA in support of our Department of Defense Missile and Satellite programs.

I took advantage of my GI Bill and graduated from Hancock College. During this period I became a Registered Professional Quality Engineer. More recently I received a Certificate of Achievement in International Standards for Texas A&M University.

Since my election to the Ruidoso Village Council in 2004 I have made every effort to become exceptionally qualified for the job by becoming a Certified Municipal Official (CMO) by the New Mexico Municipal League. And additionally, completing the Leadership New Mexico and Leadership Lincoln curriculums. I also became a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians. I was elected to the County Commission in 2006 and re-elected to the Ruidoso Village Council in 2008.

My civic involvement has been: CEO of Military Appreciation week, Director of Festival of Lights, member of the Ruidoso Water Contingency and Conservation Committee, member of the Affordable Housing Committee, Ruidoso-Lincoln County Extra Territorial Zone (ETZ) Committee, Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District/Council of Governments, Southeastern Regional Planning Organization, and Executive Advisory Council of the Lincoln County Humane Society.

As Mayor my primary purpose will be to return the government of Ruidoso to be truly democratic, meaning "government by the people" that means YOU, the taxpayers, and their elected representatives.

If I am successful, the councilors and the mayor will each appoint committee members for two-year terms. It will be the responsibility of each councilor to re-appoint or replace their appointees.

Council agendas and meetings will be scheduled and organized to provide convenience to the public. Public Hearings will be scheduled and conducted at specific dates and times so participants and their representatives can plan their day without having to set through lengthily meetings-not knowing when it will be their turn.

The above are examples of what can be accomplished with the correct understanding that the Council is there to serve the people at the peoples convenience and not their own.

If you wish to discuss any issues please feel free to call me at 257-9890 or E-mail to [dawilliams@valornet.com](mailto:dawilliams@valornet.com)

**As a member of this community for over 31 years, I'm committed to ensuring our area remains a great place to live, work and do business**

**Paid for by the (CMO) by the NM**

## HEAL, village reach agreement on vans

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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After a few months of inconvenience, the problem of what government agency will accept responsibility for two vans owned by Help End Abuse for Life was solved this week.

After Ruidoso village councilors were assured HEAL's insurance would cover liability, they agreed to accept the vans without requiring disclosure of confidential information about HEAL personnel.

### County involved

Tuesday, Lincoln County commissioners unanimously agreed to release the two vans to the village. If the county remained owner of the vans, commissioners insisted on being provided personnel data on eight drivers. HEAL officials said release of that information would violate their confidentiality obligations to employees.

County Manager Tom Stewart reminded commissioners that at their Jan. 12 meeting, HEAL representatives were advised the non-profit organization that operates a domestic violence shelter needed to buy a \$1 million primary policy, including collision and comprehensive coverage, naming the county as additional insured; provide the personal information about the eight drivers; and require them

to submit to random drug testing, to take a defensive driver's training course and to be entered into a data bank to monitor their driver's licenses for traffic violations.

Commissioners also wanted a new agreement for use of county vehicles and for the HEAL employees to sign a consent form for county background checks.

The reason for all of the new requirements stemmed from an unsubstantiated and anonymous call about the drivers speeding, a call HEAL officials suspect came from the disgruntled spouse of a victim of domestic violence.

In an emergency meeting, HEAL board members decided to release the vans to the county, but when Stewart called to arrange to pick them up, the executive director asked for more time to work out a solution. That's when HEAL turned to the village council for help.

After HEAL won approval of the council for the vans to pass from the county to the village, Stewart sent a request to the state Department of Finance and Administration to sanction the transfer.

DFA officials asked that commissioner pass a resolution to that effect, which a motion by Commissioner Dave Parks covered.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

## Camp Sierra Blanca on county agenda

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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The Secretary of Corrections for New Mexico may be in Carrizozo for the March 16 meeting of the Lincoln County Commission to discuss the future of Camp Sierra Blanca.

County Manager Tom Stewart said he wrote Secretary Joe R. Williams and Gov. Bill Richardson on Jan. 12, about the possibility of a public forum on the camp, and received a call on Jan. 23, advising the secretary would try to attend the March meeting.

### Budget issues

In a letter to the county Aug. 25, 2009, Williams wrote that the corrections department obtained use of the facility from the state Property Control Division of the General Services Department, but because of the state's current budget

issues, there are no plans to move offenders into the facility until Fiscal Year 2012 or later.

For several years, the camp next to the Fort Stanton State Monument was used by the department of Children, Youth and Families for teenage offenders, but when the emphasis shifted to in-community treatment and rehabilitation, the camp, which included new dormitories, was closed in part because the community opposed the possibility of placing more high risk offenders there.

"It is important to remember that the Corrections Department housed adult males at CSB beginning in 1975, for approximately 21 years, and later housed female inmates from 1994 until 1996," Williams wrote. "As your letter indicated, parolees were housed at Fort

Stanton since 2000, and were only moved out on July 14 (2009). The facility housed juvenile offenders as recently as January 2009. In other words, CSB and Fort Stanton have historically been used to help rehabilitate offenders, and this use has not unduly jeopardized public safety."

### Opposition builds

Opposition to the idea of bringing in adult male offenders, even low risk, seems anchored in the change of the character of the fort area from an isolated rural setting to bordering on several high dollar subdivisions and Ruidoso's Sierra Blanca Regional Airport.

Although few incidents have occurred in connection to prisoners, at least two stand out; the murder of a Lincoln resident about 20 years ago by a formerly nonviolent camp inmate,

who stole the victim's truck; and the carjacking of a Ruidoso resident a few years ago at gunpoint by two juvenile offenders, who fled the camp, broke into a home, stole firearms and led police on a high-speed chase.

On July 14, 2009, the last of Civigenics halfway house prisoners left the fort and a celebration was staged in August of the fort's new status as a state monument.

"Given the rich history of this state monument and all that its future holds, moving state prisoners into Camp Sierra Blanca is simply incompatible with its future and alternatives to include Bureau of Land Management's interest in swapping land for the facility being explored by the state," Stewart wrote the governor in August 2009.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

## Snow plowing viewed as money well-spent

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Every time Lincoln County snow plows and salt truck hit the roads, tax dollars are being spent, but most residents and visitors would argue snow removal is one of the best uses of county tax dollars.

### Major storms

County Manager Tom Stewart reported to county commissioners at their meeting last week that in just seven days of major snowstorms from Jan. 23-30, the county spent

\$39,462 on snow removal. Tuesday's significant snowstorm dropped up to 6 inches on some areas of the county and 15 inches at Ski Apache Resort.

About \$10,150 went for 467.50 hours of employee overtime, "because storms always seem to hit on Thursdays and drag into the weekend," Stewart said. Another \$14,886 was for equipment operational costs and \$14,423 for 250 tons of salt.

"At various points, we lost two of our three pickups, one to a broken plow and one to a clutch prob-

lem," he said. "The clutch problem is back in service after our mechanic repaired it and we have lost one of our two big plows to a hydraulic problem. Our six new Caterpillar blades are doing well. I have made an emergency purchase of two new one-ton trucks equipped as plows. We have the money in the budget, but the specific vehicles were not what we originally had in mind."

### Compliments heard

Commissioner Jackie Powell said she received calls from several people

complimenting county road crews, who stopped and helped them when they were stuck in snow. But she also warned people not to think this is the end of water problems. "We still live in high desert," she said. "This is just a little extra in one year."

Stewart said road clearing is not without consequences. "The true damage to our county roads by repeated snow removal cannot be estimated and will cost the county for years to come," he said.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

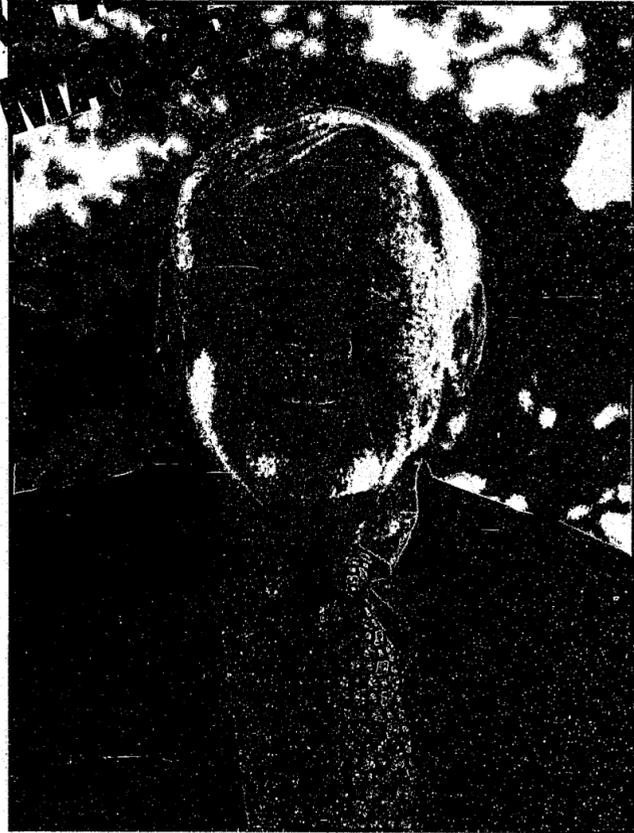
### As Mayor I would:

- Encourage regional environmental cooperation with action on key issues of water, waste water, forest health, economic growth and higher education.
- Continue to promote responsible growth through firm, fair, citizen-friendly zoning and permitting and demonstrate confidence in Village Hall to work on behalf of all citizens.
- Promote Ruidoso as a "unique" mountain forest destination and also a village with amenities for permanent and part-time residents.
- Ruidoso Planning & Zoning Commissioner (2nd term)
- President of Lincoln County Food Bank.
- RVCC Volunteer/Citizen of 2008
- Lincoln County Prayer Breakfast Speaker & Board Member
- Finance Chairman at Methodist Church
- Moon Mountain Conservancy Board Member.

**In the Past:** Graduated Rice University, Bachelor of Science, played in 1961 Sugar Bowl & Bluebonnet Bowl, Tri-Captain of 1961 Rice Owls Football Team. Head Football Coach at Rice University and Lamar University, Defensive Line Coach for USFL Houston Gamblers Football Team, 1980 Houston Post SWC Coach of the Year; Selected 4<sup>th</sup> for National Coach of the Year; Dallas Morning News SWC Coach of the Year, Voting Member of Lombardi Award Committee; Color Analyst for HSE in SWC- Government Relations Rep for Envirosafe of Idaho, Inc.

## Gus Raymond Alborn

### TAXPAYER'S



**"As the 'Taxpayer's Mayor' and 'Leader for our Community,' I am unilaterally opposed to any new taxes or fees on the citizens of Ruidoso. I support the Race Track's efforts to remain here. I pledge to work with the Council and Village Manager to eliminate any waste or duplication in Village government. Our taxes are among the highest in New Mexico and I believe we can operate without an additional burden on our taxpayers."**

Paid by Fair Candidate

# FORUM

FROM PAGE 1A

That includes the court-mandated new regional wastewater treatment plant; the Rio Ruidoso River Walk Trail that he revitalized after a long period of stagnation; helping to create a more citizen-friendly Planning and Zoning Department; and guiding the village through a correct solution to the possibly compromised Grindstone Reservoir Dam.

"I view the last four years as challenging, but highlighted by hiring a really good manager, Debi Lee, and I feel obligated to help support her as we move forward," Stoddard said. "I am qualified to be a councilor," he said, with 28 years as a professional educator, 19 years as director of the Hubbard Foundation, serving as chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, sitting on the Eastern New Mexico University Advisory Board and currently on the South-eastern New Mexico Economic Development Council and the Joint Use Board of the RWWTP.

With introductions out of the way, the moderator at the forum asked the candidates what they would do to encourage economic growth, especially if a gross receipts tax to keep the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino isn't passed by voters.

Albers said if the village mounted a unified effort, it could attract other activities such as mountain biking. Dean agreed that if the "vast pool of citizens" in the area work together, they can bring new economic development to the area that offers such spectacular scenery.

Dutton said, "We're talking about a man's private enterprise and all of a sudden coming up with a tax to help that enterprise. I support the track. I do not, the move." Six weeks ago he mentioned to members of a local economic development group that they ought to look for incentives locally for the track, Dutton said, "But I didn't envision GRT as that incentive. I did envision property tax reductions in other ways that could make the track successful."

Pirelli said he'd like to keep the track in Ruidoso Downs and the community needs to work as a team to keep it. Salas startled the audience by saying that the loss of the track to a man who loses his wages there could seem like an answered prayer.

Sayers said, "If it sounds, smells and walks like a bailout, that's probably what it is. I do not favor a tax increase. I have to be convinced (the track and casino) is indispensable for all, and then I would insist we be a partner and any profit be shared with the village. That would have to be a guarantee for me."

Shaw said she can't imagine Ruidoso without the race track. "I know it would survive, but we are better known for the All American Futurity than anything else and it is very important for our economy. I don't think the GRT tax would pass (if put to election). The timing is bad and that is a shame. I want to keep the track."

Stoddard said eliminating a \$5 million a year payroll and 150 full-time jobs would have a "staggering effect" on the local economy.

Some of the high points

in responses to other questions included:

- Dutton suggested working with the state to annex Moon Mountain, which consists of several hundred acres of state trust land framed by Meander Drive, Paradise Canyon, Warrior Drive and Gavilan Canyon. Annexation would give the village control over its fate, he said.

Many other ways to diversify could be pursued as are communities such as Artesia, which is growing algae to produce a biofuel. He'd like tighter controls on hiring consultants from outside the village to ensure the money is spent wisely.

Serving on the college's advisory board, he's also come to appreciate the importance of earning an associate's degree at ENMU-R as a stepping stone to a better life. As for hiring consultants, he said, "Before spending one nickel of your dollars, I want us to know what it is we're getting and anything else we can do to get the job done and do it the first time."

Speaking about infrastructure, he said he and then village manager Frank Potter successfully argued to the Office of State Engineer that the village should receive water rights credits for the effluent returned to the Rio Ruidoso and opened the way for Grindstone Dam and its river diversion source.

As for affordable housing, he noted that in Santa Fe, a percentage of every new development is required to be set aside for affordable housing to ensure a mixture of cultures and income.

He joked he's having second thoughts about the job of councilors with all if the big problems talked about that night, but the community has much to be proud of and with proper attention will be a place people can bring their grandchildren back to visit.

Salas said he favors annexation as one way for the village to grow and create more land to attract an industry, and he strongly backs the expansion of ENMU-Ruidoso in conjunction and proximity to the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts.

He also advocates annexation for preservation of green space for recreation, including Sawmill Canyon and Moon Mountain. Selecting competent people to serve on the committees that review qualifications, check references and past history or performance of companies and individuals responding to requests for proposals is essential in hiring good companies and individuals who will complete a job well, he said.

He used a government loan to be able to build within the village limits, but the land choice was lean. He said that while serving the village for 25 years, he came to despise political signs when he was riding mowers. For that reason, he did not put out signs for his candidacy. He's confident but putting God first and working together, the village can solve all the big problems it faces.

Pirelli said more college classes are needed to keep local students at home. Public input should be encourage on discussion of problems facing the village and local intellectual resources should be tapped, he said.

Water and street issues should be the village's top

## Eight candidates, including one incumbent, have filed for a seat on Ruidoso Village Council. Voters will select three.

infrastructure priorities, he said. Affordable housing is needed to allow village employees to live in the town they serve. He was a village firefighter for 25 years and will continue serving the village and will work hard for Ruidoso, if elected, he said.

Sayers said a college town is a prosperous town, because "Kids have money in their pockets, they create and fill service jobs." She would like to see more use of local university students, not as full-fledged consultants, but to brainstorm on problems that nag the village.

As for "green spaces," she said, "I believe any green spaces can be kept green, but still can be used," and add to the area's diversity by offering activities such as cross country skiing, snowshoeing, biking and hiking.

Sayers said she doesn't know where any affordable land remains in the village, but a dormitory for college students would help. "I'm a good listener, adaptive and flexible," she said. "I like to solve problems and feel good when I make something from nothing. I will vote with taxpayers in mind. I don't believe in debt."

Shaw said expanding the college would provide a part-time workforce that

could fulfill the needs of chains such as Chili's, but that affordable housing also is needed for service workers.

She prompted the creation of the village's first parks and recreation department and would, "hate to see subdivisions swallow us," she said. At least one councilor should serve on each hiring review committee for employees, consultants and specialists, she advocated.

As for infrastructure, Shaw said the past and current councilors were so wrapped up in the wastewater treatment plant crisis, the time has come to ensure the street department has enough in its budget to do the job. Something is wrong with the current patching mix being used in potholes, when the patches don't even last one full day, she said.

Smaller lot sizes might help with creating less expensive housing, along with a broader use and acceptable of guest houses to be rented. She would like to be a councilor again not only because of her experience, but because she thinks councilors should be responsive to residents and she would seek input before making decisions.

Stoddard said the area needs "to hang its hat more

on recreation," such as mountain biking. Ball tournaments this summer will bring 18,000 participants and their supporters to town. Fly fishermen also spend lots of money and Ruidoso has a river that could be better designed for a fishing environment.

Moon Mountain offers tremendous recreational opportunities. (See related story). He agreed with Shaw about one councilor serving on hiring and contract review committees.

He noted that the biggest chunk of money for contracts goes to attorneys, primarily water-related, but it is crucial to "have the best you can get."

The village has been slammed over the past few years with major demands for a new wastewater treatment plant, infrastructure damage from a huge flood in 2008 on the Rio Ruidoso and now an extremely harsh winter playing havoc with roads, in addition to problems at Grindstone Dam, he said.

The village lacked planning for improvements, but the council is gaining on the problems, he said. He emphasized that his experience on the council and his willingness to fight for what he believes in are qualities he would bring to the council in a second term.

Albers suggested Ruidoso's highly technical regional wastewater treatment plant could double as a training ground for students from New Mexico State University, benefiting the village financially. In the village's Comprehensive Plan, on which he worked, language made it clear that areas such as Moon Mountain are for the most part off limits. But

they could be valuable recreational gems for activities such as biking, if state officials agreed.

An updated and improved water storage and distribution system should be the major infrastructure emphasis, he said.

A volunteer who served on an affordable housing task force, Albers said he and other members concluded most village employees can't afford to live in Ruidoso.

"The joke was that Ranchos Ruidoso is the safest place in county, because that's where all of our police officers live," he said, adding that staying open-minded can lead to innovative solutions. "In 4 1/2 years, I've watched a lot of stones thrown and I thought it was about time to learn how to catch them," Albers said.

Dean advocated keeping Moon Mountain a pristine area. While the council depends on the recommendations of staff on many contracts for consultants, "It still is our responsibility to check references. I think we have some incredible resources locally we could rely on."

As for infrastructure, she'd like to see the schedule of road maintenance publicized for citizens to know what's going on in the village. "I'm all for saving money, but we need to build reserves," she said. "I've been on same side of aisle as you," she said. "I think you have to jump into the mix to get answers. We have lots of problems. I'm a numbers person and I'm concern about how our money is spent." The one word that bests describe her is "servant," she said.

A Ruidoso News exclusive



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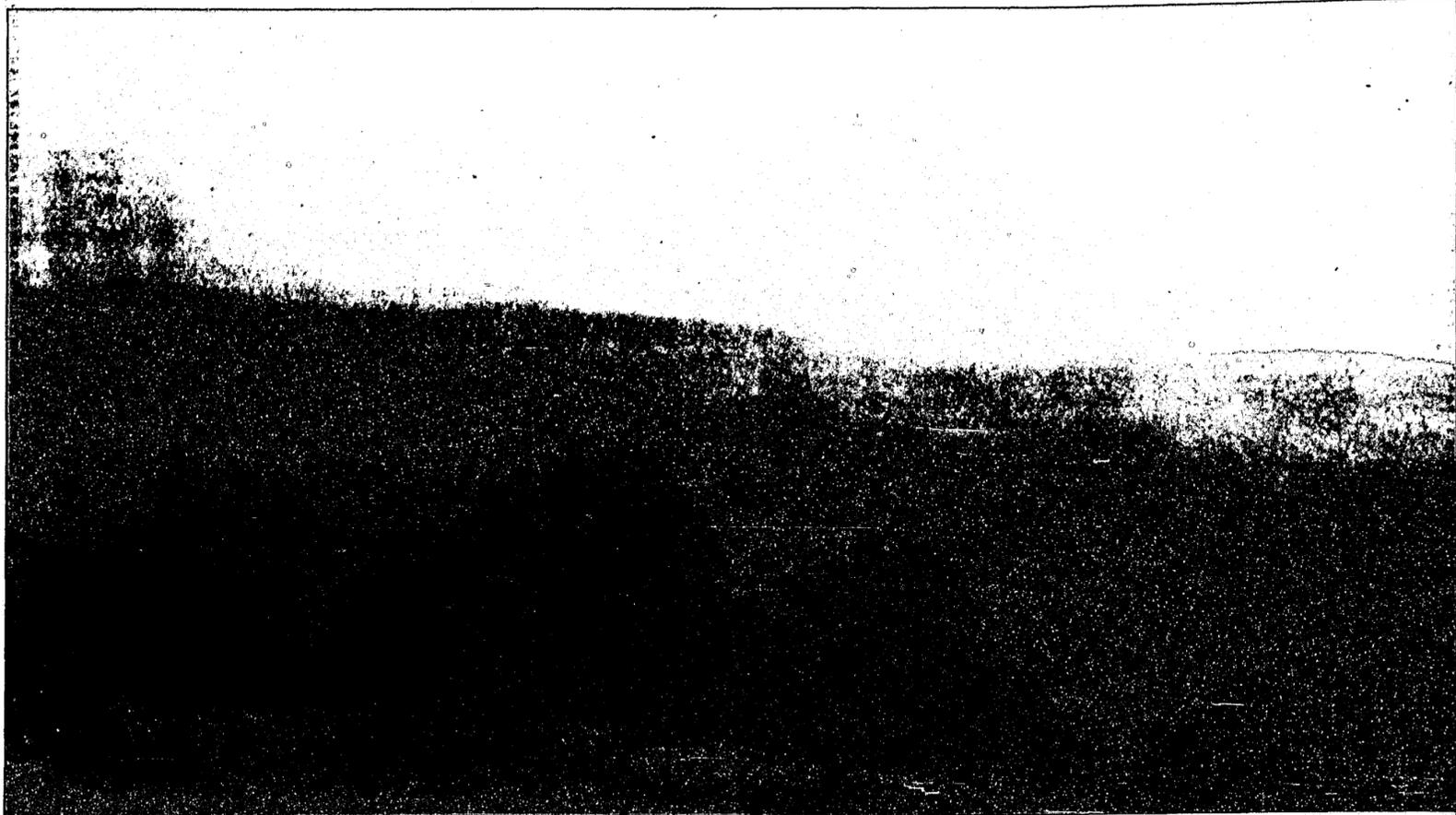
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JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

At the end of the day, there was more smoke than flames Monday when a prescribed burn broke its boundaries near the regional airport. A timely snowstorm helped suppress the fire.

# Weather rescues prescribed burn

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A prescribed burn Monday afternoon got out of hand for a while, and entered the property at Ruidoso's Sierra Blanca Regional Airport.

The planned burn, by the Bureau of Land Management, was titled the Sierra Blanca Unit 2 Fire. It began Monday and had been scheduled to go through Wednesday.

A prescribed fire notice stated the burn was going to consume and average 375,000 cubic feet of piled timber and brush each day.

### Fortunate timing

The airport was shut down for a time.

"There were no planes circling waiting to land," said airport manager Justin King. "There was nothing scheduled then. We were very fortunate."

An estimated 60 acres of

mostly dried grass and shrub burned in the fire.

"The crew was burning piles," said Hans Stuart, the external affairs chief for the BLM in New Mexico. "The wind kicked up and pushed it up a draw or hill onto the airport area."

While the weather was snowy most of the day in Ruidoso, the airport, about 12 miles to the northeast on Fort Stanton Mesa, was mostly dry.

Winds were breezy on the mesa. Snow moved into the airport area around 3 p.m., and helped to suppress the flames.

In addition to the BLM burn crew and the fire brigade at the airport, firefighters from the Bonito Volunteer Fire Department and the Ruidoso Fire Department responded to the airport and nearby federal lands.

Bonito department fire chief Carl Bartley said he

had seven engines and more than a dozen firefighters at the location. Ruidoso sent two trucks.

Damp conditions Tuesday held up completion of the burn. But it could wrap up today.

"They're hoping to get the burn down in a half day," said Stuart. "But it must be done with the proper conditions that involve each wind, relative humidity and temperature."

The reason for the burn is two-fold. One is to reduce the high fire danger on the land. The other is to improve wildlife habitat.

"It's to create more of a savanna habitat, where the pinon trees are more spread out," said Stuart.

Over the past 10 years there have been a number of prescribed burns on BLM land in the Fort Stanton area.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24, 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](http://www.ski-apachesnowreport.com)

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

New snow past 48 hrs.: 1 inch  
Season total: 174 inches

Weather for Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 40. West wind between -5 and 15 mph. Wednesday evening, mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. West wind around 10 mph.

Weather for Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 39. West wind between 10 and 15 mph. Thursday evening, a 10 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.

Current conditions: Good  
Mid-mountain snow depth: 55 inches

Snow surface: Powder, machine groomed

Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, East Easy Street, Moonshine Gulch, Lower Moonshine, Lower Deep Freeze, Ramp, SBT, Snow Park, Capitan Lite, Smokey Bear, Chino, The Face, Part of Apache Bowl, Elk Ridge, Bull Run and Game Trail.

Groomers Pick: 12 inches of powder  
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

### Results

#### Boys Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 18  
Mountainair 67, Carrizozo 66  
Hondo 65, Vaughn 34  
Friday, Feb. 19  
NMMI 59, Ruidoso 55  
Mesilla Valley 68, Capitan 27  
Saturday, Feb. 20  
Mountainair 57, Corona 24  
Monday, Feb. 22  
Ruidoso 45, Dexter 39

#### Girls Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 18  
Carrizozo 56, Mountainair 55  
Hondo 74, Vaughn 19  
Gateway 51, Mesalero 44  
Friday, Feb. 19  
Capitan 43, Mesilla Valley 27  
Mesalero 65, Lake Arthur 31  
Saturday, Feb. 20  
Portales 32, Ruidoso 19  
Corona 71, Mountainair 48

### Sports On Tap

#### Boys Basketball

Wednesday, Feb. 24  
District playoffs at Carrizozo, 7:30 p.m., approximate

#### Girls Basketball

Wednesday, Feb. 24  
Dist. playoffs at Carrizozo, 6 p.m.

### On Deck

#### Co-Ed Volleyball

The Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Dept. will have the Auxiliary Horton gym (old Middle School) open for volleyball on Mondays and Wednesdays through March 10. It counts for anyone who signed up in the "Walk in the Woods" fitness program and it's free. For info call 257-5030.

#### Little League Sign-up

Little League baseball sign-ups continue Thursday, Feb. 25, 5-7 p.m., at the Capitan High School cafeteria and Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the White Mountain Intermediate School cafeteria. To register, each participant must bring one proof of age original document issued by the state, feds or vital statistics, and three or more documents that show the address of the legal resident. Only cash or checks are accepted. For more info call Christine at 808-1677.

#### RHS Golf

The Ruidoso Junior Golf Association, in partners with the Ruidoso Golf Teams will be hosting the first of six scrambles at Cree Meadows Golf Course on March 14. The event will begin at 1 p.m. For more info or to sign up call 257-5815.

## Ruidoso's Ferrero takes gold in Flagstaff

Laura DOTH  
For the Ruidoso News

It was an inauspicious start to a ski race. As the Ruidoso Ski Team pulled into Flagstaff, Ariz., on Feb. 5, the skies were already heavy with clouds and the snow had started to fall.

The weather forecast called for heavy snows throughout the weekend. While snow is always welcomed by the ski racing community, it presents a major hurdle on a race day. Ski racers prefer a hard packed surface where the sharpened edges of their skis can grip the snow as they arc around gates. Fresh powder can obscure terrain and soft snow creates ruts that often throw athletes off course.

Fortunately, the snowfall overnight wasn't as much as predicted, and the slalom race at the Arizona Snowbowl on Saturday, Feb. 6 started under excellent conditions.

Racers started on Phoenix and then dropped onto the pitch at Agassiz. Forty one gates and 40 direction changes challenged over 100 racers from Arizona, New Mexico and

Colorado. Three athletes from Ruidoso traveled to Flagstaff for the race.

The girls started the competition, and Lexie Doth, wearing bib No. 2 was the first Ruidoso racer out of the gate.

Lexie was feeling very comfortable with the hill, and she hit the course hard in her first run of the day. She laid down an excellent run, posting a time of 46.86.

She was sitting comfortably in third place following her morning run.

The next athlete on course for Ruidoso was Borja Ferrero.

Ferrero roared down the course, pushing hard on every turn. He turned in a time of 41.19 which put him in second place behind Curtis Eggleston of Durango, Colo.

Mitchell Perry was next out of the gate. Six gates out of the start, he overshot a gate and got into some soft snow. He had to hike out and get back into the course.

He gamely continued the race, finishing with a time of 1:02.61. Because he finished the race, he was able to compete in the afternoon heat.

By the afternoon, the



ZACH DOTH/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

**Borja Ferrero** rips through the slalom course on his way to a gold medal.

weather had worsened. Temperatures were dropping and the snow started falling again.

Visibility changed by the minute, with the clouds lifting and then dropping back in to obscure the race course. "It's really tough to ski a course in weather like this", said Ruidoso Coach, Mark Doth.

"But that's the nature of the beast for ski racing. You deal with what Mother

Nature sends you."

With a podium finish in her sites, Lexie Doth ripped down the course in her afternoon run.

She set up a fast rhythm, and picked off the gates one by one. She started into the flush at the bottom of the course, taking a tight line, when she straddled a gate.

She was moving so fast, that she was several gates past the point where she

made the mistake before she could pull up.

She quickly hiked up the hill to complete the turn and finish the race. Straddling the gate cost her a spot in the top three. She finished the afternoon race in a time of 1:10.53. Her combined time of 1:57.39 put her in 8th place for the day.

"It's really disappointing

See SKI, page 2B

## Warriors lose last season game; win district playoff contest

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

The Ruidoso Warriors closed out their regular season Friday with a hard-fought loss to the visiting 17-9, 5-3, NMMI Colts, 59-55. In their Feb. 2 battle in Roswell the Colts took down Ruidoso, 62-34.

In Monday's first round of district action, the Warriors overcame Dexter, 45-39.

### Ruidoso-NMMI

At the end of the first quarter, NMMI powered its way to an 11-5 advantage, but the Warriors put their game face on and closed the deficit to four, 27-23, when both teams went to the locker rooms at the half Friday.

In the third eight minutes of action the visitors ended the period ahead, 45-

36. The last quarter of play saw the Warriors put on a consistent display of hustle with a never-say-die attitude.

With 3:25 left in the game, RHS closed to within three, 53-50, after being down 54-42 earlier. At the 2:44 mark the Colts struggled to maintain a 54-52 advantage and deep concern could be seen on the NMMI bench.

With 50 seconds left on the clock, and the Colts up 58-53, the Warriors tried two 3-pointers but both fell short.

Sometimes, even in a loss, a given team can show their mettle and character in the course of battle. The Ruidoso boys exhibited theirs Friday evening.

"We had a good game from several of our players," RHS head coach Dennis Davis said. "Daryl

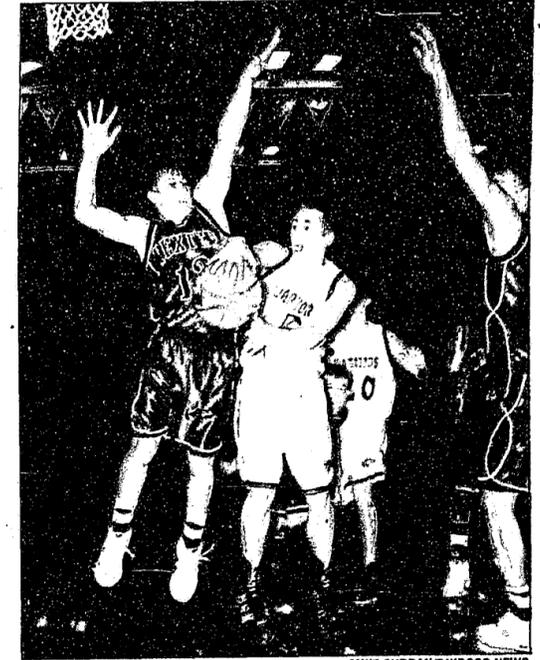
Carr typified this as he constantly hustled on the floor and caused turnovers which we were able to capitalize on and stay in the game. They could have given up, especially when they were down by 10, but they never did."

Andrew Gilliland and Ralph Miranda hit double-digits with 19 and 11, respectively. From there the scoring was spread out among five other players.

The Warriors closed out their regularly scheduled season with an 8-16, 2-6, mark.

### Ruidoso-Dexter

First round district action for RHS began Monday as the Warriors hosted the Dexter Demons in a game that began at 7 p.m. The first three quar-



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See HOOPS, page 2B

Andrew Gilliland works around Dexter defenders Monday.

## Learning the art of boxing can deter a bully

Bullying is not about turning the other cheek. Teachers, coaches and adults are often times unable to save your child from its terrifying effects.

Statistics reveal that one of four children are bullied. About 30 percent of U.S. students in grades 6 through 10 are involved in moderate or frequent bullying either as the victim or bully.

Long term effects of bullying damage a child's self esteem and may cause social isolation, and depression. Adults, years after being victimized by

bullying, show higher levels of depression and lower self esteem as compared to the population.



**BILL DEMENT**  
OBSERVATIONS

There are many good anti-bullying programs that can help. Unfortunately, bullying still occurs.

The answer is boxing. Simply learning how to throw a punch, block a punch, and sparring is what kids need. In a bullying situation the likelihood is that the bully will throw a punch. If your child can block it and return fire hitting the bully squarely on the nose the bul-

lying situation will stop.

The bully will move towards a weaker target. Because of the discipline involved in boxing many student boxers go on to college, stay out of trouble, and get in great physical shape - all without incurring brain damage.

The "Rocks" is a boxing club that was established in March, 2009 at First Baptist Church of Ruidoso Downs by George Romero and David Ordorica.

Their purpose is to help the youth of Lincoln County learn self defense, become physically fit, increase their self esteem, keep them out of trouble, and make them productive members of the

community. It's working.

Membership has been steadily increasing. The all-volunteer staff led by Romero and Ordorica have been joined by Larry Gonzales and Mario Gonzales.

These volunteers have years of boxing experience and their own children train at the club.

Before this club opened I was thinking of taking my children as far away as Alamogordo to learn to box. On any typical day students are learning to hit the heavy bag and spar under the watchful eye of the "Rocks" instructors. Others are lifting weights, doing

See BOX, page 2B

# SKI

FROM PAGE 1B

to have a top run going and then have to hike," said Coach Doth. "But I'm really proud of how aggressively Lexie was skiing. She really had a terrific run going, and it's important to recognize how she was pushing herself."

Equally motivated by the possibility of a medal, Borja Ferrero hit the course hard in the afternoon.

Transitioning from Phoenix to Agassiz, he flew onto the pitch and hit a rut, nearly going down. He regained his balance and continued down the course, a bit out of sync, but moving fast.

He crossed the finish line with a time of 44.96 giving him a combined time of 1:26.15.

When Curtis Eggleston

blew by a gate and had to hike, Ferrero's gold medal was confirmed. "Putting together consistent runs is critical in ski racing," said Coach Mark Doth. "Borja skied well on both of his runs, he earned the gold medal. This is the best I've seen him race this season."

Determined to improve on his first run, Mitchell Perry faced worsening conditions on his run.

Visibility was poor, but he skied a good, clean race, posting a much improved time of 54.80. His combined time of 1:57.41 put him in eleventh place for the day.

As the racers finished the day, the storm moved in, and the skies started to dump snow.

In the post race coaches meeting, the discussion centered on what contingency plans to enact if the predicted foot of snow materialized.

The falling snow was heavy and wet, making dri-

ving conditions treacherous. Racers crawled down the mountain and prepared to tune skis for the next day's competition.

The snow continued to fall all night, and racers arrived at the ski area in near blizzard conditions on Sunday, Feb. 7.

The Arizona Snowbowl had provided a large tent to house the racers for the weekend, but the snow was so heavy, the weight of it bent the supporting cross poles and collapsed the tent.

Coaches quickly gathered to discuss the options for the day.

While many racers eyed the weather and hoped for a powder day, race organizers had another idea.

Rather than cancel the race, they decided to get all of the athletes onto the course to pack the snow down.

Everybody gamely loaded the lifts and headed

to the hill. The weather lifted a bit, and the racers turned course workers did an excellent job of prepping the hill.

The extra effort delayed the start of the morning race by an hour or two, but eventually the course was set and the racers headed down the course.

Ski racing requires a lot of different skills. Cat-like reflexes, amazing balance, strength and stamina are just part of the equation.

It is a sport that also requires a great deal of concentration and mental focus.

Distracted by the lure of fresh powder, Lexie Doth just didn't dial into the course on Sunday. She skied a conservative line in the morning, posting a time of 47.88.

Borja Ferrero had a much different story. Several top competitors had blown out during Saturday's races, and they

were prepared to redeem themselves on Sunday.

The field had also expanded, with more top athletes joining the field of athletes for the races.

Fueled by his win the previous day, Ferrero skied the race course aggressively, finishing with a time of 40.70. This put him in third place after the morning run.

Mitchell Perry was also prepared for the days races. He handled the course well, and despite the softer snow, finished the race in 52.22.

As the snow clouds circled, course setters quickly modified the course for the afternoon races.

They repaired ruts and moved gates to help the racers over the soft snow.

Still not quite in her groove, Lexie Doth put together another clean run, finishing in 49.04.

Her combined time of 1:36.92 putting her in 7th

place, and giving her another top ten finish.

Knowing that the snow was holding, but still soft, Ferrero skied a strong second race.

He again had trouble at the pitch, but recovered to post a time of 42.59.

His combined time of 1:23.29 kept him on the podium in third place.

His take for the weekend was one gold medal and one bronze medal.

Mitchell Perry struggled a bit in the afternoon race, but still had a clean finish. His time of 54.95 gave him a combined time of 1:47.17 putting him in 19th place.

"This was a really difficult day to race," said Coach Doth.

"The weather didn't do us any favors, and it was a real job to pull the race off.

"The kids did a terrific job of competing today. Everybody is improving, and they're racing well."

# HOOPS

FROM PAGE 1B

ters were nip-and-tuck before Ruidoso was able to move out to a 6-point lead late in the last period and take a 45-39 win.

Oddly enough, the Warriors had beaten Dexter previously by six points on Feb. 12, 67-61, at RHS.

Monday's tilt saw the Demons move out to a 17-15 lead at the end of the first eight minutes of play.

By halftime both teams were knotted at 30.

Offense was not the name of the game in the third quarter as both squads were only able to dump five points in to remain tied, 35-35, going

into the fourth quarter.

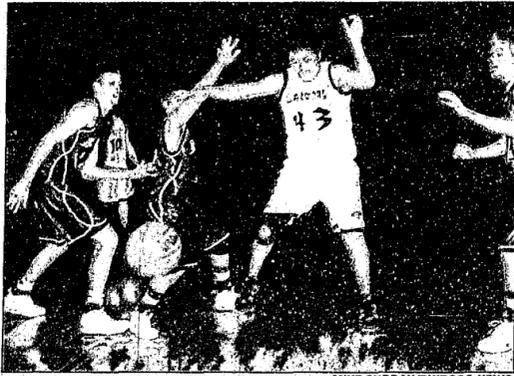
In the last two minutes of play the Warriors led 37-35 and then pumped in six unanswered points on two buckets and two free throws.

Dexter finally responded with two successful free throws and a bucket of their own but Ruidoso hit two free throws near the end to take a 6-point win.

"Dexter made us work for our shots," Ruidoso head coach Dennis Davis said. "The boys got patient and made some shots. The key was to get the lead and once we did we were able to play them man-to-man."

For the Warriors, Jacob Riggsby hit double-digits with 14 as did Andrew Gilliland with 13.

Ralph Miranda played the contest with a cracked



Fred Botella and three Dexter defenders scramble for the ball.

rib but was still able to dump in the first 3-point score for the Warriors.

Tuesday, the Warriors

will have traveled to Roswell to take on the NMMI Colts in Round 2 of the district playoffs.



Jacob Riggsby files high between two NMMI defenders Friday.

# BOX

FROM PAGE 1B

sit-ups, pushups, jumping rope, and doing rope drills while the ring bell goes off intermittently and "Eye of the Tiger" is played over

the P.A. Your child will get in the best shape of his/her life, work hard, and have fun doing it. My 9-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son have both sparred and love it. Above all, their self confidence has soared.

A special thanks to the

club's sponsors: First Baptist Church of Ruidoso Downs, Advanced Plumbing, Guardiola Construction, Elk's and Optimist's Club, the VFW, the Evening Lion's club and K-Bob's for their generous financial support. The boxing event we host-

ed several weeks ago was a success. However, we are in dire need of donations in order to purchase a boxing ring so that we can host additional boxing fundraisers. Any donation, whether large or small, will be greatly appreciated.

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Izzy is a sweet Shiba Inu mix. She weighs 35 pounds, is tan in color and has very short hair. She is outgoing and loves people. An adult, she is probably 3-4 years old.

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**CHELSEA**

Chelsea is a sweet Border Collie mix, about 8 months old. She has a beautiful black coat and weighs just over 30 pounds. Chelsea plays well with other dogs and adores people.

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**HOWIE**

Howie is a young orange and white male cat, about 6 months old with short fur. Howie is a bit shy, but loves being petted and having his head scratched.

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# LINCOLN COUNTY

## Capitan Public Library reports a successful 2009

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

The Capitan Public Library continues to serve the Village of Capitan and surrounding areas with an ever-growing number of services and events and is recognized as a leading resource.

Larry Miller, representing CPL, presented the Village of Capitan mayor and trustees at the Feb. 9 meeting with an annual report for 2009. Miller advised that the library housed approximately 13,000 items that include books, both print and audio, videos/DVDs and several computer software programs.

They served an estimated 10,825 patrons in the year for a monthly average of 902.

CPL is an all-volunteer organization putting in an average total of 568 hours a month and 6,827 for the year.

Miller said the remainder of the mortgage on the original library building was paid off and renovations were completed on the conference room, the office area and the back yard. Three of the five goals on the library's five-year plan were completed.

"Because of the economy," Miller said, "donations are down, so we have

a very tenuous approach to what we need to do at the library." Miller said the special events held annually continue to be the basic income for CPL. The library hosts a plant and garden sale, book sales, yard sale, Christmas Holiday Bazaar, Cowboy Santa Parade along with an annual appreciation luncheon for the volunteers.

The library has expanded after-hour services for organization meetings and held computer skill development workshops for the public.

Pat Garrett, director, was honored as the 2009 Capitan Citizen of the Year and Tom Mann, volunteer and director of the construction of the library expansion received the 2009 New Mexico Library Association Amigo Award.

Miller said the Not 2 Shabby Shop, a CPL enterprise that provides a unique resource to the community, has an estimated 6,900 visitors in 2009 or approximately 50 people a day for the three days a week they are open. The staffing is manned by an average of 14 volunteers who put in 230 hours a month.

The shop provided \$7,168 in-kind donations to Capitan residents and \$1,371 to others. It also col-



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan Public Library volunteer Larry Miller, standing, presented an annual report to the Capitan mayor, trustees and residents at the Feb. 9 Capitan Board of Trustees meeting.

lected school supplies to give to children and sponsored a donation box for soldiers in Iraq and the Adopt a Soldier program.

The Not 2 Shabby Shop was named the Capitan Chamber Business of the Month in January 2010.

Michelle Stearns, heading the Capitan VIPS program (Volunteers in Public Schools) thanked the mayor and trustees for their help in allowing VIPS to send an invitation to the community through the mayor's newsletter.

Stearns said the request for the volunteers to help in

the schools was met with great enthusiasm and the first meeting had a great turn out.

"We are a new group," Stearns said, "and we are here because we need more bodies in the school to help. With budget cuts we are losing people and we need extra help with so many things. We have some yard things we need done and we are going to have some new playground equipment that will be put in place. I just wanted to let you all know we are off and running and we hope to have volunteers in the building

soon, reading to kids.

"The Capitan Woman's Club was represented at the meeting as was The Red Hat Society. The Red Hat ladies are going to be coming into the school to read to students, in their red hats and their purple dresses. We are very excited and we think it will be a great thing for the kids of Capitan Schools. We appreciate your support in helping us to get the word out to get this started."

In other business the council approve vacating an alley on Fifth Street behind the properties

owned by David Bradburn and Jack Barlow.

The 2010 Base Course bid award went to the sole bidder, FNF New Mexico, from Ruidoso, for \$12.50 per ton.

Curtis Payne, in his last meeting of his term as trustee, made a motion to adjourn, as has been the tradition for him do since he took office. With a smile, he grabbed his hat and seemed to be happy to be "going to the house."

The Capitan council will meet in their next regular meeting at 6:30 p.m., March 9.

## Missing some fun

I don't have much news this week. We made it to Lincoln to attend the monthly spinning group and had a nice visit with everyone.

We went to the Dolan House for the Valentines Day dinner.

We were just a little late to see the Lincolmites. Maybe the next time.

I got ill and had to go to the emergency room in Ruidoso. I had asthma and a bad case of bronchitis.

I was told to get to Las Cruces the next day. I got good treatment at the Urgent Care Center close to where we live.

A dose of prednisone and antibiotics I am feeling better. Just one more day of medication and the nebulizer as needed.

We have had a houseful of family this week. Lois and David Coleman, Portland Texas, and Patricia and baby, Tristan.

Pat and Tristan both got colds and the baby

was really feeling miserable Sunday. He is such a happy baby and so much fun.

They will all leave tomorrow (Tuesday).

The weather is fair but a little on the windy side.

David and Lois got Tristan a wagon. We took him for a short ride on the lawn (sidewalk has too much an incline).

The Coleman dog, Jake, had to help us. Tristan really loved it. So did Jake.

Also recent visitors were Marilyn and Murray Arrowsmith.

They were enroute to Tucson to the Gem and Rock Show to get new merchandise for their shop in Lincoln.

Mandy Arrowsmith should be home from her month long visit to New Zealand.

She had a wonderful visit. Welcome home.

I had planned to attend the Creative Memories retreat but I was unable to make it. Hopefully in April.



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## CORONA HOMECOMING



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Corona Cardinals celebrated their homecoming Saturday during the Corona/Mountainair basketball games. The crowning of the king and queen and prince and princess was part of the ceremony. L-r, sophomore Taylor Huey (2009 Princess), freshman Kelly Gensler (2010 Princess), 7th grader Cutler Cox (Prince), junior Judy Torres (Queen), and junior Jordan Huey (King). Attendants in the row front are Ty Arnold and Katie Martin.

## COUNTY BRIEFS

### First Friday

First Friday event at the Capitan Library will be March 5 at 7 p.m.

The program will be the story of Jim Beckwourth brought to life by Edward Wallace in a Chautauqua performance.

Beckwourth was a trap-

per, trader, soldier, scout, explorer and a chief of the Crow Nation. He discovered what is now Beckwourth Pass in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains, co-founded Pueblo, Colo., and owned a hotel in Santa Fe during the Taos uprising.

Edward Wallace has

worked as an "extra" in movies and is a volunteer at El Rancho De Las Golondrinas. He is a member of Toastmasters International and has attained the levels of Advanced Speaker Bronze and Advanced Leader Bronze. He has conducted workshops and seminars

on health and personal growth. For more information, call the library at 354-3035.

### Grizzly News

District playoff games in Carrizozo Wednesday, Feb. 24. Girls play at 6 p.m. and the boys game follows. There will only be one charge of \$5 for both basketball games. Wear red and come support the Grizzlies.

### Meet the new Doc

Meet the new PA-C for the Carrizozo Clinic, 3-5 p.m., Feb. 24 at the Carrizozo Town Hall. Ellen Wittman will be on hand to introduce herself to the community.

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# Capitan Chamber hosts candidate forum

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

The candidates for municipal judge and mayor in Capitan were hosted in a question and answer forum last week by the Capitan Chamber of Commerce.

The judicial forum consisted of incumbent judge J.D. Roehrig and write-in judge candidate William Thompson.

The mayoral candidates in the upcoming March 2 election are incumbent Sam Hammons, Dr. Bernhard Reimann and George Tippin.

The questions and answers from the mayoral forum will run in the Friday, Feb. 26, *Ruidoso News*.

The forums were moderated by Capitan Schools Superintendent Shirley Crawford. A list of questions was asked by Crawford followed by a brief session where questions were accepted from the audience.

Each candidate prefaced the questioning with a brief description of himself and an outline of specific experiences and abilities that "prepare him to be an ideal candidate for the position."

## Judicial forum

**J.D. Roehrig:** "I've been the sitting judge for the last five years. I took the seat when it was handed to me by the council after Jack Johnson's death.

"A year later I ran for the office and was elected. I am medically retired United States Army.

"I am also an ex-chief hearing officer for the state of Florida financial responsibility division. I have been a field agent for the Treasury Department for the state of Florida.

"I've also owned my own business which built and maintained three national championship race car teams. I am a chief pilot. I flew for both Sport Balloon and Walt Disney World.

"I originally grew up in the Southwest in Arizona and New Mexico and then went back east for a number of years.

"After the service I completed my college degrees. I completed an AS degree in biomedical engineering and a BA in independent studies.

"Since coming to Capitan in 1993, I purchased property in 1994. I am married to Elizabeth Byers, and together we are the owners of the Wild Herb Market."

Roehrig listed his community involvements as serving on a variety of committees for the Village of Capitan, chairman of the Cemetery Committee, presently the Senior Executive officer for Post 57 of the American Legion, and he served on the executive committee of the New Mexico American Legion.

He serves on the Legion's Scholarship committee as well as the scholarship committee for the Roehrig Family Trust. He is involved with the Boy Scouts Troop in Capitan, is on the executive board for the Community Foundation of Lincoln County and chairman of the board for Sierra Dove Global.

"The judgeship has given me the opportunity to give something back to the community," said Roehrig. "I've furthered my education while in the job.

"I have over 100-plus hours in continuing educa-



**Capitan residents** gathered to hear candidates running for municipal judge and mayor answer specific questions in a forum hosted by the Capitan Chamber of Commerce. The two judicial candidates are, l-r, William Thompson (write-in) and incumbent J.D. Roehrig.

JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS



tion with the Judicial Education Center at the University of New Mexico Law School. I have also completed the Rural Court course out of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev.

"The judgeship provides an opportunity to take a look at things on a different light in that every case that comes before the court," he said.

"Each and every one of them is different. The parameters that affect them are different. You cannot put them in a standardized situation. They have to be taken on their own merits."

**William Thompson:** "Before I came to Capitan, I worked for the City of Phoenix, and working with the city attorney, took a paralegal course and completed it with a grade average of 98 percent.

"I bought property in Capitan in 1998 and moved here with my wife in 1999. "I've been a paralegal for 12 years, doing research for four of those years.

"I stopped doing paralegal in 2005 so my wife and I could open up the Windy City concession stand in Capitan."

Thompson went on to outline his integral involvement in securing the location for and helping to open up the Capitan's Farmer Market in 2006 where he was elected president and proudly promoted it to become the success it has enjoyed.

Thompson acknowledged the help from Pete Gnatkowski at the Extension Office and George Tippin for their tireless help in bringing the Farmer's Market to life.

**What do you feel is the main criteria of how a judge should perform**

**his duties in the courtroom?**

**Roehrig:** "You have to maintain an honorable position. You have to be impartial. You have to be able to take a look at the circumstances of each situation and judge each one of them as they come forward. One of the reasons I took the Rural Court course, was being a judge in a small rural community is a very hard thing. As I look around this room I know almost every individual sitting here and I've had dealings with them, their family members. So if you end up in a situation where you have to take a very serious look at what you are doing."

**Thompson:** "The judicial branch of the government is the most regulated of all. The judge should uphold the integrity of the office and avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, inside and outside of the courtroom.

"He should respect and comply with the law in a manner that holds public confidence in the impartiality and integrity of the judiciary.

"He cannot allow relationships to influence the conduct of a judge. The judge has a lot of people looking at him and word spreads fast.

"One of the things in this town that I see going on and I hope that can be stopped is that people will talk about the police, talk about the judge, talk about the village. I really think that's not the way to do it.

"People think that filing a complaint isn't a good thing, but it is.

"File a complaint, file a suggestion. Don't tell your neighbor, tell the right people."

**How do you feel a**

**municipal judge can fairly adjudicate cases in a small town?**

**Roehrig:** "The basic fact is that rural court requires that you have to be able to separate yourself from your emotions and situations, your involvement with the people and their situations.

"Things are presented on a regular basis that need to be separated from what you are going to have to look at in the courtroom. If you are going to be influenced by what is going on in the outside, the newspapers, the latest scuttlebutt and who is doing what, when, where and how, it's not going to work.

"You have to deal with individuals that you have dealt with in an intimate-type situation. There are people I've had in my courtroom that are kids that I've worked with on projects in the school.

"When they end up sitting on the other side of the bench, you have to look at them as an individual.

"The facts and the particulars in the case, what is presented in the courtroom is what you have to work with, not what goes on outside the courtroom."

**Thompson:** "I believe a court system needs to treat each one with dignity and respect regardless of their status, culture or circumstances.

"A rural judge has an especially heavy burden because of the intense public scrutiny. The rural community needs to be assured that they are judged on the basis of impartiality and integrity."

## From the audience

**If you cannot separate yourself or be impartial in a specific case, what recourse do**

**you take as a judge?**

**Roehrig:** "Basically recusing yourself is the avenue if you feel there is a necessary situation, or turning it over to your alternate judge if there is one. The decision is the one that you, yourself, has to judge.

"This is something you have to look at, weigh the situation. It is a real problem in a small rural court, where being able to separate yourself is one of the biggest and most important things.

"We are talking about a judgeship. That is what a judge does. Renders a judgment. Lady Justice is blindfolded. You have to remove the personality from the particulars."

**Thompson:** "If I had a case before me that even had an appearance of something I could not be impartial about, I would recuse myself."

**Do the police officers belong to the court or to the citizens?**

**Roehrig:** "The police officers do not belong to the court."

The audience member asking the question asked to quote a statement Roehrig made.

"No, not if ...," Roehrig started to respond.

The questioner attempted to read the statement from a document and interrupting, Roehrig said he would leave the proceedings.

The moderator asked if there was another question and stated she heard an answer.

"I did not make that statement, sir," said Roehrig, referring to his denial in saying the police officers belonged to him.

The questioner read a quote Roehrig reportedly made in a hearing, "I very honestly wish I had more officers like that." So how can you be impartial as a judge?" asked the audience member.

The moderator interrupted the argument and determined that the question was up to interpretation and moved on with the proceedings.

**Mr. Thompson, is there any reason that you are a write-in candidate instead of on the ballot normally?**

**Thompson:** "I have a seasonal business here in the summer, operating March through November. I traveled to Phoenix to see my Dad and I got very sick while I was there. And when I got back, it was too late for the sign-up deadline."

## Closing

**Roehrig:** "I would like everyone to go home and think seriously about the decision you are going to make, and between you and I, I hope I am the one that you make the decision to vote for.

"If not, you need to do what is right for you."

**Thompson:** "It's great to see people come out and listen to the candidates. If I can resolve an issue, I plan to have the judicial standards complaint form available for people to come in and file a complaint.

"If you want to clear something up, you have to complain about it. We have a great village here, I've been here 12 years and I like to see this village looking like it did back then. With that, I say, chose your person, chose your representative, but vote."

# Child abuse charges filed

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

The activities director for the Ruidoso Municipal School District has been charged with felony child abuse.

David Lackey, 33, is accused of slapping a 13-year old child at a location away from the school setting.

A statement of probable cause, filed in Magistrate Court in Carrizozo, stated that on Jan. 27, 2010, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office received a referral from New Mexico's Children, Youth and Families Department of an alleged battery on a child.

The document went on to state that Lackey was "very uncooperative and agitated" when a sheriff's department deputy came to his home for an interview.

The deputy wrote that "Mr. Lackey stated that everything had been resolved."



David Lackey

The investigation alleged Lackey grabbed the young teen by the throat and slapped him.

The child was then sent to a washroom where Lackey was accused of then shoving the boy against a wall and again slapping him.

An assistant district attorney approved filing the charge. The criminal complaint noted the charge

was a third degree felony.

An arrest warrant was issued on Feb. 17, by Judge Martha Proctor. A Lincoln County Sheriff's Department spokesperson said Lackey was expected to turn himself in. The arrest warrant listed bond at \$20,000 cash only.

Lackey was booked into the Lincoln County Detention Center Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Lackey had been placed on paid administrative leave by the school district earlier this month.

He was hired last summer to be the district's activities director and an assistant principal at Ruidoso High School.

In 2007 a criminal complaint had been filed in Magistrate Court at Lordsburg that accused Lackey of misdemeanor aggravated battery on a household member.

The charge was dropped by the prosecutor's office in Jan. 2008.

## RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

**Feb. 7**  
7:09 p.m. - A Ruidoso man was charged with his fourth case of allegedly driving while under the influence.

An officer observed a vehicle on Sudderth Drive that was having difficulty staying in its traffic lane.

The driver, Alejandro Preciado, 42, refused to stop for the officer until he arrived at his home on North Hickory Road.

There the man ran into his home with the officer in pursuit.

The foot chase went out the back door. Eventually he was caught and handcuffed.

Preciado refused a breath test and an order for a blood draw was obtained.

Preciado was charged with resisting and officer, driving under the influence, driving on a suspended or revoked license, and failing to maintain a traffic lane.

**Feb. 10**  
12:07 - A resident in the 100 block of Aspen Circle reported that at some point over the previous five days someone had damaged a vehicle.

A report and photographs of the vehicle were taken.

**Feb. 11**  
11:56 a.m. - A student at Ruidoso High School reportedly threw lemonade on another student.

The school resource officer made no referral to juvenile authorities with the high school to handle the incident.

**Feb. 14**  
10:12 a.m. - A theft from

a motor vehicle and auto burglary was reported at Mountain Annie's, 2710 Sudderth Dr.

A report was taken by an officer.

**Feb. 20**  
12:25 a.m. - Police arrested a Ruidoso man for driving under the influence.

An officer clocked a driver traveling at 54 miles per hour in the 35 miles per hour zone along Hull Road.

An officer said Warren Franklin, 21, smelled of alcohol and had slurred speech when he was approached.

A plastic baggie and a pill bottle with a green, leafy material were also discovered.

Franklin was charged with first offense DWI aggravated, speeding and possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

9:43 a.m. - A mother called police to report that her 13-year old daughter was missing.

The daughter was located and returned to her mother.

9:51 a.m. - A woman contacted police to report telephone harassment and stalking.

She said over the previous five days another woman that she knew would not leave her alone.

11:19 a.m. - A man and a woman went to police to report telephone harassment.

They said a woman they knew had called at 2:13 a.m. and the situation was getting "disturbing."

3:48 p.m. - A possible cruelty to animals case was

turned over to Ruidoso's animal control officer.

A resident in the 400 block of Walnut Drive called police to report a neglected and malnourished female pit bull with five puppies.

The dog was said to be so thin that her ribs and backbone were visible.

The animals were said to be living outdoors in a pen constructed out of wooden pallets.

The animal control officer told the owner of the pit bulls to take care them and get the female spayed.

The owner said the pit bull was fed twice a day but remained thin.

The officer was going to make periodic checks on the welfare of the dogs.

The owner of a nearby Siberian Husky was also told to have that dog spayed.

5:58 p.m. - An officer stopped a vehicle at Sudderth Drive and Mescalero Trail for failing to have its headlights turned on after dusk.

The driver, Kenneth Millerdon, 30, of Ruidoso was issued a citation for possession of marijuana after one ounce of the weed was found.

10:09 p.m. - A resident in the 100 block of Monica's Court reported a case of criminal damage to property.

An officer found a window that had been broken by a rock.

The suspect fled before officers could locate him.

Reports collected from the RPD blotter.

# Identify theft on the rise locally

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Identity theft appears to be a growing crime impacting Ruidoso residents.

In the past week, three cases have been presented to the Ruidoso Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division.

In one of the cases, a man went to police on Feb. 18, and reported that he had gotten a phone call from the fraud department at the online financial institution Ally Bank.

He was told that someone was trying to open an account with the man's personal information.

The man was told he was a victim of identity theft.

That same day a woman told an officer that someone in New York used her name and debit card number to purchase items from two different companies that morning and the day before.

The purchases totaled \$483.41. The debit card was issued by Pioneer Bank.

Another customer of the bank told police on Feb. 22

that he had five unusual charges to his bank account. The charges were in the amounts of \$30, \$109, \$227.42, \$184.91 and \$27.92.

In 2008, New Mexico was ranked 10th in the U.S. for identity theft crime. In a report this month from Javelin Strategy & Research, a financial research firm that just issued its fifth annual report on identity theft, the level of identity fraud cases increased by 22 percent in 2009.

The report noted, however, that the financial amount went up less, at seven percent. Javelin noted that detection and resolution efforts are working well and consumers and businesses are finding and resolving fraud more quickly.

"The good news is research shows consumers have more control than they may think and more of them are actively taking steps to protect themselves," said Javelin's president and founder James Van Dyke. "Additionally, the financial industry has made significant strides to

resolve fraud incidents for their customers and put stronger controls in place to limit fraud, which is lessening the impact of the crime."

The New Mexico Attorney General's office said there are signs to watch out for, such as statements from your financial accounts that stop arriving at the normal time without prior notice from the institution.

Or bills that arrive for things you did not buy, or charges that show up on credit card statements for purchases you did not make.

If your identity is stolen the office recommends immediately contacting your creditors, banks, credit bureau, local law enforcement agency and the Federal Trade Commission by phone and in writing. Close any accounts that an identity thief has opened in your name.

Cancel any of your credit cards an identity thief is using. And place a freeze on your credit report so a fraudster is unable to open any accounts or get credit in your name.

# Budget cut threatens corruption fight

SANTA FE - Attorney General Gary King said the Senate Finance Committee's proposal to slash its budget by nearly one third will prevent him from continuing his anti-corruption cases against government officials and starting new cases.

"The Senate committee's action will eviscerate my Government Corruption Division and many other key functions of my office."

"It appears they are upset that we are prosecuting politically well-connected individuals," says AG

King. "The public needs to understand what is at stake here and how such a reduction in budget will eliminate the best tool we have for fighting government corruption."

The committee proposal recommends an unprecedented 4-million dollar cut of the Attorney General's Office operational funding, representing nearly one third of the agency's total budget.

AG King adds, "It's one thing to pay lip service to fighting corruption, but quite another thing to go

behind closed doors and come up with a plan that ensures government officials can act with impunity by cutting the legs from beneath the investigating and prosecuting agency that holds them accountable."

The Attorney General urges New Mexicans to call their state senators and demand that they not approve this ill-conceived resolution by the Senate Finance Committee.

As reported by the AG Web site.

**RUBY HANSON LEIFERMAN**

1938 - 2010

February 13, 2010

in Auburn, Calif. (48)

Ruby Hanson Leiferman, 71, passed away suddenly at her rural Zumbra Falls, MN home on Thursday, February 13, 2010. A memorial service will be held for Ruby on Friday, February 26, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 1091 Michon Dr, Rainbow, New Mexico. The service will begin at One o'clock p.m.

Ruby was born March 21, 1938 in Corpus Christi, TX. She was the daughter of Keith and Louise Hanson formerly of Ruidoso. Ruby was a 1956 graduate of Ruidoso High School and resided in Ruidoso until 1966. She and her husband Robert have resided in Minnesota for the past 12 years.

Ruby is survived by her husband, Robert Leiferman, Jr. of Zumbra Falls, MN, 3 sons, Clyde Reynolds of Rochester, MN and Tim Reynolds of Las Cruces, NM; 3 grandsons, Scott, Garry, and Chance of Rochester, MN, and granddaughter, Kallie, of Las Cruces, NM, numerous nieces and nephews, four stepdaughters, Lynn Susan Morris of Anguillo, TX, Tracy Leiferman of Rochester, MN, Danielle Leiferman of Farmington, NM, and Rebecca Leiferman of Las Cruces, NM, four sisters, four brothers and numerous aunts and nephews. Ruby was preceded in death by her parents.

**Donald Robert (Bob) Shaw**

September 4, 1939 - February 13, 2010

Bob Shaw was born September 4, 1939 in Decatur, Texas to Jack & Larue Shaw. He went to school in Fort Worth, Texas and later worked in livestock, buying and selling sheep with his dad. He then moved to Arizona and worked in construction. When he moved to Ruidoso & Capitan, New Mexico to make his home he continued in construction. Bob was very much a lover of animals.

He is survived by four daughters, Yvonda Lynn (Bunny) Shaw, LeAnn Williams, Stephanie Gay Tippin & Susan Kay Shaw all from the Fort Worth, Texas area & two sons, Robert Shawn Shaw of Alto, NM & Kenneth Blane Shaw of Arlington, Texas. He has nine grandchildren: Crystal, D.L., Jerry, Terry, Jackie, Jessie, Jason, Ragan & Brydan. Eight great-grandchildren: Christian, Brayden, Ashton, Jessie Jr, Alyah, Lexie, Devin & Dustin & one sister Sandy Shaw & son Chad Reynolds & wife, Sherry & Dusty & Ashley. His best friend & ex-wife Gail Shaw and her family is his extended family. Freckles his horse & Sidney, his dog.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jack & Larue Shaw, and a nephew, Corey Reynolds.

Bob's wish was to be cremated & services were held February 20, 2010 at Forest Lawn Cemetery at the foot of his parents graves in Ruidoso, New Mexico officiated by Reverend Wayne Joyce with a gathering of family & friends at the Ruidoso Baptist Church in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Condolences may be sent to 2814 Sudderth Dr. #166, Ruidoso, NM 88345

**Christopher "Chris" E. Ybarra**

April 11, 1962 - January 29, 2010

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

Mr. Ybarra 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 Basque descent. 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, Warnock McFarland, Clarence McFarland, Gene Ybarra and Steven Ybarra; 3 sisters, Joy Garner, Jacque McFarland and Diana Ybarra.

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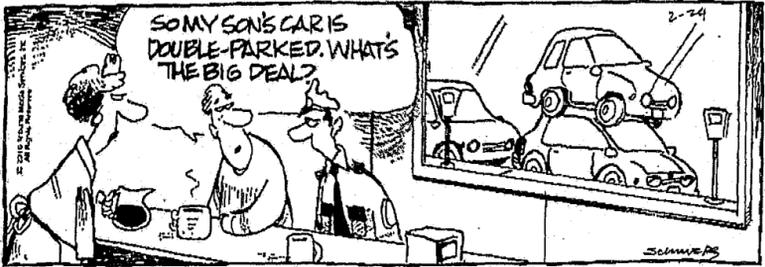
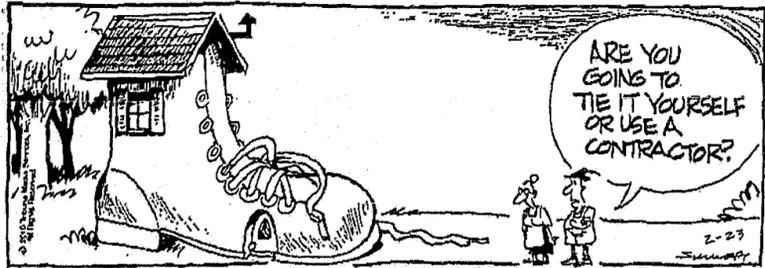
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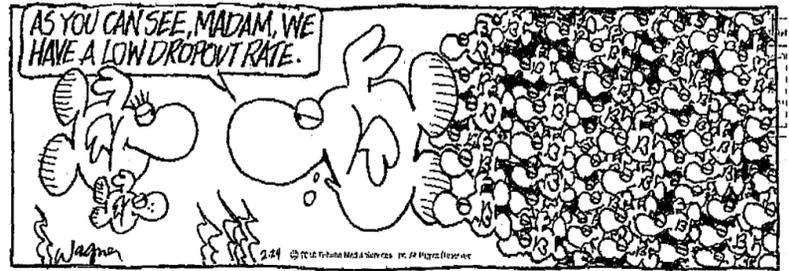
Published every Wednesday in the

# RUIDOSO NEWS

**SHOE**



**ANIMAL CRACKERS**



**SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS**

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A	E	E	E	L	R	S	RACK 1
H	U	G	N	N	L	S	3rd Letter Triple RACK 2
O	U	N	T	G	T	L	Double Word Score RACK 3
A	O	L	T	R	L	D	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 135-145  
BEST SCORE 190  
FOUR RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

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**JUMBLE**

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOILD  
YUCIJ  
NERBAN  
VORGEN

Answer: A " " " "

**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

by Mike Argilron and Jeff Knurek

Not guilty!

HOW THE DEFENDANT DESCRIBED THE PANEL HEARING HIS CASE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PAR SCORE 135-145  
TOTAL 190

D	O	L	L	A	R	I	RACK 4 = 7
G	L	U	T	O	N		RACK 3 = 66
U	N	S	L	H	N	G	RACK 2 = 60
R	E	L	E	A	S	E	RACK 1 = 57

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

**SUDOKU**

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group  
Level: 1 2 3 4

	6	1					
2		6		8		9	5
	3	7			4		
4	1					6	
8						7	8
	4			3	8		
3		8	2				
				9	7		

SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE 2/24/10

9	4	6	1	3	5	2	8	7
7	2	1	6	4	8	3	9	5
8	5	3	7	9	2	4	1	6
5	3	7	9	8	4	1	6	2
4	1	2	3	5	6	9	7	8
6	8	9	2	7	1	5	3	4
1	7	4	5	6	3	8	2	9
3	9	5	8	2	7	6	4	1
2	6	8	4	1	9	7	5	3

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)



Think Snow!!!

Jumbles: DOLY, JUCY, BANNER, GOVERN  
Answer: How the defendant described the panel hearing his case — A "GRAND" JURY

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General Services 3304

### notices 100-152

#### Public/Special Notices 114

Taking bids for Gavilan Field Concession Stand. Running April 10th thru June 10th. Call Steve for Bid Specs at 808-8079

#### Legal Notices 152

#8979 2T (2)19,24  
The following units of AA Storage Inc., 2247 W. Hwy 70, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346 are past due. If payment is not received within 13 days of the 2nd publication of this notice, storage contents will be sold by auction.

#### Auction Date:

March 25, 2010

#### Auction Time:

11 am - 4 pm

#### Unit #B-19, Erica Feyrey, 159 W. Hwy 70, Ruidoso, NM 88345, Misc household items.

#### Unit #B-28, Pedro Calderon, 706 G and C Lane, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346, Misc household items.

#### Unit #FG, Savannah Morales, 200 Friedenbloom #43B, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346, Misc household items.

#### Unit #F-T, Sharon Wilson, PO Box 2626, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346, Misc household items.

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### rentals 300-383

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#### Parks/Spaces/Sites-Rent 310

RV Trailer Lots for Rent. Call 575-257-0872

#### Furn. Apts. - General 314

Aspen Lodge Apt. Utilities paid. Furnished 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. No pets please! Midtown efficiency apt. available. Call Greg at 575-937-0487.

#### Aspen Lodge Apartment, 1 & 2 bd, free cable TV, Bills pd. No pets. Fully furn. 575-937-9467

#### Cozy & clean Effic. Cabin, Midtown. Util pd. \$395/mo. No dogs. 575-258-3877

#### Unfurn. Apts. - General 328

1 bd Apt. w/great view \$500/mo. util pd. Call leave mesg 915-253-7144

#### 1 br w/replace, \$475 plus deposit, 120 sq ft storage w/ loading dock \$50/mo. 378-4661

3 bd, 2 ba Apt. \$850/mo. \$500/dep. Bill included. 1 bd, 1 ba Apt. \$500/mo. \$500/dep. Bills included. 575-937-3059

#### Unfurnished & 1 & 2 bedroom apartments, bills paid. No pets. 258-3111.

#### Townhouses/Condominiums 342

3 Units, 2 bd, 2 ba, unfurn. Condos. \$600 - \$675/mo. Call THE WOODLANDS at 258-1161

#### Townhouses/Condominiums 342

711 MAIN ROAD Brand new efficiency. Very nice - tile floors & bath, granite counters, stainless appliances, long term only - \$485/mo. \$450 deposit. Owner/Agent Scott Roser 808-1297

#### Furnished Houses 350

3 bed, 2.5ba, renov. cabin, 2 car, storage, half acre lot, walk to town, utilities, no pet, neg. no smoking. Available April 1st. \$1400/mo. 575-238-4125

#### Unfurn. Home - General 352

1 bedroom, 1 bath. Efficiency type. \$400 plus utilities. 336-8005

#### 2/2 + loft. Cedar Creek. Small pets ok. Immediate move in. \$1750/mo. + util. 575-257-2893

2 bd, 1 ba, fireplace w/wood. hookups, \$600/mo. + gas & elec. 937-1289

#### 2 bd, 1 ba, \$700/mo. + bills, 1 ba, spacious deck & garage. \$800 + bills. AMOR Realty, Dan Bolin, 937-0600

2 bedroom, 1.5 bath. Fireplace. No utilities paid. \$550/month. 505-573-1974 or 575-840-9838

#### 2 bedroom, 1 bath, office, washer & dryer. Pets ok. Immediate year lease. \$825/mo + util. 575-257-2893

3/2 home. Nice area. Pets ok. Immediate year lease. \$825/mo + util. 575-257-2893

3 bd, 2 ba, fp, w/d & lg deck. \$875/mo + dep. \$500. Owner/Agent Helichs, 937-0381

3 bd, 2 ba, Garage, \$890/mo. 3 bd, 3 ba, \$850/mo. 4 bd, 2 ba, \$1,200/mo. 257-7911

#### Avail 3/1. Cozy Cabin for rent centrally located. Very clean, all util & dr. \$550. 575-937-2849

#### By appointment only. Unfurnished, 3/2 home, large fenced yard, adobe const, near Wingfield Park. \$600 + bills. \$975 plus \$850 deposit. 354-0468/937-7611

#### Ruidoso News Classifieds 257-4001

#### General Help Wanted 230

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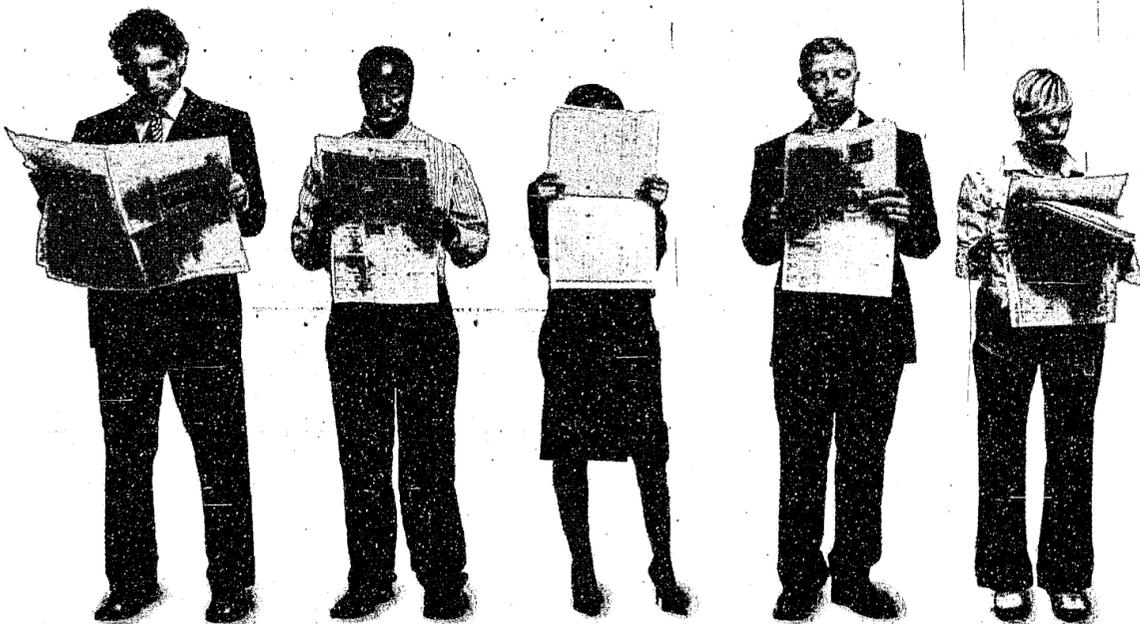
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**92%**

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

**80%**

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**82%**

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**60%**

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