

RUIDOSO NEWS

**FIRE DANGER
LOW**

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010 • OUR 63RD YEAR, No. 89 • 75 CENTS

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Track bill signed

JIM KALVELAGE
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Legislation authorizes county to set an election to raise the gross receipts tax

Legislation that would allow the imposition of a new gross receipts tax in Lincoln County has been signed into law by Gov. Bill Richardson.

The County Business Retention Gross Receipts Tax, previously approved by the New Mexico House and Senate, allows the Lincoln County Commission to set a referendum for county residents.

Should it vote to do so, the commission would set an election date and a gross receipts tax rate.

Revenues from the potential tax would finance a gaming tax credit for the Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino.

The question could go to voters as soon as September.

"In order to impose the gross receipts tax on January 1, you have to get the results of the election before the end of September," said Lincoln County Manager Tom

Stewart. "There are some big rubs that have to do with timing."

In a letter to New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department Secretary Rick Homans, Stewart said time will be extremely short to comply with the new act's requirements.

"I assume that, like other GRT impositions, the results of the required special election and approved ordinance will need to be forwarded to Taxation and

See **BILL**, page 10A

PURR-FECT TIMING



COURTESY KATHLEEN MCDONALD

A couple of Jellicle cats in CATS — Tumblebrutus (Jason Wise) and Grizabella (Anastasia Lange) — get ready for their curtain call at Spencer Theater over the weekend. The show's cast of 30-plus actors, singers, dancers and orchestra musicians barely made it to the Alto hall as their bus caught fire over the snowy Vail, Colo., mountain pass the night before after a performance. Luckily, they were able to catch a morning flight from Denver to Albuquerque and arrived at the Spencer just two hours before curtain call. Backstage drama aside, the performance was stellar and the audience had no clue as to the previous chaos the performers endured getting to Ruidoso in time for their shows.

Carrizozo domestic violence incident detailed

JULIE CARTER
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A domestic violence incident last week quickly escalated into a situation where the Carrizozo Chief of Police was injured and Lincoln County Sheriff's Officers wrestled an armed man after he had barricaded himself in a building.

The criminal complaint filed in Carrizozo Magistrate Court lists six charges against Gary Joe Lovelace, 49, of Carrizozo. One count of aggravated battery on a household member, a misdemeanor; one count of aggravated battery on a peace officer and one count of aggravated battery on a peace officer with a deadly weapon, both third degree felonies; and three counts of resisting arrest, a misdemeanor offense.

Lovelace is currently incarcerated in the Lincoln County Detention Center under a "No Bond" status after the District Attorney revoked the "\$25,000 Cash Only" bond set at the time of his arrest March 4. The change was a result of Lovelace's violation of his conditions of release after a Dec. 16 charge of battery on a household member. A March 25 jury trial has been set for that incident.

Thursday's incident, according to court records, began when Lincoln County Deputy Balthazar Romo responded to assist Carrizozo Police Chief Rachel

See **CHIEF**, page 10A

New mayor, councilors take oaths

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The gavel was turned over to new Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn Monday afternoon.

Outgoing Mayor L. Ray Nunley looked back on the past four years.

"I've been asked a number of times by a lot different people 'I bet you'll be glad when this day is over. I bet you'll be glad when

you're not in that office anymore.' None of that's true because I love this job. I love being mayor. I love the council I had to work with and the challenges we were presented with."

Nunley said with two floods, the wastewater treatment plant and a new fire station, the previous council accomplished a lot.

And he outlined issues that need to be addressed by the new mayor and

adjusted village council.

"I want to urge everybody to continue to work on our water and particularly our water reuse. That's our future," said Nunley.

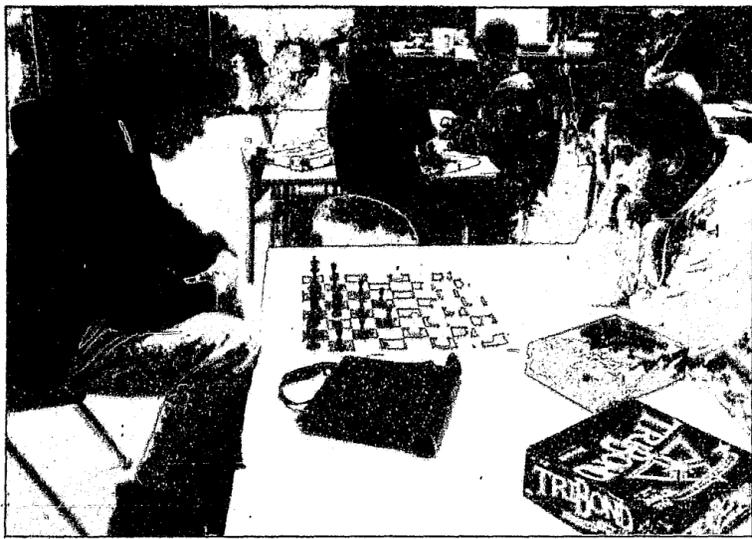
"We need to secure Alto and Grindstone dams. Those are in the process and this council will be charged with dealing with that. We need to resolve the Joint Use Board. Ruidoso

See **OATHS**, page 10A



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

New mayor Alborn, left, confers with outgoing mayor Nunley.



COURTESY SHARON STEWART

Contestants compete in "Bored Game Day" March 2 at the Ruidoso Public Library.

Teen time

Teens have several activities this month at the Village of Ruidoso Public Library. On March 2, kids gathered to compete at board games during "Bored" game day. On March 17, from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., teens indulge in Irish coffee to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Be sure to wear Green.

On March 23, Live Clue comes back - this time with a Harry Potter theme.

Live Clue has been

immensely popular with the teens and some adults, too! Come dress as your favorite Harry Potter character. Prizes awarded to the murderer, the person who solves the murder and the best costume. Bring friends or family along to play in teams. This game will be great family entertainment, but no children younger than 6th grade is permitted to play.

Grades 6 - 12 may participate in teen activities. Preschool story time is on Wednesdays at 10:30. A craft is always included with the story time.

This month in the Children's Library at the Ruidoso Public Library, the School Field Trip Theme is

"March Mathness". Grades 3 through 5 explore where the math books are located and learn math tricks that involve addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Other cool math tricks anyone can master will be taught. Monthly field trips to the library continue through May 2010.

The library is located at 107 Kansas City Rd., Ruidoso.

Free tax help

Free tax preparation is offered to middle to low income individuals and families of all ages.

The help comes from IRS certified volunteer tax counselors and auxiliary personnel under the auspices of AARP. Help has been offered nationwide for 42 years and in the Ruidoso area for the last 20 years.

This year, the service is offered through April 11, at the Ruidoso Senior Center on Thursday and Friday from 1 to 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon.

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

BLM 'scoping'

The Bureau of Land Management has begun a public scoping process to solicit comments and identify issues to be considered as it prepares a Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area (NCA).

The NCA, located in Lincoln County, was created to protect, conserve, and enhance the unique and nationally important historic, cultural, scientific, archaeological, natural and educational subterranean cave resources of the Fort Stanton-Snowy River cave system.

The NCA was established on March 30, 2009, when the president the Omnibus Land Management Act directing the BLM to develop a management plan for the NCA within two years.

Public participation is an important part of the planning process. Two scoping meetings have been scheduled where information about the NCA will be available, questions will be answered, and issues and concerns can be identified. The meetings are scheduled for 5 - 7 p.m., April 5, at the Ruidoso Convention Center; and 5 - 7 p.m., April 8, at the Capitan Public Library.

Documents related to this proposal may be examined at the Roswell Field Office or on the Web at www.blm.gov/nm.

Comments on issues and planning criteria relat-

ed to the RMPA/EA for the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave NCA can be submitted to the BLM by email at nmrfo_comments@blm.gov; fax 575-627-0276; or by mail to Roswell Field Office, 2909 W. 2nd St., Roswell, NM 8820.

Sonic booms

Sonic booms could occur today, Wednesday, from noon to 2 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m.; and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Schedules are subject to change. Scheduled times do not always mean sonic booms will occur.

For additional information, visit www.holloman.af.mil.

Silent no more

In conjunction with the administration of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Help End Abuse for Life (HEAL) recently brought the domestic violence documentary *Sin By Silence* to the students of the Mescalero Apache Schools.

Sin By Silence documents the stories of several women incarcerated in the California Institution for Women for killing their abusive husbands or boy-

friends. One of the inmates, Brenda Clubine, started a group called Convicted Women Against Abuse (CWAA) in 1989 to help women inside prison break the silence about abuse and help others learn how to avoid abusive relationships. Clubine, who was featured in the film, served 26 years in prison and was recently released.

After the documentary was shown, Clubine spoke to the students about teen dating violence and the "red flags" of an abusive relationship. A lively question and answer session followed that focused on how jealousy is not a sign of love in a relationship - it is one of the red flags of dating violence.

The showing was arranged by Tribal Councilwoman Cordova and President Mark Chino, in conjunction with HEAL American Indian Outreach Coordinator Selena Chino and HEAL Administrative Assistant DeeDee Lamb.

For further information about *Sin By Silence*, go to www.sinbysilence.org.

Copies of the DVD are for sale for \$15 at the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter in Ruidoso Downs at 512 East Highway 70.

For further information, call the Nest at 378-6378.



COURTESY HEAL

From left are Sister Juanita Little, HEAL Operations Director Kathryn Walker, Mescalero Apache Tribal President Mark Chino, American Indian Outreach Coordinator Selena Chino, Tribal Councilwoman Cordova, Brenda Clubine, David Cozad and HEAL Executive Director Coleen Widell.

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SHUTTER ISLAND (R)
6:00 8:00

COP OUT (R)
4:35 7:05 9:30

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AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 37° Humidity 36% Sunshine and windy Wind: W 25-35 mph	RealFeel 36° Humidity 45% Breezy with sun and some clouds Wind: WNW 10-20 mph	RealFeel 49° Humidity 49% Sunshine Wind: NNW 7-14 mph	RealFeel 53° Humidity 36% Mild with plenty of sun Wind: W 7-14 mph	RealFeel 61° Humidity 27% Mostly sunny Wind: N 7-14 mph	RealFeel 59° Humidity 29% A couple of showers possible Wind: WNW 8-16 mph	RealFeel 72° Humidity 28% Plenty of sunshine Wind: WSW 4-8 mph

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

Regional Cities

City	High/Low
Gallup	39/21
Grants	42/23
Albuquerque	50/30
Tucumcari	56/31
Santa Rosa	56/27
Clovis	52/30
Mountainair	47/24
Fort Sumner	59/33
Socorro	59/28
Roswell	64/34
Ruidoso	46/26
Cloudcroft	39/20
Las Cruces	57/33
Chaparral	59/35
El Paso	60/36
Ciudad Juárez	59/36
Carlsbad	65/37
Pecos	70/39
Reserve	48/26
Silver City	50/25
Truth or Consequences	56/31
Hatch	59/33
Deming	56/29
Sunland Park	60/36
Lordsburg	59/30

Almanac

Ruidoso
Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 43°/32°
Normal high 56°
Normal low 24°
Record high 75° (1960)
Record low -4° (1969)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.25"
Month to date 0.36"
Normal month to date 0.32"
Year to date 2.09"
Normal year to date 2.80"

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

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

Alamogordo

Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 58°/40°
Normal high 66°
Normal low 37°
Record high 82° (1985)
Record low 22° (1959)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.04"
Month to date 0.08"
Normal month to date 0.16"
Year to date 1.55"
Normal year to date 1.46"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: What is the March record for tornadoes in the United States?

National Forecast for March 10, 2010

Map showing weather systems and precipitation over the United States.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	69/39/pc	64/39/pc
Anchorage	16/4/sf	16/4/pc
Allanta	58/51/sh	70/55/r
Austin	74/39/pc	77/41/s
Baltimore	59/44/c	57/48/r
Boston	48/35/s	47/38/pc
Chicago	55/46/r	55/45/r
Dallas	72/44/l	68/44/s
Denver	36/20/c	38/20/sf
Des Moines	52/42/r	52/39/r
Detroit	55/45/c	58/47/r
El Paso	60/36/s	56/34/pc
Las Vegas	60/42/pc	63/42/s
Los Angeles	65/46/pc	70/48/s
Minneapolis	44/36/r	48/35/r
New Orleans	70/62/l	77/53/pc
New York City	54/41/pc	53/46/r
Philadelphia	57/42/pc	58/46/r
Phoenix	63/47/pc	67/47/s
Reno	42/23/c	52/27/s
San Francisco	56/43/pc	60/44/s
San Diego	60/48/pc	65/50/s
Seattle	50/37/sh	54/43/r
Tucson	60/36/pc	60/39/s
Tulsa, OK	68/41/l	58/39/pc
Wash., DC	64/46/c	61/53/r
Wichita	58/37/l	44/34/sh
Yuma	69/48/s	72/48/r

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	50/30/c	49/28/pc
Artesia	64/38/s	54/31/pc
Chama	38/20/c	40/13/sf
Clayton	45/26/sh	41/25/sf
Cloudcroft	39/20/pc	36/15/pc
Farmington	44/27/c	46/25/pc
Hobbs	64/34/s	57/29/pc
Los Alamos	40/22/c	40/20/sf
Portales	56/32/pc	49/28/sf
Raton	44/23/c	42/21/sf
Red River	34/15/sn	34/15/sf
Ruidoso	46/26/s	43/24/pc
Santa Fe	44/23/c	44/23/sf
Silver City	50/25/pc	49/26/s
Taos	40/23/c	40/17/sf

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thu. Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	90/72/s	88/72/pc
Cancun	86/70/s	90/73/s
Chihuahua	72/36/s	68/30/s
Ciudad Juárez	59/36/s	55/34/pc
León	82/48/s	78/46/pc
México, DF	81/48/s	82/50/pc
Monterrey	88/59/pc	81/50/pc
Morelia	82/51/s	85/50/pc
Oaxaca	90/55/s	91/52/s
Pto. Penasco	68/45/s	67/45/s
Tijuana	61/45/pc	64/46/s

Sun and Moon

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:20 a.m./6:07 p.m.

Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 3:20 a.m./1:43 p.m.

Moon Phases

New First Full Last

Mar 15 Mar 23 Mar 29 Apr 6

Extremes

Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 83° in Laredo, TX
Low: 7° in Stanley, ID

Monday's World High/Low:
High: 114° in Riversdale, South Africa
Low: -55° in Oymyakon, Russia

Fort Stanton State Monument garners architectural honor

DIANNE STALLINGS
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In February, another honor was credited to the restoration at historic Fort Stanton State Monument with the nomination of the Administration Building for the 2010 New Mexico "Architectural Heritage Preservation Award."

Six candidate entities were nominated for their restoration efforts. They are the construction company Crocker Ltd; Marty Perrins-Dallman as Project Manager for Property Control Division; New Mexico State Monuments; Fort Stanton, Inc.; Huitt-Zollars; and Edie Cherry of Cherry/See/Reames.

The Fort Stanton State Monument Administration Building, an 8,000-square-foot architectural gem, saw major work on the columned porch or portico, and its interior.

According to author/historian and fort booster Lynda Sánchez, the inside of the structure needed major repair as termite infestation destroyed some of the wooden window frames and several supporting columns.

The old wooden floors were replaced, new electrical



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

The Administration Building at historic Fort Stanton is getting a face lift.

wiring and plumbing were completed and a series of exhibit rooms, State Monument offices and public restrooms were installed.

A subtle white lime wash replaced the paint on the battered walls of the exterior, she said.

To assist in this nomination process, award-winning photographer David Tremblay provided the

before and after photos for the application. Sánchez provided editorial assistance, a trove of newspaper and magazine clippings and a letter of support. Jay Smith, Director of the Hubbard Museum, also submitted a letter of support as did Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart. The final results will be announced mid year.

"No matter which way

things turn out, this nomination is another terrific example of the exquisite architecture and history that make up the fabric of Fort Stanton," Sánchez said.

"Those who recall the devastation and damage inside and out of this wonderful building will now see a great difference," she said. "We should congratulate all nominees because

each group or person worked toward the eventual restoration and occupation of the structure. In many ways we have come full circle.

As Englishman Fred Nolan stated in the introduction to *Fort Stanton, Legacy of Honor, Tradition of Healing*, written by Sánchez with photographs by Tremblay, "A country that turns its back on its past has nothing with which to face the future."

The elegance has returned to the fort, Sánchez said, adding, "The next century has begun with a new face, a new purpose and pride and hope for the future."

In 2008 and 2009, Capital Outlay funding for which supporters fought since 2003, finally began to

transform some of the Fort buildings that needed it the most, she said.

The Quadrangle parade ground received most of the \$1.5 million funding for renovation and repair. The historic stables and silos, also were beneficiaries of generous private donations and capital outlay funding, as well as many volunteer hours.

The fort and a museum operated by Fort Stanton Inc., is located about 15 miles northeast of Ruidoso on New Mexico Highway 220, or can be accessed off U.S. 380 between the village of Capitan and the Lincoln Historical District. The Fort Stanton State Monument Cemetery sits next to the fort complex.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

Smokey visit

The U.S. Forest Service national fire living symbol, Smokey Bear, will be on the slopes at Ski Cloudcroft over the next two weekends.

Smokey Bear will be making two appearances enjoying the phenomenal winter snows the Cloudcroft community has experienced.

The first sighting of the famous Bear will be Friday, March 12, on the bunny hill from noon - 1 p.m., with the ski school team. The second sighting will be Friday, March 19, same time and same location.

The Sacramento Ranger District Fire Prevention staff will be in the area handing out Smokey Bear items and talking to the public about a variety of issues such as creating defensible space and safe fire use in and around your home.

Also, inquire about the basics of wildfire, fire's natural role and how fire works. Don't forget to ask how to build a safe campfire while enjoying the Lincoln National Forest.

For more information, contact the Sacramento Ranger District at 575-682-2551 Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information on the Lincoln National Forest, go to www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln.

Training video

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer developed a new training video aimed at reducing outdoor water use in residential and small commercial landscapes.

"Living on Less: A Guide to Water-Efficient Landscaping in New Mexico," was created through a grant with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and a partnership with the City of Santa Fe.

The video covers topics such as creating a watering schedule, designing efficient irrigation systems, water-efficient plant selection and xeric landscape design, planting techniques and soil preparation, mulching, and other water-saving tips.

The target audience is the homeowner and those responsible for small commercial landscapes.

To provide access to the large Spanish speaking population in New Mexico, the video will be translated into Spanish.

The decision to focus on municipal water use comes in part from the U.S. Census Bureau's projec-

tions that population growth for New Mexico will add an additional 800,000 people to the state by 2030, an increase of 40 percent over the state's population in 2000.

Outdoor water use is usually the largest part of any municipality's residential use. In New Mexico's normally hot, dry summer months, this can increase from 30 percent to 50 to 70 percent of residential usage.

Appropriate watering techniques, along with plant selection, soil amendments and other water wise techniques can cut

this water use by 50 percent. The Living on Less video details techniques in an easy-to-understand format.

The video will be posted on the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer Web site at www.ose.state.nm.us/wucp_home_owners.

The OSE is charged with the administering the state's water resources. The State Engineer has power over the supervision, measurement, appropriation, and distribution of all surface and groundwater in New Mexico, including streams and rivers that cross state boundaries.

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RUIDOSO NEWS

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OUR OPINION

Group home will have to prove itself

Neighbors can be proactive

We sympathize with neighbors who reside or simply own property in the lower Sudderth Drive area where a group home for the drug- and alcohol-addicted is planned.

But the Ruidoso Planning & Zoning Commission has already approved a conditional use permit for the facility in the Gateway subdivision. The best advice for opponents of the proposal, or those uneasy with their new level of security, is to empower themselves by becoming proactive.

Planners have a set of requirements for the operation of the home, and the pro-

prietor, Art Carmona of Eota Group, has made a number of feel-good promises regarding procedures and policies. Concerned citizens can start there and hold everyone accountable.

If there is a breach in the requirements or procedures, the Eota Group Home, as it's to be called, might not long exist.

If, however, it proves to be a first-rate operation and a trustworthy neighbor, there are worse elements than a place dedicated to helping young adults and the community-at-large through the successful treatment of addiction.

Federal regulators hurting small banks, economic recovery

During his State of the Union address, the president assured us his fiscal policies would stimulate bank lending to help businesses expand and create jobs. Obviously, the right hand isn't talking to the left hand, and if they are, they don't speak the same language.

Federal bank regulators, who failed to curb the excesses of the biggest banks, are now punishing the little guys. Your local bank didn't engage in risky behavior, but it's now paying the price.

The red-alert was the closure of Charter Bank in Albuquerque and the agreement Los Alamos National Bank reached with the Comptroller of the Currency. Charter was a good bank. When customers, employees and business people called its demise a travesty, they were right. Similarly, the Los Alamos bank is one of the state's best and most innovative.

Every bank in the state is under regulatory pressure.

This is not a signal to Tea Partiers to strap on their guns and rail against the Obama administration. It was just as bad under President Reagan.

When I wrote last year that bank regulators would bear down on all institutions in the wake of the big banks' lapses, I wasn't clairvoyant - I've seen it before. In the mid-1980s, during another real estate "correction," regulators cleaned out the shaky institutions. Then they went after everyone else - kicked assets and took names.

There are lots of ways to tell if a bank is sick. I'll spare you the details of loan-loss reserves and such. Let's just say that, compared to the rest of the country, our banks are in pretty good shape.

So, when a banker makes you a loan based on the value of the property and your credit history, and you make your payments, it's all good. Supposedly.

Lately, federal regulators have forced banks to move perfectly good loans into the troubled-asset column, even when the borrower is making payments. They've questioned

appraised values and substituted their own. They've forced banks to set aside larger reserves against possible losses. Instead of negotiating, they bludgeon bankers with cease and desist orders. The FDIC demanded premiums three years in advance.

And heaven help them if they have too much commercial real estate on the books.

"This is wrong," said Bill Verant, director of the state Financial Institutions Division and a regulator himself. "It's a knee-jerk reaction."

Charter, he said, was a great institution. Its demise was the result of "Draconian, arbitrary write-downs imposed by federal regulators."

These actions are spooking lenders and reducing lending. "The combination is forcing banks to shrink balance sheets just as we need to get more money out there," Verant said last week to a ballroom of developers and real estate professionals. "The idea of the corner bank that knows every customer is not just nostalgia - it will be critical to the recovery."

"What can we do, other than cut our wrists?" asked one man. Verant responded, "We've gotta wake up these people in Washington." He suggested a storm of protest directed at the Congressional delegation.

I don't have confidence in that avenue. Our elected officials don't like to question the bureaucracy's every decision, even when it's playing God.

But three cheers for Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, who used her corner of the bully pulpit to write an open letter to Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, the FDIC, the Comptroller of the Currency and the Office of Thrift Supervision.

"Federal field examiners, under pressure from regional offices, are more aggressive in examining commercial real estate loans and other assets," she wrote. "This well-meaning but overreaching practice... will only trigger more community bank failures, further constriction of credit availability, and hamper economic recovery."

Hamilton and Burr would fit nicely into today's politics...



YOUR OPINION

Sticker Shock campaign educates us all

To the editor:

THE MESCALERO PREVENTION Program would like to thank the following businesses for participating in the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Youth in Action Sticker Shock campaign: TR's market, Brewers on Ski Run Road, Club Gas, Thriftway market, Win, Place & Show, Walmart, and Circle K in Ruidoso Downs.

Sticker Shock is a public awareness campaign to inform people about the laws surrounding underage drinking. Warning stickers are placed on packages of alcohol indicating that it is illegal for adults to purchase alcohol for minors. Brightly colored stickers are placed on multi packs of beer, wine, coolers and other alcohol products that appeal to underage drinkers.

The stickers are 3 x 3.5 inches and our youth participants are instructed not to place stickers

where they could cover up the Surgeon General's warning, UPC code or the name of the product.

Merchants are invited to participate in the Youth in Action and Sticker Shock campaigns. They show their support of local youth to prevent underage drinking in the community with their participation and involvement. This may seem like a small gesture, but the after effects are large.

Underage drinking is a problem for parents of teens and for law enforcement as well as for all community members. We, as community members, need to voice concerns about how we view underage drinking.

Even if we drank when we were young or think that there is "no harm" in youth using alcohol, the research indicates that alcohol use by adolescents is a huge problem.

Studies have shown that

youth can lose as much as 10 percent of the brain's capacity. Alcohol affects a youth's ability to use good judgment, develop effective alcohol and drug refusal skills, and depress response time while driving.

You can also start a conversation with your teen or teens in your community by reminding them of the risks of being caught. In the state of New Mexico, adolescents can lose their license and receive a mandatory fine up to \$1,473 (NM DOT and the Traffic Safety Bureau).

Children and teens have been having alcohol- and drug-free fun with their friends for generations. Continue to support the youth in our community by talking to them about the risks of alcohol use and by not providing alcohol to minors.

Ardena Oroscio
Mescalero Prevention
Program

Internet can help survivors

To the editor:

RE: EXPLOSION levels home at Villa Madonna [www.ruidosonews.com, posted Monday], I hope this helps:

There's more to disaster preparedness/recovery than meets the eye. When it comes to our property, what do we expect in case of loss (hurricane, tornado, earthquake, explosion, flood, fire,

etc.)? The disaster itself is news. What happens after the dust settles is the story: the aftermath and the shock.

With a little curiosity you can mitigate that shock.

Here is something the public should know. Insurance policyholders and, more importantly, disaster survivors need to be informed of access to basic rights

and information. The Internet reaches far more people than anyone would have ever imagined. Though difficult to gather, to those willing to pause, to inspect, to think on their own, much is available gratis!

It just takes looking: Go to www.disasterprepared.net

Antone P. Braga
Montgomery, Pa.

What's a few thousand billion?

To the editor:

MAYBE IT IS because my passion is astronomy - a discipline that deals with very large numbers - that I have a better grasp than the average person on what the term "trillions" really means.

Or perhaps there has been a numbing effect on the collective consciousness, affected by the all-too-frequent use of the term.

Otherwise, why would there not be much more of an outcry, more alarm, panic even, in the face of the ever-growing national debt, the growing budget shortfalls, the raising of the debt limit and the seeming indifference of the leaders in Washington?

Of course, the average person earning \$75,000 a year can only hope to ever amass \$1 million. So, that person will probably not spend too much thought on the concept of a billion, which is a thousand millions.

Yes, he has heard of billionaires, but that concept only exists at the periphery of his consciousness. And when confronted with the fact that the national debt stands at \$12.4 trillion and is growing at a dizzying pace, he might raise his eyebrows and opine that this is a lot of dough

and express hope that our government better know how to pay that back.

After all, he knows that he cannot charge more on his credit card than what is within his ability to pay back. It is the guess of this writer, however, that few people will actually think this through to the point where they actually come to the startling realization that it may already be impossible to pay back or even reduce the national debt.

More and more, I find myself perplexed at the indifference of Congress as it continues to pile on more debt, seemingly without asking where the money will come from to pay it back.

We, the people, are wont to call our representatives in Congress stupid. But think of it, would they have been elected to office if they are stupid? Would we have voted for them if they were stupid unless we are stupid, ourselves? Would they have earned their law degrees if they were stupid? It's not likely, is it?

Really, we the people have no choice but to think that our leaders in Washington are pretty smart.

But it isn't just that they are

smart but irresponsible. That alone just wouldn't make sense. So what is it that leads politicians to deal with the nation's wealth in such a reckless manner?

I'm not sure I have it figured out, but it has to have something to do with what is known as the Washington culture, part of which is a disconnect from the people and being insulated from the average citizen by their position of power and privilege.

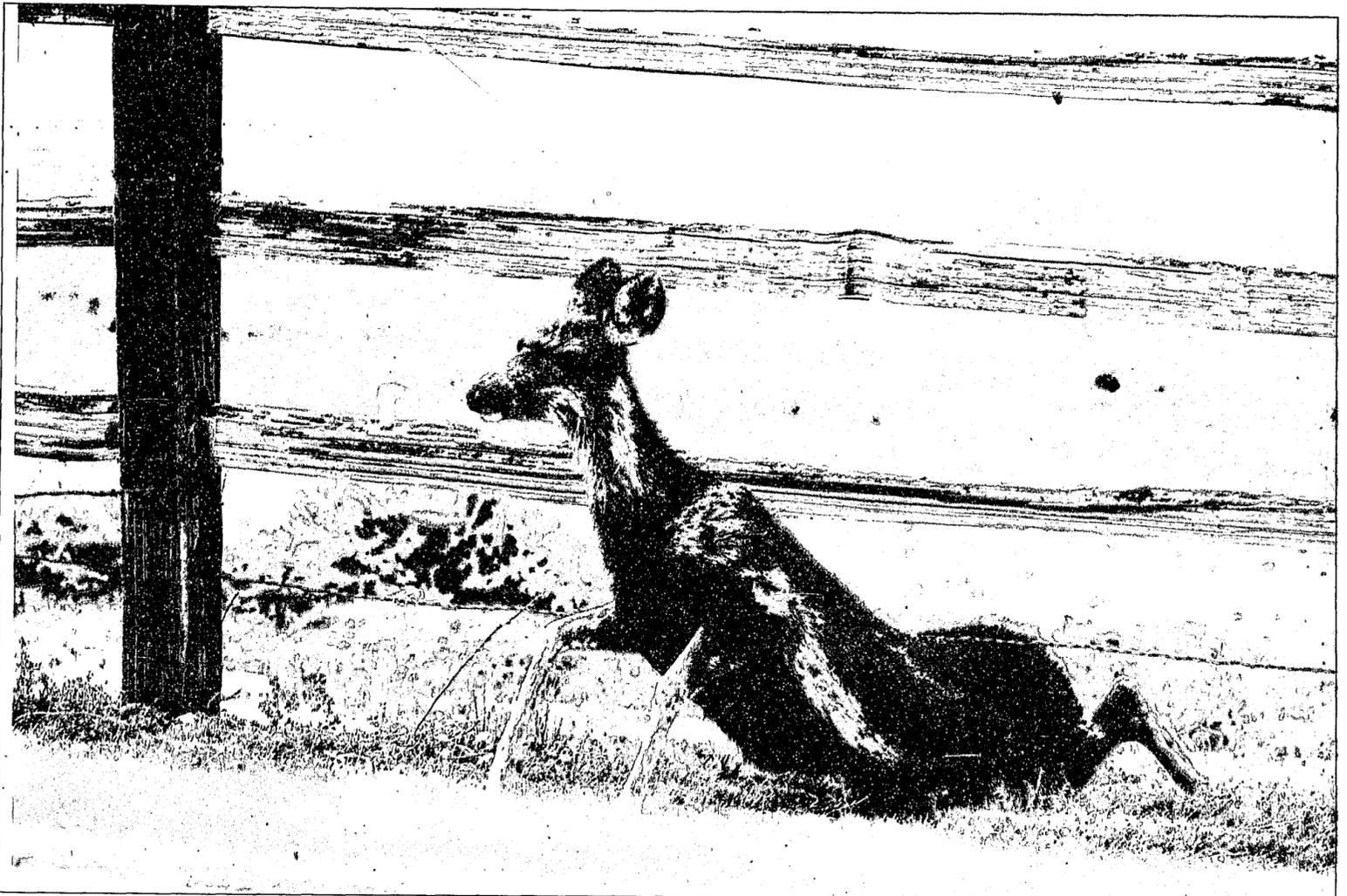
Getting no help from the government is the reason people need to band together and demand to be heard. That is the purpose of the Tea Party Movement. It is the tea partiers that understand the implications of out-of-control government spending.

And it is time that the rest of the citizenry becomes aware of the enormous growth rate of the national debt.

For a comprehensive education on the subject and live updates on all the government red ink, go to www.usdebtclock.org.

Eric Erich
Nogal

www.ruidosonews.com/letters



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

Showing just how elastic a backbone can be on a 250 pound ungulate, a mule deer decides to take a lower route, slinking under a wooden fence and a strand of barbed wire to reach his intended destination.

Shots from the natural world



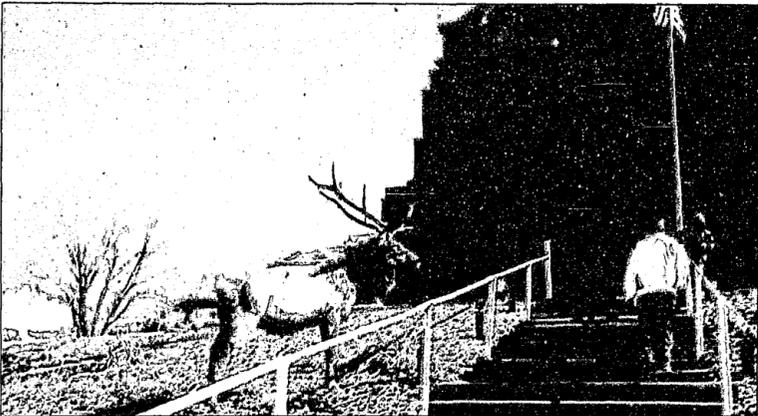
COURTESY

A homeowner in Unit II of Ranches of Sonterra snapped this shot of a bobcat in his driveway after a recent snow.



COURTESY DAN BROOKS

El Paso resident Dan Brooks snapped an American bald eagle resting in a tree at Grindstone Reservoir last week. The perch is a traditional favorite for eagles cruising for a tasty fish meal from the lake waters.



COURTESY

A bull elk seems to be trying to decide if he wants to attend Mass at St. Joseph's Apache Mission with parishioners walking up the steps to the historic structure on the Mescalero Apache Reservation.



COURTESY CAROLINE MCCOY

A herd of elk romps across the rolling hills in Nogal at the end of February.

EDUCATION

RMS named in funding report

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

"Commissioned at the start of this school year, the new Ruidoso Middle School was one of nine new schools that received some funding from the New Mexico Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) last year.

According to the council's 2009 annual report, 25 other schools received funding for major renovations, additions or new roofs.

A couple of indexes are used to rank school facility needs in New Mexico. But there will be no funding awards for new projects this year because of the state's revenue forecasts.

"The main reason PSCOC is making no awards to new projects in 2010 is because funding availability is just enough to keep up with phases of funding for projects from prior years," said David Abbey, the chair of the PSCOC Awards Subcom-

mittee and the director of the Legislative Finance Committee.

The vice-chair of the PSCOC, Paula Tackett, said there are challenges.

"New Mexico schools still have about \$3.8 billion in facilities needs, and the PACOC has \$286 million in funding commitments to existing project, while state revenue forecasts are uncertain."

Projects at the top of the list that have received funding will hold their place in the queue as funding becomes available. Abbey said however that may mean delays.

New Mexico's system of funding capital improvements at public schools was modified during the last decade after a lawsuit filed by the Zuni, Grants and Gallup school districts alleged the system violated New Mexico's Constitution which provides for a uniform system of free public schools.

The court agreed and a

Blue Ribbon Commission was formed to review the process and develop options. The commission recommended funding in excess of \$550 million for immediate maintenance and repairs to correct serious health, safety and code violations in public schools using supplemental severance tax bonds.

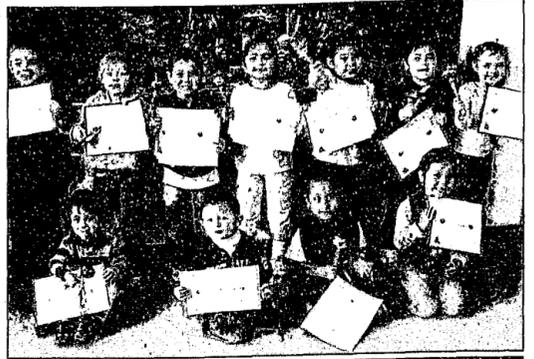
Legislation was also approved that allowed all school districts, regardless of bonded indebtedness, to apply for and receive capital outlay funding under a system of funding priorities using standards adopted by the PSCOC.

"Since the Zuni Lawsuit we've worked together to rebuild the entire process," said Tackett. "It's taken time, but we've created a model program in public school capital funding, and I give the legislature, the governor, and school districts a tremendous amount of credit for collaborating and hanging in there."

BUZZY BEES

Nob Hill Early Childhood Center Buzzy Bees are, top photo, **Head Start:** Back row: Jaxon Erickson, Brooke Yarbrough, Daniel Hernandez, Silvia Rodriguez, Shenae Chino, Javier Marrufo, Guilana McCallister. Front row: Ryan Friberg, Yoan Magana, Javez Lara, Camila Pelcastre.

Kindergarten Buzzy Bees are: Back row: Chloe Bruce, AnAhi Herrera, Damien Gallardo, JaiKayo Brown, Andrea Martinez, MaKenzie Bullion, Jayden House, James Padilla, Wyatt Griffin. Middle row: Leilani Romero, Steven Norvell, Karyme Guitierrez, Alejandro Mendoza, Zachary Rich, Lathan Sanchez, Ray-Louie Cervantes, Hanna Fielder, Harley Rushing. Front row: Zoe Guitierrez, Adrian Kinsey, Alexis Garza, Ashaureah Pablo, Gwen Garcia, Reagan Jameson, Matea Muniz-Carazone, Haleigh Kelley.



EDUCATION BRIEFS

SVP reading night

Ruidoso's Sierra Vista Primary school will hold a Family Reading Night for first and second grades later this month.

The first grade event will be March 23, and the second grade reading evening will be March 25. Both will begin at 5 p.m. and conclude at 6:30 p.m.

Parents can come to the school's library, read with their child, and then take an Accelerated Reading test. That will provide parents with an opportunity to see what Accelerated Reading is all about and spend some quality time reading with their child.

Sierra Vista Primary hopes to give a book to every child that attends.

Coat drive

For the past eight years, the Spencer Guild has made Head Start its primary community outreach project through contributions to the warm clothing drive.

This year the Spencer Guild donated more than \$2,800 in cash and clothing to the drive.

The guild is recognized as "volunteer of the year" by the Lincoln County Head Start program.

Head Start is a federal program that promotes school readiness by

enhancing the social and cognitive development for low-income children and families. Melina Romero is the Head Start director.

Nancy Tarwater is the chair of the warm clothing project for the Spencer Guild.

The guild is an organization that supports the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts through gifts to the theater, the Angel program, and the events the guild sponsors for the ushers, employees, performers, directors and children's theater participants at the Spencer.

Membership is open to all ladies interested in supporting the theater.

Carnegie Hall

The Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso Community Choir and the Ruidoso High School Choir have been invited to perform the Haydn's Paukenmesse ("Mass in Time of War") at Carnegie Hall on the weekend of March 26-27, 2011, as a part of Mid America Production's winter 2011 Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center concert season.

Dr. Jason Paulk from ENMU-Portales will be leading a choir made up of 150-175 of the most talented performers from throughout the United States and Canada. The

performance will feature a full professional orchestra and professional soloists.

Local music director, Danny Flores will sponsor the Ruidoso musicians and their spouses for the trip to New York.

The trip includes five days and four nights lodging at the four-star Grand Hyatt; however, both the Portales and Ruidoso groups plan on adding a couple more days to the trip in order to attend a few more Broadway theater shows.

Interested performers and/or their spouses or friends need to contact Danny Flores at 258-3253 (home) or 937-3423 (cell) at their earliest convenience for additional information.

There is a \$200 non-refundable deposit due before April 20, 2010 for those planning to take part in this fantastic opportunity.

RHS class reunion

A reunion committee has been formed to plan a reunion for Ruidoso High School classes from 1948 to 1972.

These reunions are held about every three years.

The festivities will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday, July 16, with registration and visitation at the First Christian Church, 1211 Hull Rd. in Ruidoso.

Other activities are planned for Saturday, July 17.

The committee is seeking help from students who attended the high school during those years in the form of updated addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

Committee members are: Reed and Paula

Stirman, 257-7804 (paulas@valornet.com); Jeanene and Ronnie Perry, 257-7986; Helen Woodfin, 258-5689 (helenandwoody@aol.com); Judy Willingham, 258-5089; Teri Trotter, 258-4615; Max Jones, 258-3989 (j.mkesler60@yahoo.com); and Betty Eford, 378-8072 (RHSreunion2010@hotmail.com).

Regents meeting

The meeting is at the ENMU-Ruidoso Campus, March 12, at 1 p.m.

Agenda items include:

- Report from the president of the Board;
- Report from the president of the ENMU System;
- Report from the ENMU-Roswell president;
- Report from the ENMU-Ruidoso president;
- Election of officers (Regent Pauline Ponce, action)
- Board committee Appointments (Regent Pauline Ponce, information only)
- Annual authorization of officers authorizing signature authority (Dr. Steven Gamble, action);
- Review 2010 calendar of meetings (Dr. Steven Gamble, information only);
- Administrator Emeritus Status for Dr. Dwight Rogers (Dr. John Madden, action);
- 2010 Presidential Goals (Dr. Steven Gamble, information only)
- Audited financial statements for FY 2008-09 (Mr. Scott Smart, action);
- Professional Development Training for ENMU-Ruidoso (Dr. Martin Ahumada, information only)
- Executive session: Discuss three personnel matters.

Festival for RHS Band

TESSA TALEMA
For the Ruidoso News

Wednesday, Feb. 24, the Ruidoso High School Band competed in Capitan for the Large Group Festival and did very well.

They prepared three pieces of music which they performed in front of two judges.

They received a "one" from the first judge and a "two" from the second (the lower the number, the better).

After the band per-

formed, they were given a random piece of music to learn within seven minutes and then perform in front of the judges, also known as sight reading.

This is difficult because although they are given seven minutes to learn the piece, they are not allowed to actually play their instruments.

The band can only "air band" or practice without making noise.

They received a "one" on sight reading. Good job, RHS Band!

Ruidoso enrollment slips

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Overall enrollment in the Ruidoso Municipal School District has slipped compared to last year.

The 140-day count, taken on March 3, showed 2,210 students attended the district's schools, from pre-kindergarten through the 12th grade.

A year ago on the same date the count had been 2,267. The decline represents a 2.5 percent reduction.

Nine of the grade levels in the district had a decline in students, according to the most recent count.

The biggest drop was the eighth grade class, where an enrollment summary showed 146 students

currently.

A year ago it had been 182. But on the other hand, the seventh grade has 184 students, compared with 155 a year ago.

The high school's sophomore class recorded 157 students.

That is a reduction of 23 from March 3, 2009.

The second grade registered a drop of 22 students with the current level at 186.

Most of the other grade levels in the district were closer to the year ago numbers.

Student enrollments are a factor in state funding.

The enrollment summary was presented to the school district's education board in the March 9 meeting.



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Planners approve setback variance in Upper Canyon

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

An old debate about over-development on lots surfaced last week during consideration of an application for setback variances on property in Upper Canyon.

Irene Walsh, the owner of the lot on Main Road, asked for a reduction in the required side, rear and front setbacks from the property line to enlarge her 912-square-foot home to 2,200 square feet.

Glen Barrow, chairman of the Ruidoso Planning and Zoning Commission, said that size of house "seems like a pretty massive over-development of a lot for that area of Upper Canyon."

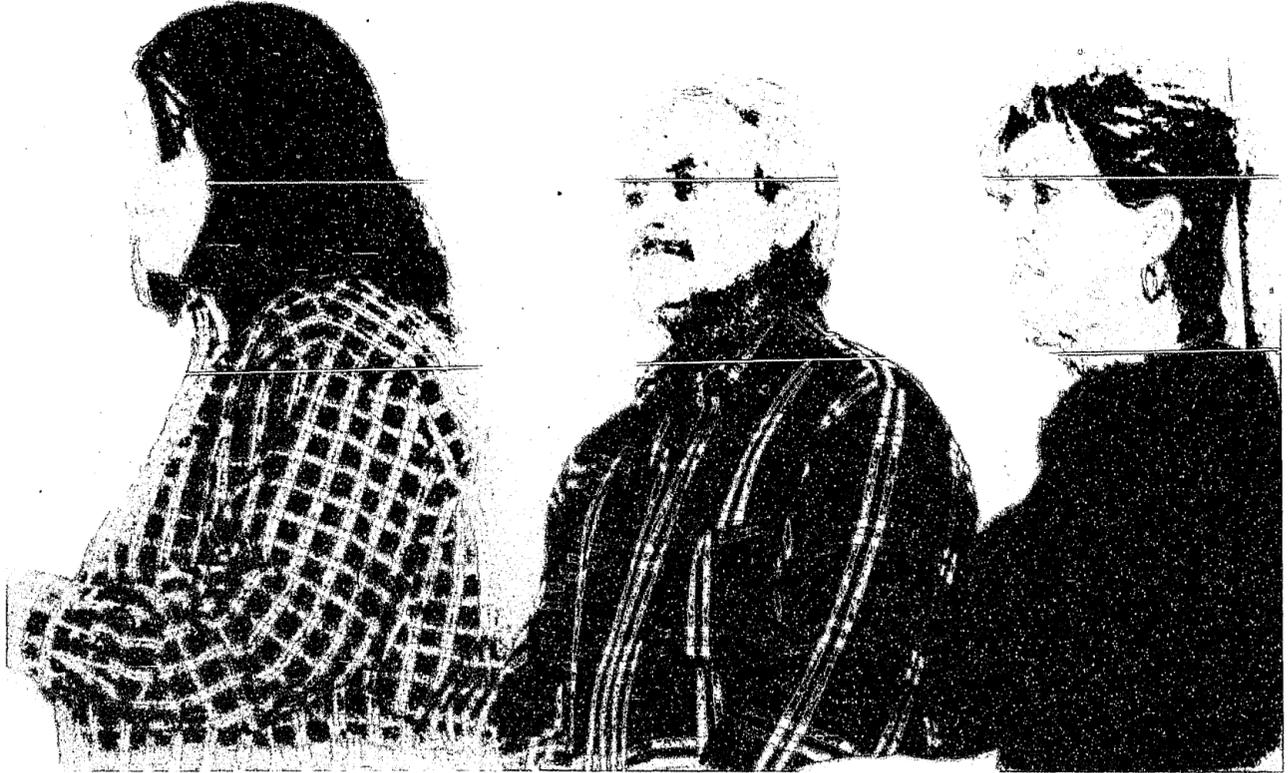
Deputy Village Manager Bill Morris said many of the small lots were broken off years ago for summer cabins to be built, but that Walsh would now like to move to Ruidoso and wants a home for full-time use.

For sale?

Commissioner Ray Alborn said he saw a "for sale" sign and asked Walsh if she intends to sell the property. She replied that she previously wanted to sell, but changed her mind and now wants to live here on that 0.087 acre lot at 307 B Main Road. She asked for a 14.5-foot variance from the 25-foot front line setback, 7.5 feet from one 10-foot sideline and 6.9 feet from the other.

Construction would include a carport.

"I realize it is a small lot," she told commissioners. "That's why I am going



Neighborhood resident Tirzah Conway, builder David Weems and homeowner Irene Walsh line up to speak at last week's Planning and Zoning meeting.

DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

to go up." The "for sale" sign Alborn saw is for the house behind her, she said.

In offering a motion for approval, Commissioner Don Dutton specified that it was contingent on complying with a plan from the village Forestry Department on needed planting to maintain the required basal ratio of trees.

Only a few trees remain on the lot and one boxelder has to be removed to make room for the larger home.

Neighbors said they like Walsh's plans. Kemp Christian of Dandee Cabins said it's a good project and meets the three basic conditions for approving a variance.

The lot is substandard and pie-shaped. By denying the request, the owner would be deprived of the proper use of the land and the plans are in harmony with the neighborhood.

"Every time, a better home is provided, it in-

creases property values of the neighbors," he said. "I also like that they will be doing the major building in April and May," which is a slower period of tourist activity in Upper Canyon.

His views were echoed by the owner of Noisy Water Lodge, who called the house "a quality project," and said many of the other old cabins could use a facelift.

Barrow asked when the substandard lot was creat-

ed and noted the other lots around it are larger.

Village Attorney Dan Bryant said village rules specify that an applicant for a variance cannot be responsible for the circumstances under which a substandard lot is created, but variances can be considered for someone who purchases an already existing substandard lot.

Dutton checked to ensure Walsh was not responsible and entered into the

record that the lot was substandard and the project would not detract from the neighborhood.

The motion to approve passed, 3-2. Commissioner Beth Hood voted with Barrow against the motion.

Hood previously asked about the height of the house, which builder David Weems said would be about 35 feet in one story and an attic bedroom.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

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- Speech and Language Assessment
- Introduction to Dance
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- Survey of American History to 1877
- Survey of American History since 1877
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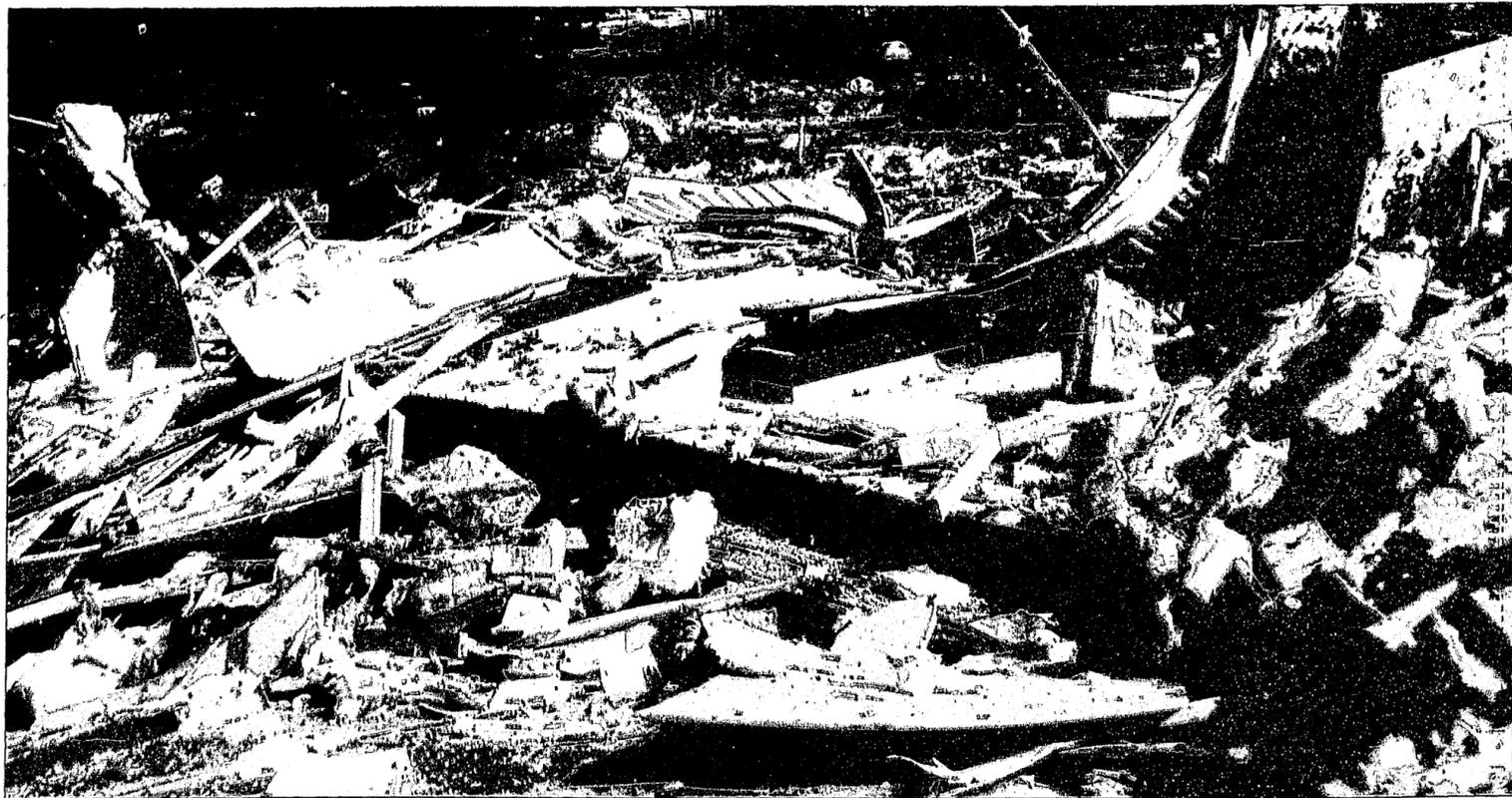
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COURTESY MARK STAMBAUGH/BONITO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Little was left standing after a blast ripped apart a home in Villa Madonna Saturday. An investigation centers on a possible propane leak.

Two survive explosion with minor injuries; home is levelled

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Two people escaped serious injury Saturday when their home in the small hamlet of Villa Madonna exploded.

The blast, which leveled the residence on Bear Avenue, occurred about 9:15 a.m. The sound of the explosion could be heard for miles.

Owners Doug and Marvellee Kissling were in the home at the time.

"It's a miracle," Marvellee Kissling said Tuesday of walking away from the flat-

tened residence. "I couldn't believe we survived."

"Doug was thrown from the house. We don't know if he went through the roof or out one of the walls, which were all blasted out. He landed on all fours. Doug is pretty cut up and bruised. They thought there could have been internal injuries, but there's not."

She said she was in the bathroom when the explosion happened.

"The bathroom doors were closed. They think that's what saved me."

She crawled out with some scratches.

Both were taken to the Lincoln County Medical Center.

The Bonito Volunteer Fire Department and other emergency responders were sent to the scene.

"Neighbors thought it was a sonic boom, but it was a house explosion," said Bonito Volunteer Fire Department spokesperson Kathryn Minter.

"The house was totally destroyed."

The explosion, however, did not turn into a fire.

A neighboring cabin was damaged and three other homes had windows blown

out. "It kind of woke us up a little bit," said neighbor Fred Knapp. "It was a frightful thing. You don't know how lucky they were. Doug and Marvellee were very fortunate. He got hurt a little bit flying through the air and landing in the snow. Marvellee was inside and she crawled out."

The blast was believed to be a liquid propane gas explosion, said Marvellee Kissling.

An LP gas investigator was expected to arrive today or Thursday to look at whether a gas leak

might have triggered the blast.

The couple plans to construct a new home at the same location.

"We're going to have a prayer circle before we start the clean up," said Kissling. "Thank God it came out the way it did. You can always rebuild a home."

"And thanks to the good community here, everybody has just been great with the outpouring of help and love."

Villa Madonna is situated along Forest Service Road 117, also known as

Monjeau Lookout Road, about four miles northwest of Sun Valley. The community, at an elevation of 8,600 feet, is surrounded by the Lincoln National Forest.

In addition to seven fire department volunteers, two Lincoln County Sheriff's Department deputies and the county's emergency services coordinator responded to the explosion. The Sierra Blanca Disaster Relief Team was on hand to supply drinks and snacks to responders and to offer their services to the victims.

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NEW BLADES

LINCOLN COUNTY Road Department heavy equipment drivers Matthew Zamora, left, and Ramon Lueras stand next to two 2009 one-ton diesel snowplows with remote controlled salt spreaders. County Manager Tom Stewart said they arrived in Lincoln County just in time for 60-degree weather. "But we have them when we get hit again." Stewart said the two cost a total of \$82,282 and came from Colorado through Rich Ford in Albuquerque a couple of weeks ago, "when we were up to our eyeballs in repetitive snow storms."

COURTESY

Village council tentatively OKs environmental planning grant

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

With some hesitation, five of Ruidoso's six councilors voted to give tentative approval for a \$150,000 grant application for the development of an environmental planning document covering the upper reaches of the Rio Ruidoso.

In offering the motion to approve the Collaborative Forest Restoration Grant at the final meeting of the previous council, Councilor Jim Stoddard added the caveat that the council will have an opportunity to reconsider before the final commitment of the village's \$30,000 contribution to-

ward the grant.

Councilor Ron Harde-man tacked on an amend-ment that the contribution also was contingent on the village receiving credit for the \$120,000 project from the court-appointed Rio Ruidoso Restoration Com-mittee overseeing the \$1 million mandated to be spent on improving the health of the river.

Improvement in water quality was part of a settle-ment of a lawsuit brought by landowners and the WildEarth Guardians, be-cause the river receives the discharge from a regional wastewater treatment plant.

Councilor Greg Cory voted against the motion,

saying the study never was brought up before in dis-cussions about goals and he didn't like being rushed because of an application deadline.

Asking for the village's financial participation was former village forestry director Rick Delaco, now Southcentral Mountain Re-source and Conservation Development coordinator. He explained the grant offered through the Nat-ural Resource Conser-vation Service aims to pro-tect the upper reaches of the watershed and would develop specific action steps for maintaining the area, which is owned by the Mescalero Apache Tribe and feeds the river.

Delaco said the first goal is to thin trees and prevent a catastrophic fire, which would decrease vegetation and cause more runoff in heavy summer rains that could wash down sediment and damage the river.

"You will have owner-ship in one of the most com-prehensive planning docu-ments on this mountain," he told councilors. The Mescalero Tribe will be part of the project and give permission for the people putting together the plan to be on reservation land, he said.

"This area has never been treated before, be-cause it is so steep," Delaco said. "Utilization is one ele-ment of the plan." The

Mescalero forestry plan does not deal with the upper forks of the river. If a severe fire occurred and was followed by even an average rain, another huge flood similar to 2008 could recur, he warned.

Staff of Parametrix of New Mexico is working on the river for the village cur-rently and could handle the assignment extension, he said. The representative told councilors the cost of cleaning up after a disaster would be much higher than being proactive and pre-venting or reducing the risk of a potential disaster.

Village Public Works Director Randall Camp said the study is on target and should be done as a

water supply security issue. A catastrophic event could render the river "dead" for years with siltation, he said.

"It's our resource," Camp said. "Our livelihood depends on the river."

The document once finished could be used to leverage additional money to protect the water supply, he said.

When Stoddard ques-tioned why the Mescalero are not kicking in some dol-lars, the Parametrix official said the tribe would partic-ipate with an in-kind effort by handling the needed dis-aster prevention treatment work on the land.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

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BILL

FROM PAGE 1A

Revenue by the end of September 2010," Stewart wrote. "This being the case, and understanding that the ordinance and resolution calling for the election must be completed 75 days prior to the election (potentially end of June 2010), could you please advise as to when the tax and revenue model ordinance, that must be adopted verbatim, will be complete?"

Stewart said he needs both the language for the required ordinance and resolution setting the election date and the ballot question's language.

A special election would cost the county \$25,000, according to Stewart.

Including the question in the Nov. 2 general election would make July 1, 2011, the soonest the tax could go into effect.

The maximum allowed rate would be one-fourth of one percent, in increments of one-sixteenth of a percent.

The gaming tax credit through the new gross receipts tax was the regular legislative session's second effort at reducing the gaming tax for the racino owned by RD Hubbard. A first attempt that would have had state coffers provide a tax break failed.

The act allows the credit to be sought by racetracks in New Mexico that have a net win (wagering minus winnings) of less than \$15 million. Currently only the Ruidoso Downs racino would fit that that requirement, according to a fiscal

impact report prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee.

Officials with the Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino have threatened to move to the Las Cruces area without "tax parity" with nearby tribal casinos.

The gaming tax credit would be limited to \$750,000 a year. If the new gross receipts tax revenues fail to produce \$750,000, the credit would accordingly be reduced.

If the tax produced more than \$750,000 in a year, the excess revenues could be used by the county for a public post-secondary educational institution in the county, promotion or administration of the county, or economic development planning.

The tax would end in five years, or earlier if county commission so votes.

A cosponsor of the measure, Rep. Zach Cook (R-Ruidoso), had said imposing the tax would be decided locally.

"They (the voters) would say if they want to."

The successful legislation had seen massive lobbying during the second half of the 30-day legislative session that wrapped up Feb. 18.

The measure's fiscal impact report estimated that imposing the minimum tax rates of one-sixteenth or one-eighth of one percent would not generate enough revenue for the Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino to take full advantage of the credit. The other two options would be a three-sixteenth or one-quarter of one percent gross receipts tax.



Gary Joe Lovelace at his booking.

COURTESY LINCOLN COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

CHIEF

FROM PAGE 1A

Weiser with a reported domestic dispute at a property on Water Canyon Road at the east boundary of the town. Lovelace was the reported assailant and his wife, the victim.

Deputy Romo left the residence to look for Lovelace and located him driving a loader on 17th Street near the railroad tracks.

The probable cause statement says when Lovelace stopped, Romo asked him for his driver's license since he did not personally know him.

Lovelace pulled out his license and started to hand it to Romo, but yanked it back suddenly and reportedly said, "I don't have to show you this, I'm going to the house."

He got back in the loader and drove around the officer's cruiser and left. Romo followed the

loader back to the Water Canyon residence where Chief Weiser was with the victim and a minor female, standing near the residence. Weiser told Romo she intended to arrest Lovelace for battery on a household member and approached the loader requesting Lovelace to get down from the cab so she could talk to him.

With the loader still running, allegedly Lovelace repeatedly refused Weiser's requests, but eventually got down and stood next to the loader.

Weiser told Lovelace about the victim's injuries. Lovelace denied having assaulted her. When Weiser told Lovelace he was under arrest, he stretched out his left hand to surrender to her.

According to court document, when Chief Weiser took his wrist and pulled out her handcuffs to secure him, Lovelace abruptly pulled away, turned and started climbing back in the loader.

Deputy Romo grabbed him from behind and prevented him from climbing further. In an attempt to assist Romo, Chief Weiser stepped up onto the steps of the loader.

Lovelace allegedly turn-

ed and kicked Weiser in the face with his left foot, causing her to fall to the ground.

When Deputy Romo turned to see what had happened to Weiser, whom he believed was unconscious at the time, Lovelace pulled out of his grasp, got into the cab of the loader and drove away.

Romo ran to his cruiser and radioed dispatch to report "an officer down" and requesting EMS. The victim and her daughter came to assist Weiser while Romo pursued the loader in his patrol unit. Lovelace drove the loader around to his Carrizozo Ready Mix office and went inside, locking the door behind him.

According to the court report, moments later Undersheriff Robert Shepperd arrived and learned from the victim that there were guns in the office where Lovelace was barricaded.

Shepperd began to try to talk to Lovelace to de-escalate the situation and asked Lovelace to keep his hands in plain view while they talked. Reportedly, Lovelace complied.

After a short time, Lovelace's ex-wife, Kelly Lovelace, arrived on the scene, and according to

Shepperd's report in the probable cause, "before he could stop them, both Kelly Lovelace and the minor female entered the office and the door was locked behind them."

Sheriff arrives

At this point, Sheriff Rick Virden arrived on the scene and attempted to talk to Gary Joe Lovelace. When he refused to surrender, Virden and Undersheriff Shepperd forced the door open and rushed him.

Shepperd reported that when the door was forced open, Kelly Lovelace and the minor female began to wrestle with Gary Joe Lovelace, unsuccessfully trying to keep him from picking up a .30-caliber Winchester model 94 rifle.

When the alleged assailant was rushed by Virden and Shepperd and other deputies, he allegedly attempted to resist while in possession of the firearm.

The officers were able to restrain Gary Joe Lovelace and Shepperd took the rifle away from him.

The rifle was loaded with four rounds including one in the firing chamber, but the hammer on the rifle was not cocked.

Gary Joe Lovelace was handcuffed and taken to LCDC.

Chief Weiser was transported to the Lincoln County Medical Center for treatment for her facial injuries. X-rays indicated there were no cracks or breaks to the bones; however, she suffered from deep bruising and facial trauma.

Weiser remained hospitalized overnight and returned home the following day to complete her recovery. She is expected to return to work this week.

The Gary Mitchell Law Firm has filed an entry of appearance in the criminal case and a preliminary hearing has been set for March 19 in Carrizozo Magistrate Court.

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Benefitting New Mexico's Future

OATHS

FROM PAGE 1A

Downs is, after all, our sister city and we somehow have to solve that problem."

Nunley said he would like to see Ruidoso become a Branson, Mo.

"I said a long time ago that I thought music was our future. And I still feel that way. We have the Flying J, we got Mountain Annies, we got Dream Catchers, we got the race-track, we got the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Music can be our future if we develop it."

On the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino,

Nunley called the facility the area's heritage and a major employer.

"There are 120 full-time employees down there year-round. After the horsemen come, the jockeys get here, and the grooms and all the other people it takes to run that track. There are 600 full-time jobs. Part-time, peak-time jobs are 300 during holidays. And the Jockey Club employs about 100."

Nunley said everybody needs to give "their best shot" to the track.

"I'm not saying that we need to pass a tax tomorrow. I'm saying we need to look at all of our opportunities."

New mayor Ray Alborn said he was "humbled" to

be front and center at the village council table. And he said some of the talk during his campaign needed to be straightened out.

"The racetrack business. I don't have any doubt that the racetrack is very important to us," said Alborn. "And I know the number of jobs it supplies. So I fully support keeping the racetrack here."

Alborn said he also heard talk painting him as anti-tourism.

"I know how important tourism is to us. We've got some opportunities coming up in the near future that we need to forget all of the petty business and say lets get on board and get to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11A

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PASSING THE GAVEL, LITERALLY



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

Outgoing Ruidoso Mayor L. Ray Nunley, right, prepares to hand over the gavel to new Mayor Ray Alborn at Monday's swearing-in ceremony for mayor and three councilors. Looking on is Councilor Jim Stoddard, who was re-elected last week to a second term. Nunley is retiring after one term as mayor in addition to his lengthy service as village councilor and Lincoln County commissioner. Alborn won last week's municipal election over three challengers: Joan Zagone, James Gibson and Don Williams.



New councilors, elected last week and sworn in Monday by Village Clerk Irma Devine, are Denise Dean and Rafael "Rifle" Salas.



FROM PAGE 10A

work now. Get things done. Get the personalities out of it."

Alborn, who has served on the village's Planning and Zoning Commission, said he also got hit with the label of being anti-growth.

"And that's far from the way it is. I'm very much pro-growth. I do think it needs to be a project that makes sense for our area. We have to make sure we have the infrastructure, and make sure we have the water that's needed for the growth."

Addressing the dam at Grindstone Reservoir, protecting Midtown merchants, finding an alternate way out of the Upper Canyon, and more venues for youth were among the needs Alborn said need to be addressed.

"Let me say what I said when I was running. Anytime give me a call and I'll try to work with you."

In his first action, the new mayor selected Councilor Michele Rebstock to be the mayor pro tem.

New councilor Rafael "Rifle" Salas said he was excited to serve on the governing body. "There was one thing that I did do was talk to my children about all this," he said. "And they just know 'dad you like to have fun.'"

Salas also sits on the Ruidoso Municipal School District Education Board.

The other new councilor, Denise Dean, said she was excited to be elected.

"I met some great people in this campaign, the other candidates who ran," she said. "I see some of them in the audience and I hope that they will get involved and do some things with this council and our government."

Also sworn in to a second four-year term on the council was Jim Stoddard.

"I'm looking forward to working with you," Stoddard told Alborn.

Alborn replied he enjoys Stoddard's "comic relief" at council meetings.

"Trust me, we'll need it," responded Stoddard.

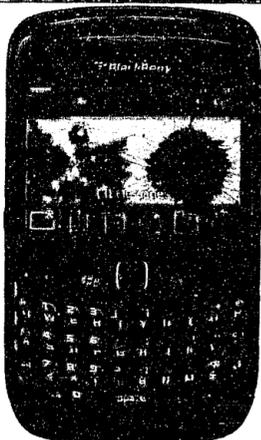
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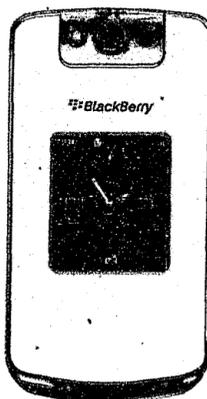
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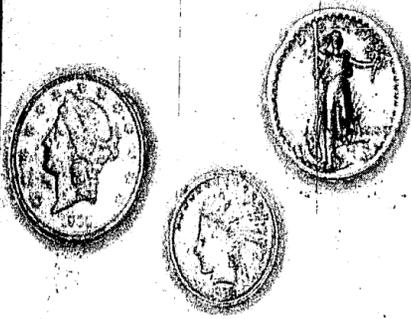
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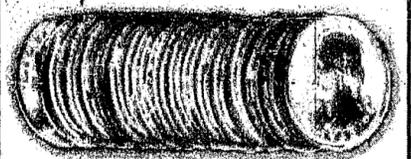
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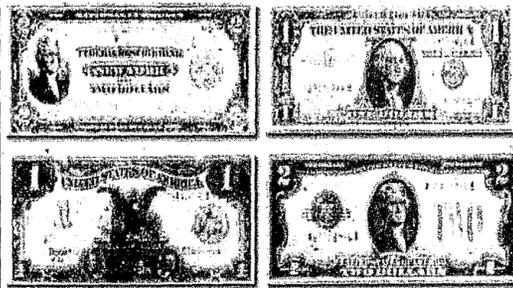
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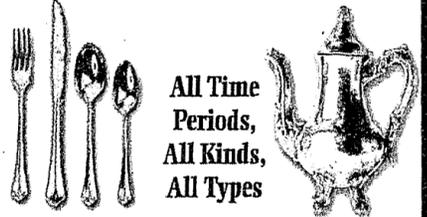
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Earrings	\$10,000	Crossover Rings	\$10,000
Bracelets	\$12,500	Lavallieres	\$7,500
Cameos	\$500	Garnets Jewelry	\$500
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PAGE 1B

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Ski Report

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New snow past 48 hrs.: 6 inches
Season total: 191 inches

Weather for Wednesday: A 10 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Windy, with a west wind between 25 and 30 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph. Wednesday evening, a 10 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24. Breezy, with a west wind between 15 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Weather for Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 40. West wind around 15 mph. Thursday evening, partly cloudy, with a low around 21.

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

Snow surface: Packed powder, machine groomed

Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, East Easy Street, Moonshine Gulch, Lower Moonshine, Lower Deep Freeze, Ramp, SBT, Snow Park, Capitán Lite, Smokey Bear, Upper Deep Freeze, Chino, Meadows, Geronimo, The Ridge, Part of Apache Bowl, Elk Ridge, Bull Run, Game Trail, Screaming Eagle and Wild Onion.

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

Results

Girls Basketball

Tuesday, March 9
Cliff 71, Hondo 30
Friday, March 5
Hondo 55, Mescalero 52
Pojoaque 52, Ruidoso 37
Texaco 54, Capitán 29

Boys Basketball

Saturday, March 6
Hope Christian 81, Ruidoso 33
Tatum 63, Hondo 37

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.

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.

Chee Family Fundraiser

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

Ski Apache Events

March 10: Wednesday, Adaptive Ski Program Race, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Easy Street.
March 17: Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day Fun Event-Food, Events, Race, All Day. For info, call 464-3600.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Deandra Balatche (No. 30) shoots in traffic.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Hondo Lady Eagles celebrate Friday after beating Mescalero, 55-52.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Lady Chiefs get an escort from Mescalero Fire and Rescue coming down I-70 on their way to Hondo.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Selena Chavez hits for two.

Hondo girls overcome Mescalero

Lady Eagles win Round 1 of state play in nip-and-tuck affair at home

MIKE CURRAN
mcurrar@ruidosonews.com

The beginning minutes of play in the first round of state 1A competition Friday at Hondo had the Lady Eagles leading Mescalero 8-1 and it looked as if the home team was on a roll to victory.

The next 30 minutes of action proved otherwise, as the Hondo girls were forced

to earn a 55-52 win the hard way — overcoming adversity and losing the lead before grabbing a hard-fought 3-point victory.

Some might say the Hondo girls squandered their early 7-point lead but that would dismiss the efforts of the tough, well-conditioned squad of Mescalero girls.

Both teams are well-coached by Eagles' head

coach Brad Holland and Steve Baker, his Mescalero counterpart.

Holland knew beforehand his opponents would be in tip-top shape for the game.

Baker is known for having his girls "in the pink" and ready for action.

After battling back from their early deficit the Lady Chiefs finally seized an 11-10 advantage with one minute to go in the first quarter and increased that edge to 15-12 as the initial period ended.

When both sides went to the locker rooms at the



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Diona Chavez fights through a swarm of Lady Eagles.

See HONDO, page 2B

Ruidoso Futurities payment due March 15

TY WYANT
For the Ruidoso News

Connections of horses eligible to either the 2010 or 2011 All American Triple Crown consisting of the Grade 1 All American, Rainbow and Ruidoso Futurities must make a payment on March 15 to remain eligible for the rich futurities.

Those horses will also remain eligible to their corresponding Grade 1 derbies — the All American Derby, Rainbow Derby and Ruidoso Derby.

The 2010 All American Derby is projected to have a record \$1,500,000 purse

and the 2011 All American Derby is estimated to boast a purse between \$1.3 million and \$1.5 million. This year's Rainbow Derby is expected to exceed \$800,000 and this summer's Ruidoso Derby is projected to have a purse of more than \$600,000.

For 2-year olds of 2010, the sustaining payment due March 15 is \$550 for the All American Futurity, \$500 for the Rainbow Futurity and \$450 for the Ruidoso Futurity.

For 2-year olds of 2011, a sustaining payment of \$250 is due on March 15 to remain eligible for the 2011 runnings of the three

Grade 1 futurities. A foal of 2009, current yearlings, may gain eligibility by paying a \$1,400 supplemental fee by March 15.

The All American Futurity is quarter horse racing's richest event with a 2010 projected total purse of \$2,050,000 and \$1 million guaranteed to the winner. The 2011 All American Futurity is estimated to have a record-setting \$2,400,000 total purse with the winner guaranteed a record \$1,200,000, the highest in the history of quarter horse racing.

For further information, including making payments, call 378-4431.



FILE PHOTO

Running Brook Gal wins the 51st All American Futurity.

Three NMSU players earn all-WAC recognition

JASON GROVES
Las Cruces Sun-News

LAS CRUCES — Some said the New Mexico State men's basketball team had the most talent of any roster in the Western Athletic Conference.

On Sunday, league coaches proved that.

Three Aggies earned all-WAC recognition on Sunday.

NMSU junior Jahmar

Young, senior guard Jonathan Gibson and junior forward Wendell McKines were noticed by WAC coaches.

Young finished the regular season averaging 20 points, four rebounds and three assists per game, landing on the first team for the second straight year.

"This year, it took more dedication to myself to repeat the same thing and

I appreciate that the coaches noticed," Young said. "I appreciate it a lot."

Young finished third in scoring in the WAC behind fellow first-teamer Adrian Oliver (San Jose State) and WAC Player of the Year Luke Babbitt (Nevada).

"When you see an individual that shines as well as (Babbitt) does when the other teams keyed on him and he still excelled, you have to give him credit,"

Young said.

Utah State's Tai Wesley and Jared Quayle round out the first team.

Young increased his scoring output from 17.9 points per game last year.

Last year's production caused teams to prepare for him this year.

"You just have to kind of pick your spots," he said. "Some games, you get more attention based on the schemes that they are

playing.

"I wasn't in it for the points and the glory."

Young said Gibson was a first-team caliber player, but the Aggies' lone senior scholarship player landed on the second team with Fresno State's Paul George, Louisiana Tech's Kyle Gibson and Magnum Rolle and Nevada's Armon Johnson.

See NMSU, page 2B

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FREE THROW COMPETITION



Four local champions from the Knights of Columbus Father Eugene Dolan Council #6597 (St. Eleanor Catholic Church) went to Alamogordo on Feb. 20, to battle other champions in the District 11 Free Throw Competition. Area participants are, l-r, Charles Imperato (11 years old), Lane Orosco (13), Tristan Bowden (12) and Jake LaMay (14).



The competition was fierce with only one prevailing local champion winning in the District 11 competition. Tristan Bowden (12 years old) will be going to St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque to compete against 15 other district winners for the State Championship on March 20, beginning at 12 p.m.

HONDO

FROM PAGE 1B

half, Mescalero had built a 30-22 position in the high-stakes contest.

It looked as though the Lady Chiefs' well-known penchant for being in shape was winning the day.

To believe that though would have been discounting the Lady Eagles' stamina and ability to stay with Mescalero up and down the hardwood.

The third quarter saw Hondo outscore Mescalero 15 to 12 and go into the final period of play only down 42-37.

With 4:30 left in the game, Mescalero led 45-41. At the 1:04 mark the Lady Eagles cut that lead down to 52-51.

As the clock showed 50 seconds remaining in the contest the Hondo girls

inched ahead 53-52 and added an unanswered bucket to take a 3-point win and the right to advance to state play.

"We lost focus at the end and that has to do with our youth," Baker said.

"Our goal every year is to make the state playoffs and we accomplished that this season.

"Brad has done an excellent job with his girls this season and they have a good team.

"When my players were warming up before the game I knew it was going to be a dogfight.

"I wish the Lady Eagles well."

As of this report, Hondo (seeded, No. 8) will have played Cliff (No. 1) Tuesday at the Santa Ana Star Center in Albuquerque at 2:30 p.m.

In Friday's action, Hondo's Felicia Chavez and Alicia Nieto each hit double-digits with 18 apiece.



Alicia Nieto scored 18 points against Mescalero.

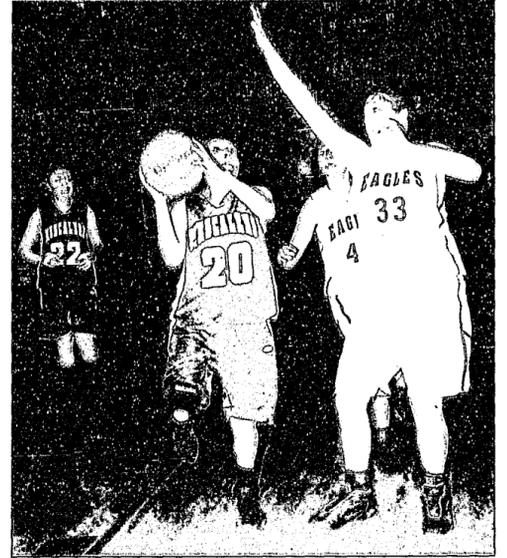
For the Lady Chiefs, Valerie Garcia pumped in 12 and M'Linn Hanks just missed the two-digit mark with nine.

Mescalero finished their season with a 16-10 (5-3) record and that includes playing the likes of 2A

schools such as Capitan and Tularosa.

There are no seniors listed on Mescalero's roster so the 2010-11 version of the Lady Chiefs basketball squad should be very competitive.

The Lady Eagles will



Corrie Randall tries to score against Hondo's Selena Chavez.

only lose Nieto and Esther Gonzales to graduation so next year's first round of state play could very well again come down to the same two teams.

Update:

The Hondo Lady Eagles lost to Cliff in state play, 71-30, at the Santa Ana Star Center in Albuquerque Tuesday afternoon.

NMSU

FROM PAGE 1B

"They (Young and Gibson) have been steady for us all year long," Aggies coach Marvin Menzies said.

"They have basically been the backbone from

the beginning of the season so they are deserving of the accolades."

McKines received honorable mention honors after averaging 10.6 points and 9.9 rebounds in just 20 games.

"I think it's big for Wendell because it sets the table going forward into next year," Menzies said.

"It gets him some motivation to do things right and prepare for a great senior year."

On the women's side, NMSU senior guard Crystal Boyd was named to the second team after leading the Aggies with 15 points and 7.6 rebounds per game.

Freshman Camila Ro-

sen was named to the all-newcomer team.

"I think that it says a lot about the season that she had, making a name for herself in one season," Aggies coach Darin Spence said.

Boyd was only available for this season after transferring from the University of Texas, where she never

played due to injury.

There is hope that Boyd will receive another year from the NCAA later this month.

It would not only help the Aggies, but it would give Boyd another year to develop as a player on and off the court.

"I think the biggest areas she could improve

are just game experience and leadership," Spence said.

"This is her first full season in her collegiate career.

"For most kids, the biggest jump is from the freshman to the sophomore season and this was basically her freshman year."

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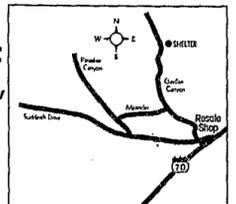
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Ryan is a beautiful merle colored Australian Shepherd. He is sweet and affectionate. Ryan does well with other dogs and loves people. He can be a bit reserved when he meets someone new, but he will be crawling in their lap in no time! Ryan weighs about 40 pounds, is neutered and current on all his vaccinations.

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Scotty is a friendly, playful young cat who unfortunately has grown up at the shelter. He has been at the shelter since September, when he was only 6 weeks old. Now he is about 7 months old. Scotty has been well socialized and gets along with all the other cats and kittens. He loves to be held and is such a great cat we are sure he will make an excellent pet. Scotty has been neutered and had all his vaccinations.

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Woody is a beautiful Chow mix, about 7 months old. He is friendly and has a great soft, fluffy coat. Woody is playful and loving. He weighs 40 pounds.

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Conner is a beautiful large white and tan lab mix. He is sweet and does well with other dogs. Conner is a great dog and has good manners. He loves to play with toys and is gentle.

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Dago is a friendly young Heeler mix with beautiful markings. He walks well on a leash and weighs about 33 pounds.

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Topaz is a pretty girl about 4 months old as of 2/20/2010. She is super friendly and has the most beautiful markings. She loves to play with her sister Crystal.

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Dalton is a handsome boy who is around 2 years old and weighs 10 pounds. He is friendly and love to have his head scratched. Dalton is also playful.

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LINCOLN COUNTY

Sworn to duty in Carrizozo



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

A new mayor and two new trustees were sworn into office for the Town of Carrizozo at the front end of the Monday night council meeting. Above center, former Mayor Bob Hemphill, left, hands the keys to the Town Hall to the newly elected Mayor Mike Petty. Left photo, Wes Lindsay and Lee Gross, right photo, swear an oath to their office delivered by Municipal Judge C.O. Rominger. After the ceremony, the meeting was resumed with Petty sitting for the first time in the mayor's chair. Lindsay and Gross joined the two remaining trustees, Dennis Vega and Dusty Voss.

Bee friendly

In a few weeks, short winter days will give way to more daylight hours and the spring theater will make its debut.

A cast of pollinators including hummingbirds, butterflies, bats, ants and beetles will be headlined by the star of the show, the honeybee.

We would not starve without bees, but they do pollinate a third of all food that Americans consume, including fruits and nuts.

It is no secret that our pollinators are under siege by hazardous contaminants in our environment.

Honeybees receive the most publicity because, along with pollination, they produce health food and antibiotics as well.

Most conservation issues are overwhelming individually, but this is a case where all of us can make a big difference right in our own backyards. Please don't kill the pollinators.

Growing organically or using as little pesticides as possible is recommended.

Planting yellow, blue and purple flowers will attract the most bees to your garden. Among the 200 plants attractive to bees, the list includes beardtongue, bee balm, lavender, snow-in-summer, and yarrow.

For you folks afraid of being stung at your hummingbird feeder, fear not. Foraging honeybees will not attack you. The carnivores such as hornets, paper wasps and yellow jackets are the aggressive ones.

You should be more worried when you don't see bees rather than when you do. Honeybees require an abundance of

clean water. Unfortunately, puddles are usually polluted and water tanks are not bee friendly.

You can help by installing a bird bath. Remember to use a chemical free source of water in a reservoir with sloping sides.

Further into spring, when nectar is abundant, the bees will multiply and hives will become overcrowded, the worker bees will hatch a new queen and the colony will divide.

The old queen abandons the hive with half the workers and usually cluster (swarm) on a nearby limb until a suitable home is located.

During the swarming period honeybees are not in sting mode.

The pictures you see of people with bees on their faces or arms and are not being stung are possible because they use swarming bees for the photo shoot.

Beekeeping as a hobbyist is the best way to save the planet and help the pollinators.

It is easy to learn and very rewarding. If you suit up and follow the rules you may never be stung.

You get started by purchasing a beginner's kit which includes a book, DVD, bees and everything you need for approximately \$250.

Joining a beekeepers association can be a valuable resource. It will provide the opportunity to meet a mentor with years of experience which can be extremely helpful. Teaching beekeeping is bee friendly.

Tim Thompson can be reached for comment at tw0128@ularosa.net or at Carrizozo Honey, 575-973-0670.



What's the Buzz?

TIM THOMPSON

Cowboy Days are March 13-14

It seems to have a busy week. We attended the "Oral History" group Thursday night. Martha Shipman Andrews, NMSU University archivist, gave a very interesting program on "Dad Jett," the Dean of the University of Engineering.

So many of the attendees knew or were very familiar with this colorful professor. During the war years of 1941-45, he wrote a column keeping the boys in the war zones on what was happening at home in Las Cruces.

Remember this was when you used a mimeograph and had to let the written material dry first.

There were more than 5,000 letters found that he had in his collection. These letters were almost thrown in the trash, but one alert person saved

them and turned them over to the NMSU library.

He received many letters telling about the war, were they going to get home, asking advice, worry about their friends and buddies and just knowing he was there for them. He was always telling his students to return to college and get their degrees, which many of them did.

The New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum had more than 400 History students from the southwestern part of New Mexico Wednesday. This is the day that Ralph volunteers at the museum.

The spinners, weavers and other museum personnel were kept very busy all day.

We attended the Las Cruces Home and Garden

Show Sunday. A lot of interesting things you can do to improve your homes and gardens.

They also had the Farmers Market participating. As we were leaving we ran into the John Bigbees. John is busy making kitchen cabinets out of pecan wood.

The wind does not want to let up anywhere. It was on the cool side today and no one wanted to walk as it was too strong.

This weekend is supposed to be nice, hopefully.

Cowboy Days are this weekend at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum this weekend.

A lot more activities have been added and will be fun weekend. There will be an 1895 wedding, gunfights, parade of the breeds, roping, milking demonstrations and various entertainers and speakers - Leon Metz will be one - and other demonstrations. It will be March 13-14.



LINCOLN TRAILS ROSALIE DUNLAP

GRIZZLY HAPPENINGS

A great big thank you to the Carrizozo Schools staff, students, parents, and community members for the tremendously outstanding FFA Judging Contest Saturday. Thank you Mike and Melody Gaines for putting together such a well organized event. A big thank you to all the students, staff and community members that

helped to make our campus absolutely immaculate for the event. If you have not seen the progress on campus, please come by.

Activities this week:
March 9: BRAVO! assembly at 2:15 in the Old Gym;

March 11: MESA Inno-venture State Competition in Las Cruces; Varsity Girls/Boys Track Meet in

Artesia;
March 12: Report Cards for 3rd 9-Weeks will be mailed to parents;

March 13: FFA Judging Contest in Las Cruces.
Spring Break: March 15-19.

March 18: Varsity Girls/Boys Trackmeet at Roswell High School;

March 20: FFA Judging Contest in Roswell.

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Malkerson Modern Art Gallery and Carrizozo Clay on Twelfth Street in Carrizozo will host grand openings at 5 p.m., March 27.

Twelfth Street in Carrizozo continues to bloom and explode with new energy and businesses.

Enjoy a cello and flute ensemble with light appetizers at Malkerson Modern Art Gallery and dessert at Carrizozo Clay.

Malkerson Modern Art Gallery presents a rich collection of paintings, prints, sculpture, photography and wearable art.

At this time, the Gallery is featuring the artist Kathleen Nash. Collage on paper with mixed media and gold leaf patterns describe her artworks referencing travels to Venice, Nash, of Minneapolis,

Minn., is the current Artist in Residence at the Studios in Carrizozo.

At Carrizozo Clay you will discover sculpture and pottery from the functional to the magical. Come browse the works of Roy Brown, Wanda Dent, Jerold Flores, Connie Gardiner, Ivy Heymann, Joyce Hastings, Tasha Oliver, Lisa Maue, Nancy Philips and Charlene Willis.

Hale in Corona

On April 22, the Village of Corona Public Library and its support group, Friends of the Corona Library have invited Alan Hale and members of the Albuquerque and Alamogordo Astronomy Clubs to participate in an Earth Day-related Star Party event in Corona.

The astronomers are

bringing solar and lunar telescopes to demonstrate during the day at the school, which is open to the community, as well as the students. Later that evening, a Star Party will be held in an open space just west of Corona (1/2 mile) and is open to kids and adults of Corona.

Organizers are very excited in that most of the Corona school students have never looked through a telescope and most of the Corona adults are complete novices in astronomy.

To date, five astronomers with telescopes have committed to come to the event in addition to Hale.

The Alamogordo Astronomy Club has graciously offered to donate a Galileo telescope to the Corona School.

For more information, contact Denise Williams at 505-573-8230.

www.ruidosonews.com

Juvenile crime spree ends

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A several-day crime spree, involving stolen vehicles, a home break in and burglary, and the theft of a police officer's service gun, resulted in the arrest of two juveniles.

Cody Licon, 17, and Andrew Ybaben-Gonzales, 14, were taken into custody by Ruidoso police on March 2.

The handgun had been removed from the officer's private vehicle on March 1.

In a report from New Mexico State Police, the officer said sometimes the remote to lock the doors fails to work.

The handgun had been between the driver's seat and the center console. Only the weapon was taken, with a wallet and its contents left behind.

The gun was retrieved the following morning at a residence where the two juveniles were living.

Ybaben-Gonzales told police that he had helped

Licon sneak out of the home the night before. Investigators were also provided with a location where the .45 caliber handgun could be found.

Just before the time the weapon was taken, a resident on Eagle Drive reported to police that she had returned home around 10 p.m., March 1, and was unloading her SUV, went inside, and moments later when back outside and the vehicle was gone.

Still in the vehicle was the woman's purse, including a wallet, check book and credit and debit cards. A computer was also in the vehicle.

About an hour-and-a-half later the victim notified police that she had gotten a text message from her bank stating there was an attempt to use her debit card. Several hours later the woman told police that a cell phone left in the vehicle had been traced, and the phone was in the Roswell.

Ybaben-Gonzales later

told investigators that Licon had taken the vehicle and drove it to Roswell.

The other stolen vehicle was taken from a location on nearby Niblic Court. A woman told officers that when she left her home about 7:45 a.m., March 2, to go to work her vehicle was missing from outside the residence.

The home burglary, reported to police on Feb. 26, also happened on Eagle Drive. The owner of a vacation home said when he arrived that night the window on a French door was broken. Missing from the residence were a shotgun, an estimated \$200 in cash and five bottles of wine.

Licon named Ybaben-Gonzales as a participant in the home burglary. Ybaben-Gonzales confirmed that he and Licon had broken in, according to police reports.

Police had considered the two "persons of interest" in the criminal activities early on the morning of March 2.

Copper thieves nabbed

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Two alleged copper wire thieves were nabbed by Ruidoso Downs police on March 3.

The case started around early in the morning, in the parking lot of the Motel 6, at 412 U.S. Highway 70 in Ruidoso.

A man told Ruidoso police that he had five large rolls of copper wire in the open back of his truck because there was no room inside the vehicle.

The truck was parked in sight of the driver's motel room window because of the pricey cargo.

He said he heard noise about 5:15 a.m., looked out, and saw two women

putting a copper wire roll into another vehicle. That vehicle then left.

Minutes later Ruidoso Downs police stopped the vehicle for Ruidoso Police.

Arrested were Sarah L. Kuehmemund, 24, and Becky L. Smith, 42, both from Roswell. Smith reportedly told Ruidoso police that "she had done something stupid."

The two had come to Ruidoso Downs the night before to return a television set to Walmart.

Then they went to the Inn of the Mountain Gods, and after that to the Motel 6.

Kuehmemund was charged with burglary, larceny, and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Her bond was set at

\$15,000.

Smith was charged with receiving stolen property and conspiracy. All the charges are felonies. Bond was \$10,000.

Both had bond posted. The copper wire was valued at \$800.

Increased copper prices have made thefts a plague in recent years for the construction industry and utilities.

Qwest Communications, which provides voice and data communications in 14 states including New Mexico, provided testimony before a U.S. Senate committee last year that thieves have literally cut down or dug up their telephone lines to sell the copper.

RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

Feb. 21

3:30 p.m. - A Ruidoso police officer was told a woman's purse had been stolen. A Cloudford man said he and his family had stayed at a motel and the following day, while heading home, his wife realized she was without her cell phone. Returning to the motel it was then realized the purse was also gone. While the cell phone was found, the purse, with \$50, a debt card and a checkbook, remained elusive.

Feb. 25

6:18 p.m. - Officers were called to a possible violent domestic situation at the corner of Sudderth Drive and Vine Road. A woman, who was very upset, said she had stopped for the stop sign on Vine Road and a man came up yelling and hitting her car. Windows on the vehicle were shattered by the former acquaintance according to the woman and a witness. Police arrested Jason Olivas, 19, of Ruidoso on a charge of aggravated assault on a household member.

Feb. 26

10:15 a.m. - A resident in the 100 block of University Drive reported what he considered a suspicious package that he agree to store short-term in his garage for a neighbor. Two days earlier he had been told the box held an artificial Christmas tree. Inside an officer found a Christmas tree along with a duffel bag that contained medical supplies. One of the items was identified as an anabolic steroid. Police have talked with the man who asked to have the package stored in the garage.

11:12 p.m. - Police were dispatched to a residence in the 100 block of Drooping Juniper Drive for a domes-

tic violence report. A woman told an officer the couple was getting intimate when the man started getting rough, and was told to stop. She said he opened a pocketknife and said he told her he would kill her.

The man told an officer nothing physical happened, though an officer wrote in a report that the woman had marks on an arm consistent with being grabbed. Enrique Ramirez, 38, was arrested on charges of aggravated assault against a household member, battery on a household member, and false imprisonment.

Feb. 27

12:54 a.m. - Police were sent to a location in the 300 block of 2nd Street on a report of a verbal domestic situation.

Both parties admitted arguing, and agreed to separate.

6:45 p.m. - A woman went to the police department to report what she said was an emotional and abusive relationship with her husband.

An officer explained the process to obtain a restraining order.

Feb. 28

12:30 a.m. - A reserve officer, who returned to the police station after transporting a prisoner to the county jail in Carrizozo, reported his police vehicle had been damaged by the prisoner. An account stated that near the intersection of U.S. Highway 380 and state Highway 37 the prisoner became enraged and began kicking the passenger rear door. The damage was listed at less than \$1,000. Steve Messmore, 46, of Ruidoso was being taken to jail after turning himself in for a probation violation. He is now charged with misdemeanor criminal damage to property.

2:17 a.m. - Police were called to The Quarters, 2535 Sudderth Dr., after a Texas arson investigator said his law enforcement and fire credential were missing.

The man said he had left his jacket on a table and when he looked back, it was missing. In addition to the law enforcement ID and a badge, the jacket contained \$100 in cash.

Police will review a security video from The Quarters.

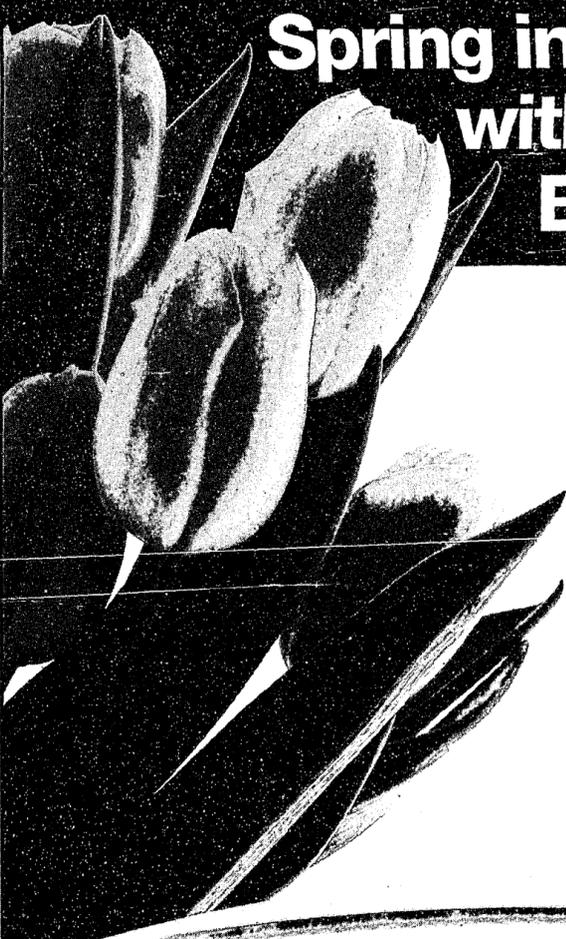
We are on the Web
www.ruidosonews.com

JoAnn Robinson

Visitation for JoAnn Robinson, 86, of Ruidoso will be Wednesday, March 10, from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM with the funeral service beginning at 11:00 AM in LaGrone Funeral Chapel with burial to follow at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Ruidoso. Officiating will be Charlie Overton.

Mrs. Robinson passed away Saturday, March 6, at the Mescalero Care Center. She was born May 25, 1923 at Lubbock, Texas to Marie and Joseph McClung who both preceded her in death. She was a rancher's wife at Crossroads, Texas with Zearl Robinson who preceded her in death 10 years ago, she moved to Ruidoso 5 years ago.

She is survived by her son, Jerry Jones and his wife Judy of Ruidoso; a step-son, Al Robinson of Crossroads, Texas; sister, Lula Mae Watkins of Roswell; 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



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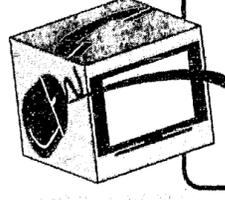
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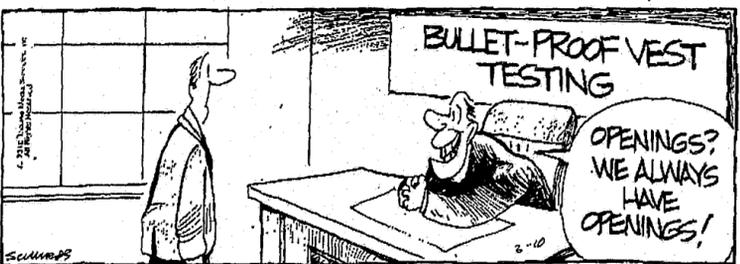
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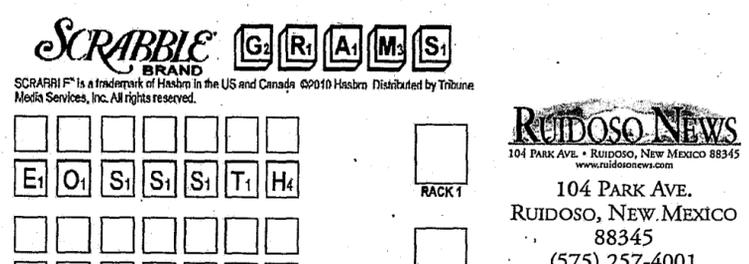
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SHOE



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

		6				8	4
		5					
2		6	1				
	4					3	
	5	8	2	9		4	
	1		7				6
		3	5				1
				9			
9	1						

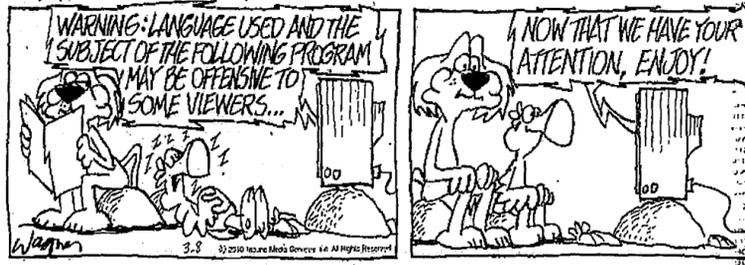
SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE 3/10/10

3	7	6	9	5	2	8	1	4
1	4	5	7	3	8	6	2	9
2	8	9	6	4	1	3	7	5
7	9	4	5	1	6	2	3	8
6	5	3	8	2	9	1	4	7
8	1	2	4	7	3	5	9	6
4	2	8	3	9	5	7	6	1
5	3	7	1	6	4	9	8	2
9	6	1	2	8	7	4	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

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ANIMAL CRACKERS



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E	O	S	S	S	T	H
O	O	T	L	N	C	T
A	E	E	I	H	C	P
E	E	O	N	T	P	C

PAR SCORE 140-150 BEST SCORE 209 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.

For more information on books, clubs, tournaments and the school program go to www.scrabble-assoc.com or call the National SCRABBLE® Association (631) 477-0033.



Think Snow!!!

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

B	O	R	E	P	
G	I	M	C	A	
T	I	M	C	A	P
S	P	Y	N	A	P

Print answer here: □□□□ - □□□□

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argifron and Jeff Kneurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

P	O	T	E	N	C	E
C	A	H	A	P	A	I
C	O	T	T	O	N	I
H	O	S	T	E	S	I

"I found my new home with the help of the Ruidoso News Adopt-A-Pet Ad."

"I found my new best friend in the Ruidoso News Adopt-A-Pet Ad."

Published every Wednesday in the

RUIDOSO NEWS

Answer: PROBE MAGIC IMPACT SNAPPY
a "SIN-EMA"
Jumbles: The matrons described the x-rated movie as

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Transportation 0901 - 0917
Commercial Real Estate 0951 - 0958
General Services 3304

Legal Notices 152
#8978 4T (3)3,5,10,12
First Notice of Election, Upper Hondo SWCD
Notice of Supervisor Election for the Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation District (73-20-NM5A 1978)

Legal Notices 152
Application #A-630592 for the issuance of a Restaurant Liquor License on March 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. Rickshaw Restaurant, LLC, located at 401 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico 88301.

Health Care 232
P/T Speech Pathologist Salary Is negotiable contact Peggy L. Vail 575-464-9228
Ruidoso Orthopedics and Sports Medicine is hiring a part time Medical Assistant.

rentals 300-383
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#8982 3T (3)3,5,10
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#8991 1T (3)10
Members of the public are invited to provide comment on hearings for the issuance of liquor licenses as outlined below. All hearings will be conducted at the NM Alcohol and Gaming Division Offices on the date specified in the "Hearing Notice" Building, 2500 Carrillos Road, 2nd Floor, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Hearing Officer for this application is Theresa Varin. Who can be contacted at the address above or at Theresa.Varin@state.nm.us.

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Law Office of Thomas H. Fields, III 1105 Hudson Lane Marry, LA 71201 518.323.6980
Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me with best wishes I remain Very Truly Yours,
THOMAS H. FIELDS, III Enc.

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Members of the public are invited to provide comment on hearings for the issuance of liquor licenses as outlined below. All hearings will be conducted at the NM Alcohol and Gaming Division Offices on the date specified in the "Hearing Notice" Building, 2500 Carrillos Road, 2nd Floor, Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Hearing Officer for this application is Theresa Varin. Who can be contacted at the address above or at Theresa.Varin@state.nm.us.

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