

# RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, NO. 73 • 75 CENTS

**FIRE DANGER  
MODERATE**

## Chief Gavin fired

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*Attorney confirms Ruidoso's fire chief, placed on leave in December, has been terminated*

An attorney for Tom Gavin confirmed Friday that the award-winning firefighter was terminated Jan. 5 as Ruidoso fire chief.

Gavin was placed on paid administrative leave in early December. A predetermination hearing was conducted Dec. 27, where a lateral transfer was discussed.

While Village Manager Debi Lee in a "Findings and Decision" paper sent to Gavin pointed to his "lack of connectivity and inability to lead your firemen, your autocratic leadership style, unprofessional and erratic behavior," as

the basis for the dismissal, Gavin's attorney J. Robert Beauvais contends the real reason is Gavin's adherence to his job of enforcing the village fire code.

That contention is supported by a succession of positive performance evaluations since his hiring in February 2008, the attorney said Monday. "The record is replete with attaboys and memos regarding his superior, not satisfactory, but exceptional

performance until the Lucy's situation."

"We found nothing (in the findings and decision) to justify terminating his employment," Beauvais said. "It's our contention this is whistle blower retaliation in connection with giving 30 days to Lucy's (Mexicali) restaurant to correct some 15 serious fire code violations and for questioning fire code violations at the Ruidoso Convention

Center, specifically the sprinkler system placement."

Village officials could have considered a lateral transfer, recognizing Gavin's property rights lie with employment, not a title, he said.

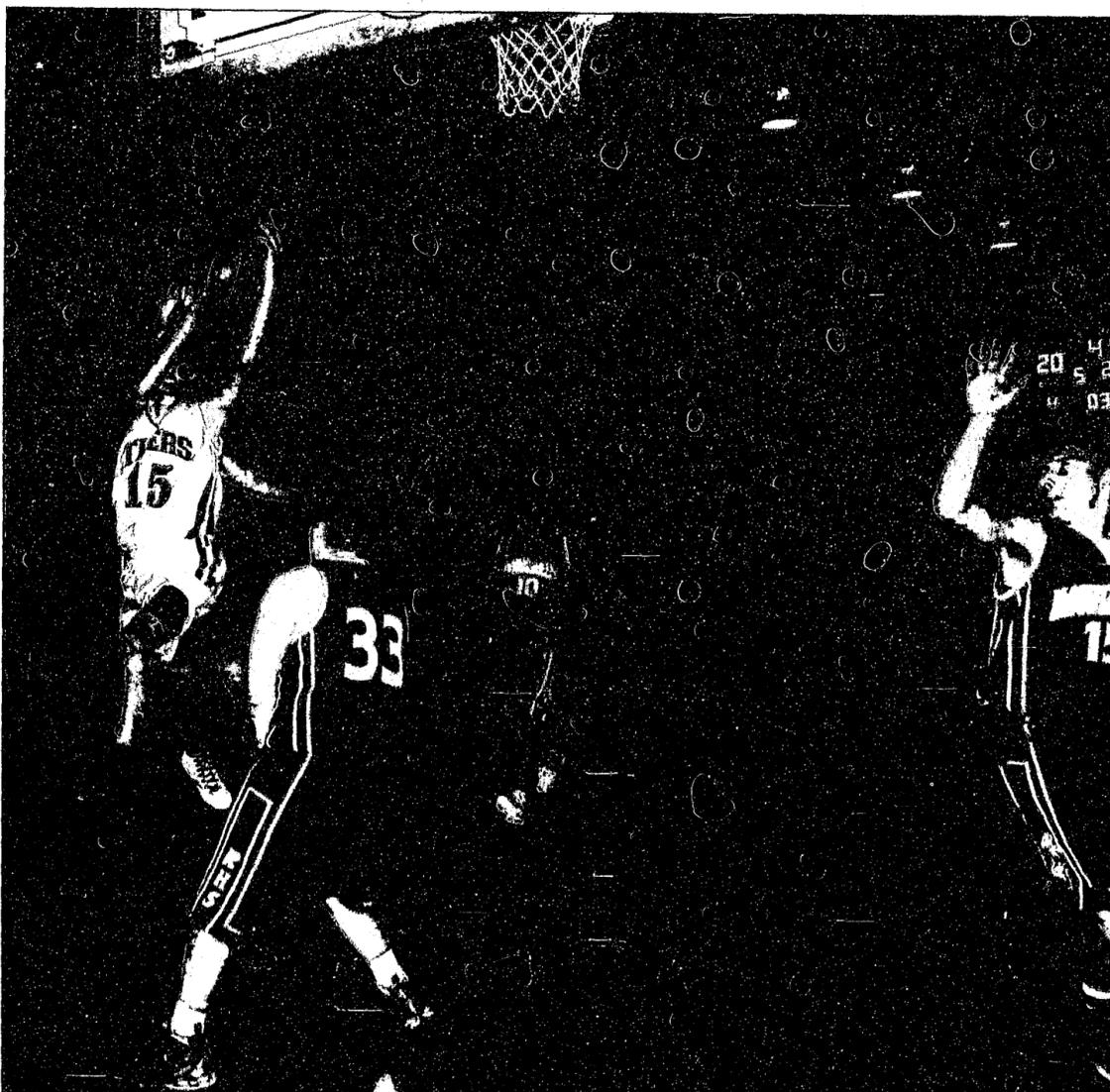
Contrary to established protocol, Gavin was bypassed in reviewing the sprinkler system plans during renovation of the center, the attorney said. He never signed off on those plans.

The International Fire Code, which Ruidoso adopted, dictates that nothing be placed within 18 inches of the sprinkler fireheads, but by recessing the heads, some light fixtures intrude into that space.

The violation was pointed out to Gavin during a State Fire Marshal conference in the center. Although the State Fire Marshal was quoted in a recent article as saying the Ruidoso Fire Department has jurisdiction over the convention center, the usual procedure is for a department to recuse itself when dealing with an in-house problem, Gavin has said.

See GAVIN, page 7A

### SMOKEY BEAR CLASSIC



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Dustin Blowers of Capitan goes airborne against Reserve defenders Tanner Lengstorf (33), Brandon Johnston (10) and Marc Estrada (15) during the 35th annual Smokey Bear Classic over the weekend. For results and more photos from the tourney, see Sports.

## Hubbard museum to state

Operating agreement was finalized quietly between Ruidoso Downs and the Department of Cultural Affairs

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The Hubbard Museum of the American West may soon be owned by the State of New Mexico.

An operating agreement between the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs and the City of Ruidoso Downs was finalized on Dec. 30, 2010, according to draft minutes of a special city council meeting. The agreement followed several months of negotiations.

It would transfer the assets of the museum, its cultural properties, land and building, to the state.

At the special meeting, City Attorney H. John Underwood said some of the expenses, especially for maintenance at the museum were "off the city's back now."

The Department of Cultural Affairs would budget \$182,000 annually. The funding would pay for repairs to the museum, utility costs, and conservation.

The agreement, which had been signed by now former Cultural Affairs Secretary Stuart Ashman before his more recent replacement under the new Susana Martinez administration, was unanimously approved by city councilors at the Dec. 30 meeting.

Underwood said Tuesday that timing was important.

"It obviously got down to a deadline. And the only opportunity that we had with the last administration was at the special meeting. What we need to do now is take it to the new secretary (Cultural Affairs Secretary-designate Veronica Gonzales) and sit down with her, which I plan to do next week when I'm in Santa Fe. Stuart Ashman had mentioned that it would be no problem for him to include the obligation and it could be done, but he could not speak for the new secretary. Our challenge now is to sell this to the new administration."

Because of a transfer of property, the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration would have to approve the deal. The state legislature would also have to include annual funding in the Department of Cultural Affairs budget.

Underwood said the most important aspect of the agreement is the city will continue to operate the museum.

"What we're getting here is the opportunity to turn over sizable assets to the state and

See STATE, page 8A

## School is in at forum for candidates

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School board candidates from Ruidoso, Capitan and Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso participated in a forum Monday at Cree Meadows Country Club.

The event was sponsored by the Republican Party of Lincoln County.

Eight of the nine candidates for Ruidoso School Board were present to answer questions posed by the audience. Candidate Cecil Davis, who is running against incum-

bent Susan Lutterman, was not at the forum.

"Where would you look to cut funding," moderator Harvey Twite asked each of the Ruidoso School Board candidates.

"I would promote visits to the school sites to get their input on what could be cut," Fred Romero said. Romero cited his experience in working with budgets for Region IX Education.

Romero, Frank Sayner and Devon Marshall are vying for the same seat on the board.

"Hopefully we will have

enough retirements that we won't have to lay off any teachers," Sayner said. "We may have to go to the state and ask for a waiver to allow more students in each class."

"I think there was some paid administrative leave that wasn't necessary," Marshall said. "There were also some grant rules that were not followed."

Nick Herrera and Rhonda Vincent are running for the same seat.

"This is hard," Herrera said. "I don't want anyone to be laid off, but the budget isn't

everything. This is about kids."

"I think Yvonne Perez has done remarkable work," Vincent said. Perez is the Ruidoso Municipal School's Finance Director. "We do have to be creative in looking for ways to save money. I do think the current board has been fiscally responsible."

Marc Beatty and Curt Temple are running for the same seat on the Board.

"I wasn't part of the budget process last time, but I look

See FORUM, page 7A





HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Republican Party Precinct 4 members Gloria Rogers, left, and Lincoln County Commissioner Kathryn Minter talk about the ballots for electing Lincoln County Republican Party representatives during the convention at Cree Meadows County Club Saturday.

GOP officers

John Billingsley will head the Lincoln County Republican Party for the next two years and represent the organization at the State Central Committee.

One hundred and fifty-four delegates attended the recent Republican Party's Organizational Convention and elected the new Lincoln County Central Committee from their respective precincts.

Convention delegates elected 110 Lincoln County Central Committee members and they elected the officers of the Republican Party of Lincoln County for two-year terms.

They also elected a six at-large county contingent to the State Central Committee that will represent county Republicans in Albuquerque at the State Republican Party level.

In addition to Billingsley, the new officers and SCC members as determined by the Tabulation Committee are First Vice Chair & SCC Jack Shuster; Second Vice Chair Karen Clontz; Secretary & SCC Harvey Twite; and Treasurer Barbara Dickinson.

Precinct representatives to the SCC are Precinct 4, Lavonne Adams (Federated Republican Women President); Precinct 5, Diana Billingsley; Precinct 6, Vic Currier; Precinct 7, Karyl Williams; Precinct 8, Lorri McKnight; Precinct 9, Jim Dickinson; and Precinct 10, Terry Franklin.

Film series airs

The first movie in the Spring 2011 New Mexico Film Series will be The Book of Eli. The film, partially filmed in Carrizozo, stars Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman in the post-apocalyptic story of one man's quest to save the book that may, in turn, save humanity.

It will be shown at ENMU-Ruidoso today, Jan. 12, at 7 p.m.

Other movies in the series include And Now Miguel, Casey's Shadow, Hi-Lo Country, and The Leopard Man. All movies were filmed partially or entirely in New Mexico and are shown the second Wednesday of the month.

There is no fee for the movies, but registration is requested. To register, call

ENMU-Ruidoso Community Education at 257-3012.

Santa Fe rally

A "We the People Rally" sponsored by statewide local Tea Parties will be held in Santa Fe Tuesday during the first day of the 2011 Legislative session.

People are encouraged to bring family, friends and conservative signs.

Featured speaker is former governor Gary Johnson. The group will visit the Roundhouse after the rally.

For those needing a ride, a caravan will leave from the intersection of Highways 380 & 54 in Carrizozo at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 17, and 5 a.m., Tuesday.

Overnight reservations should be made in advance. Many in the Tea Party are staying at the Santa Fe Sage Inn: 866-433-0335; www.santafesageinn.com

For more information, email info@lcnmteaparty.org or call 575-354-5050 or 575-937-3742.

'Heroes with Heart'

Help End Abuse for Life (HEAL) and the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter

have extended the deadline for community nominations of the "2011 Heroes with Heart" to Jan. 31.

Award recipients will be honored during the annual HEAL Heroes with Heart Awards Gala held at 6 p.m. on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at the Ruidoso Convention Center. The event is free to the public.

According to Estella Cardoza, Administrative Assistant for Help End Abuse for Life, "The response to our call for Hero Nominations has been extensive. Because many have called and asked for an extension to submit their nominations, we have pushed back the deadline to ensure all Heroes in Lincoln County are considered."

"Heroes with Heart" celebrates local heroes who have shown exceptional and unselfish caring for others. According to the nomination form, "By honoring ordinary people who perform extraordinary acts of kindness, philanthropy and significantly impact the lives of others in a positive way, we foster a community of Heroes with Heart."

There are 12 categories of Heroes with Heart in 2011: Pastor or Church Hero, Animal Hero, Youth Hero, Business Hero, Environmental Hero, Arts & Crafts Hero, Community Organization Hero, Student Hero (individual or group), Employee Hero, Elected Official Hero, Male Hero of the Year and Female Hero of the Year.

"Heroes with Heart" nomination forms can be obtained by calling the Nest at 575-378-6378 or by going to the HEAL website at www.helpendabuseforlife.org.

For further information, call the Nest at 575-378-6378.

Literacy Council

Do you have two hours a week available to help an adult learner improve their reading proficiency?

Almost half of the adults in Lincoln County find it difficult to read medical

information, help children with homework, or complete job applications. The Lincoln County Literacy Council trains tutors to work individually with adult learners who have requested assistance in reading, writing or math. Tutoring rewards both the student and the tutor. You can make a huge difference in someone's life as they strive to improve their educational skills and accomplish goals.

The Lincoln County Literacy Council, part of the ENMU-Ruidoso Adult Basic Education program, is holding a one-day Tutor Training Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Nob Hill Parent Center on El Paso Road. This training will prepare tutors to work with adults who wish to improve their basic skills.

Training and materials are free. Call Susie Morss at 630-8181 to find out more and to register for the Tutor Training Workshop.

County meeting

To allow Lincoln County elected officials to attend the Mid-Winter Conference of the New Mexico Association of Counties, county commissioners will meet Thursday, instead of next Tuesday.

Commissioners meet at 8:30 a.m., in chambers at the county courthouse in Carrizozo.

Some of the items on the agenda includes an annual renewal of the county attorney's contract, which ends Jan. 31, 2011; annual audit results, released by the State Auditor; review of the public record fee schedule; a review of county capital outlay projects and requests to the state Legislature; and Storm Ready Recognition by Shawn Bennett of the National Weather Service's Emergency Services based in Albuquerque.

Sonic booms

Sonic booms could occur Wednesday, Jan. 12, from 3 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., and 7:30

p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 13, from 1:45 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and Friday, Jan. 14, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

At this time no flights are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 15 or Sunday, Jan. 16.

Schedules can change based on a variety of reasons and scheduled times do not always mean sonic booms will occur.

For additional information, visit the Holloman Web site at www.holloman.af.mil.

Call for proposals

The Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) is issuing a call for proposals for special projects on Federal lands (www.fs.fed.us/srs/Title-II.shtml) under the 2008 Reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Secure Rural Schools or Act).

Proposals are due Feb. 25 for timely review and discussion. The RAC will begin reviewing projects for possible funding recommendation during their meeting in April 2011.

The funding (approximately \$1.7 million) is limited to Catron, Grant, Lincoln (\$82,043), Otero (\$257,919), Sierra and Socorro Counties.

Projects must be located on, or benefit, the Cibola, Gila, or Lincoln National Forests. Funding would be available no earlier than summer or fall of 2011. Proposals and Title II monies will be recommended by the RAC to the Designated Federal Official (DFO), Al Koss, based on each affected County's available Title II monies.

All applicants must contact the affected National Forest District Ranger (www.fs.fed.us/r3/contact/forestoffices.shtml) prior to submitting a proposal(s) for their input and to obtain and discuss the list of required items for a complete proposal package. You can find the required items document at the

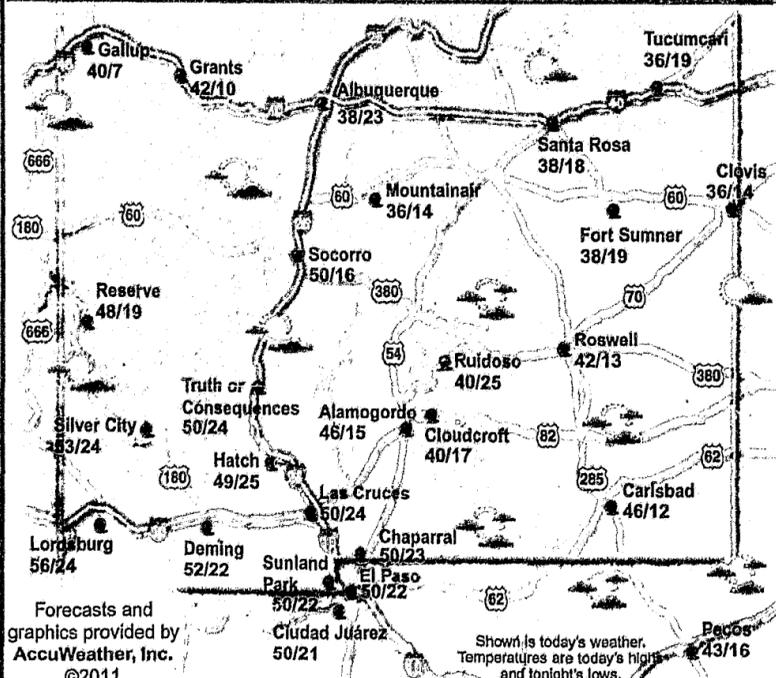
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

Table with 7 columns: TODAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY. Each column contains weather icons, RealFeel temperatures, humidity, and wind information.

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



Almanac

Ruidoso

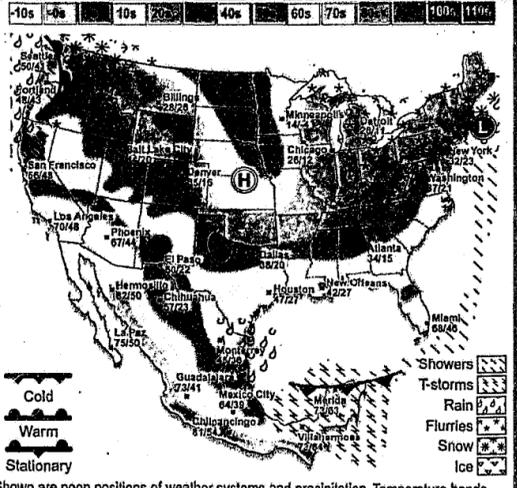
Statistics through Monday
Temperature: High/low 45°/16°, Normal high 49°, Normal low 20°, Record high 61° (2005), Record low -6° (1962)

Precipitation: Monday 0.00", Month to date 0.00", Normal month to date 0.48", Year to date 0.00", Normal year to date 0.48"

Pollen: Grass Absent, Trees Low, Weeds Absent, Mold Low, Predominant Ascospores

Alamogordo
Statistics through Monday
Temperature: High/low 55°/28°, Normal high 55°, Normal low 28°, Record high 70° (1953), Record low 7° (1964)

National Forecast for Jan. 12, 2011



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

National Cities

Table with 3 columns: City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Thu. Hi/Lo/W. Lists major cities like Abilene, Anchorage, Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Reno, San Francisco, San Diego, Seattle, Tucson, Tulsa, Wash. DC, Wichita, Yuma.

Regional Cities

Table with 3 columns: City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Thu. Hi/Lo/W. Lists regional cities like Albuquerque, Artesia, Chama, Clayton, Cloudcroft, Farmington, Hobbs, Los Alamos, Portales, Raton, Red River, Ruidoso, Santa Fe, Silver City, Taos.

Sun and Moon

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 7:06 a.m./5:16 p.m.
Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 11:24 a.m./12:15 a.m.

Moon Phases



Extremes

Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states) High: 83° in Edinburg, TX; Low: -29° in Farson, WY
Monday's World High/Low: High: 107° in Telfer, Australia; Low: -67° in Verkhoyansk, Russia

\*They each have six slides



A couple of Acorn Woodpeckers help themselves to a meal on a deck in Alto over the weekend.

COURTESY JOHN T. SODEN

habitat, and other resource objectives consistent with the purposes of the Act that benefit resources on national forest system lands.

The types of proposals eligible for funding may include: Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration; Soil productivity improvement; Improvements in forest ecosystem health; Watershed restoration and maintenance; The restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat; The control of noxious and exotic weeds; and The re-establishment of native species.

People should submit proposals one of two ways: online at [https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure\\_rural\\_schools.nsf](https://fsplaces.fs.fed.us/fsfiles/unit/wo/secure_rural_schools.nsf) and then connect to the Southern New Mexico RAC (click on 'Propose a Title II Project' and select the link to the on-line form at the bottom of the text); or download the Rich Text Format document at the website as cited in #1, fill it out, and either mail it directly to the Coordinator or go to R3SouthernNew-MexicoRAC@fs.fed.us and attach it to an email.

Proposals sent hardcopy are to be mailed to Patti Turpin/RAC Coordinator at the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office, 3463 Las Palomas Rd, Alamogordo, NM 88310.

For more information on the RAC or to learn more about proposing projects please contact RAC DFO, Al Koss, at 575-536-2250 or RAC Coordinator, Patti Turpin at 575-434-7230.

FROM PAGE 2A

Southern New Mexico RAC website, [www.fsplaces.fs.fed.us](http://www.fsplaces.fs.fed.us).

The Secure Rural Schools legislation encourages cooperative agreements with willing Federal agencies, State and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife



COURTESY LCMC/BRAD TREPTOW

LCMC recognition

Lincoln County Medical Center, LCMC, recognized 41 employees for their service to the countywide delivery system last month during an employee celebration.

LCMC recognizes employee longevity once a year. Employees are recognized having completed their 5-, 10-, 15-, 20- or 25-year employment anniversary as of Dec. 31 of each year. The recognition includes a certificate and a service pin.

Five employees topped the list with at least 30 or more years of service. David Blackmon in the hospital's Radiology department is the most tenured employee with 36 years of service. Sue Lewallen in the Business Office at the

hospital has 33 years. Michelle Propsner in Medical Records and Charla Lathan in the Operating Room have 31 years of service. Chris Barela in the Operating Room has 30 years of service.

Six employees were recognized with between 25 and 29 years of service. Jennifer Becker in Labor and Delivery (pictured above with LCMC Administrator Al Santos) and Sally Ballard in Medical Records each have 25 years of service. Sheree Brown in the Medical/Surgical department has 26 years of service. Jim Stover, with Lincoln County Emergency Medical Services and Maria Soto with Environmental Services each have 27 years of service. Elizabeth Bates in Administration has worked for 28

years.

Seven employees each provided more than 20 years of service. They are Mary Hernandez from the Carrizozo Medical Clinic, Dale Goad, DDS; Veronica Whittaker, Carrizozo Dental Clinic; Beverly Alexander, White Mountain Medical Clinic; Diane Jones, Emergency Department; Amanda Marquez, Radiology Department; and Theresa Meyer, Operation-improvement.

Five employees were recognized for 15 years of service. They include Roger Beechie, MD, and Cheryl Keith from White Mountain Medical Clinic; Diane Jenkins, Emergency Department; and Marjorie Berger in the Business Office.

The 10-year employees included Rebecca Sedillo

from Rehabilitation Services; Michael Coker, Lincoln County EMS; and Frances Saiz from House-keeping.

The final category, 5 years of service, included 16 employees: Beth Ann Keenan, Kevin Kennedy and Kristi Bonnell, Lincoln County EMS; Dr. Tom Lindsey, Lincoln Surgical Clinic; Dr. Stephen Otero and Lianna Schultz, White Mountain Medical Clinic; Jack Rogers and Angela Colmenero, Medical/Surgical department; Karen Rheingans and Jorie Watson, Labor & Delivery; William Elder and Patti Kissling, Emergency Department; Joan Pelkey and M. Dudley McCauley, Administration; Juan Contreras, Maintenance; and Matthew Mardo, Operating Room.

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# OPINION

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager  
Marty Racine, editor

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### OUR OPINION

## The South rises again in Santa Fe

Give Bill Richardson credit: He was one governor who recognized that New Mexico exists south of I-40.

The pull southward is even stronger with his successor, former Doña Ana County DA Susana Martinez. This includes last week's appointment of Bobbi Shearer, a Capitan resident and a player in the Lincoln County GOP, as director of the New Mexico Bureau of Elections. She will work under Secretary of State Dianna Duran.

If we connect the dots accurately, we detect the influence of Sen. Rod Adair, of Roswell, in this development.

Martinez's election, and the

2010 midterms in general, have energized the Republican Party of Lincoln County, which drew an overflow crowd to its Organizational Convention Saturday at Cree Meadows. The session, in which party officers and members of the county and state central committees were chosen, lasted nearly six hours.

The new energy is partly attributable to local Tea Party activists, some of whom are working within GOP ranks. Meanwhile, statewide Tea Parties plan a rally in Santa Fe next Tuesday on the first day of the 2011 Legislature.

Over the next four years, the road north should be heavily traveled.

## Landmark cases put water disputes behind us

In 2010, a year that was bottom-heavy with bad news, we saw major progress in the stormy world of water.

Three landmark cases that defied resolution and guaranteed lawyers' job security were settled, and our congressional delegation, led by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, managed to wring funding from Congress. We also marked progress on the Rio Grande and in Ruidoso.

It doesn't mean all parties to the major settlements are happy, but it does represent an acceptance of certain legal realities — namely, under Western water law, tribes do have senior rights. After all these decades, it really is time to move on.

The storied Aamodt lawsuit was filed in 1966 by water czar Steve Reynolds, who assumed the courts could sort out ownership of water rights in the Pojoaque Valley in five years, tops. But the lawsuit's namesake, R. Lee Aamodt, the first in an alphabetical list of defendants, died long before resolution appeared on the horizon. (Reynolds once carped, "Aamodt, as in dammit.")

The case, which became a standoff between pueblos and non-Indians, didn't lumber into mediation until 2000. Many participants saw their hair turn silver over the course of the longest running lawsuit in the federal courts.

"Where are you going to end up at the end of 40 more years of litigation? With these same numbers," Judge Michael Nelson of Arizona told stubborn non-Indians in 2004. "And the pueblos are going to be able to dry you up and there won't be anybody to make a pipeline to make it better."

It took another two years before residents accepted that this was the best deal they would get.

Nelson's warning applies to two other long-running cases — the Navajo Water Rights Settlement and the Abeyta case in Taos. Running water had been a dream for thousands of Navajos since 1975. The tribe

has recognized rights to the San Juan River but no way to convey its water.

A 2005 settlement preserved those rights, but Navajos agreed to limit water use in return for construction of the Navajo-Gallup pipeline, which will serve about 250,000 people on the eastern Navajo Reservation, the southwestern Jicarilla Apache Nation, the Window Rock area and the city of Gallup. The settlement protected existing non-Indian agricultural and municipal uses. The alternative would have been another marathon lawsuit with no hope for a better outcome.

The Taos Pueblo lawsuit, also called the Abeyta case and nearly as old as Aamodt, concerned the pueblo's claims on a Rio Grande tributary. In 2006 parties agreed to a settlement much like that of the Navajos, protecting local acequias, the Town of Taos, and domestic water users while acknowledging the pueblo's rights.

Last month President Obama signed legislation to settle the three cases and provide \$478 million in systems and pipelines to implement agreements. Now it's the Legislature's turn to step up during what promises to be a difficult session.

On a smaller scale we saw two other positive developments. Silvery minnow fans (and maybe Rio Grande users) cheered the first release of 5,500 protected fishies from the Los Lunas refugium. Pleased federal biologists pronounced them healthy.

And after struggling for years with numerous complicated water rights that at times caused friction with the State Engineer's Office, former Ruidoso Mayor Ray Nunley asked the State Engineer for a comprehensive review; there followed a year of negotiation that by 2010 resolved problems and streamlined administration.

Taken together, the kind of compromise and tenacity that resolved long-standing disputes is heartening.



**SHERRY ROBINSON**  
ALL SHE WROTE



### YOUR OPINION

## New county commission off to good start

To the editor:

IN THE JAN. 5 *Ruidoso News* I read about the county commissioners considering adopting a conflict-of-interest policy.

I think this idea is long overdue. I wish this had been the policy when three county commissioners decided to give R. D. Hubbard his special election.

That was a case of conflict-of-interest in true color. After the ballots were counted, these three commissioners were some of the first people to arrive at Hubbard's celebration party. We need to ask ourselves: If the

opposition had won the election, would these three county commissioners have been at their party? I do not think so.

Maybe all we ever needed was to have the county commission with more women.

Jack Hemby  
Ruidoso Downs

To the editor:

GREAT NEWS for the people of our area. At their Jan. 4 meeting, the first order of business of the Lincoln County Commissioners was to elect a commission chairman. In a unanimous vote, the commissioners chose not to reelect Commissioner Tom "Whatever you say, Mr. Hubbard" Battin to that post.

Their second order of business was to pass a resolution establishing a policy under which Lincoln County officials will be prohibited from using their offices to further the interests of wealthy, powerful individuals.

This resolution, called by many The Battin Resolution, will hopefully go a long way in preventing our local politicians from abusing their power, as Commissioner Battin did in the recent gross receipts tax scam fiasco.

The above actions represent a great start for the new county commissioners, and they are to be commended for same.

J Williams  
Ruidoso/Dallas

## Education: Mere 'reform' won't get it done

Consider this column a memo to New Mexico's new public education boss, Hanna Skandera.

When thinking about system change, don't think about reform. The trap is that words mean something. "Reform," by definition, accepts the current system and proposes betterment by tweaking.

Mere "reform" of our public schools won't get the job done, Ms. Skandera.

Fortunately, examples of "bold change" (in Gov. Susana Martinez's slogan) exist in our schools. Three are summarized below, two science programs and a shifting of outlook for teachers:

The St. John's College Tecolote Group brings teachers from all levels together, the Web site says, for "structured discussion of centrally important texts, thus bringing to life the idea that great books make great teachers. Tecolote aims further to help participants develop their practice of liberal education through their own initiatives and in general to nurture liberal learning at all levels in New Mexico."

The invitation-only program is free and provides a small support stipend. Demand is high, typically exceeding the 64-person capacity each year, says Keiko Giacona, the project manager. Participation is statewide, but the teachers tend to come from Albuquerque and Santa Fe. "We welcome inquiries," Giacona says.

Teachers attend four colloquia each year. The colloquia consist of tutorial and seminar.

The program's base is "the method of learning through discussion developed in the great books curriculum at St. John's College." The plan is to send teachers back "to their classrooms with a renewed sense of their vocation."



**HAROLD MORGAN**  
NEW MEXICO PROGRESS

The other two programs are for mid-school students, involve science and technology, and come with acronyms. Both strive to inspire youth to be successful in a science and technology-based 21st century workplace.

For the Santa Fe Institute, it is Project GUTS: Growing Up Thinking Scientifically. The Santa Fe Institute is about breaking barriers between traditional approaches, non-linear dynamics, and complex systems. Computational thinking links all. Project GUTS' big idea is to interest students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and nurture them through high school.

The project operates as an after-school club supplemented by summer workshops. Participation is up to 30 schools around the state, says Irene Lee, principal investigator. Communities include Los Alamos, Chaparral and Peñasco. Lee's article in the 2009 SFI Bulletin provides a good overview.

The objective, Lee writes, is to "produce students who can apply computational methods and analysis to complex systems issues. Thus the program has introduced complexity science and agent-based modeling to middle-school students."

Teachers are club leaders.

They get 20 hours of introduction. Students learn about opinion dynamics, shared resource management, and social networks. They run experiments and model a community-relevant application.

The home for the GEAR-Tech-21 (Geospatial and Robotics Technologies for the 21st century) program is the University of Nebraska extension service in Lincoln.

GEAR-Tech clubs, now in 12 states, commonly operate through 4-H, but can be in-school or after-school groups or part of a community organization. Schools in Albuquerque and Pojoaque have done GEAR-Tech summer camps, which mesh with existing robotics clubs. More camps are set for 2011.

The two-year program for mid-school students involves robotics, geographic information systems, global positioning systems (GPS), summer camps, competitions and instruction for the adults. After the first-year introduction, youth combine the technologies by building a robot and directing it to specific GPS coordinates.

In a general sense, GEAR-Tech introduces students to "precision agriculture," a concept that uses technology to treat each area within a field differently, allowing farmers to be more efficient and improve yields.

Parents, teachers, legislators and Ms. Skandera, check out these programs and change the system.

For more information see:  
<http://www.stjohnscollege.edu/outreach/SF/tecolote.shtml>  
<http://www.santafe.edu/bulletin.html>  
<http://www.geartech21.org>

# Militarized zone: Organizers prepare for troops

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With a session behind her that brought military representatives, government officials and business owners together, Millie Woods said Monday her focus now will narrow solely to preparing for the first of two Military Appreciation Weekends in Ruidoso.

Set for April 29-30, the weekend is a labor of patriotism for Woods and her fellow committee members, all volunteers who donate their time and effort.

She explained that a roundtable staged at the Ruidoso Convention Center Friday was to provide information, but what local businesses and other groups do with that data is up to them.

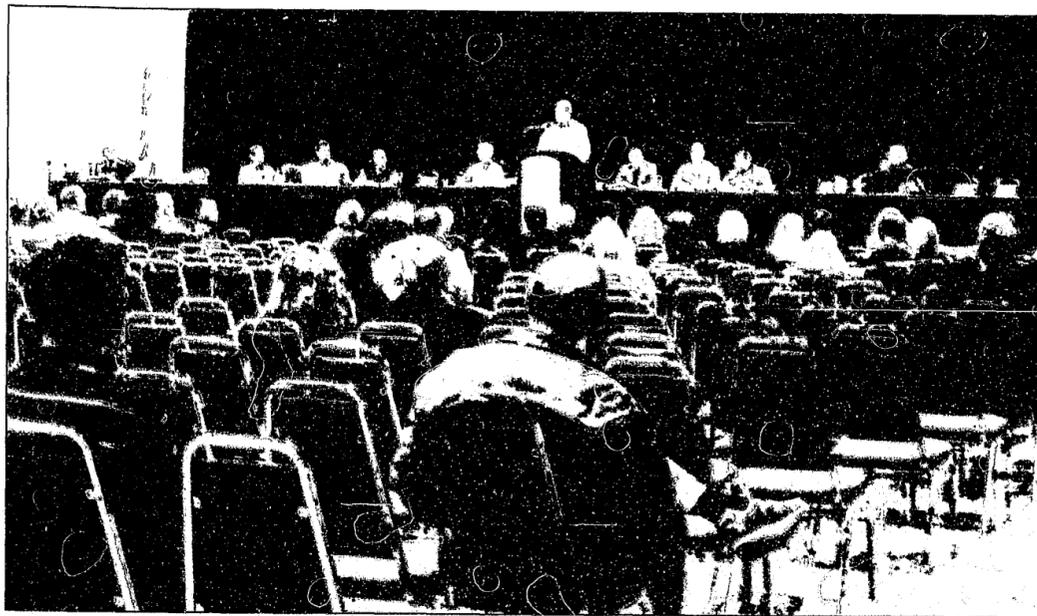
"They (the military) were simply sharing their information. We would like businesses to embrace the troops," Woods said. "But this is not about encouraging tourism and it's not about building businesses and their profits. It's solely and completely about giving honor and tribute to the troops."

Representatives from Fort Bliss in El Paso, Holloman Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range spoke about how much they expect to grow during the next decade. To show appreciation to those military men and women and their families, businesses are being encouraged to offer military discounts, the military per diem reimbursement rate and to extend their hours of operations to accommodate the troops.

"I would have liked to see a larger crowd, but there were representatives from the military, from Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso, from Ruidoso Village Hall, from the Lincoln County Medical Center, from Lincoln County government and at least 40 from the business community," Woods said. "We got out some good information. The idea is to let business people know we have a large number coming in, not just for weekends. Ten percent of the personnel is off duty at all times."

Although conservative estimates put the growth of Fort Bliss at 36,000 by the end of 2012, the figure has been estimated as high as 45,000, and 86 percent have families. About 75 percent of single soldiers bring a friend when they travel for recreation, she said.

Fort Bliss already is encouraging mountain recreation. For example, on the Fort Bliss website, information about a skiing package at Ski Apache is published for four dates extending through March



Friday's session at the convention center brought together representatives from business, government and the military.

12. The trip cost of \$50 includes lift tickets and transportation. Equipment is not included, but rental equipment is available at a cost of \$15 per day for skis or \$22 per day for a snowboard.

For an additional fee, the outdoor recreation entity for the base can help make arrangements for affordable overnight lodging in Ruidoso, according to the site.

"I had a call one night from a colonel looking for rooms during the Christmas break, not for free, just for availability," Woods said. "They had a large number of personnel there for specialized training who couldn't go home and their families were coming to them, but wanted to be in Ruidoso, not El Paso. They didn't want to buy their tickets to travel until they knew about rooms. I warned him most would be filled during that time of the year, but I found three here and six there."

When she asked him how many rooms he could fill, the officer said he couldn't say for security reasons, but potentially during some periods it could be double the village's full-time population. "Our business people are not getting their heads wrapped around those numbers," Woods said.

But some business owners are showing their appreciation for the military both in their defense of the nation and their enjoyment visiting Ruidoso, she said. They are preparing for greater numbers of soldiers contributing to local tourism.

Grindstone Stables remained open during the winter for the first time in 23 years, because the soldiers and their families like the sleigh rides, she said. The owner of Laughing Sheep Farm and Restaurant near the historic settlement of Lincoln about 20

miles northeast of Ruidoso is building cabins for the troops when they visit and plans to donate one cabin a month awarded by drawing in a base rotation, Woods said. Joyce Floyd, owner of Village Lodge on Mechem Drive, is creating a conference room. Woods said she is also working with Big Game Hunting in New Mexico for Wounded Warriors.

But her emphasis is and will be the troops and putting together a MAW event celebrating their excellence and dedication, Woods said.

"I have to concentrate on bridging the troops and the equipment they are showcasing this year."

The MAW will begin with a golf tournament April 28 at The Links at Sierra Blanca Public Golf Course. Convoys from Holloman and the New Mexico Military Institute will arrive about 10 a.m. April 29, traveling through the village to the municipal airport where they will set up "military city" after enjoying a complimentary meal.

Convoys from White Sands Missile Range, Fort Bliss, the National Guard

and Cannon Air Force Base will arrive about 1 p.m., following the same route to Sierra Blanca Regional Airport for lunch and their set-up.

James Hobbs of Flying J Ranch will stage an Old West shoot-out, followed by a complimentary dinner.

The next day will include an opening ceremony, a flyover, static displays, demonstrations, acknowledgments of Wounded Warriors and Prisoners of War from the Bataan Death March of 1941.

But the most moving moments may come during

a 6 p.m. banquet April 30, at Ruidoso Middle School in honor of military veterans from the Death March, Vietnam and Wounded Warriors.

"This year's MAW banquet will pay special tribute to the Bataan veterans," Woods said. "In 1941, 1,800 men from the New Mexico National Guard 200th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments deployed to the Philippines during World War II. A few months later in April 1942, the United States troops there surrendered to the Japanese and more than 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers were forced to become prisoners of war, The Bataan Death March was one of the greatest atrocities of the last century.

Forced to march more than 65 miles without food or water, thousands of Americans and Filipino soldiers died along the way, she said. Those who survived faced horrific conditions in Japanese confinement camps.

After more than three years, only half of the original number returned home alive. Today, fewer than 70 Bataan Death March survivors remain, many of whom live in New Mexico.

Tickets for the banquet are \$12 per person for an outstanding meal, and can be purchased in advance online at [www.ruidoso-maw.org](http://www.ruidoso-maw.org).

## Tracking the data

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While Millie Woods of the local volunteer military appreciation group handled the personal interaction with military personnel participating in a roundtable with government and business leaders from Lincoln County Friday, Jim Miller was tracking some of the data being presented.

The former college campus president and renewable energy consultant jotted down a few of the points mentioned, which included:

- George Mendoza of Fort Bliss spoke of Commanding General Dana Pittard as a "Soldier Care" commanding general. Fort Bliss has received positive reports on how young soldiers were treated in the Ruidoso/Ruidoso Downs communities. In 2005, 15,000 soldiers and families were stationed at Fort Bliss. Today, Forces Command and Support Command have 35,000 families at the fort. Families stay at the fort for school and educational continuity when their husbands and/or wives are deployed overseas or are on assignment for temporary training elsewhere in the continental United States.

- Plans are for 34,000 permanent military with up to 48,900 family members at Fort Bliss by the end of 2012. On top of those permanent numbers are temporary duty and surge numbers of troops that fluctuate.

For example, there are 10,000 temporary troops training at Fort Bliss in December and January who will be deployed for a new mission elsewhere by Feb. 1. The Army would like Ruidoso/Ruidoso Downs/Lincoln County to be the rest and recreation center for this type of troop population, in addition to permanent personnel and troops rotating back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

- White Sands Missile Range has less than 1,000 military individuals, but more civilian contractors, who like to spend time in this area, in addition to a small Navy detachment.

- Holloman Air Force Base is in the process of aircraft rotation (F-22 to F-35), which still is uncertain. The drone program training is now run out of HAFB and with this program, there are 5,000 to 6,000 troops plus families, including the German Air Force at HAFB.

- Canon AFB was not in attendance, but has solid special operations training programs and a similar need for airman R & R.

- The military couldn't give any firm numbers for those who will visit the area each year.

- Troops who return from overseas need 45 days after a year deployment to reintegrate with families, then onto training for next mission. Soldiers of all ranks, ethnic backgrounds and religions come to the area. The report from all ranks is that they were treated very well in

Ruidoso. Ruidoso business people have gone above and beyond with special gestures.

- Federal government per diem rates were detailed. The federal government has standard government per diem rates for lodging, with five special rate areas in New Mexico. Ruidoso, despite high lodging prices, currently is not a special rate area. The five non-standard rates in New Mexico pay \$77 per night, plus gross receipts tax, and a \$44 meal allowance. Military event planners, current government employees, military and civilian retirees look for lodgers who accept government rates. The rate is a tourism and conference/meeting event planning consideration. To accommodate the military, lodgers need to be persuaded to accept the government rate and work toward having Ruidoso/Ruidoso Downs declared a special rate area such as Los Alamos and Santa Fe.

- The military is not asking for discounts. Existing discounts were developed by local individuals volunteering to help military tourism. The simple request is if lodgers or restaurants or other retailers offer a military discount, soldiers and families need to know at the place of business, or preferably on websites, and particularly for the younger soldier and airman, on Facebook. The military "appreciates being appreciated," and not gouged by excessive prices.

## State working with tracks on heating codes

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The State Fire Marshal's staff is working with Ruidoso Downs Race Track and other tracks around New Mexico to resolve an issue involving use in tack rooms and barns of heaters that don't meet code.

Speaking from Santa Fe Wednesday, State Fire Marshal John Standerfer said the issue cropped up a few years ago with the race track in Albuquerque. "We

were working with them to correct the situation in the back areas where the horsemen and stalls are located," Standerfer said. "When that got resolved, the questions arose about other tracks in the state with the same problem. We looked at every one of them. Ruidoso Downs had the same issue, as did most of the others."

### Violated code

Heating devices that did not meet fire code specifica-

tions were being used in barns while workers were spending extended periods of time there.

"We also found a couple of working areas where propane grills designed to be used outdoors were inside and we temporarily closed them down," Standerfer said. "(Those cooking devices) are not allowed inside. The situation was corrected when we went back to check."

His staff listened to the concerns of the workers

who were exposed to the cold in the stalls and tack rooms.

### Timely answer?

"We decided to look at the codes and see what they proposed and see if we can find a solution," the state fire marshal said. He hopes that answer is in place before the horses beginning arriving for next year's racing season, he said.

A Ruidoso News exclusive



# EDUCATION

## 'Zozo grad follows success through education

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Never just settling for one victory, Annette Chavez y DeLaCruz has continued her climb on the ladder of success by furthering her education to help others to do the same.

On Dec. 12, 2010, Chavez y DeLaCruz was part of the New Mexico State University commencement ceremony at the Pan Am Center receiving her Master of Arts in Educational Administration with an emphasis in Community College and University Administration.

A 1977 graduate of Carrizozo High School, Chavez y DeLaCruz earned her diploma with honors, was co-valedictorian and earned "Greatest Grizzly" awards in volleyball, basketball and track.

She is the daughter of Nat and Polly Chavez, of Carrizozo.

Chavez y DeLaCruz has 16 years of experience at

Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) in positions of increasing responsibility. In 1999, she served as the Director of the Job Connection Center until she was asked to be the Interim Campus Director at the South Valley Campus (SVC).

CNM is the former Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute (TVI) that was established in 1965. In 2006, the school transitioned from a trade school to a community college and became the second largest educational institution in New Mexico.

According to their Website, more than 26,000 students currently attend classes at four campuses and a Workforce Training Center in the Albuquerque metropolitan area.

The South Valley Campus is home to more than 1,000 of those students.

Since her arrival at the South Valley Campus more than two years ago, Chavez

y DeLaCruz in collaboration with Academic Affairs to diversify course offerings and scheduling at SVC, which in turn has significantly increased student enrollment and satisfaction.

Chavez y DeLaCruz's internship prior to receiving her degree was served at CNM under the supervision of Phillip Bustos, the vice president of Student Services. Her goal was to develop a course or workshop targeted to first-term high school juniors that provided information, resources and encouragement to pursue college admission, complete the FAFSA and apply for scholarships.

DeLaCruz's target was not just the students, but to develop a component that includes parents as well.

She also worked to replicate a poster used by another post-secondary program on "How to Get to College."

CNM's Multi-Campus



COURTESY

Annette Chavez y DeLaCruz, second from left, received her Master of Arts in Educational Administration with an emphasis in Community College and University Administration in December from New Mexico State University. DeLaCruz is pictured with her family, l-r, Reyes, Art and Alejandra.

Director Jennifer Cornish said of Chavez y DeLaCruz, "Annette possesses the experience, spirit and commitment that will be needed to move CNM Connect forward in the context of a

difficult economy and the challenges of student successes and retention."

Chavez y DeLaCruz and her husband Art DeLaCruz, Bernalillo County Commission chairman,

have two children.

Reyes is enrolled as a biology major at the University of New Mexico and Alejandra is an eighth grader at Saint Charles Borromeo School.



COURTESY

Altrusa Club of Ruidoso donates \$500 to help support the work of the Lincoln County Literacy Council. Pictured left to right are Altrusa treasurer Pam Gervais, Lincoln County Literacy Council coordinator Susie Morss, and Altrusa vice president Judy Griffin.

## Literacy Council hosts workshop

The Lincoln County Literacy Council, part of the ENMU-Ruidoso Adult Basic Education program, will hold a one-day tutor training workshop on Saturday, Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will be held at the Nob Hill Parent Center on El Paso Road. The training will prepare tutors to work with adults who wish to improve their basic skills. If you have two hours-a-week available, you can help an adult learner achieve improved

reading proficiency.

Almost half of the adults in Lincoln County find it difficult to read medical information, help children with homework, or complete job applications.

The Lincoln County Literacy Council trains tutors to work individually with adult learners who have requested assistance in reading, writing or math. Tutoring rewards both the student and the tutor.

You can make a huge difference in someone's life

as they strive to improve their educational skills and accomplish goals. Training and materials are free.

Donations are also helpful and gratefully accepted. Altrusa's donation will be used to help defray the cost of books for adult learners.

Call Susie Morss at 575-630-8181 to find out more and to register for the tutor training workshop.

For information about the Altrusa Club of Ruidoso call Deb at 575-336-1486 or go to the website at www.AltrusaRuidoso.com.

## Sanctuary on the River classes offered

The Sanctuary on the River Inspired Living Center and ENMU-Ruidoso have partnered to offer a series of classes on wellness.

Every Wednesday from Jan. 25 through May 11 from noon until 1 p.m., Laurie Welty will be hosting a "Healthy Living" class, focusing on bringing the mind, body, and heart into balance. Learn how to

integrate effective healthy living practices by making mindful choices every day.

A light salad featuring Tom Histen's hydroponically-grown lettuces and herbs will be available for purchase by calling ahead. The fee for the series is \$119. Registration is required and must be made by Jan. 21.

"New Year-New You" will be taught by life-coach

Debbie Haines Nix on Tuesdays from Jan. 18 - March 15. This evening class from 5:30 to 7 p.m., will identify what keeps us stuck in familiar but unproductive patterns through self-discovery and group coach sessions. The fee for this series is \$119.

Registration for either class may be made by calling ENMU-Ruidoso at 575-257-3012.

## Ruidosan in architecture grad school

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Evan Remington, the son of Glenn and Anna Remington of Ruidoso, recently completed his first semester at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation. He is pursuing a master's degree.

Like his two older brothers, Remington went through the K-12 system in Ruidoso and graduated in 2001.

He married his high school sweetheart, Shauna Seidel, the daughter of Ray and Brenda Seidel in 2003. The couple has two children, Lilly, 5, and Parker, 3 years old.

Remington graduated from UNM in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in architecture.

He next spent two years running the Fabrication



COURTESY

Evan Remington, his wife Shauna, and their two children in New York City's Central Park

Lab at the UNM School of Architecture while his wife finished her Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

The family moved to New York in August.

Remington also works part-time at university architecture lab. The Master's program is a three-year process.

Remington is interested in furniture design. In 2009 he entered his desk made out of laminated cardboard in a competition for the IMM Koln International Furniture Fair in Cologne, Germany.

It was chosen among the best 50 designs out of thousands of entries.

### EDUCATION BRIEFS

#### Lucy Lamp

In cooperation with Gallery 408, ENMU-Ruidoso Community Education is offering a series of classes for the public by Artist-in-Residence, Lucy Lamp.

Lamp is coming from Minnesota for a two-month residency in Carrizozo beginning in January. She will be exploring the theme of "Spiritual Interaction Between the Human and Natural World."

She is a design professional and consultant and long-time art professor and instructor. She has exhibited at the Mayor's Design Forum in St. Paul, Minnesota, the E3, Agora, and NAWA Galleries in New York City, and The Warren in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In preparation of her finished project in Carrizozo, students have the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Lamp in the conception, planning, and installing of her exhibit. Beginning with

the observation of the space and its surroundings, moving on to sketching and modeling the exhibit, experimenting with lighting and hanging items, this is a unique opportunity to be a part of the process of an art exhibit from start to finish.

Lamp will also be teaching a one day class in January on Saturday, the 29th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on "The Power of Art in Personal Transformation." Students will learn how to incorporate art in their everyday lives through open-ended and fun exercises.

Students will receive a personal creative journal, basic supplies, worksheets, handouts, and other resources to keep.

The fee for the class is \$45. For more information or to register, call ENMU-Ruidoso Community Education at 257-3012.

#### Stephens workshop

Virgil Stephens will be

conducting a three-day workshop aimed at increasing an artist's level of realism.

The class is open to artists of all skills.

According to Stephens, the bases of learning to draw are "learning to see" deeply and profoundly, gaining confidence in one's creative abilities, and applying those lessons in one's work.

This workshop helps students to accomplish these goals by using the time honored "grid system." Stephens will demonstrate these techniques and work with students individually.

The workshop will be held Jan. 21-23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour for lunch. The fee for the workshop is \$375 plus a materials fee of \$25 that includes handouts payable to the instructor on Friday before the class begins.

For more information or to register, call ENMU-Ruidoso Community Education at 257-3012.

# GAVIN

FROM PAGE 1A

While Gavin was out of town, the assistant fire chief performed another inspection at Lucy's, found the same violations, but gave the owner a year to correct them, something that Gavin contends is "reckless," in view of a previous fire at the restaurant in 2007.

Beauvais said village policy allows 10 days to request a post termination hearing for "an independent tribunal" to review a firing. "We will request a hearing," he said Monday.

In response to 86 points enumerated by Lee in her letter and findings sent to Gavin, the attorney called the approach "papering the file, when there is no smoking gun," and questioned why some of the incidents were not cited at the time they were occurred, if they were so serious.

Other specifics cited by Lee included:

- more than 20 points dealing with events connected to her contention that a letter of no confidence from department employees was presented

to Gavin with 20 signatures Nov. 29, asking for his resignation. Gavin's attorney said he never saw any paperwork on the original vote and the numbers don't add up correctly.

- eight points were tied to Gavin's handling of the purchase of fire trucks and trade-in and sale of older vehicles, contending his handling of the issue demonstrated a lack of leadership and that the contract, although approved by the village attorney, could have been challenged.

- seven points tied to a mock disaster exercise and subsequent "hostile" interaction with the village's emergency manager. She stated that Gavin's "outburst of anger" toward the former village emergency manager was unacceptable and reflected poorly on the village. Beauvais said Gavin's outburst consisted of calling out to the emergency manager to respond to someone on the emergency radio when Gavin was unable to get up and walk across the room.

- three points were associated with criticism of Gavin's handling of a positive drug test after an accident in a village vehicle. The drug eventually turned



GAVIN

out to be a prescription, but Lee said the incident illustrated Gavin's "inability to control your emotions and conduct yourself in an appropriate professional and dispassionate manner."

- seven points Lee cited were connected to the Lucy's inspection. Lee contended the building owner was using the fire department to evict the restaurant owner from the structure and that many of the violations should be directed to the owner of the building. Beauvais said Gavin was notified of problems and performed his duty of inspecting the building, allowing the usual 30 days for corrections. Lee wrote that when Gavin left for vacation without contacting the owner of Lucy's, she asked the assistant chief to see if he could work through the

situation. Vincent respected, talked to the owner of the building and the restaurant and extended the correction period to one year. Lee wrote that she e-mailed Gavin in an effort to keep him updated, but received a "disrespectful" message back.

"You were more concentrated on your authority and your decision to only give 30 days for correction and had no regard for everyone affected by the outcome of your decision," she wrote.

- four points were connected to the use of a village purchasing card. Lee wrote that while auditors were reviewing use of the cards, which was encouraged by the village, she found some purchases by Gavin she felt were unnecessary and intended to meet with him, but he contacted her first about two

meals purchased that included alcoholic beverages. Gavin discovered the purchases, called them to Lee's attention, repaid the expenses and was suspended for three days without pay for the infraction. At the time, Beauvais said Gavin's recollection is the manager commented that, "Everyone's done it. We need to be careful,"

- that while overall Gavin's performance was rated as expected or above expectations, a common element in all evaluations appeared to be that administratively, he is exceptional working independently, but struggled working as a team member or in leading his department. Those issues deteriorated significantly over the months following his June 16, 2010 evaluation by Lee, and reached the point where he is unable to effectively lead the fire department.

Responding to a request for comment, Lee said, "Mr. Gavin's employment is a confidential personnel matter and the administration process is in progress."

She also sent a copy of the manager's policy on post termination hearings, which states that a written appeal must be submitted

to the Human Resource Office within five business days of the Department Director's notice by the former employee and with the reasons for the appeal in detail.

However, in her letter to Gavin dated Jan. 5, Lee wrote, "In accordance with the Village of Ruidoso Personnel Policy Section 7-5-Due Process for Classified Employees, you have the right to request in writing, a post determination hearing within ten days of receipts of this decision."

The policy continues that the village manager or his designee serves as the Hearing Officer and conducts the hearing. The employee may be represented by one person, such as legal counsel, but must notify the Human Resource Office at least two working days prior to the time of the hearing, if legal counsel is to be present.

"The hearing shall be closed except when an employee requests in writing that the hearing be open," the policy states. "The employee must notify the Human Resource Office at least two working days prior to the time of the hearing if the meeting is to be open."

# FORUM

FROM PAGE 1A

forward to being a part of the process next time," Beatty said. He was appointed to replace Rafael "Rifle" Salas on the Board in late May 2010. "There has been an 8.8 percent decrease in the budget every year for the past three years and we have done that with no lay-offs and no cut in programs."

"The first thing we need to look at is hiring a part-time grant writer," Temple said. "There are a lot of organizations out there begging to give away money."

"We have a very good grant writer in Patty White along with Dr. Bea Harris," Luterma said. "It has been very important to the Board that we not get rid of any teachers or programs."

The candidates were questioned about bullying in the schools, citing a letter to the editor of the Ruidoso News on Dec. 28, 2010 from a parent who said she pulled her children from Ruidoso schools because of bullying.

"We are being very proactive in dealing with the problem," Vincent said. "The children have to be held accountable and we have to teach their children. That comes from the home too."

"Bullying starts at home and then the school gets to deal with it," Herrera said. "We need to bring the parents in every day until it stops."

The candidates were also asked questions about teacher's salary, tenure and evaluations.

The Republican audience applauded when Twite asked the candidates

if the schools were doing a good job of teaching history and the U.S. Constitution.

The four Capitan Board of Education candidates present at the forum were presented with the same question about history and the Constitution.

Debra Kae Anderson and Steven Dirks are running for the seat currently held by Dirks.

Anderson said she has been involved in the Capitan School system for years as a parent and volunteer.

Dirks and his wife operate Camp Lonetree and said his experience at working with a limited budget will continue to serve him on the Board.

Former Board member Danny Haynes is running against current Board member Robin Parks.

Haynes, a Capitan businessman, was on the

School Board for five years. Haynes said his experience as a businessman and previous experience on the Board are important assets.

Parks has been on the Board for eight years and said her experience in dealing with the Legislature will be helpful in getting money for the schools.

Questions for these candidates were about budgets, bond issues, saving

money and Advanced Placement classes for students.

Nathaniel Dunn and Gary Tregembo, who are vying for the same seat on the Board, were both out of town and unable to attend the forum.

ENMU-Ruidoso Community College Board opponents Lynn Willard and Julie Gilliland were present for the forum and answered audience ques-

tions about expansion of the college and involvement with the local schools.

Incumbent Community College Board members Michelle Perry and Brad Treptow are unopposed and were not present at the meeting.

All of the candidates were invited to attend the Republican Women of Lincoln County meeting Jan. 24 at the Ruidoso Senior Center.

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**January 14, 2011**  
**for our year end**  
**bookkeeping**  
**housekeeping.**  
**We will re-open on**  
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## STATE

FROM PAGE 1A

we will no longer have the financial obligation for those assets and we will receive funding of \$182,000 per year," Underwood said.

Robert Donaldson, executive director of the Hubbard Foundation, said at the special meeting that the agreement was a great step forward for the future of the museum.

"In helping to get this new partnership off to a good start the Hubbard Foundation will step in by contributing an additional \$100,000 a year for the operation of the museum for the next three years."

Underwood said museum employees would remain city employees, and would still be paid by the city because the museum will continue to be run by the city.

The operating agreement stated the city will manage the day-to-day operations of the Hubbard Museum on behalf of the Department of Cultural Affairs. That includes employment and supervision of personnel at the facility.

The department's funding for annual operational and maintenance expenses were broken down to a minimum of \$52,000 for maintenance and repairs to the property, \$80,000 for the curatorship, exhibition, conservation and maintenance of collections and cultural assets, and \$50,000 for utility expenses. Insurance of the museum and its properties will be paid by the department.

When transferred to the city in 2005, then museum owner R. D. Hubbard included a \$1.5 million dollar endowment. The city has generally been using \$150,000 of the endowment each year, said Terri Mosley, Ruidoso Downs' finance director. Half of the endowment remains, and will continue to held by the city.

The city would also retain all income derived from the operation of the museum, including admission fees and gift shop and concession sales.

A recital to the agreement stated the New Mexico Cultural Affairs Department and the city wished to enter into the agreement "to provide for the city's continued operation of the museum because of its unique knowledge of the collections and operations of the museum

## Talks began years ago

JIM KALVELAGE  
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The state had considered acquiring the Hubbard Museum of the American West more than six years ago. Discussions between the museum and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs began in 2004, and at midyear a letter of intent was signed. Under the terms, museum owner R. D. Hubbard would have gifted the "greater part" of the museum's real and personal property to the state. Some items, principally those associated with the Race Horse Hall of Fame, were excluded. An inventory of items to be gifted would be included in a final agreement between the museum and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

In October 2004, then-acting museum director Jean Stoddard told the museum's director of exhibits and its curator of collections that Hubbard did not want three pieces in the collection to be given to the state because he wanted to keep them. Those were described in a New Mexico Court of Appeals document as two paintings by Frederic Remington and a bronze sculpture by C. M. Russell. The three were valued at approximately \$3 million. They had belonged to a part of the museum's property called the Anne. C. Stradling collection.

Museum director of exhibits Greg Shuman and collections curator Melinda McPeck told Stoddard that the Stradling Foundation prohibited removal of the three pieces from the collection. They also said such a withdrawal would be a violation of the American Association of Museums' code of ethics. But a "deaccession," the proper removal of items from a museum collection, was undertaken.

In January 2005, McPeck contacted an official in the Department of Cultural Affairs over concerns that the state might not be aware that the three pieces would not be part of the gift. Later the museum provided the state with an inventory of items that would be included in the gift. The inventory excluded the three deaccessioned works. After receiving the inventory, Stuart Ashman, the state's director of cultural affairs, decided the state would not accept the museum and its property. On Feb. 7, 2005, Shuman was fired. McPeck was terminated on Feb. 21, 2005. Shuman and McPeck sued the museum, alleging retaliatory discharges for being whistleblowers.

A district court judge determined, and the New Mexico Court of Appeals affirmed, that the firings were not retaliation because Shuman and McPeck were "at-will employees," and could be terminated for any reason or for no reason at all. The whistleblower stand was rejected because there was no evidence of fraud by the museum. The New Mexico Supreme Court dismissed the suit on Nov. 17, 2010.

and its relationship with the (Hubbard Museum of the American West) Foundation, and all parties attest that such an agreement will further complement and support, in the most cost effective and fiscally responsible manner, the duties and functions that are the statutory responsibility of DCA and to the great benefit and value to the citizens of and visitors to the state of New Mexico."

During the public input segment of the Jan. 10 city council meeting, resident Wayne Williams called agreement possibly a good move.

"It frees up a lot of our money and a lot of our time," Williams said. "But I

would like to make a suggestion that you have an outside legal firm look at this contract.

"The Underwood firm has too close of ties with the Hubbard association people, I think, to give an honest view to strictly protect the city."

The Hubbard Museum of the American West was established in 1992 by Ruidoso Downs Race Track owner R. D. Hubbard and his wife Joan Dale. It grew out of the former Anne C. Stradling's Museum of the Horse collection.

On Aug. 31, 2005, the Hubbards donated the museum to the city of Ruidoso Downs, along with the endowment to help continue museum operations.

## New single-family housing boosts construction figures

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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New single-family housing construction boosted construction value figures for building activity in Ruidoso to more than \$2 million during the month of December.

Building Official Shawn Fort said although the number of permits issued dipped, the valuation jumped because of seven new homes.

### Unusual trend

"It's nice to see us getting away from redos to new construction," Deputy Village Manager and Planning Director Bill Morris told members of the village Planning and Zoning Commission Tuesday.

Fort added it's especially

unusual to see such an increase during December, when construction usually slows down, because of inclement weather.

Fort's report showed that 101 permits were issued in December, compared to 128 in November, 121 in October and 119 in September. But the total value of the work to be accomplished increased to \$2,153,081, compared to \$854,240 in November, \$1.6 million in October and \$1.84 million in September. The associated permit fees for all types of building, plumbing, electrical and mechanical work were \$21,300 for December, \$17,998 for November, \$21,799 for October and \$24,078 for September.

Roofing projects and decks dominated the reno-

vation category with wide variations in the value of the work.

The single-family housing projects permits were issued on Dec. 8, for a value of \$185,203 to the owner/builder on Brentwood Dr.; on Dec. 9, for \$200,019 to the owner/builder on High Mesa; on Dec. 20, for \$216,460 to the owner/builder on Golden Rod; on Dec. 20, for \$246,712 to Ratliff Construction on Alto Mesa Road; on Dec. 20, for \$121,023 to Sierra Blanca Construction on Chaparral Dr.; on Dec. 27, for \$394,516 to Ruidoso Mountain Builders on Cedar Creek; and on Dec. 28, for \$449,595 to Griffin's Wood Works in Ranches of Sonterra.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

# Driver of vehicle that struck officer sentenced

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The driver who struck a Ruidoso Police officer directing traffic for a parade in October has pled no contest to reckless driving.

Brady Hester, 40, appeared in Carrizozo Magistrate Court Dec. 27, 2010 and pled no contest to a charge of reckless driving under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Reed Thompson.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of driving on a revoked or suspended driver's license.

Judge Martha Proctor sentenced Hester to 90 days in jail, with 85 days suspended and five days to be served, 85 days of supervised probation, a \$100 fine and unspecified restitution to the Village of Ruidoso or officer David Gallegos.

Hester was the driver of a vehicle that struck David Gallegos at the intersection of Mechem Drive and Terrace Drive as Gallegos directed traffic around the

AspenFest Parade route on Oct. 2, 2010. Gallegos was treated and released at Lincoln County Medical Center, then spent several weeks on limited duty.

New Mexico State Police officer Cory Crayton reportedly consulted with the District Attorney's office before citing Hester for reckless driving and driving on a suspended or revoked license.

Proctor also ordered Hester to write a letter of apology to Gallegos.

With reporting by Jim Kalvelage jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

# Forger sentenced to probation

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CARRIZOZO - Richard Lance Crenshaw has been sentenced to five years probation by District Judge Karen Parsons.

Crenshaw pled no contest to charges of forgery, fraud, unlawful use of an identification card, larceny and receiving and disposing of stolen property Dec. 10 under a plea and disposition agreement.

Under that agreement, the State dismissed 39 additional charges, 36 of those charges involved unlawful use of an identification card.

Ruidoso Police arrested Crenshaw, 29, June 1, after a search that began in April when residents of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs started reporting checks being stolen from their mailboxes.

Those stolen checks would reappear with a different name in the "pay to" line and a different amount.

Crenshaw would steal the checks from mailboxes and "wash" the information, then cash the checks or use them to make purchases.

Police obtained video of Crenshaw making purchases at Walmart in Ruidoso Downs with stolen checks. Crenshaw would then return the merchandise for a cash refund. A picture of Crenshaw in a car in the Walmart parking lot helped Ruidoso police identify him.

Corporal Mike Weaver recognized the vehicle when answering an unrelated call and identified Crenshaw as the forger they had been seeking.

Crenshaw also left a clue as to his identity at the Inn of the Mountain Gods.

"He slipped up by signing for the Player's Club under the name of one of his victims," Detective Sergeant Ray Merritt, Jr. said. "But he put his real date of birth on the player's club. I did a database search of dates of births in our system and we got a hit."

Merritt said Crenshaw has been stealing and "washing" checks all over Southern New Mexico for several years.

Parsons ordered Crenshaw to attend a program at Opportunity House, a substance abuse clinic, and to pay restitution of \$250 to

the Inn of the Mountain Gods and \$915.59 to Walmart within 30 days of completing the Opportunity House Program.

Crenshaw pled no contest to two charges of forgery over \$2500 in Carlsbad District Court in June and received probation and time served.

Crenshaw also pled no contest to a charge of fraud of less than \$250, a charge of forgery, and six counts of receiving stolen property of less than \$250 in Las Cruces District Court, Dec. 21.

The State dismissed 15 counts of forgery one count of fraud of over \$500 six counts of receiving stolen property of less than \$250, one count of possession of drug paraphernalia and one count of possession or use of an altered, forged or fictitious license in that case.

The case was reassigned to Judge Mike Murphy on Jan. 3, 2011 and Murphy will sentence Crenshaw at some time in the future. Crenshaw's sentencing was scheduled for Jan. 10, but was put on hold when Murphy replaced Judge Stephen Bridgforth on the bench.

arrival he observed a woman yelling at a man on the balcony, saying that she wanted him arrested.

After Bryant arrived the officers made contact with the people and reported it was a daughter and her father.

Ledford reports that

after interviewing the father, then the daughter, the daughter admitted nothing happened but an argument and she was trying to get her father arrested because she was upset with him.

Ledford reports they were separated.

## CARRIZOZO MAGISTRATE COURT CASES

### Domestic

David Leroy appeared in court Dec. 27, waived the right to legal representation and pled guilty to a charge of battery on a household member.

Judge Martha Proctor sentenced Leroy to 364 days in jail, with 347 days suspended and credit for 17 days served, a \$1,000 fine with \$750 suspended and 347 days of supervised probation.

New Mexico State Police officer Sam Huston filed a criminal complaint against Leroy Dec. 10, 2010 after Huston reported stopping a vehicle for speeding near the intersection of Carrizo Canyon and Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso and finding that the driver had bruising around her eyes.

Huston reported that the woman said she was driving somewhere to call her mom because her boyfriend had struck her.

Huston reports that he made contact with Leroy and found he was intoxicated and said he didn't know what had happened. Leroy reportedly admitted getting into a fight with the victim.

### Second DWI

Abel Avila appeared in court Dec. 29, waived the right to legal representation and pled no contest to a charge of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs, second offense.

Judge Martha Proctor sentenced Avila to 364 days in jail, with 311 days suspended and credit for 53 days served, a \$1,000 fine, with \$500 suspended and two years of supervised probation.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Johnny Parker arrested Avila Nov. 6, 2010 after he responded to a report of a vehicle roll-over on Bonita Lake Road about a mile west of Highway 37.

Parker reported finding Avila's pickup upside down facing east on the road.

Parker reported that Avila smelled of alcohol, pointed the wrong way when asked where he was going, and failed a field sobriety test.

### License deals

Adolph Herrera appeared in court Dec. 29, waived the right to legal representation and pled no contest to two amended charges of

driver must be licensed and one count of no insurance under a plea and disposition agreement reached with Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Williams.

Under the agreement, the State amended the charges of driving on a suspended or revoked license and dismissed one charge of no insurance.

Judge Martha Proctor sentenced Herrera to a two suspended 90-day jail term, 90 days of unsupervised probation and suspended \$250 of a \$300 fine on each of the driver's license charges.

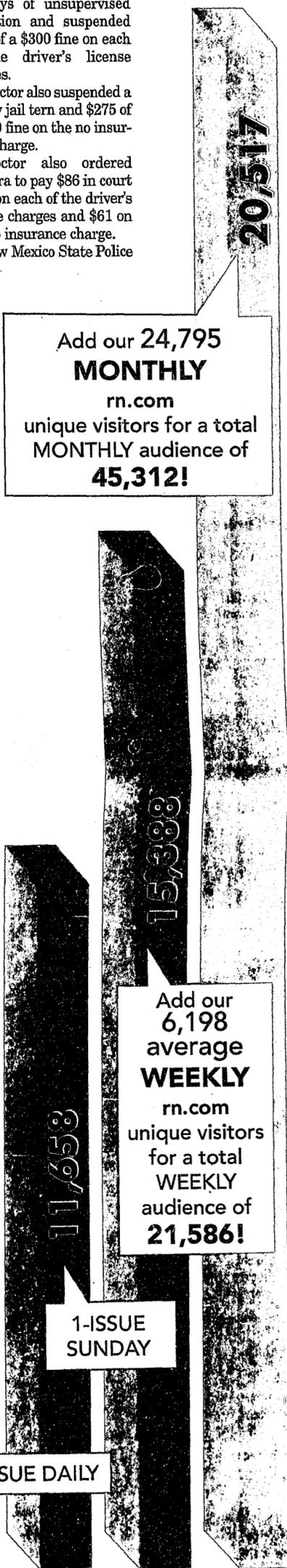
Proctor also suspended a 90-day jail term and \$275 of a \$300 fine on the no insurance charge.

Proctor also ordered Herrera to pay \$86 in court costs on each of the driver's license charges and \$61 on the no insurance charge.

New Mexico State Police

officer Sam Huston cited Herrera after stopping him July 9, 2010 on Highway 48 and finding Herrera's license was suspended for failure to pay fines and he did not have insurance.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Neil Cox stopped Herrera for speeding on Paso Monte on July 13, 2010 and cited him for the same offenses.



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Sources: November 2010 Omniture, Scarborough readership estimate based on March 2010-R2.

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# RUIDOSO NEWS

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# Blame La Niña: Snowpack is down across region

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So far this winter La Niña has pretty much done what it advertised - less precipitation for the Sacramento and Capitan mountains.

The first Natural Resources Conservation Service water supply forecast for 2011 is focused on a storm track that has favored southwest Colorado and northwest New Mexico, providing that region with above normal early winter precipitation. But most of southern and eastern New Mexico had been much drier than normal since October 2010.

"This moderate to strong La Niña that we have in place has been steering a good portion of storm track north of New Mexico," said Wayne Sleep, a hydrological technician with the NRCS in New Mexico. "We're seeing some lower than average precipitation and snowpack especially in the southern end of the state."

The snowpack in the Rio Hondo Basin for the beginning of January was at 76 percent of normal.

"Compared to last year, we're way down," Sleep said. "Last year was El Niño. The snotel site that we have down there (in the northern Sacramento Mountains) had its highest snowpack in the period of record on that site for part of last year's snow season. The way this one's starting out, I don't think we're going to have that again this year."

The ongoing La Niña

favors a continuation of drier than normal weather conditions for southern and eastern New Mexico into the spring months.

"That's kind of bad news," said Ed Polasko, a meteorologist and surface hydrologist with the National Weather Service in New Mexico. "When you think of spring you think of warm and dry and windy. We don't usually get a lot of precipitation in the spring. The problem with La Niña is they tend to make that even more of a self-fulfilling prophesy."

Polasko said a La Niña during the spring months could mean 50 to 60 percent of seasonally reduced precipitation.

"We need to keep our fingers crossed so that whatever storms do manage to drop down in our direction can stick around and generate some moisture for us."

The potential for the moderate to strong La Niña pattern does not boost confidence that the snowpack numbers will improve substantially through this snow season.

In the Rio Hondo basin, November was significantly drier than average, at just 5 percent of normal precipitation. November 2009 had been 80 percent of average. Local December precipitation picked back up at 157 percent of average, similar to a year earlier. Year-to-date precipitation was 94 percent of average, a drop from the previous year's 136 percent at the beginning of the month.

The 76 percent of average snowpack in the Rio Hondo Basin is a significant decrease from last year's 169 percent. Right now it is 45 percent of what was seen a year ago.



COURTESY JOHN T. SODEN

Despite a dry winter, snow-making and enough of Mother Nature have drawn crowds to Ski Apache.

"A lot of what happens from here on out is going to be dependent on whether or now we can get into the storm track long enough to pick up some significant snows from at least a few storms," Sleep said.

The Sierra Blanca Snotel station measured 19 inches of snow depth on Monday, holding 5.2 inches of water. Typically early January has about 7.5 inches of snow-equivalent water.

Cold temperatures in the mountains could be a plus.

"If we can keep the temperatures fairly cold that will at least allow us to hold onto the snowpack that we have gotten," Sleep said. And then, if we can get some storms through, hopefully it will all fall as snow."

Polasko agreed. "The good news is we're just starting in on our snow accumulation season," Polasko said. "The bad news is the longer La Niña hangs around, and it's projected to hang on into the spring, is the likelihood that the upcoming snow accumulation season just won't be as good as we would like to see, especially across the southern part of the state." But La Niña does not

mean it will be dry non-stop going into the spring months.

"Just like we saw so far early this winter, it was mostly dry, mostly dry, and all of the sudden the storm track found us for about four or five days, and it was kind of like wow, winter is back and things look pretty good and we're finally starting to pick up on the snow that we hadn't gotten in the mountains. But as soon as you say that, a couple of days later, you're back to where you were before."

Polasko added that La Niña is more a guideline than the rule.

"During a strong La Niña - and we're kind of on

that fringe of being a strong La Niña event - the winter precipitation averages about 80 percent of normal, which isn't all the bad. The problem is the spring precipitation during a strong La Niña averages between 50 and 60 percent. The spring is when we usually end up having problems in the sense that the snow that's up there goes away due to the warm temperatures and the usual spring winds. Then you start drying out the fuels and we know what to watch for after that."

Sleep said if the dry pattern continues, there could be a serious fire season during the spring.

"Going in with reduced precipitation, the trees will be a little bit stressed. And then, especially if we get warm and windy this spring, it could sure impact the fire season."

The outlook report's streamflow forecast for the March to June period for the Rio Hondo Basin was put at 4,100 acre feet of water, or 55 percent of average runoff in the Rio Ruidoso at the Hollywood measuring gauge. An acre-foot is the amount of water required to cover an acre of land to a depth of one-foot. It equals 325,851 gallons.

Sleep noted the forecast model assumes average precipitation for the coming several months.

"It will definitely influence the surface water, the storage in the reservoir for town use," Sleep said of Ruidoso's reliance on Grindstone Reservoir for a part of the village's water supply.

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7:30pm	Peter Lane - Chopin 20 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration	Las Cruces - NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall
7:30pm	Peter Lane - Chopin 20 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration	UTEP Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall

### CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL • JANUARY 5, 2011 - JANUARY 30, 2011

Jan 5, 2011	Wed	7:00pm	\$5 Music Film Series - True Lies	Plaza Philanthropy Theatre
Jan 7, 2011	Fri	7:30pm	Opening Celebration "Cosmic C Major"	Western Hills United Methodist Church
Jan 8, 2011	Sat	7:30pm	Russian Romantic Tradition	Las Cruces - Rio Grande Theatre
Jan 9, 2011	Sun	2:00pm	Fifths Falling, Fifths Rising	Scottish Rite Temple
Jan 12, 2011	Wed	7:00pm	\$5 Music Film Series - Bach & Friends	Plaza Philanthropy Theatre
Jan 13, 2011	Fri	7:30pm	The Australian Didjeridu	Western Hills United Methodist Church
Jan 14, 2011	Sat	7:30pm	Rubens String Quartet	Western Hills United Methodist Church
Jan 15, 2011	Sat	9:30pm	World Music @ 2900	2900 Kitchen/Lounge
Jan 16, 2011	Sun	2:00pm	The Australian Didjeridu	Las Cruces - Rio Grande Theatre
Jan 19, 2011	Wed	7:00pm	\$5 Music Film Series - Deception	Plaza Philanthropy Theatre
Jan 21, 2011	Fri	7:30pm	An evening with violinist Joseph Silverstein	Las Cruces - NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall
Jan 22, 2011	Sat	7:30pm	An evening with violinist Joseph Silverstein	Western Hills United Methodist Church
Jan 23, 2011	Sun	2:00pm	Harlem String Quartet	Scottish Rite Temple
Jan 26, 2011	Wed	7:00pm	\$5 Music Film Series - From Mao to Mozart	Plaza Philanthropy Theatre
Jan 28, 2011	Fri	7:30pm	EPSO/EPPM Brahms Double Concerto	Plaza Theater (Tickets only through EPSO)
Jan 29, 2011	Sat	7:30pm	EPSO/EPPM Brahms Double Concerto	Plaza Theater (Tickets only through EPSO)
Jan 30, 2011	Sun	2:00pm	International Competition Winners	UTEP Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall

7:00pm	Quintet Quintet Night of Tango	Las Cruces - NMSU Atkinson Recital Hall
7:00pm	Quintet Quintet Night of Tango	UTEP Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall

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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12, 2011

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PAGE 1B

## side line

### Ski Report

#### Ski Apache

For the first time this year the top of the mountain was opened Jan. 8. Chino and Moonshine Gulch runs will be operational. As of this report Gondola is the only way to the top but Chair No. 1 is under consideration. The snow resort is open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may call 464-1234 for the latest ski report and information. The ski report is culled from [www.ski-apachesnowreport.com](http://www.ski-apachesnowreport.com). Tickets: Season passes are normally available by phone at 464-3600.

New snow past 48 hrs.: 0 inches

Season total: 26 inches

Snowmaking: Yes

Mid-mountain snow: 26 inches

Snow surface: Packed powder

Weather for Wednesday: Scattered flurries and snow showers. High 39F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent. Wednesday evening, partly cloudy skies. Low 24F. Winds WNW at 5 to 10 mph.

Weather for Thursday: Mainly sunny. Highs in the low 50s and lows in the low 30s.

Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, Ramp, Lower Deep Freeze, Capitan Lite, Capitan Heavy, Lower Moonshine, Lower Spruce, Lower Sierra Blanca Trail, Smokey Bear, Snow Park, Chino and Moonshine Gulch

Lifts open: No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 7. Gondola open, weather permitting

### Results

#### Boys basketball

Saturday, Jan. 8

Goddard 72, Ruidoso 60

Friday, Jan. 7

Ruidoso 61, Dexter 54

#### Smokey Bear Tournament

Thursday, Jan. 6

Capitan 83, Corona 12

Reserve 60, Mescalero 41

Carrizozo 52, Cloudfcroft 49

Hagerman 83, Hondo 44

Friday, Dec. 7

Hondo 64, Cloudfcroft 54

Hagerman 90, Carrizozo 23

Mescalero 67, Corona 31

Reserve 50, Capitan 45

Saturday, Jan. 8

Cloudfcroft 52, Corona 17

Capitan 56, Carrizozo 42

Hondo 76, Mescalero 59

Hagerman 81, Reserve 27. -

Championship

#### Girls Basketball

Friday, Jan. 7

Ruidoso 78, Socorro 45

#### Smokey Bear Tournament

Thursday, Jan. 6

Capitan 55, Corona 16

Hagerman 45, Carrizozo 24

Mescalero 43, Hondo 38

Cloudfcroft 52, Reserve 27

Friday, Jan. 7

Hondo 46, Reserve 43

Cloudfcroft 45, Mescalero 40

Carrizozo 49, Corona 29

Hagerman 54, Capitan 22

Saturday, Jan. 8

Mescalero 38, Capitan 31

Carrizozo 44, Hondo 33

Reserve 52, Corona 26

Hagerman 37, Cloudfcroft 32. -

Championship game

### Sports On Tap

#### Basketball

##### Girls

Thursday, Jan. 13

Carrizozo at Mescalero, 4 p.m.

Eilda at Hondo, 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 14

Corona at Carrizozo, 5 p.m.

Ruidoso at Tularosa, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 15

Hondo at Clovis, 5 p.m.

##### Boys

Thursday, Jan. 13

Ruidoso at Goddard, 5:30 p.m.

Carrizozo at Mescalero, 4 p.m.

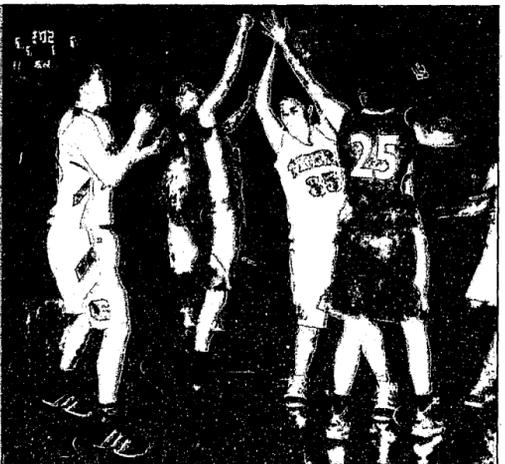
Eilda at Hondo, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 14

Corona at Carrizozo, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 15

Hot Springs at RHS, 5:30 p.m.



Clockwise from top left, Corona's Taylor Huey goes in for two as Kelly Gensler of Carrizozo tries to defend.

The Mescalero Lady Chiefs captured third place in Capitan's 35th Smokey Bear Classic.

Capitan's Rudy Chavez goes airborne, while Carrizozo defenders, Wade Sultemeier (No. 34), Mark Vigil (No. 3) and Don Myers try to stop him.

Hondo's Germa Lerma attempts to get by a Hagerman player. The Eagles played the Bobcats, who won the boys title, closer than any other team.

Lady Tigers player, Kaitlin Keaton, tries to get through two Hagerman defenders in Saturday's game.

Hondo's Denika Willis looks for the basket as her team-mate, Valeria Lerma tries to help.

Corona's Ethan Johnson looks for some help as Mescalero's Justin Franklin blocks him.

Lincoln County players who were named to the All-Tournament boys team were: Rudy Chavez and Logan Eshom (Capitan), Mark Vigil (Carrizozo) and Hondo's Luis Montaño.

On the girls All-tournament team were: Dany Jones and Scheryiah Romero (Capitan), Shelly Gensler (Carrizozo), Taylor Huey (Corona), Chanci Lopez (Hondo) and Valerie Garcia (Mescalero).



# Smokey Bear Classic a hit

MIKE CURRAN  
[mcurran@ruidosonews.com](mailto:mcurran@ruidosonews.com)

Five Lincoln County high schools — Capitan, Corona, Carrizozo, Hondo and Mescalero — competed in last week's 35th Smokey Bear Tournament. Hagerman took two first places in the girls and boys division just as they did a year ago. In the boy's title competition the Bobcats downed Reserve, 81-27, and in the girl's championship event Hagerman got by Cloudfcroft, 37-32. That contest was the closest anyone came to the Lady Bobcats.

The Capitan boys took third place in last year's tournament and repeated that feat Saturday by defeating Carrizozo, 56-42. The Hondo Eagles were the consolation champions. Hondo had the misfortune to play Hagerman in their initial game Thursday and lost, 83-44. That being said, the Eagles played the Bobcats closer than either of the

other two teams Hagerman beat. The Mescalero girls made a strong showing by downing the Lady Tigers, 53-38, for a third place showing. Carrizozo was the consolation champion. The Lady Grizzlies, like the Hondo boys, had the bad luck to draw Hagerman in their first game Thursday and went down to defeat in that game, 45-24. As always, this esteemed three-day tournament was once again memorable for its good competition, pleasant food and superior officiating.

"Except for Hagerman - who outclassed us all - the competition was exceptional," Carrizozo head coach Billy Page said. "The Hagerman boys are talented and fast. Hondo gave them the best game of the tournament but in the end, the Bobcats' size and ability finally got to the Eagles. We (the Grizzlies) didn't

execute well against them. We were trying to score one more point than Hagerman at the final buzzer but that plan didn't come together for us." "We would like to sincerely thank the teams who came, as well as the officiating crew from Hobbs," Capitan Athletic Director Jason Hightower said. "We are especially grateful to the Capitan parents who volunteered their time to once again make this event an outstanding success."

# Lady Warriors win two more and go to 10-4

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Ruidoso girls head coach Julie Montoya has her squad clicking on all cylinders.

Friday, the Lady Warriors took down visiting Socorro, 78-45, and Saturday they journeyed to Silver High School and beat the Fighting Colts, 56-34.

With the win at Silver, Ruidoso now goes to 10-4 overall and has won four-in-a-row for their longest win streak of the season.

Friday's game with Socorro saw the Lady Warriors take a slight 19-16 advantage by the end of the first quarter. The second eight minutes of play was the undoing of visitors when they could only score

seven while RHS put up 20.

In the third period of play the hometown girls tacked on 21 and led Socorro 60-38 going into the last quarter.

Like the second quarter, the Lady Warriors were tough on defense and gave up only seven to the visitors to win going away by 33.

Abriana Herrera led in double digits with 18, while Sydney Gonzales, Lyndsey Saenz and Marjanel Vigil each pumped in 14.

Of the 11 players to see floor time, eight scored points.

The Ruidoso girls will have entertained a home-and-home rematch with Silver Tuesday and the will turn their attentions to Tularosa Friday for a 6:30 p.m. tilt.



Brittanie Vega scored eight points in the win against Socorro.



Sydney Gonzales hit double digits with 14 in Friday's game.

# RHS boys team splits a pair; improves along the way

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

The Ruidoso hardwood crew played a tough, hard-fought battle at home Friday with the visiting Dexter Demons and came out with a well-earned 61-54 victory. On Saturday afternoon the hometown Warriors entertained the Goddard Rockets and lost 72-60.

Friday's game with Dexter was a nip-and-tuck affair until the very end. At the two-minute mark of the first quarter, the visitors led 9-6. When the quarter ended the score was knotted at 11. By halftime RHS had pulled out a 32-25 lead. Going into the last period of play, RHS continued to remain ahead, 41-36. Dexter wasn't about to give up the ghost and with one minute left in the game had clawed their way back to within two, 56-54. With 30 seconds left on the clock Daniel Salazar hit a layup to put the Warriors in front

by four. With mere seconds remaining, Forrest Sanchez hit one-of-two from the foul line and again went to the foul line with two seconds left and sank two-of-two to seal the victory for RHS.

Terrence Shields and Ismail Cook led double digits with 16 each and Sanchez followed with 10 of his own.

"Dexter is a better team than they were last year," Ruidoso head coach Dennis Davis said. "They don't have the height they did last season but they have well-rounded athletes. They made runs at us and we made runs at them. Later on we slowed the game down and the boys looked for layup opportunities. We ran the offense longer and thus kept the ball more. The fewer times the other team gets the ball the better your chances are of winning. It was a competitive game."

For the Dexter game Sanchez was six-of-seven from the line. The three he made at the end sealed the

fate of the visitors.

In Saturday's Goddard game the Warriors were slow to start.

"With the Rockets, we came out flat and missed some opportunities to score," Davis said.

Even then, RHS was able to tie the score at the end of the first quarter. By the half Ruidoso was only down by five.

"Against the Rockets our defensive intensity was good but we should have scored more on the easier tries."

A loss is a loss, however, the Rockets have beaten Artesia by 21 and lost to Lovington 67-64.

RHS will have played at Hot Springs Tuesday and the will have a return engagement with the Rockets at Goddard Thursday.

"I feel we're getting better with every game we play - especially on defense," Davis said. "We're progressing and we should be competitive in our remaining games."



Tito Montoya contributed five points in Ruidoso's 61-54 win over Dexter Friday.

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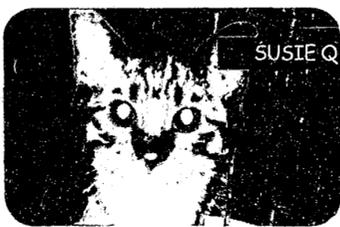
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JAZZY

Jazzy is a beautiful pointer mix, around one year old. She has a docked tail and striking liver and white markings. Jazzy is very athletic and loves playing with other dogs. She is also outgoing and friendly with people. Jazzy weighs a little over 40 pounds, is spayed and current on vaccinations and is just about completely housebroken.

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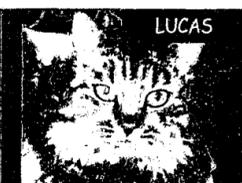


SUSIE Q

Susie Q has it all...looks, personality and she has been de-clawed on her front paws. Susie is about 7 months old, has short hair and is an orange tabby in color. She is very affectionate with everyone she meets and also gets along well with other cats. Susie Q is also spayed, current on vaccinations and ready to find her permanent home.

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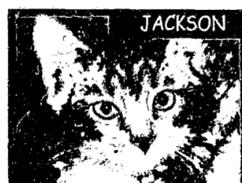
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LUCAS

Lucas is a very friendly brown tabby who would love to find a new home. He has a nice coat and big beautiful eyes.

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JACKSON

Jackson is a very handsome boy about 3 months old. He is very playful and would love to find a new home.

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WILLIE

Willie is a friendly little guy about 3 months old. He has a beautiful coat and long pretty whiskers.

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SPEEDY

Speedy is a cute short haired kitten, about 10-12 weeks old. He is very playful and friendly.

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FLASH

Flash is about 10-12 weeks old, short haired and is a buff/orange tabby. He is very playful and outgoing.

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FRACK

Frack is a short haired, solid gray kitten and is about 10 weeks old. He is very rambunctious, just as a kitten should be!

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# FOOTBALL BANQUET HONORS WARRIORS



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**All-District All-State honors** are bestowed on, l-r, front row, Dylan Volquardson (Honorable Mention [HM], All-District linebacker), Gage Whipple (HM, All-district linebacker) and Armando Baca (HM, All-District linebacker). Middle row, Clayton Blaylock (HM, All-District defensive end), Ismail Cook (HM, All-District safety), Jacob Rodriguez (2nd team, All-District tackle), Ascencion Orosco (1st team, All-district tackle), Dakota Buurma (2nd team, All-District guard) and Mathew Carr (2nd team, All-district def. tackle). Back row, Warren McCracken (1st team, All-District center), Daniel Salazar (1st team, All-district def. end, 2nd team, All-District tight end), Julian Lopez (2nd team, All-District receiver and corner), Forrest Sanchez (1st team, All-District receiver and 2nd team corner, All-State 2nd team WR), Brendan Flack (All-Star representative, 1st team, All-district running back and safety, All-State 2nd team, secondary, Jesse Scarafiotti (1st team, All-State punter, All-Star representative, 1st team, All-District kicker, 1st team, All-District linebacker, 1st team, All District punter, 2nd team All-District QB) and Tanner Chavez (HM, All-District tackle).



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Academic All-District honors** are bestowed on 11 players with a 3.0 cumulative average. From l-r are: Jesse Scarafiotti, Gage Whipple, Ismail Cook, Dylan Volquardson, Forrest Sanchez, Bruce Klinekole, Keenan Kane, Ryan Williams, Warren McCracken, Tyler Coleman and Daniel Salazar.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Seniors who** played their last football game for Ruidoso are, l-r, Daniel Salazar, Dakota Buurma, Ascencion Orosco, Jacob Rodriguez, Forrest Sanchez, Gage Whipple, Brendan Flack and Jesse Scarafiotti.

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# LINCOLN COUNTY



COURTESY

Jim Cooper, New Mexico Wool Growers President, of Arabela, left, and Lincoln County Extension Agent Pete Gnaikowski, far right, award Alex Chisholm the 2010 Amigo Award.

## Amigo award to Chisholm

Alex Chisholm, Albuquerque, received the Amigo Award from the New Mexico Wool Growers, Inc. (NMWGI) on Dec. 4, 2010, during the Joint Stockmen's Convention.

For 30 years, Chisholm operated the Shepherders' Café concession in the Dairy Barn at the New Mexico State Fair, serving a variety of lamb and other dishes to fair attendees. He and his crew retired at the end of the 2009 fair.

"Alex introduced more people in this state to lamb than anyone else I can think of," said Jim Cooper, NMWGI President, Arabela. "People would walk across the fairgrounds to get a lamb burger. Thanks to his hard work, many people tried lamb that never would have otherwise been exposed to our product."

Chisholm first opened the Shepherders' Café in 1980, and operated out of a

renovated sheep wagon for several years. Eventually, it moved into a more permanent facility.

On average, Chisholm estimates that the Shepherders' Café sold 600 pounds of lamb during each year's 17-day state fair, for a total of 18,000 pounds of lamb sold during the café's 30-year tenure.

He always served domestic lamb, and used New Mexico product when it was available.

"Alex has been a great friend to and supporter of our industry," Cooper noted. "We wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his years of hard work."

Chisholm also developed a ground lamb product, marketed under the Shepherders' Café label - the first USDA-approved label for a ground lamb product - for several years at Safeway and Price Club.

In addition to the State

Fair concession, Chisholm operated a restaurant, also called the Shepherders' Café for 10 years, 1983 to 1993, in the university area of Albuquerque, where the fare included lamb and other dishes.

He attended law school as a result of a dispute concerning his son's health care, and has developed a successful business and contract law career.

He also operates a construction business, Chisholm Construction, which is managed by his partner of 20 years, Carolyn Murphy. He has one son, John.

The Joint Stockmen's Convention is the annual meeting of five of the state's agricultural trade organizations, the NMWGI, the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, Dairy Producers of New Mexico, the New Mexico Federal Lands Council and New Mexico CowBelles.

## Livestock Inspector of the Year named

Brian Waldrop, Animas, was named 2010 Livestock Inspector of the Year by the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association at the recent Joint Stockmen's Convention held in Albuquerque.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to honor Brian, and to thank him for a job well done," said NMCGA President Bert Ancell, Las Vegas.

"According to the Hidalgo County ranchers he works with, Waldrop always has his eyes open and is in the right place at the right time, which from a ranchers' perspective are two very important traits in a livestock inspector.

"As an inspector in Hidalgo County, on the front line of the border war our nation is fighting today, he has a big job," Ancell continued. "In addition to typical livestock inspector duties, like checking brands at shipping time and trailer checks, he has also assisted other law



COURTESY

New Mexico Cattlegrowers President Bert Ancell gives Brian Waldrop with the 2010 Livestock Inspector of the year award.

enforcement agencies in securing the border, including prohibiting illegal access into the United States, drug busts and retrieving stolen livestock from foreign land."

New Mexico's brand and livestock protection system, enforced by the New Mexico Livestock Board, is one of the strongest in the nation, he said. In recogni-

tion of the importance of this system to the livestock industry, each year the NMCGA honors an Inspector of the Year with the generous sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Services (APHIS) Wildlife Services.

Inspectors are nominated for this annual award by the producers they serve. "Ranchers depend on livestock inspectors to not only keep livestock theft at a low level, but also protect animal and human health as well as our national border," Ancell said. "We appreciate the dedication of inspectors like Brian, and thank him for a job well done."



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## TOP SELLER



COURTESY CAPITAN FFA

The Capitan FFA Chapter has once again completed a very successful fundraiser for the 2010-11 school year. They sold fruit, cheese, and nuts from Riverstar Farms out of Mercedes, Texas. The top seller for this fundraiser was Lane Carter, a junior at Capitan High School. The second high seller was 8th grader Kalyn Hazen. Capitan FFA President J'nae Wood said "We would like to recognize all of our community support and say thank you all for everything you have done for us and the Capitan FFA Chapter. We hope you enjoyed the fruit as much as we did."

## GALLOPING GEARY



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Renowned illustrator and writer Rick Geary put some "action" in paint on the side of the Dream Space building in Carrizozo, owned by Marc and Julia Cohen. Geary began work in comics in 1977 and for 13 years was a contributor to the Funny Pages of National Lampoon. His comic stories have also been published in *Heavy Metal*, *Dark Horse Comics* and the *DC Comics/Paradox Press Big Books*. His early comic work has been collected in *Housebound with Rick Geary* from Fantagraphics Books. During a four-year stay in New York, his illustrations appeared regularly in *The New York Times Book Review*. His illustration work has also been seen in *MAD*, *Spy*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, and *American Libraries*. He has written and illustrated three children's books and two Spider-Man children's books for Marvel. His children's comic, *Society of Horrors*, ran in *Disney Adventures* magazine. He was the artist for the new series of *GUMBY Comics*. He and his wife Deborah moved to Carrizozo in 2007.

## COUNTY BRIEFS

### Meet and Greet

Candidates for the three contested positions on the Carrizozo Municipal School District board have been invited for a Jan. 17 candidates Meet and Greet.

The opportunity to hear from the candidates will take place from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Carrizozo Town Hall. The event is spearheaded by Carrizozo Works, Inc.

For more information call 575-648-2802.

D'rese Artech will run

against board member Steven Harkey at the Feb. 1 election.

Incumbent Henrietta "Sissy" Griego will be challenged by BillieJo Guevara and Rosemarie Lea Kratochvil.

Incumbent James Guevara will have two others, Patsy Vallejos and J. P. Ventura, also on the ballot for position five.

### Woman's Club

The Carrizozo Woman's Club's general meeting will

be held on Thursday, Jan. 13 at 11:30 a.m., at the clubhouse at 11th and D Avenue in Carrizozo.

Lunch will be served by hostesses Peggy Pinson and Susan Gerke.

There will be door prizes and time for socializing before the meeting begins.

The Carrizozo Woman's Club is a 90-year-old community service club. They welcome new members with open arms.

For more information call Tona Macken at 354-9760.

# Governor Martinez announces budget

MILAN SIMONICH  
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE -- Public-school classrooms would get more money, but the education administration in New Mexico would take a significant cut under Gov. Susana Martinez's proposed budget.

She made public her \$5.4 billion spending plan on Monday, saying it would not raise any taxes or force the state to borrow any money.

To make ends meet, she said, she would undo part of the movie-industry subsidy that New Mexico offers. This would amount to a cut of about \$25 million a year for filmmakers who want to shoot in the state, she said.

Tight times mandate such cutbacks, she said.

Martinez said her style on managing taxpayers' money was a simple one that would correct the basic blunder of the past. "We overspend in New Mexico," she said of government.

She never mentioned former Gov. Bill Richardson by name, but said his fiscal practices had left her to start in a deep hole. Martinez, a Republican, said she inherited \$37 million in deficit spending this year from Democrat Richardson and a projected \$450 million deficit for the next cycle.

The gaps are closed under her proposed budget, even though certain programs would get significantly more state money.

## More for Medicaid

Martinez said she wanted to appropriate more to Medicaid to help the state's most vulnerable residents. She would replenish all Medicaid funding that came from federal stimulus money and add \$10 million more to the program.

Some \$1 billion in federal taxpayers' money supplemented Medicaid and other government programs in New Mexico during the last three years. That money has run out.

## Schools protected

Kindergarten-through-12 public schools and teachers would be protected under her plan.

Classroom funding would be increased, as

improving schools is the highest priority of her administration.

Teachers would get a break too. Martinez would spare them from having to divert 2 percent of their salaries to their pension fund.

Martinez said taking money from teachers' paychecks would amount to a classroom cut, something she was not willing to do given the fact that state schools are underachieving.

But she proposed cutting 1.5 percent from the education "bureaucracy." She said only 61 cents of every dollar spent on public schools goes to classrooms. However, her formula counts principals, assistant principals and guidance

counselors as part of the administrative system that has no influence on classroom performance.

Martinez said she would send a directive to school districts, telling them to cut their administrative budgets, which she repeatedly called "the bureaucracy."

She would reduce funding for colleges and universities.

In her written budget message, she described New Mexico's higher education system as overbuilt. New Mexico has one more college

than Arizona, even though it has only one-third the population of its more urbanized neighbor.

Unlike teachers, other state employees would not fare as well under

Martinez's plan. Two percent of their wages would be shifted to employee pension funds to shore them up.

The size of Martinez's proposed budget is about \$41 million more than the one proposed last week by the Legislative Finance Committee.

One part of the committee's proposed cutbacks, a reduction of more than \$10 million for prisons, especially bothered her. Martinez said the committee's plan would open the door to early releases of criminals.

She said she would fight to keep funding for the corrections system, but was open to friendly negotiations with legislators on other details of the budget.

# Governor's plane for sale

MILAN SIMONICH  
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE -- The new governor's future is not up in the air.

Gov. Susana Martinez said Monday she had ordered the sale of the state's "luxury" jet, an eight-seat 2005 Cessna Citation Bravo that cost \$5.5 million.

"I do not intend to ever fly in that plane," she said.

In fact, she said, she had never even seen the jet. But Martinez made clear that she regarded the plane as excess baggage -- an extravagance that symbolized Democrat Bill Richardson's eight years as governor.

Martinez, a Republican, estimated that selling the jet would save \$3 million in various expenses, such as staff, fuel and maintenance.

Uncertain was whether the state could incur a loss if it has to sell the jet at a bargain price. Martinez said her administration was contacting brokers who could help sell the Cessna.

In addition to cutting expenses, Martinez said, she wanted to send a mes-

sage that the governor should not live a life of ease or privilege.

## Chefs fired too

She recently terminated two personal chefs from the governor's residence. In only a week, Martinez said, she had cut \$381,000 from the governor's office budget by living more simply and making due with less.

The jet, though, was

what she hammered at most during her campaign, saying it showed that Richardson and Martinez's election opponent, then-Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, were out of touch with the people.

The state government still has other aircraft. They include two more small planes and other crafts under the control of the state police.

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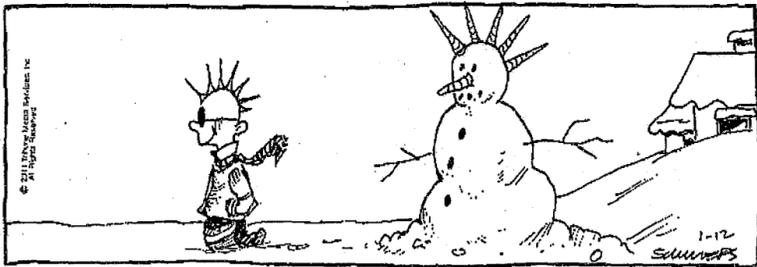
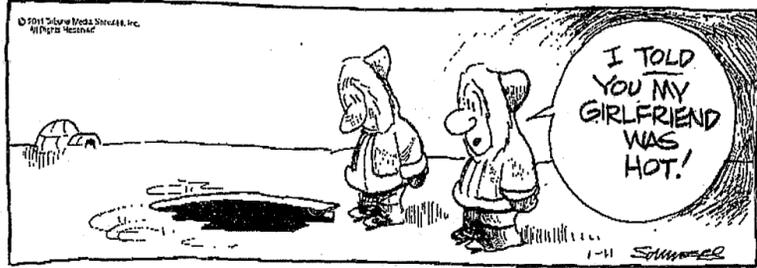
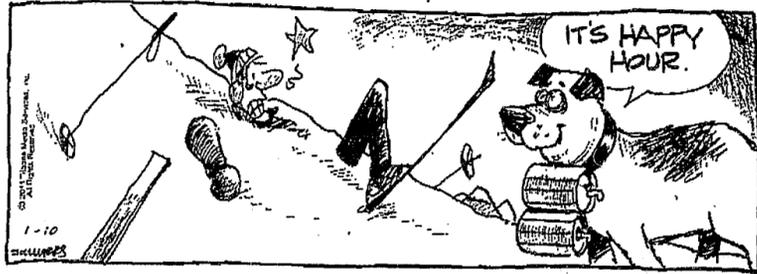
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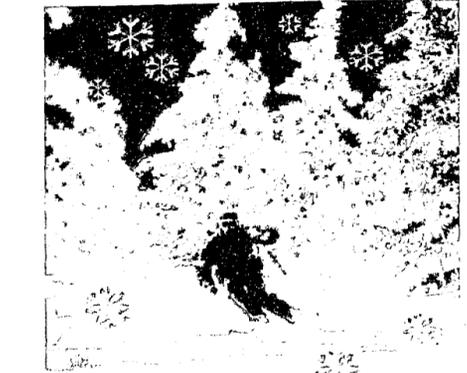
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H	O	G	R	D	B	D		RACK 1
E	E	I	U	D	N	C		RACK 2
H	O	O	C	T	R	B		1st Letter Triple RACK 3
E	I	I	U	F	D	N		Double Word Score RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155  
BEST SCORE 206  
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 60-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

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A: "OOOO" THEIR

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9	RACK 2 =						
63	RACK 3 =	C3	I1	C3	I1	C3	I1
72	RACK 4 =	D2	E1	H1	F4	H1	E1
206	TOTAL						

**SUDOKU**  
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

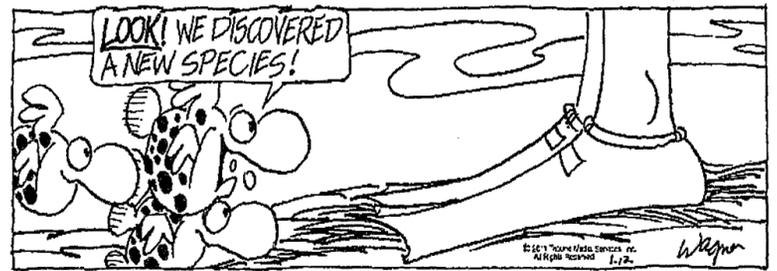
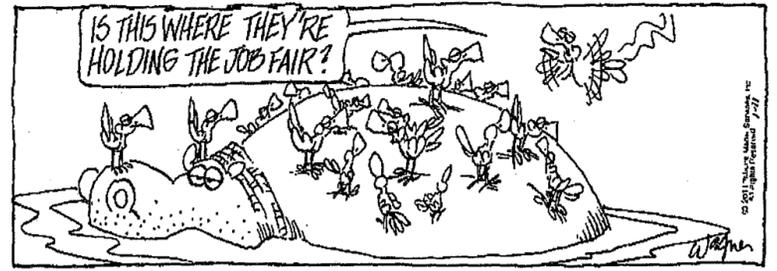
SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE 1/12/10

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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# RUIDOSO NEWS