

**FIRE DANGER
MODERATE**

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, NO. 83 • 75 CENTS

Water crisis averted?

Village 'proactive' in halting leaks at vacant homes; Storage outlook slightly improved

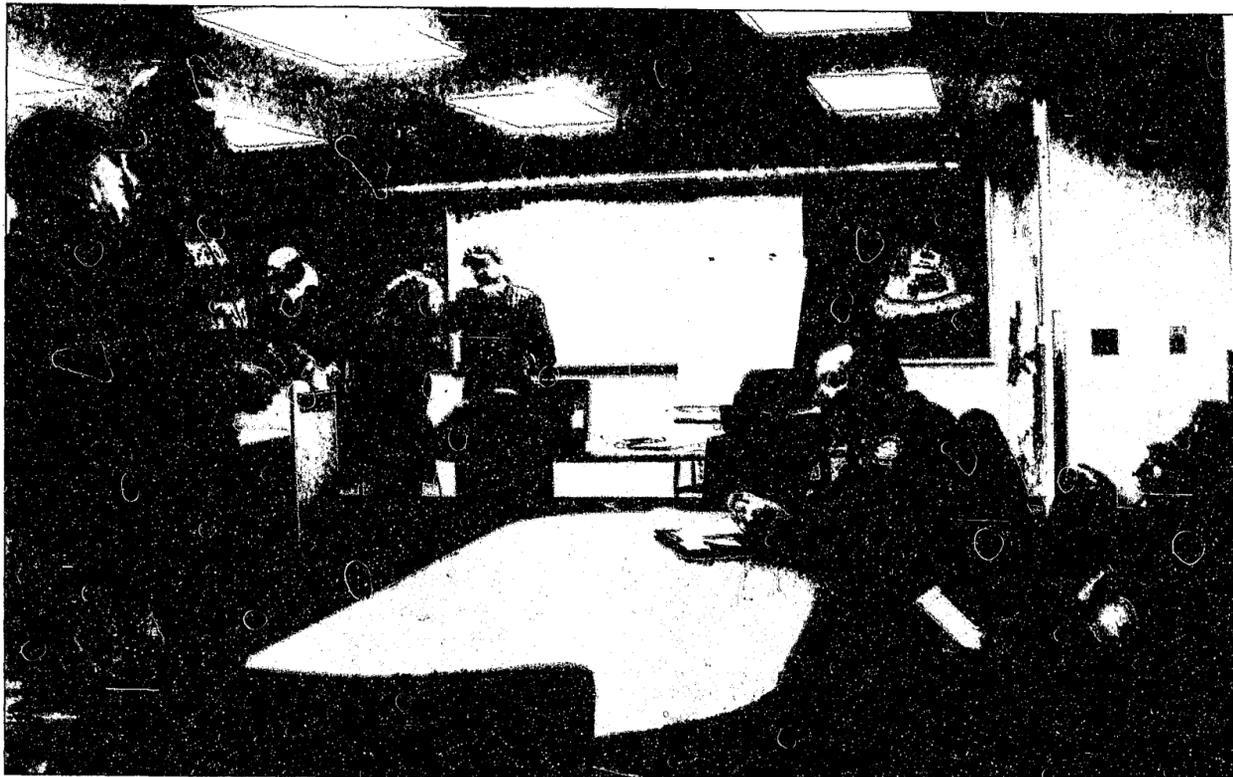
DIANNE STALLINGS
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While Ruidoso councilors were startled to hear at a special meeting Monday the village had just a two-day water supply remaining in its storage tanks, because of undetected or unreported broken pipes around town, the situation looked slightly better Tuesday.

Storage tanks that were losing eight feet of water a day since nearly record-breaking low temperatures last week slowed that loss to about one foot overnight, said Mayor Ray Alborn.

At the Monday session, during which the council declared a state of emergency and called on citizens to conserve water and report

See **CRISIS**, page 5A



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

Randall Camp, Ruidoso Capital Projects Manager, second from left, briefs other village officials Monday on the critical water situation. From left front are Emergency Services Coordinator Joe Kenmore, Camp, Police Lt. Ray Merritt and Police Chief Joe Magill. In back from left, are Assistant Fire Chief Harlan Vincent, Parks and Recreation Director Debbie Jo Almager, and Airport Manager Justin King. Seated is Jeff Kaplan, General Services Director.

Another storm takes aim

But much weaker than last week's historic blast

JIM KALVELAGE
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Another winter storm moved into New Mexico Tuesday but its main impact was in the northeastern part of the state and some of the north central mountains. For the Ruidoso area a glancing blow, with perhaps several of inches of snow, was expected overnight.

"Further south, the snow amounts diminish quite a bit," said National Weather Service meteorologist Mark Fettig. "A few maximums in the four- to five-inch range, perhaps even six inches locally, are possible in the south central mountains."

There was a slight chance a few snow showers could linger into Wednesday morning.

A winter weather advisory had been issued for Tuesday across much of Lincoln County. But the real wintry feel was expected to be with temperatures. Similar to a week ago, a cold front was part of the weather scene. And breezy conditions helped the cold migrate from north to south.

The chill, however, is expected to be much less severe than the extreme sub-zero readings seen last week.

After an early morning low in the single digits, the temperature



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

Some serious icicles have formed around Ruidoso due to last week's storm.

Wednesday afternoon is forecast to remain below the freezing mark, perhaps as much as 30 degrees below average. Thursday morning lows in the teens are forecast.

"If you're tired of the cold and snowy weather it does look like some relief is in sight," NWS forecaster Dan Porter said Tuesday

afternoon. "It does appear an upper level ridge will migrate eastward for the Friday and upcoming weekend period. That will result in quieter weather conditions as well as warmer temperatures.

"Although temperatures will be near seasonal normals it will feel like a heat wave."

Leaks plague region

JIM KALVELAGE
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It has been almost a week since the region plunged into the deep freeze. The impacts still linger.

In Ruidoso Downs, Mayor Tom Armstrong said it was estimated nearly a million gallons of water was lost because of leaks.

"We're actually holding our own now, we're starting to gain back water," Armstrong said Monday. "This has been a project they started last Saturday. We went to checking meters and used the new equipment we have to figure out which homes had an excessive amount of water usage."

The city in recent years converted to an automatic meter reading system called Firefly. Armstrong said public works department used the equipment to detect locations with high water use and then turn off the supply.

"We've had crews out all weekend."

Leaking water has been a problem at other communities in the area.

"We're doing better today," certified water operator Joe Buchanan said of the Sun Valley Water and Sanitation

District's water distribution system. "When I got up there this morning I've got half a tank of water which we didn't have before. We've shut broken meters to stop the outflow, the waste of the water, and our wells are beginning to recover."

Buchanan said one of the Sun Valley system's two 60,000 gallon storage tanks had gone empty over the weekend.

"It drained it overnight. When you've got people who don't shut the water off when they leave town and then the lines freeze and bust, that meter flows out and you can drain a tank pretty quick."

Turn off water

Buchanan said property owners are told to turn off the water when they're going to be gone for a time. He said that recommendation will probably be taken to heart when the next water bill arrives.

The Sun Valley system has more than 200 connections. Buchanan also is the operator for water utilities in Cedar Creek, Alpine Village and Tall Pines, where he said the situations were similar.

"We've had frozen pipes and stuff before but not to this

See **REGION**, page 5A

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COURTESY MELANIE BAFFERT

As she drove around shooting photographs of the snow last week, Melanie Baffert saw flashes of brown on the 15th hole at the Alto Golf & Country Club. But what she thought was a herd of elk turned out to be eight wild horses feeding. The stallion, far right, never looked away from her while she snapped the shots, but his mares kept feeding.

Reservoir closed

To accommodate the re-drilling of a water supply well, the Village of Ruidoso closed Alto Reservoir to all recreational activities for one month.

The construction area will be active at some times for 24 hours a day, and can be dangerous for people who are not part of the construction crew.

This action took effect

Feb. 1, and will continue through the month.

County meets

A special meeting of the Lincoln County Commission is set for 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, in the Commission Chambers of the Courthouse in Carrizozo.

The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a workshop/training session with

the county's auditors, the Accounting and Consulting Group.

No other county business will be conducted.

Museum exhibit

The Hubbard Museum of the American West opened a unique exhibit titled "New Deal Art from New Mexico," Feb. 5, in the Museum's Green Tree Gallery.

The exhibit will run through May 29.

During the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proposed a program referred to as the New Deal, to help pull the United States out of the Great Depression.

While the New Deal focused primarily on helping farmers, industry, investors and the those in

desperate need, it also bolstered and resuscitated the arts by providing work for artists, writers, actors and musicians through a program called the Works Progress Administration (WPA) Art Project.

Many painters and sculptors working in New Mexico were able to continue their work through the Depression with the assistance of those funds. The New Deal dollars also supported the design and construction of public buildings: libraries, courthouses, and schools as well as monuments and parks, all of which are home for much of the art created during this period.

Images of 40 New Deal paintings and sculptures by New Mexico artists will be on display in the Hubbard Museum's recent-

ly remodeled Green Tree Gallery.

The museum is located at 26301 U.S. 70 West, and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Call 575-378-4142, or visit the website at www.hubbardmuseum.org for more information about this exhibit, upcoming exhibits, educational programming and the Museum.

The museum is owned and operated by the City of Ruidoso Downs.

Passenger vehicle, SUV and light truck tires will be accepted at no charge. Hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 18 and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 19.

No heavy equipment or large truck tires will be accepted. Tires on rims may also be dropped off. More than 1,300 tires were collected from across Lincoln County in last tire recycling event.

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

These tires are among the largest and most problematic sources of waste, due to the large volume produced and their durability.

Tires are not desired at landfills, due to their large volumes and 75 percent void space which quickly consume valuable space for other waste materials.

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

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

Sonic booms

Sonic booms could occur Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 3 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 10, from 1:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 11, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

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AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso						
TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 34°	RealFeel 48°	RealFeel 51°	RealFeel 58°	RealFeel 54°	RealFeel 58°	RealFeel 60°
Humidity 32° 21° 62%	Humidity 44° 29° 36%	Humidity 49° 31° 39%	Humidity 60° 43° 40%	Humidity 58° 41° 27%	Humidity 56° 35° 36%	Humidity 59° 35° 35%
A little morning snow; colder	Sunny and not as cold	Bright and sunny	Bright and sunny	Sunny, breezy and pleasant	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
Wind: N 6-12 mph	Wind: NW 6-12 mph	Wind: NW 6-12 mph	Wind: WSW 7-14 mph	Wind: W 10-20 mph	Wind: NE 7-14 mph	Wind: SSW 4-8 mph

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

Regional Cities

Almanac

Ruidoso
Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 41°/12°
Normal high 51°
Normal low 21°
Record high 71° (1983)
Record low -12° (1964)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.72"
Normal month to date 0.28"
Year to date 0.72"
Normal year to date 1.60"

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

Alamogordo
Statistics through Monday

Temperature:
High/low 48°/20°
Normal high 59°
Normal low 32°
Record high 77° (2009)
Record low 10° (1964)

Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.46"
Normal month to date 0.14"
Year to date 0.46"
Normal year to date 0.91"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: What is sea smoke?
A: A steam fog that is produced when cold air crosses warmer water.

National Forecast for Feb. 9, 2011

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

Shown 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			Regional Cities		
City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W	City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W
Abilene	28/8/sn	41/19/s	Albuquerque	35/15/sf	40/20/s
Anchorage	35/28/sn	34/20/c	Artesia	40/26/pc	50/26/s
Atlanta	48/33/pc	48/31/sn	Chama	29/23/sf	34/6/s
Austin	38/25/r	45/20/s	Clayton	23/4/sn	36/17/s
Baltimore	34/18/pc	30/16/pc	Cloudcroft	30/13/sn	39/4/s
Boston	28/15/pc	26/13/s	Farmington	31/6/s	36/12/s
Chicago	8/-6/s	14/11/s	Hobbs	38/14/sn	48/16/s
Dallas	28/13/sn	33/19/s	Los Alamos	30/7/sf	37/6/s
Denver	24/4/s	36/14/s	Portales	34/12/sn	38/17/s
Des Moines	8/-5/s	19/15/pc	Raton	20/-2/sn	35/5/s
Detroit	17/0/pc	14/7/s	Red River	22/-11/sf	27/4/s
El Paso	47/24/pc	50/26/s	Ruidoso	32/21/sn	44/22/s
Las Vegas	58/38/s	59/38/s	Santa Fe	30/7/sf	34/12/s
Los Angeles	72/48/s	78/48/s	Silver City	47/23/s	50/23/s
Minneapolis	6/-8/s	15/13/pc	Taos	28/-8/sf	30/-1/s
New Orleans	56/40/r	51/34/c			
New York City	28/18/s	26/18/pc			
Philadelphia	30/18/s	29/18/pc			
Phoenix	67/39/s	66/41/s			
Pieno	46/20/s	51/21/s			
San Francisco	55/41/s	62/41/s			
San Diego	68/47/s	69/46/s			
Seattle	46/31/pc	46/35/pc			
Tucson	67/34/s	66/35/s			
Tulsa, OK	21/-2/sn	32/18/s			
Wash., DC	38/22/pc	33/22/pc			
Wichita	20/3/pc	29/11/s			
Yuma	68/43/s	71/43/s			

Mexican Cities		
City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu. HI/Lo/W
Acapulco	90/72/s	90/70/s
Cancun	82/68/pc	79/66/sh
Chihuahua	58/23/s	56/27/s
Ciudad Juárez	46/25/pc	50/27/s
León	81/45/s	82/44/s
México, DF	79/49/pc	75/45/pc
Monterrey	63/32/pc	60/32/s
Morelia	81/50/s	80/49/s
Oaxaca	88/65/pc	82/62/pc
Pto. Penasco	70/39/s	69/39/s
Tijuana	68/41/s	72/45/s

THE COMMUNITY PAGE

FROM PAGE 2A

Saturday, Feb. 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At this time no flights are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 13.

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

For additional information, go to www.holloman.af.mil.

Appreciation coffee

In recognition of their commitment to serving New Mexico, an appreciation coffee for Harry Teague and Nate Cote will be held Sunday, Feb. 13, in Alamogordo.

The event, sponsored by individuals and organizations in Doña Ana, Lincoln and Otero counties, will take place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the atrium of the 1st National Bank, 414 10th Street, Alamogordo.

Teague, a Democrat, is the former U.S. Representative from the 2nd Congressional District. Cote, a Democrat, is a former New Mexico Representative from District 53.

For more information, to participate, or to RSVP, contact Nola Jones at 575-437-4193 or email ricno@juno.com.

Eppers to speak

Alice Eppers, Vice Chair of the Republican Party of New Mexico for the 2nd Congressional District, will be the featured speaker at the regular February monthly meeting of the Republican Party of Lincoln County.

According to John Billingsley, chairman of the Republican Party of Lincoln County, dinner is set for 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m., Monday, at Cree Meadows Country Club in Ruidoso.

The Republican Party of New Mexico is composed of citizens of all walks of life, he said, pointing out that Eppers has stated that the mission of the state Republican Party is to effectively communicate conservative principles to the people of New Mexico.

Eppers will bring the membership up to date on the Republican Party of New Mexico platform and plans that are being made for state and national Republican victories in the next two years.

In addition, Billingsley will brief members on what is happening in the Republican Party of Lincoln County and Jack Shuster, first vice chair, will report on the state legislators who represent Lincoln County in the House and Senate.

To help with a head count for the \$14 per person dinner, contact Barbara Dickinson at 336-7822 by 6 p.m., Feb. 13. Memberships in the RPLC will be available at the meeting.

For information on the organization, call 258-2570, or e-mail office@rplcnm.org, or stop in at Room 313 in the Lincoln Tower, 1096 Mechem Dr. in Ruidoso.

Members sought

The White Mountain Search and Rescue team based in Ruidoso is looking for a few enthusiastic new members to enjoy the chance of becoming part of something "greater than yourselves."

In cooperation with police and sheriff departments statewide, the WMS&R team is responsible for searching for and/or rescuing people who are sick, injured or just plain lost, whether in the mountains, deserts or underground.

Searches are done on foot, horseback, aircraft, all terrain vehicles, skis or snowshoes.

Anyone who might like to be part of the volunteer group or are curious to learn more, is invited to the next meeting at 7 p.m., on the third Monday of the month at First Christian Church on Hull Road near the intersection with Gavilan Canyon.

Besides actual searches, the group needs writers, promoters, drivers, planners, trainers and fund raisers.

"If you feel unqualified or inadequate, don't worry, experienced and qualified people will train you," a WMS&R official said. "If you have a search dog and need to learn how to train it, stop by."

Training also is available for cave rescue. As a member, you will experience the reward of saving lives while improving yours."

Call 336-4501 for more information.

Tax preparation

Free tax preparation is offered to all middle to low

income individuals and families of all ages. The help comes from volunteer tax counselors and auxiliary personnel under the auspices of AARP in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service. Help has been offered nationwide for 43 years and in the Ruidoso area for the last 21 years.

Come see us at the Ruidoso Senior Center on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon through April 16.

For those that are outside of the Ruidoso area, please contact your local Senior Center to schedule a local tax preparation day in your town.

'Bert' in town

Be ready to be invaded. Bert the Conqueror is coming to Ruidoso.

Bert Kreisler, the adventurer behind the Travel Channel's "Bert the Conqueror show," will be at Ruidoso Winter Park Thursday.

The tubing hill business' owner Tom Dorgan said he wants the park to be filled with people throughout the day. And he's offering an incentive.

"It's all free tubing," Dorgan said for visitors on Thursday. "That's the big thing, to get some people out here, hopefully some families out here."

The tubing hill is normally open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, with the other days of the week included during the holidays and spring break.

The program will feature snow tubing that includes some high flying stunts.

Kreisler has taken on some of the top roller coasters in the U.S. and even became a human slingshot.

Bert the Conqueror premiered on the Travel Chan-

nel last summer. Each episode is normally titled with the name of the state where the adventures take place.

The New York-based production company filing the episode will also be in two other parts of New Mexico. Angel Fire will be a stop on Feb. 12 and Albuquerque on Feb. 13.

Weather wise

After weathering recent winter storms, people in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico are encouraged to prepare now for another round of snow and ice.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Region 6 office is continuing to work with all of those states to help them recover from the last round of storms and get ready for the upcoming inclement weather. At the request of state officials, FEMA has pre-positioned some supplies and located liaison officers in Oklahoma, Arkansas and New Mexico to help with emergency response coordination and other needs.

"We will continue to be proactive, making sure to support our state partners," said FEMA Region 6 Administrator Tony Russell.

"We also urge you to get ready - have a plan, put together an emergency kit and stay informed by listening to your local officials for instructions and updated emergency information."

Correction

The last name of Taryn McAlister's parents, pictured with her as she received the Most Outstanding Youth award from Ruidoso Mayor Ray Albom is Jernigan.

A recent photograph of the couple and Taryn (RN, 2/4) stated otherwise.

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Lincoln Co. Community Theatre Presents a Special Fundraising Event!

"A Bad Year for Tomatoes"
 by John Patrick
 Friday, Feb. 25 and Saturday, Feb. 26
 The "Warehouse"
 200 Junction Rd.
 Fun starts @ 6PM
 Show starts @ 7PM
 Ticket at the door or at the Chamber: \$10
 LCCT (501C3) is representing all of Lincoln Co. at the State Competition in Artesa this March. Come support the cast and crew or mail donation to PO Box 2005, Ruidoso 88355

DON'T MISS THIS WEEK'S GROCERY FLYERS IN THE RUIDOSO NEWS THIS ISSUE!

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Lincoln County Medical Center

Experienced physical therapist joins Lincoln County Medical Center Rehabilitation Services

Lincoln County Medical Center welcomes John Kvale, PT, DPT, CSCS to our Rehabilitation Services Department. Prior to joining LCMC, Mr. Kvale worked as a physical therapist at the Ohana Sports Medicine Clinic in Elele, Hawaii. He has experience in various rehabilitation settings, including a hospital satellite clinic, rural hospital outpatient center and skilled nursing facility.

Mr. Kvale earned his bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He received his Doctorate of Physical Therapy from the University of Colorado Denver in Aurora, Colorado. John is also a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist.

To schedule an appointment at the Lincoln County Medical Center Therapy Center, please call (575) 257-8239. Office hours are 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday.

The Lincoln County Medical Center Therapy Center is a department of Lincoln County Medical Center and Presbyterian Healthcare Services.

PRESBYTERIAN

RUIDOSO NEWS

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OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager
Marty Racine, editor

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

OUR OPINION

Water situation recalls 2008 flood

In both instances, village reacted swiftly

The pending water crisis situation in Ruidoso — and to a lesser degree in some other communities — conjures up a bizarre comparison.

Because some homes will suffer serious water damage from broken pipes due to extreme cold, the Great Storm of 2011 reminds us of the Great Flood of 2008, when the Rio Ruidoso similarly flooded residences, many of them second (and vacated) homes.

Winter and summer can pounce in opposite if equally damaging ways.

The toll this time might not be as widespread, but the

threat to public safety is more profound: merely the draining of the village's water reserves, with one solution a last-ditch move to shut the entire system down, resulting in possible blown water mains, contaminated drinking water and a virtual halt to the area's economy.

Fortunately, we appear short of such a desperate measure, thanks to a quick mobilization by village officials, in concert with a boots-on-the-ground gameplan with far-reaching agencies to spot or detect water leaks. The county also pledges its cooperation. We are proud of their effort.

Secretary Schmitt takes on the pit rule

Irony seemed to be a guest last week along with Harrison Schmitt, who appeared before the Senate Finance Committee.

The designated Secretary of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department talked about the department's budget needs and commented on the energy industry on the same day that thousands were losing their natural gas service.

I was there to see what he knew about New Mexico's energy industries. The former astronaut has, after all, been absent from the state for decades. Others, like retired Los Alamos



SHERRY ROBINSON

ALL SHE WROTE

Mexico. Which happens to produce natural gas, a commodity for which we now have an enhanced appreciation.

"The bottleneck created since the pit rule was enacted is serious," Schmitt said. "We need the right kind of people to push permits through the system."

Sen. Carroll Leavell, a Jal Republican, said the delay is hurting the state. "We want a safe environment, but we've killed a lot of opportunity," he said. "Drill rigs produce tax dollars."

Leavell also pointed out that the uranium being enriched in the massive plant at Eunice comes from Saskatchewan. "New Mexico is missing out on an opportunity," he said.

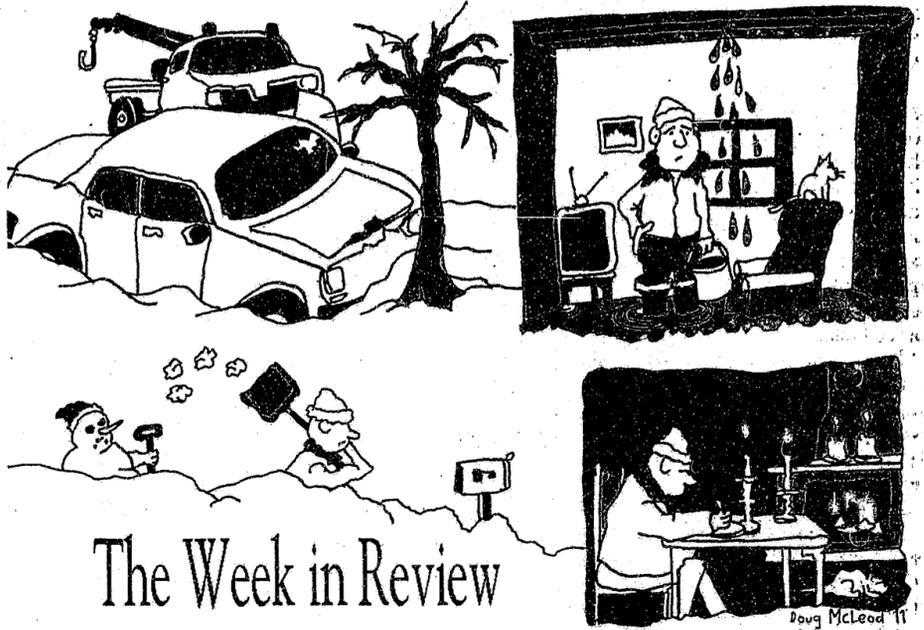
Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino, an Albuquerque Democrat, raised the issue of abandoned uranium mines. Previous efforts to raise money for reclamation by taxing the industry have failed because there's no industry to tax. "If we open new mines," Schmitt said, "the tax revenues would certainly help and would give us some options."

It's a twisted bit of irony to tell all those folks, mostly on the Navajo Reservation, who are still living with the effects of old uranium mines that the only money for remediation would come from new uranium mines.

Schmitt stuck carefully to the department's business, for the most part, and didn't express the views on environmentalists, climate change, and government that have provoked criticism.

Considering the level of frustration with the previous administration among producers, it's understandable that they welcome Schmitt. But we have bigger problems than the pit rule. The greatest irony of all may be that natural gas production needs electricity, and electricity production needs natural gas, and they all need pipelines and transmission lines.

It doesn't take a Harvard education to predict that in the coming investigations of outages in the state, it will boil down to infrastructure.



The Week in Review

Doug McLeod
Ruidoso News

GUEST COMMENTARIES

The woodpile and me

GAIL BINKLY
Writers on the Range

My husband claims not to believe in the "end times" and all that, but I'm not sure I trust his denials. How else, other than a firm belief in a coming apocalypse, to explain his obsession with firewood?

Never mind that we live in Cortez, Colo., on the fringe of the desert, in a home with central gas heating. We have enough downed timber scattered about our yard to heat a house in Siberia for the coming decade.

Twenty years ago, when I moved to this town after living in a big city, I was startled to spy a wood stove squatting in the center of our rental home. I was unfamiliar with burning wood and reluctant to befoul the clean country air. But when the first chill of autumn settled in, it soon became apparent that the propane heater could not warm the corners of our abode.

"We need wood," insisted David, who grew up in Appalachia. He seemed strangely eager, even excited, about the prospect of heaving chunks of piñon into the stove. I soon realized there is a manly glamour attached to the whole process of heating with wood. First, the trip to the forest with a big pickup. Next, the snarl of the chainsaw, the cutting, the sweaty loading and unloading. Finally, the most macho task of all: splitting.

Despite my then-slender frame, I was eager to try my hand at it, so David selected a short log with no knots. I gave it a stiff, comical chop. "No," my husband said wisely, like David Carradine in "Kung Fu," "you have to concentrate. Think your way through the wood."

I concentrated and swung. The huge log seemed to turn to butter; my blade sank through it into the ground. I was smitten. On winter afternoons, when the sun was golden but the wind ice-edged, I split logs in front of our house. Once, as I paused with the maul poised above my head and an enormous round of oak beneath, I overheard three little boys across the street muttering: "I'll bet she can't." When my blade cleaved the log in two, I realized few of my other achievements in life had ever been so gratifying.

Yes, I decided, wood had its charms. Nothing smells quite so sweet as freshly split cedar, our word for juniper trees. And no one can deny the hypnotic allure of flickering flames — like staring straight into the chaotic, unknowable heart of the universe.

Over the years, however, my ardor for wood cooled. Maybe it was the soot settling onto our furniture, the spiders scampering across the hearth, or the stinging pall of smoke hanging over our neighborhood on still, cold nights. Or maybe it was

just that we'd moved to a house with central heating as well as a stove.

"Wood is dirty," I told my husband. "It's honest," he replied.

I understood his point. Modern technologies separate us from the source of the energy. When I turn up the thermostat, I don't hear the compressor station's roar, or smell the fracking chemicals that force natural gas from the ground. When I plug in the electric heater, I don't see coal being sheared from the earth. But with wood, I must carry the logs inside, inhale the smoke, haul the ashes. I experience the connection between production and consumption.

So, a couple of winters ago, when David fretted that our wood supply was low, I agreed we could pay to have some logs hauled in. Then I found myself standing in two feet of snow while a dump truck of pine emptied into our front yard. Dismayed, I pictured the generations of black widows and paper wasps it would nurture, the endless hours it would take to stack.

David, however, smiled contentedly. "That ought to last us for a year or two," he said. At least I know that, should Armageddon ever arrive, we'll be warm.

GAIL BINKLY is a contributor to Writers on the Range, a service of High Country News. She writes in Cortez, Colo.

The magic of climate change

BRIAN SUSSMAN
Scientist, meteorologist

According to the world's best-known climate change mouthpiece, 2010 was the hottest year on record.

Wrong. It's yet another example of a political activist with a Ph.D. donning a magician's cape to pull one over on the audience.

Last week NASA's chief temperature trickster, James Hansen, issued a press release claiming, "Global surface temperatures in 2010 tied 2005 as the warmest on record."

Don't mean to sound like the kid in the front row that informs the cheap magician of a playing card protruding from beneath his shirtsleeve but, "I see the ace up your sleeve, Hansen."

First, the facts. We've only possessed the ability to precisely measure the temperature with thermometers since the early 1800s, which interestingly coincides with the end of the Little Ice Age and the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Since then the temperature on the planet has only warmed .7 degrees Celsius (slightly more than

a degree Fahrenheit), with most of that warming occurring before 1940. In fact, according to the National Climatic Data Center, the warmest decade on record was the 1930s, with 22 states recording their highest temperature ever during those years. Thirty-eight states recorded their all-time highs before 1960. Likewise the hottest year on record was 1934. Even Hansen's NASA unit has been forced to acknowledge this. Period.

Second, we know from proxy data (ice core samples, tree rings, historical writings, etc.) that Earth's temperature was significantly warmer over most of the past 10,000 years by up to 4 degrees F. Certainly the SUV can't be blamed for that.

Third, the current temperature data collection system is rigged. Government temperature gurus use significantly less data, or even estimating data, from cold places like Canada and Siberia, relying on more thermometers placed in highly urbanized (artificially warmer) locations, as well as taking more readings from the oceans. Thus, overall global temperatures are

being skewed upward. If they relied solely on satellite data, which accurately covers the entire planet, 2010 would not top the list. By the way, even Phil Jones, head of the defamed UK Climate Research Unit, admitted following the release of the Climategate emails there has been no statistically significant warming since 1995.

The bottom line is our global temperature databases are so seriously screwed up, and the people crunching the numbers so tilted politically to the left, that climate trends and annual rankings can no longer be presumed accurate.

As for Hansen, in a recent blog posting he's now calling Americans "the barbarians" of the planet who are run by a "fossil-money-democracy that now rules the roost."

Hey, Hansen. For your next trick how about disappearing?

For 20 years BRIAN SUSSMAN served as the San Francisco Bay Area's most celebrated television science reporter. He currently is a talk show host on KSFO radio.

CRISIS

FROM PAGE 1A

any indications of water breaks in unoccupied homes in their neighborhoods, Capital Projects Manager Randall Camp briefed councilors on the village water supply.

During an earlier meeting to organized crews comprised of village employees, volunteers and even route drivers for other entities to walk and drive assigned blocks of homes, he received a call from a water department official with the bad news about the storage tanks.

"This is a game changer," he told Police Chief Joe Magill and others at the session preceding the council's special meeting. He was told that storage tanks he thought were beginning to regain their supply, instead were losing about one million gallons of water a day.

Although the village water plants are producing an extra 700,000 gallons, unless the leaks are stopped or slowed substantially, the village is teetering on a water crisis, he warned councilors.

"This is proactive, not reactive," Camp said of the village employees' efforts over the past few days, the push for house-to-house canvassing and the session called to declare an emergency.

"We have so many second homes that are unoccupied and a lot are uninsulated, then with minus-20 degree temperatures, the pipes freeze, a break occurs, but we don't see it until they thaw and the water starts running again," Camp explained.

Storage tanks that usually sit at well over 50 feet in water depth are at the 20-foot mark, he told councilors Monday.

"We thought we had turned the corner and were recovering and stopping the loss, but we found out that's not the case. We need all hands on deck, boots on the ground to watch for water running on the street or in yards.

"Many of the meters are under snow, but if the lids were open, you could check to see if they were spinning like mad and shut them off."

For every house with a leak, an average of 20 gallons of water per minute is lost and that's more than a million gallons a day based on what officials are measuring at the tanks, he said.

However, the only neighborhoods with no water or significantly low pressure are high Upper Canyon and upper Black Forest, where a main either has frozen or broken, Camp said. Pressure exists downstream, and crews have walked the area where the blockage is occurring, but can't pinpoint the problem, he said. "If it thaws, they could come on line any time," he said.

"The same thing is happening in Alto and even El Paso," Camp said. "People who have lived here 30



HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Bonito Volunteer Fire Department Junior Firefighter Quade Hall, above, checks a water meter on Main Road in the Upper Canyon Tuesday morning. Bonito Fire Department was one of the agencies mobilized to assist with checking homes for water leaks. The volunteers had three crews out Monday evening and three more crews out Tuesday morning. Below, A Ruidoso water department crew works on a water main at the intersection of Sudderth Drive and Eagle Drive. Traffic was narrowed to two lanes with the west two lanes blocked off for equipment. (Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News)

years tell me they never have seen temperatures like this before. We'll know (Tuesday) morning, when we do the tank read, if we turned the corner or not."

He hopes that another storm forecast for the village doesn't refreeze damaged pipes, because that will make it even more difficult to locate leaks, Camp said.

Managers of rental homes and other property managers were contacted and asked to check their clients' property for leaks, he said. Announcements also were released to media, and the school district's automatic telephone notification system is being used to ask for citizen cooperation.

Water was shut off to one shopping plaza on Mechem Drive, to more than 200 homes and to at least one motel with broken pipes and a basement full of water.

"Too many left their water on and most didn't have cut-off valves on the owner's side, so the village has to come out and cut it off," Camp said. "We need to modify our ordinance to change that and require cut-offs on the owner's side."

The good news is that the village didn't lose any water mains, he said. "The snow did us a favor like an insulating blanket," Camp said. "There would have been more broken mains."

When councilors asked about shutting off the water for a day or two to allow the tanks to recover depth, Camp said that could create an even greater crisis.

"With 43 pressure zones in this village, when we turned the water back on, it would blow water mains out of the ground and there would be massive damage. It would be a chain reac-

tion, and devastating. Homeowners would be hit with 300 pounds of raw pressure," he said. The town would go on a boil water order and the system would have to be disinfected before it was restarted. Restaurants and motels would effectively be shut down, he said. "That's the last card to play before the water runs out," Camp said. "We need to keep water on for the hospital."

"The fire department and police department are working through the night," he said. "My crew worked all weekend, as I did. The problem is there is no pattern. It's all about how a house was constructed and it's village-wide."

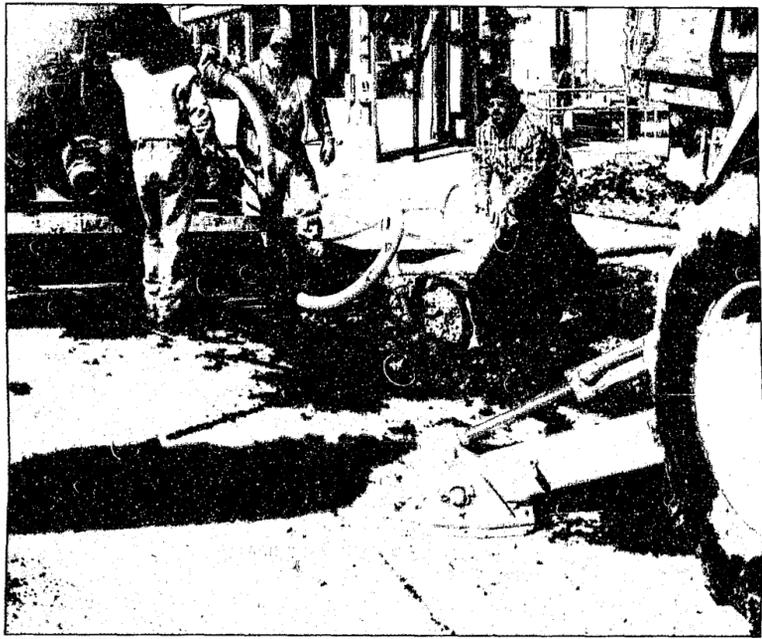
Schools were allowed to stay open, he said.

Camp received an e-mail from the state Homeland Security Office that officials there are seeking a disaster declaration for the entire state from the president. That means the village will be dealing with FEMA again, Camp said. Fortunately, systems are set up and ready, because of the 2008 flood on the Rio Ruidoso, he said.

Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart attended the Monday council session and assured the board of the county's full cooperation. His emergency managers already are working with the village. Volunteers from county fire departments also contributed their time to the effort.

Village Manager Debi Lee said she's "somewhat optimistic we're getting a handle on this," and told councilors many calls were coming in from residents about leaks, which is a big help.

Village Attorney Dan Bryant said with more than 9,000 water accounts and up to 60 percent vacant at any given time, the task



is enormous.

"There are going to be some homes in real bad shape when this is over (with water damage)," Camp said.

Councilor Gloria Sayers asked how a home owner can detect a leak if it occurs inside a wall. "Can you hear it?" she asked.

"On some of them," Camp replied. "Listening could help, except with pin-hole leaks."

"It's up to the homeowner to hire a plumber to fix the leaks," Sayers clarified.

"We cut off the water, we don't fix the leaks," Camp said. "We may insist they install a shut-off valve on their side before we turn their water back on."

The passage of the emergency declaration gives the village manager and mayor the authority to move ahead with needed agreements for assistance.

"We are expecting a large turnout of additional resources this morning as utility companies in Lincoln County along with the Forest Service and

other volunteers have offered to assist the village in locating these water leaks," Lee stated in a press release Tuesday.

"As of this morning, over 200 leaks have been identified and water has been shut off at those locations. It is estimated that this effort will make a significant impact on our water supply. Some residents in Upper Canyon and Upper Black Forest currently do not have water as a result of a frozen main water line. Village crews will be working throughout the day to thaw this line in an effort to restore water to these residents today. Throughout the day and next few days, we will release information to update everyone of our situation."

Lee said she appreciated help from entities such as Zia Natural Gas, Windstream and Baja Broadband, whose drivers will act as extra eyes on their routes to report leaks.

"We're a small municipality and our employees can only work so many

hours," she said Monday. Every employee with a vehicle was out looking and they were scheduled to continue the search Tuesday. Food and drinks were donated by some local restaurants to keep the crews going.

The village experienced frozen pipes at two facilities, said Jeff Kaplan, General Services manager. "The power outage (Thursday morning) didn't do us any favors," Camp said.

With an extra 700,000 gallons produced a day, once the leaks are stopped, the village will bank the difference and make up the water loss in its tanks fairly quickly, Camp said.

"We can pull out of this," he said. "The normal demand is 1.8 million and we are putting out 2.5 million gallons now."

Lee asked everyone to report leaks by calling the Emergency Operations Center at 575-257-4116 or 257-3473.

A Ruidoso News exclusive

REGION

FROM PAGE 1A

degree," Buchanan said of the impacts from the bitter cold last Wednesday and Thursday.

The story was similar at other locations as well.

"We found 40 or so over the past few days," David

Edington, district manager for the Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District said Monday about the leaks at homes.

"The system's operating fine. We don't have any water outages. We have crews out, we're going house-to-house trying to find them, hunting around as best we can. When we find a meter spinning,

we're turning it off."

There are about 1,260 homes in Alto Lakes.

Edington said it takes time to find leaks because many homes in the area are owned by seasonal residents.

"My system doesn't have a way to detect a leak inside your house. They froze up during the real, real cold and Saturday

afternoon it started thawing out and water is moving around."

Edington said it is clear there were dozens of buildings with water leaks because of the amount of water being put into the Alto Lakes water system.

"We're not allowed to go into people's houses. A lot of what we're seeing is in the garages where people

water comes in to feed their house."

Edington recommended that when a home is going to be unoccupied for a time the plumbing system be winterized by turning off the supply and draining the system.

In an email update to Alto Lakes water customers, the district's president Earl Adamy said more

household pipe failures could come over the next several weeks with more near zero temperatures, freeze-thaw cycles and restoration of standard pressure to the system.

"Unless our customers take action now, we could see another 50 to 100 homes afflicted with larger water line breaks," Adamy said.

EDUCATION

Schools deal with the aftermath of frozen pipes

JIM KALVELAGE
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Students in the Ruidoso School system had a one-day school week last week because of the wintry weather.

Tuesday through Thursday (Feb. 1-3) it was the snow and cold that cancelled classes. Last Friday it was due to broken pipes and other water issues resulting from the extremely cold temperatures Wednesday and Thursday.

Governor Susana Martinez had also asked schools and state government offices to close because of natural gas problems in parts of New Mexico.

The district has three days built into its school year for snow days. Superintendent Bea Etta Harris said since the governor asked schools to close Friday, the hope is the governor will forgive a day of the school year requirements.

"She can do anything," Harris said. "She calls schools closed, she can forgive a day. A lot of people are appealing to the governor. In fact some people think she may excuse two days."

If the district has to make up days, the first would be the Good Friday and the potential second make-up day would be the Monday after Easter.

The Ruidoso News reported in its last paper edition that the schools were to be on a two-hour delay

Friday. The Thursday night closure announcement came too late for the paper's printing deadline.

A pipe in the Sierra Vista Primary School kitchen burst Thursday afternoon.

"That was relatively minor and we got it fixed right away," the schools' director of maintenance Stephanie Lewicki said Friday.

A couple of pipes also burst in the Ruidoso Middle School.

"The sixth grade and Special Education classroom had a pipe burst," Lewicki said. "It did put some water on the floor, but they were able to get that turned off right away."

A pipe also burst in the Horton Education Complex in the Concession Stand at the Upper Gymnasium. Lewicki said maintenance personnel discovered that leak as they were checking the buildings at the end of the day and were able to get the water turned off before it caused any major damage.

"We had our people running all night," Ruidoso Municipal Schools Finance Director Yvonne Perez said. Lewicki said the boiler also went out at White Mountain Elementary School at about 8 p.m. Thursday but they found it and got it fixed.

"We have just had to shut water off to several buildings because of frozen pipes," Perez said. "Now we have our guys going through checking the pipes

to make sure we don't have any problems."

Lewicki said the frozen pipes were mainly in the portable classroom buildings at Nob Hill and Ruidoso High School. "There are little kids in these buildings and we have to have water," she said. The schools reopen for classes on Monday.

"Our maintenance crews and custodial staff have been fantastic," Lewicki said. "That is one of the areas we have been trying to save money and it is catching up with us."

Harris applauded the maintenance staff.

"We're staying on top of it. Our maintenance people have been at work every day since last Tuesday and have worked overtime. They're not about to just walk off and say I'll do this tomorrow."

Harris said there have been some little water issues since Friday, but nothing significant.

The superintendent said the leaks at the new middle school were not a surprise given a 40-year freeze event.

"The surprise was that we didn't have any trouble at Nob Hill, our oldest building. We're ready to raze it. Now we're thinking again. It meets no standards except it doesn't have pipes that break."

The Capitan Municipal School Campus also had to deal with pipes broken by frozen water.

"When things started thawing out we had water



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

After the blast of winter cut classes in the Ruidoso Municipal School District to one day last week, instruction resumed this week. Here students board busses at the middle school Tuesday afternoon. District officials are hoping make-up days will not be required for the four days of missed classes.

in places we didn't know we were supposed to have water," said Superintendent Shirley Crawford. "I've got some pretty extensive damage to the boys' locker room in the Cummins Gym. Fortunately the floor drain worked well and we didn't have any damage outside of the locker room. But it's going to have to be gutted and some repair work there in the walls."

The school administration building had some broken water pipes. "We still have the water off there," Crawford said. "The way the campus was plumbed many, many years ago, so

many of the buildings are connected and don't have individual shutoffs, and so we're having to do some capping off of things to get water back to buildings that don't really have leaks, but the water is off because they're connected to buildings that do have leaks."

The situation is back to normal except for the middle school, because it is tied in with the administration building where the water is turned off.

One classroom also took on water from a burst pipe, Crawford said. "In all honesty, I feel a lot more fortunate than some other districts. We had teachers tak-

ing students into buildings where we did have the water on for bathroom use."

Insurance is expected to cover just about all of the damage, Crawford said.

"I must applaud our maintenance and our custodial staff for the job they have done in getting things cleaned up and in making sure we didn't have any more damage than we did over the really bad cold spell that we had last week."

Every school in the area was affected by last week's storm. On Thursday, Hon-do, Mesalero, Corona, Capitan, Carrizozo and Ruidoso were all closed.

CARRIZOZO HONOR ROLL

Second 9-weeks

Simmons, Victoria Ventura;

Danny Roper, Taylor Thornton;

A Honor Roll

6th Grade: Marcus Campbell, Kristie Gallacher, Gracie Hooten, Lashae Lueras, Alex Randolph, Garrison Ventura, Hannah Ventura, Janae Willingham;

7th Grade: Cirsten Barela, Emily Comstock;

9th Grade: Sarah Ferguson, Shayna Gallacher, Mason Huston, Johnathan Smith;

10th Grade: Brittany

11th Grade: Marshall Ventura

12th Grade: Joel Ferguson, Jordan Hill, Chelsea LaMay, Cory Meehan, Troy Niederstadt, Lauren Smith, Wade Sultemeier, Marshal Wilson, Stephanie Zamora.

B Honor Roll

5th Grade: Angel Autrey, Cody Carter;

6th Grade: Andrea Apodaca, Deline Arteche,

7th Grade: Micah Hamilton, Christian Najar, Joel Torres, Lexi Zamora;

8th Grade: Jacie Thornton, Tiffany Vega, Zhane Vega, Lisa Ventura;

9th Grade: Devon Arteche, Nicholas Chavez, Bo Dauster, Jace Hill, Erica Vega;

10th Grade: Andrea Beltran, Arturo Najera, Tavi Nash, Jade Roper, Shayna Zamora;

11th Grade: Austin Howard;

12th Grade: Kylie Gaines, Kristi Gensler, Jenna Schartz, Mark Vigil.

CAPITAN HONOR ROLL

Second 9-weeks

Nava, Garret Sterling Schultz, Jerami Raie Vance, Maribel Villegas;

Fields, Mikey Hamm, Makala Hopkins, Ruben Mendoza Jr., Alexis Trost;

A Honor Roll

9th Grade: Natalie Barnwell, Jacob Griego, Tristan Romero, Kaleb Cleckler, Alana Willingham;

10th Grade: Julia Bertrand, Cade Samuel Haynes;

11th Grade: Christopher Olmstead, Colby Preciado, Kersti Davis, Aurora Hart, Maritza

12th Grade: Jessica Bailey, Chase Morel, Scheryiah Juliann Romero, Robert Eshom, Monique Quiroz, Zachary Steven Shearer.

AB honor roll

9th Grade: Nathaniel Berryhill, Madison Buechter, Walker Riley Bymoen, Samuel A. Edington, Kymbra Espinosa, Thomas

10th Grade: William Wyatt Berryhill, Kirsten Chaitra Creighton, Tim Dickinson, Sidni Leigh Hughes, Alyssa Miller-Juarez, Alejandro Rueda.

11th Grade: Dustee Rae Eldridge, Steven Samora;

12th Grade: Jessica Cadena, Rudolpho Chavez.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Investing class

Andy Carter of Edward Jones hosts a two-hour seminar on investing tools and strategies to assist

individuals in achieving their long-term investment goals. Topics include the key features of bonds, stocks, and mutual funds and the importance of proper asset allocation. Current market conditions and how political, economic, and cultural forces shape markets are covered. Classes are offered once a month. This

month's class will be held on Feb. 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The fee is \$15 and includes handouts and workbooks. For more information or to register for Community Education classes, call 257-3012 or come to Room 213 at the campus which is located at 709 Mechem Drive in Ruidoso.

PUBLIC NOTICE / NOTICIA PUBLICA

Discharge Permit Application / Aplicación para Permiso para Descargar:
For up to 8,200 gallons per day of domestic wastewater to a treatment and disposal system / Para un máximo de 8.200 de galones por día de aguas residuales domésticas a un sistema de tratamiento y disposición

Applicant & Discharge Location / Solicitante & Sitio de Descarga :
Little Creek RV Park, 290 State Hwy 220, Alto

For More Information / Para Más Información (DP-1401):
Ground Water Quality Bureau / Sección de Agua Subterránea
NM Environment Department / Departamento del Medio Ambiente

(505) 827-2900 www.nmenv.state.nm.us (public notices)

Information in this public notice was provided by the applicants and will be verified by NMED during the permit application review process.

real estate auctions

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Nominal Opening Bid: \$50,000
Open House: 1-4pm Sun Feb 13th, 20th and 2 hours before sale.
Sells: 4:30pm, Mon Feb 21st

OTHER AREA AUCTIONS - FEBRUARY 14TH - 22ND

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DURANGO, CO • 32 Ponderosa Trl
DURANGO, CO • 663 E 32nd St
ARTESIA, NM • 1815 West Runyan Ave
DEMING, NM • 715 S Tin St
LOS ALAMOS, NM • 4256 C Urban St
LOVING, NM • 46 Pardue
SANTA FE, NM • 2210 Miguel Chavez Rd #814
SANTA FE, NM • 4155 Midnight Owl

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Despite major storm, snowpack below average

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

The snowpack above Ruidoso continued to stay below average this week, despite more than two feet of snow last week.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service reported Monday the Rio Hondo/Ruidoso Snotel station had the snowpack at 71 percent of normal.

"We really had not much improvement in the snowpack during the month of January," said Wayne Sleep, a snow survey hydrologic technician with the NRCS.

"It was very, very spotty the storms that came through in January. On the first of February you were still sitting at about 58 percent or so of average. So we're significantly below but did pick up some snow last week."

The early February storm system that brought the snow had been described as low on moisture content last week by the National Weather Service.

"That does appear to be the case," Sleep said. "Even though there was a fairly significant amount of snow at the Snotel site, we only picked up a little over an inch of water content out of that storm. So it was a dry,

powdery snow. That's fairly common when you get a storm that brings in temperatures that cold. It kind of sucks a bit of the moisture out of the snow."

The February issued streamflow forecast for the Rio Ruidoso predicts 3,000 acre-feet of water (about 977 million gallons) will move through the river in Ruidoso between March and June. That would be 41 percent of average.

High elevation precipitation last month was well below average at 28 percent, compared with the exceptional 393 percent of average during January 2010. The snowpack in the basin is roughly a quarter of what was present last year.

"We've seen basically a total pattern reversal from last year. There really wasn't anything in-between, it's just gone from a really good, high snowpack winter last year to a pretty moisture-starved, somewhat warmer than average overall winter this year."

Forecasters last summer had pointed to a then developing La Nina in the tropical Pacific Ocean, which typically results in less moisture for the Southwest, especially southern New Mexico.

Noting the very cold temperatures last week,



Last week's snowfall hit the entire county, including Fort Stanton, which assumed a pristine quality due to its coat of white.

COURTESY MIKE BILBO

Sleep said keeping the below par snowpack locked in at the high elevations will help later this spring.

"At this point, we're going to need some cold temperatures to hang onto the snow. If we get warm and dry for an extended period we'll see this somewhat meager snowpack go away fairly quick."

The spring to early summer stream and river runoff from the snowpack is used by irrigators for crops. A poor snowpack brings negative impacts to downstream water users.

Sleep said the Sierra Blanca snowpack is about in the middle of the pack for the several dozen high elevation snow courses in New Mexico. The better snows have been in the far northern mountains of the state.

The longer-term forecasts are suggesting an overall warmer and drier than normal spring.

"I wouldn't expect a major turnaround," Sleep said.

The good news: Storms provide real-time evaluation of systems

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Winter storms and power outages can be a pain, but also provide a learning experience for local emergency and municipal services officials, said Dick Swenor, who heads communications for the Ruidoso Police Department.

Fortunately, when a communication repeater was knocked out last week during a winter storm that delivered record low temperatures to the village, sufficient redundancy existed in the village's communication and emergency 911 systems to cover the lapse, he said.

But that breakdown, as well as all of the other problems, emergencies and calls for help received by various village departments were scheduled to be the prime subject during a regular Tuesday meeting of department heads. Analyzing what had occurred and how departments responded will help improve service delivery when the next disaster descends on Ruidoso, he said.

Short-lived

"I've lived here more than 30 years and have never seen temperatures like this," Swenor said. "I'm thankful it was short-lived. If it had continued for four or five more days, we'd be in trouble."

While the official low registered at Sierra Blanca Airport was reported at minus 13 degrees, many people in the village and surrounding locations said their thermostats dipped to minus 28 degrees.

Previously lows near that mark according to climate records for the village were recorded in January 1971 and February 1951, with minus 26 degrees, and in December 1953 and January 1962, with minus 24 degrees. But double

digit below zero readings only were registered for 31 nights from December through March in records covering from 1949 to 2005, about 1 percent of the just the days in the coldest two months of January and February for the 50-year period.

Below-zero temperatures for that time slice were noted on 91 nights, about 3 percent.

Fortunately, the village's 911 emergency systems with a flip of a switch can be rerouted to Carrizozo to handle the flow of calls, Swenor said. "We and San Miguel County, that's Taos and Red River, are the only two locations with two public safety entry points," he said.

The Lincoln County command center could have been activated as another communication option, he said.

With the electric out for a few hours and natural gas shortages occurring in other counties, village officials considered using the Ruidoso Convention Center as an evacuation haven, but discovered it does not have backup power.

"The emergency highlighted that," Swenor said. "The fire department and the police department are the only ones on backup and that's only enough to maintain communications. Last year, we looked at another (generator)" to handle more demand.

Water line breaks were phoned in from neighborhoods all over the village, many spotted by neighbors of seasonal homes with absent owners, who previously survived decades of Ruidoso winters when the low barely reached zero.

One of the issues apparently never resolved since a major outage after Christmas in 2004, is a backup power source to ensure a flow of gasoline for emergency vehicles. According to a story pub-

lished that year, about that outage, village officials were looking at generator-backed fuel pumps.

"We had to switch sources for a few hours," former police chief Swenor

said. "The village's normal supplier lost power and village vehicles moved to Diamond Shamrock to fill up," he said. "We told officers to fuel up before they went home in case they

were called out during the night."

The dispatcher also was dealing with people "livid" about their subdivision roads not being plowed, he said. "We have 250 miles of

roads," he said, pointing out that the state highways and main arterial and connector roads come first, in part because they are school bus routes. Subdivision roads are last.

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MAKING A POINT

Icicles forming in Old Lincoln create a sharp contrast to the silhouettes in the background.

COURTESY JOHN T. SODEN

Blame the weather, economy: Visitors Center attendance down

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Visitation at the Billy the Kid Visitors Center on U.S. 70 in Ruidoso Downs dipped in 2010, possibly reflecting less tourist travel in tight economic times and a lean snowpack for skiers in the early winter months. According to a five-year chart in the bi-monthly report Ruidoso Village Manager Debi Lee presented last week to village councilors at their regular meeting, attendance hit 15,025 last year compared to 15,400 in 2009. But both figures still exceeded the 14,663 posted in 2008. The big year was 2007 with

19,397. In 2006, the number was 18,229. January 2010 showed light visitation at 760 people compared to the five year high in 2009 of 1,131. February also was down at 794 compared to 1,056 in 2009. Looking late in the year, showing the current skiing season, November and December were 200 to 300 off the mark of the high for previous years. Lee also reported that as of Dec. 31, staff received more than 310 short-term rental permit applications. Staff has fielded several calls from absentee owners after they received notification in their water bills that

a new ordinance would be implemented in March, and they were directed to the village website for the ordinance and application form, she said. Now deep into the process of trying to determine the extent of short-term rentals to be able to regulate the practice and collect gross receipts taxes, staff is reviewing the ordinance approved by councilors to determine if more modifications are needed to assist in implementing the program. Lee said potential changes being reviewed specifically deal with the fire inspection process. Updating councilors on

other issues, Lee reported that:

- staff still is waiting for final approval by the State Engineer, the Dam Safety Bureau for the coring plan at Grindstone Dam developed by a village consultant to reinforce the dam wall in spots where testing disclosed material either was lost or became granulated.
- staff finalized the on-ground inspection process for flood-control structures built by the Natural Resource Conservation Service after the July 2008 flood on the Rio Ruidoso. An annual report with photographs and documentation of structure status must be submitted for the

next five years to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- the public library added 2,300 titles to the book, DVD and CD collections now worth more than \$500,000. Staff provides service to an average of 16,000 visitors each month. Library cards were issued to 1,500 new customers for a total of 13,507 borrowers, which amounts to two out of three Lincoln County residents.
- the Finance Department continued to work with auditors at village hall in January with the priority of completing the annual audits for Fiscal Year 2009 and Fiscal Year 2010, to catch up with state man-

dated deadlines. At the same time, finance staff began the process of preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2012. A pre-budget workshop with department directors will be scheduled.

- staff continues to meet with U.S. Forest Service staff to hammer out a Purpose and Need statement, and a Notice of Intent for the North Fork Wells special use permit.
- The deepening of the A-1 well also began. Site preparation was completed and the pump extraction rig was set up Jan. 20. Drilling is anticipated to be finished by the end of February.

Village moves to curb restroom vandalism in Midtown

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Village officials are asking for the public's cooperation

in preventing future vandalizing of Ruidoso's public restrooms, which were damaged for the third time in less than two

weeks. "It's important the public knows how vital it is to work together with the Police Department,"

Village Manager Debi Lee said. "We want to keep these public restrooms open." If someone hears or sees anything unusual in the area of public restrooms at Wingfield Park or the Midtown area, they should immediately alert the police, she said. The village also will try to reduce the opportunity for vandalism by installing timers on locks, Lee said. "The shops just don't want them locked before they close," she told village councilors at their meeting last week. "The locking time

will be different seasonally. It's unfortunate we have such nice facilities and people are trying to destroy them. Debbie Jo (Almager, village parks and recreation director) panics when we lose several thousand dollars." Video cameras also will be positioned outside the restrooms as suggested by Police Chief Joe Magill, the manager said. In other police department news, Lee said former sergeant Ray Merritt was promoted to the position of lieutenant over operations.

Sgt. Wade Proctor will be transferred from patrol to supervise the Criminal Investigations Division. The department is sponsoring a class at Hotel Ruidoso on Feb. 10-11, titled "Intelligence-LED Policing for Rural Executives." The session is designed to teach police executives how to use 21st century police strategies, deal with legal issues, manage intelligence in their agencies, building community trust and proactive approaches to solving community crime problems.

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RUIDOSO NEWS

Officials cast wary eye on upcoming fire season

JIM KALVELAGE

jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

This spring may turn into a serious fire season for southeastern New Mexico.

A La Niña that developed last year generally clipped precipitation for the second half of 2010. While February has started out with moisture, January was dismal.

The Southwest Coordination Center, a collaboration of federal and state wildland fire agencies that cover Arizona, New Mexico and West Texas, reported the region was facing one of the strongest La Niña events of the past 60 years. And dry winter conditions were expected to grow into the spring months.

"The fire season's not here yet," said Chad Stewart, fire and timber staff officer for the Lincoln National Forest. "But it's drying out. It can go from not in fire season to being within fire season in a very short amount of time."

The National Interagency Fire Center's Predictive Services section said increasing dryness would expand above normal significant fire potentials westward across southern New Mexico.

During January just the very far southeastern part of the state was painted with an above normal potential for significant fire activity.

For February, March and April the agency has expanded the significant fire potential map to include the Sacramento Mountains. So far fires have been limited to Eddy and Lea counties.

"In the last seven days we've had six wildfires in the Capitan District (southeastern New Mexico) for about 1,926 acres burned," Dan Ware, with New Mexico State Forestry said last week.

"Luckily, because it's wintertime and cooler, we've been able to suppress these fires quickly. But as we get further and further into spring, and we continue to see this La Niña bring dry conditions to the area, chances are these fires will have a little more ability to grow."

Ware said concern around the Sacramento and Capitan mountains stems from a predicted westward advance for fire activity.

"It could, potentially, cover two-thirds of the state if we don't get some relief," Ware said of this spring.

Currently the biggest fire potentials are focused in areas where there are fine fuels, such as grasses.

"There is some breathing room in the mountains right now. But the potential is still there for fires until we get some moisture."

The Lincoln National Forest will review the conditions on a week-by-week basis.

"We're not meeting any thresholds to move to any restrictions at this point, but we are certainly heading in that direction," Stewart said.

Having worked on the Lincoln for more than seven years, Stewart recalls similar situations.

"It's certainly not the worst that I've seen by a long stretch. We were in fire restrictions on Jan. 4, 2006. This is not building

up to be the worst fire season on record; it's just that [we're] looking at possibly being within restrictions on fire in February."

Stewart said he's confident the forest will avoid any large fires at least for the next several weeks.

"There is some breathing room in the mountains right now, but..."

"But we are confident that it is drying out and heading towards being a fire season or at least a situation we're going to have to put in some precautions. And the precautions come with some restrictions."

Historically, the peak of the fire season on the Lincoln National Forest is the end of March into the beginning of April.

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center says that, since mid-December, drier-than-normal conditions have affected much of Arizona and New Mexico. The expectation was that below-median precipitation would continue, a forecast the center reported with high confidence.

There is some hope. In a 2011 fire season "talking

points," the center said although the general pattern foreseen into the start of the 2011 fire season is consistent with some of the most active fire seasons of the past several decades, history showed a number of seasons following La Niña winters have had average or even below average fire seasons.

The months of March, April and May are, however, typically critical to every fire season.

To prepare for the fire season, homeowners are being urged to be proactive rather than reactive.

"If you live in an area surrounded by grass and growing right up alongside the buildings on your property, keep that stuff mowed down," Ware recommended. "Nothing stops a grass fire faster than running out of fuel. In the mountains, people need to be utilizing the time right now to manage their property. Clean up around their homes. Leaves and needles need to be cleared from the roofs and gutters."

"Just your basic preparedness can save lives, or if there's an evacuation, save time. Work with your neighbors because it doesn't do a lot of good if only one person in a neighborhood cleans up their property."

Mescalero pledges firefighting help

JIM KALVELAGE

jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

If wildfire suppression assistance is needed beyond the Mescalero Apache Reservation boundary, a tribal agency has pledged its help.

Ray Ruiz, the chief of Fire Operations within the tribe's Division of Resource Management and Protection, told the Greater Ruidoso Area Wildland Urban Interface Working Group Tuesday that he and his resources are available.

Ruiz said he wanted to "set the record straight" over a requirement of going through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ask for fire fighting resources.

"We are completely different from BIA. We are our own entity. We have our own meetings. We have our own resources and our own policies and procedures."

Ruiz told the wildland urban interface group that they would be seeing him regularly.

"Mescalero has a great value of resources," Ruiz said. "We have two type-6 (can pump 30 gallons per minute) engines. We are in the process of picking up a type-3 (120 gallons per minute) engine that we're going to be bringing on board. At any given time, like right now, I have 80 people out in the field that are ready and red-carded (wildland firefighter qualified) to assist our partners, our cooperators, in any type of all-risk, wildland fire or RX (prescribed) burn. I want you to know that we are there."

Ruiz said his department was reaching out to both Lincoln County and Otero

County. The cooperators were seen as the BIA, Mescalero Fire and Rescue, the Forest Service, New Mexico State Forestry, the Office of Emergency Services in both counties, Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs and Tularosa.

"We have not been a participant. Part of it is our fault. But I want you to know that I'm the new coach now. We're not going to sit on the sideline anymore. We're going to participate. We're going to play."

Ruiz said his troops are divided into four crews.

"We have our own transportation. We have crew carriers. We have support vehicles. And just like any Hot Shot crew we can sustain ourselves for 24 hours. We are self-sufficient."

Other wildland fire fighting equipment, such as a grader and a backhoe are a part of the department. Ruiz pledged he would notify the surrounding area when prescribed burns are planned for the reservation.

"Where I come from, we let our neighbors know what's going on, what time is our party, and do you guys want to participate. I can tell you this. We are planning on taking over our own prescribed burn program. That's another reason why I was brought here."

Ruiz said he would like to conduct prescribed burns across boundary lines with the Forest Service.

Ruiz came to Mescalero from California where he was part of a tribal fire department east of San Diego. He was the founder of a distinguished Native American Hot Shot crew.

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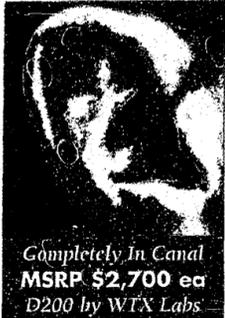


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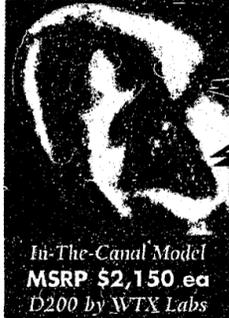
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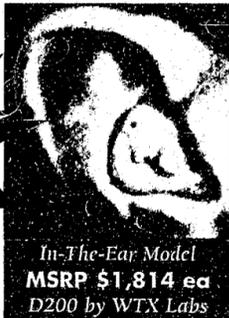
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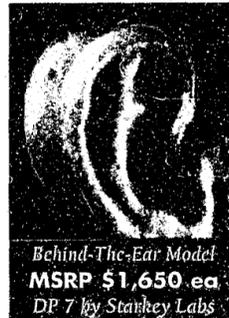
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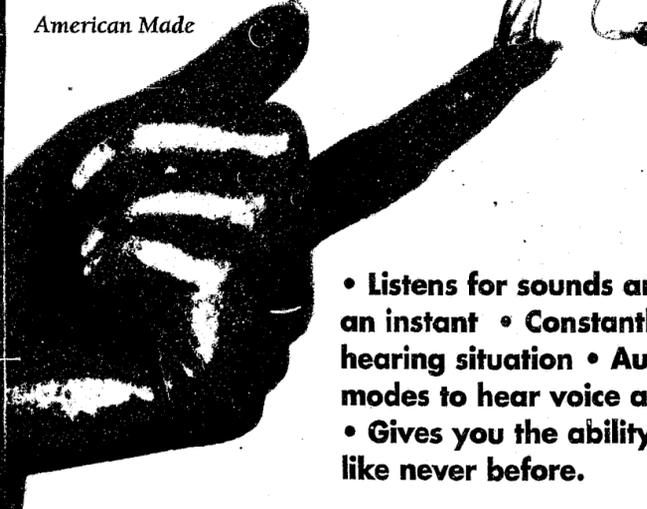
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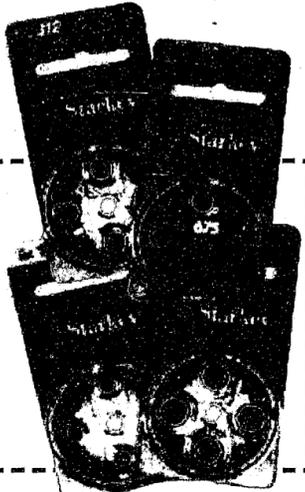
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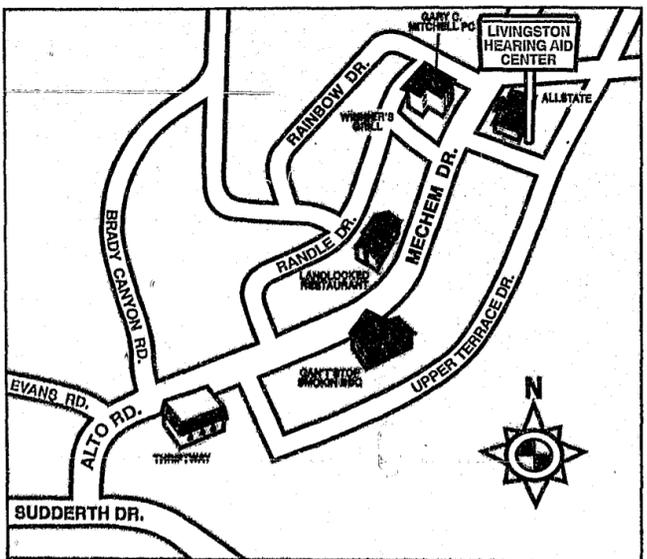


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SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 9, 2011

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

PAGE 1B

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache

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

Tickets: Season passes are normally available by phone at 464-3800.

Season total: 55 inches
Mid-mountain snow: 40 inches
Snow surface: Packed powder
Snowmaking: No

Weather for Wednesday: Scattered snow flurries and snow showers possible before noon. Becoming sunny later. Cold. High 24F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent. Wednesday evening, clear skies. Low 14F. Winds W at 5 to 10 mph.

Weather for Thursday: Mainly sunny. Cold. High near 35F. Winds WNW at 10 to 15 mph. Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, Ramp, Lower Deep Freeze, Top Notch, Capitan Lite, Lower Moonshine, Smokey Bear, Snow Park, Chino, Moonshine Gulch, SBT, Bull Run, Game Trail and part of Apache Bowl
Lifts open: No. 1, No. 2 No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 8. Gondola open, weather permitting

Results

Boys basketball

Monday, Feb. 7
Capitan JV 57, Mescalero JV 21
Capitan 51, Mescalero 50
Thursday, Feb. 3
Hondo 60, Lake Arthur 46

Girls basketball

Monday, Feb. 7
Capitan JV 39, Mescalero JV 21
Capitan 46, Mescalero 34
Thursday, Feb. 3
Hondo 58, Lake Arthur 34

Sports On Tap

Basketball

Girls
Wednesday, Feb. 9
Capitan at Mescalero, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 10
Hondo at Corona, 5 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 11
Gateway at Mescalero, 7 p.m.
Capitan at Hagerman, 5 p.m.
Carrizozo at Quemado, 5 p.m.
Lovington at Ruidoso, 5:30 p.m.
Fort Sumner at Hondo, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 12
Carrizozo at Reserve, 3 p.m.
Portales at Ruidoso, 5:30 p.m., main gym

Monday, Feb. 14
Hagerman at Mescalero, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 15
Mescalero at Hagerman, 5:30 p.m.
Capitan at Gateway, 5 p.m.
Vaughn at Corona, 5 p.m.

Boys
Wednesday, Feb. 9
Capitan at Mescalero, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 10
Hondo at Corona, 7 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 11
Gateway at Mescalero, 5:30 p.m.
Capitan at Hagerman, 7 p.m.
Carrizozo at Quemado, 7 p.m.
Lovington at Ruidoso, 7 p.m.
Fort Sumner at Hondo, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 12
Carrizozo at Reserve, 5 p.m.
Portales at Ruidoso, 7 p.m., main gym

Monday, Feb. 14
Hagerman at Mescalero, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 15
Mescalero at Hagerman, 7 p.m.
Capitan at Gateway, 7 p.m.
Vaughn at Corona, 7 p.m.

On Deck

Little League Baseball

Registration for Ruidoso Little League Baseball will take place Thursday, Feb. 10, at the Capitan Schools cafeteria, from 5 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 12, at the Community Youth Center Warehouse, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For information contact Brian Mosher at 937-8749.

Indoor Pickle Ball

The First Baptist Church, across from Cree Meadows Country club, is making the gym available to anyone who wants to play pickle ball during February on Thursday evenings, Feb. 10, 17 and 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. Players must wear tennis shoes and sign a release of liability form. No equipment is necessary. Paddles, balls and instruction will be available.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan's Kaitlin Keaton keeps her fingers on the ball as she goes up against Mescalero's Ardis Holder as Jamie Fields watches.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Mescalero's Aaron Kaydahinne tries to dribble past Rudy Chavez but Logan Eshorn is ready to block.

Tigers pounce on Chiefs

MIKE CURRAN

mcurran@ruidosonews.com

edge of their seats.

Girls

The Mescalero boys and girls teams traveled to Capitan Monday for hardwood action in Tigerland but left with a double defeat as the Lady Tigers downed the Mescalero girls, 46-34, and the Capitan boys squeezed by the Chiefs in a thrilling 51-50 nail-biter of a game that kept most fans on the

The downfall for the Lady Chiefs was the first quarter of play as Capitan dominated the first eight minutes, 9-1.

The Mescalero girls were still unable to crack the double-digit mark in the second quarter by only dumping in six points and the Lady Tigers went to the locker rooms at the half with a 19-7 lead.

Modifications must have been made in the Mescalero camp at half-time as the Lady Chiefs kept pace with the hometown girls by actually outscoring them 13-12 in the third period and narrowly lost the last eight minutes of action 15-14.

But the Lady Tigers strong defensive efforts in the first quarter sealed the fate of the game as Capitan won by 12.

Capitan's stalwart,

senior center Kaitlin Keaton hit double-digits with 16, while junior Dustee Rae Eldridge just missed the "doubles" mark with nine points.

Mescalero's junior center Corrie Randall helped her team by dumping in 13 and senior Deandra Balatche chipped in 10.

The home-court win improved John Devine's Capitan girls overall record to 7-8; but more importantly, gave the

Lady Tigers a 1-0 advantage in the D7-1A battle while the Lady Chiefs go to 11-9 and 0-1.

Both teams will meet again Wednesday at Mescalero to make up their canceled game last week due to inclement weather.

Boys

Whatever the price of admission was for this

See **TIGERS**, page 2B

Eagles wound marauding Panthers

MIKE CURRAN

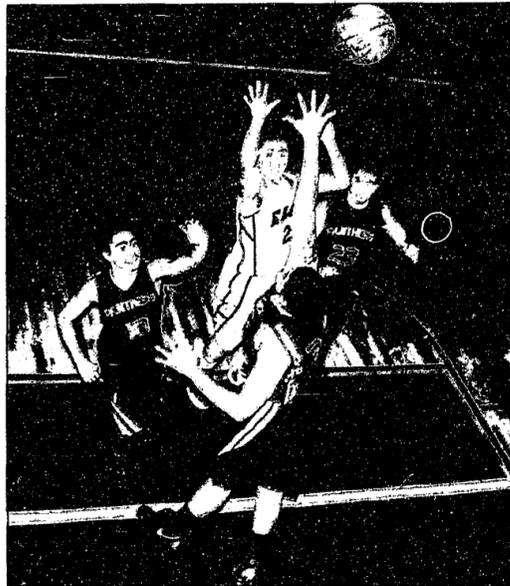
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

The visiting Lake Arthur Panthers crept into Hondo Saturday with blood in their eyes but were soon shooed away after being "talonized" by the Eagles boys and girls hardwood teams, 60-46 and 58-34, respectively.

Hondo girls

The Lady Eagles took a 10-6 lead at the end of the first quarter and went to work on the visitors in the second period, outscoring the Lady Panthers, 14-6, taking a 24-13 lead into the locker rooms at the half.

Going into the last



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See **HONDO**, page 2B

Hondo's Christian Guillen goes up between three Panthers.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Hondo's Denika Willis gets in close for two points.

Brian's Song

There are songs that bring you back to your youth, and rekindle bygone times and memories of family.

The Victrola was playing a record by Perry Como, "The Hands of Time." You might remember it as the theme song from the movie *Brian's Song* about the Chicago Bear's football player, Brian Piccolo who died of lung cancer.

My father was wearing his Perry Como button-

down sweater. We both had lumps in our throat.

"Did you give him medicine?" I said.

"Billy, it has to be done. There's no saving him," my father said.

My father returned a few minutes later and I gave him the band. It was done. He gingerly placed it in the drawer with the others. My father was visibly choked up and his eyes

were a crimson red. I was 14 and I had been doing "it" at my father's request since I was 10. He didn't have the strength. He was too attached as a loving father would always feel.

The Romans started the sport circa 220 AD. Homing pigeons were released throughout Naples, Rome and Sicily. The Flemish in the 1800s were so smitten with racing that they began to develop pigeons specially cultivated for fast flight and long endurance called Voyageurs. Nathan Rothchild, the greedy financier whose family still

controls the purse strings of every one of us, used homing pigeons to relay messages of Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo by Wellington.

Rothchild then used the information to make a killing on the bond market.

I grew up in the world of still Roman dominated pigeon racing. Every Sunday I was not allowed to come out of the house until they landed and went into the coop. Vito Falzone, the Capo in the local crime family and a pigeon fancier,

See **BRIAN**, page 2B



BILL DEMENT
OBSERVATIONS

TIGERS

FROM PAGE 1B

game it was worth the price of entrance as both Capitan and Mescalero gave the spectators all they could want — unless of course you were a Chiefs' fan at the end of the contest.

Similar to the

Capitan/Mescalero girls battle which preceded them, the Chiefs boy's team started the first eight minutes slowly and allowed the Tigers to grab a 13-5 advantage going into the second quarter.

It was then, however, the Mescalero boys rose to the occasion and out-dueled the Tigers in the second period, 15-9, and went to

the locker rooms at the half only down by two, 22-20.

At that point it was anyone's game for the taking and it looked as though, for a while, the Chiefs were going to grab the away win.

They continued their second quarter momentum in the third eight minutes of action by outscoring Capitan 19-9 and took a hard-fought 39-31 advantage going into the last quarter.

It's a known fact tigers are a tough cat to take down and the Capitan boys proved that by gaining the initiative in the last eight minutes of floor action, 20-11, and narrowly shading the Chiefs by one lone point.

Both sides gave it their all and for that moment in time the Capitan boys came out on top.

For the Tigers, Rudy Chavez hit the doubles mark with 16, including a hat trick in 3-pointers.

Logan Eshom was right behind that total with 14 of his own.

Mescalero's junior star athlete, Godfrey Cordova was high-point man of the game with 18 points.

Senior teammate, Jaylynn Balatche, pumped in 10 for the cause.

This big win now gives the Tigers a 10-5 overall mark and their first D7-1A victory.

The hard luck Chiefs go to 5-14 and 2-4 in district.

The makeup grudge match Wednesday at Mescalero should be a shootout.

HONDO

FROM PAGE 1B

quarter the Hondo girls increased their lead to 44-22, and won going away by 24 points.

In fairness to Lake Arthur, their roster only consisted of five players and every player gave their all for the entire 32 minutes.

Fourteen Lady Eagles saw court time and while

none of the players reached double-digits, 10 of them scored with four players — Montana Prudencio, Felicia Chavez, Salena Chavez and Stephanie Gomez — scoring eight points apiece.

"The girls played well together," Hondo head coach Brad Holland said. "Everyone got floor action and gained experience. This should help us down the road."

With their win Saturday, the Lady Eagles go to 12-7 overall with a 2-

0 district record.

Tuesday the Hondo girls will have played a non-district tilt at Carrizozo and will follow that up with a District 3-B skirmish at Corona Thursday.

Hondo boys

The Eagles took a 15-10 lead at the end of the first eight minutes of play but were just getting warmed up for the subsequent quarter as they scored 24 points and the visiting Panthers could only come up with 13.

Luis Mantaño went on a scoring outburst in the first half dumping in 25 points, which included a hat trick in 3-pointers.

By the end of the third period the Eagles held a 49-34 advantage and won comfortably by 14 points.

Mantaño pumped in an amazing 34 points for the contest, 13 Hondo players saw action on the hardwood and six players scored in addition to Mantaño.

Lake Arthur had a clear advantage in height and

size but the Eagles more than made up for that with speed and good shot-making.

"We kept the Panther big boys off the glass," Holland said. "The Eagles shot the ball decently and hit their free throws (Mantaño hit nine from the line)."

"We had a very good second quarter and Lake Arthur really didn't have a defensive answer for Mantaño."

"I'm happy we won this

game because we needed to stay in the hunt after losing to Valley Christian on Jan. 25.

"Lake Arthur can be tough at home and we play them there in our last game of the regular season (Feb. 24)."

Hondo, as of this report, is 11-7 overall and 2-1 in district play.

The Eagles will have played at Carrizozo Tuesday and are then scheduled for an away game at Corona Thursday.

BRIAN

FROM PAGE 1B

frequently stopped by to talk to my father while I played with his sons, Al and Jimmy. I believe he was also my father's connection to "bootlegging" or cigarette boot legging. I remember being as young as six as my father made his monthly clandestine purchases down at the beach parking lot. My father was not involved in the operation.

He was just a customer that was looking for a cheaper deal to pay for his and my mother's four-pack-a-day-each nicotine habit. He quickly loaded up the cartons of untaxed cigarettes into the hallway closet. It was not until about 1987 that the North Carolina operation was halted and lo and behold my father's name surfaced on a list for untaxed cigarettes dating back to the early 60s. The bootlegger to my father's chagrin kept meticulous records. There's nothing like paying \$4,000 of back cigarette taxes to convince you to stop smok-

ing. Watching my manic mother being forced to go "cold turkey" at my father's urging was not a pretty sight.

I was born into the world of pigeon racing in the 60s. My father, needing an outlet for dealing with my mother's myriad medical problems, built his first pigeon coop in 1965 in the back yard. He had raised pigeons as a child with his father. He retired three years later from the Police Department. Every Sunday afternoon he would take me to the Richmond Boro Pigeon Racing Club which was one of several bungalows built of driftwood on Seaside Blvd in the South Beach neighborhood of Staten Island. We lived about a mile away from the Italian American dominated South Beach.

What struck me as peculiar was that half of the pigeon club's members were police officers and the other half were "made men" and Mafia wannabes. My father's loft was called "Sarge Loft."

In the 70s he became pigeon racing partners with "Jerry the Fireman." Jerry

was a tall, neurotic man, thirteen years my father's junior, who always was trying new hair plugs for his perennially balding scalp. He epitomized the swinging lifestyle of that era; a divorcee thrice, serial dater, he reminded me of the "Six Million Dollar Man" with his wide lapel, polyester leisure suits he frequently wore. Overly fastidious, he was like Felix Unger in television's "The Odd Couple" to my father's Oscar.

As a kid pigeon racing was the hobby of made men. If you remember the movie *Donnie Brasco*, Al Pacino's character was based on Mafia leader, Sonny Black Napolitano of Williamsburg, Brooklyn. An undercover FBI agent infiltrated the family. After Napolitano's indictment FBI video footage showed him on the roof of his house sitting in his pigeon coop. He said that his pigeons were the only ones he could trust.

I cleaned the pigeon coop for my dad and he took me in his station wagon with his prize homers to New Jersey on training exercises

where he released them. They would be home when we arrived. During racing season he met the driver who transported the pigeons on short races to Atlantic City and on others he drove and released them from as far away as Baltimore, or even the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

My father became a well known breeder carefully working with productive bloodlines. He commonly won several purses a year ranging from \$500 to a high of \$5000. He started pigeon racing as a hobby and it became a love.

There were many days when he spent 12 hours or more tending to a sick pigeon. My mother lamented and I remember her saying rather frequently "Willie, you love those pigeons more than me." My father would reply "You cost me money and they make money."

Across the world in Asia, Singapore and India the sport of pigeon racing is exploding. In 2009 the Chinese Mafia have been implicated with bird napping prize pigeons in

Antwerp, Belgium. In the United States it is a dying sport. Chicago has outlawed pigeon racing and had legislated against people having coops on their roofs.

In inner city rooftop coops, many of them owned by aging gangsters, are being replaced by solar panels. PETA has railed against pigeon racing stating that upwards of 20 percent of birds are lost during races to storms, or collide with electrical lines and never make it home.

They also decry the practice of putting identifying bands on their legs as being hurtful and they deplore the fact that pigeon aficionados are known to partake in illegal gambling betting on a certain bird.

One only had to look at my father, his eyes tearing, when I knocked down his pigeon coop in 1994 to see his love of pigeons. He had given up his pigeons many years before but the sagging structure remained.

The old man was feeble and he held onto his walker while I swung the axe head destroying the rotted plywood wall with an easy

swing. He was wearing his ripped Perry Como sweater, the buttons long since lost.

There are songs that bring you back to your youth, and rekindle bygone times and memories of family.

My father was 80 when he died in 1997. A man approached me at the wake. He was bald and his face had atrophied and dropped. He was bracing himself with a cane. He announced his name to me in a garbled and slurred manner. He was "Jerry the Fireman." Jerry told me that he had not spoken to my father in many years since they broke up as pigeon partners, and at 65 he had the first of three strokes which left him emaciated and handicapped. The former Casanova was now alone.

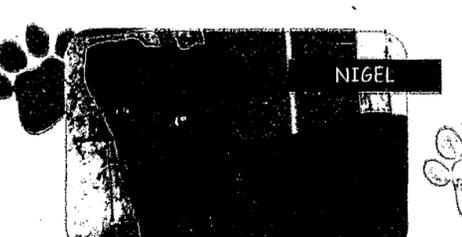
The next day he came to my house and we had coffee. Upon saying goodbye I gave him my father's three prize racing timing clocks. Tears were streaming down his face as he hugged me. The memory of Perry Como singing that fateful song was etched in my memory.

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NIGEL

is a playful character with a lot of personality. He is a solid black Miniature Pinscher mix and is around 10 months old. Nigel is great with other dogs, as long as they can keep up with him! He walks well on a leash and is very friendly with everyone he meets

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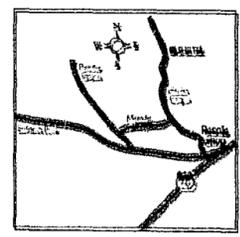


FLETCHER

is a beautiful cat possessing all the great qualities which will make him a wonderful pet. He gets along very well with other cats, is quite affectionate and also can be playful and spunky. He is a short-haired neutered male, about 1 year old. Fletcher is a handsome seal point in color with bright blue eyes.

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 memorials to:
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 P.O. Box 2832,
 Ruidoso, NM 88355





GROVER

is a spunky Shepherd mix, about 10 months old. He weighs just about 50 pounds. Grover is an outgoing dog with a fun-loving personality.

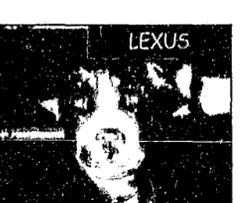
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SIERRA

is a very sweet Shepherd mix, about 6 years old. She is good with children and other dogs. Sierra weighs about 40 pounds. Sierra is solid red in color and has very short fur.

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LEXUS

is a beautiful Pit mix with very unique markings. She has a rich brown colored coat and cute white markings on her face and paws. Lexus is very sweet, plays well with other dogs and is friendly with people. She is about 8 months old and weighs 25 pounds.

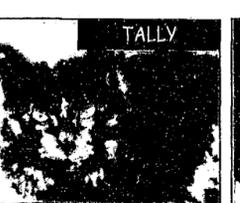
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JOANIE HOLT



CAROLINA

is a pretty long haired grey tabby. She is about 2 years old and very friendly. Carolina does well with other cats, children and likes everyone she meets.

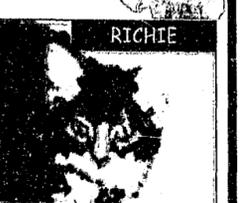
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TALLY

is a pretty solid gray cat, about 9 months old. She is long haired and has bright yellow eyes. Tally is very friendly and outgoing. She loves to be brushed and petted.

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RICHIE

is a cute, friendly kitten, about 10 weeks old. He has medium length fur and is a grey tabby with just a bit of white on him.

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LINCOLN COUNTY

Adios NRCS – Roybal hits the retirement road

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

“Good enough for government work” tells a different story when it is about Tom Roybal and his 35-plus years employment with two different U.S. Government agencies.

Roybal, the best kind of government worker, recently retired after 30 years with the NRCS and an exemplary career with the agency.

A native of Mimbres, Roybal grew up on a ranch located next to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Park. The second of six children and the oldest son, he graduated from Cobre High School.

He then went directly to work for the Forest Service. It was 1973.

In 1978, Roybal was transferred to Lincoln County as a member of a helitack firefighting crew. Newly married, he and his wife Dinah made Capitan their home.

However, the Forest Service kept Roybal working only four months of the year and so in the winter of '79, he went to work for the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS).

His first duty was to help assess the flood damage on the Rio Ruidoso and Rio Hondo Rivers.

“I got my ducks lined up in a row and hired on full-time with the SCS,” Roybal said. “And that’s been it ever since.”

Roybal went to work for



Tom Roybal retired in December after 30 years with the NRCS in Lincoln County. Left, Roybal plans on spending time on the road riding his Harley, a retirement gift to himself. Above right, Roybal received a recognition plaque from Area Conservationist Hollis Fuchs, who also retired in December.



COURTESY

Greg Haussler who was the District Conservationist at the time.

The NRCS soon realized Tom’s uncanny ability and talent as an engineering technician. “They sent me to school after school,” Roybal re-called. “So many I couldn’t tell you how many, but they taught me what they needed me to know.”

Upon the announcement of his retirement, Roybal was honored in December for his years of service to the agency.

During his tenure with the NRCS, he assisted the district without fail throughout his career, providing technical and practical assistance to almost

every farmer, rancher, landowner in the area.

“Tom has never met a stranger,” said the NRCS representatives at the December award dinner.

“Our district cooperators have a high regard for his expertise and willingness to go the extra mile to help them when called upon. Tom has left his mark on almost every part of this district in the past 30-plus years.”

In 1982-83, Roybal supervised the bank stabilization and flood repair work on the Rio Bonito. He has also been called to assist on watershed restoration projects in other areas of New Mexico such as Silver City, Española, the Manzano

Mountains and the Sacramento Mountains. He was asked to serve as crew chief with the U. S. Forest Service during the Cree and Kokopelli fires.

In July 2008, following the disastrous Hurricane Dolly flooding in Lincoln County, Roybal spent a year and a half working tirelessly, seven days a week, on the Ruidoso and Bonito flooding reclamation.

It was through his leadership and relationships with landowners that the project was such a success.

Since the official retirement date, Roybal has been on the move. He has been three weeks at the family ranch in Mimbres helping

his 83-year-old father with lambing and other projects.

He and his dad made a trip to California, coming back through Laughlin, Nev. “I’m going back to Laughlin in April to a bike rally,” Roybal said.

An avid biker, Roybal owns two Harley’s. “My retirement present to myself was a 2009 Harley Davidson Road Glide,” he said.

After living in Lincoln County for so long, raising two kids (a son and a daughter), and now with five grandchildren, Roybal said it will always be “home” to him.

“We have a place in Albuquerque, and the ranch in Mimbres, but

when I need to clear my head, it’s where I’ll come.”

In the meantime, he said his dad had plenty for him to do.

“He has a ‘small’ garden, he calls it. But it’s six acres and then we have a fruit stand at the entrance to the Gila Cliff Dwellings park, so it’s our own local Farmer’s Market.”

Roybal said he had a plan all along to work, retire young (at 55) and then do things he wanted to do. “So far, so good,” he said about his retirement. “It’s wonderful, it’s excellent, it’s awesome.”

Right now, Tom Roybal is doing exactly what he worked all those years to do – enjoy life.

COLD BEEF



Last week’s storm didn’t just make humans a little chilly and uncomfortable. Livestock of all kinds were subjected to the falling and blowing snow and bitter cold temperatures. This cow took shelter from the wind in a stand of cholla cactus northeast of Claunch.

Courtesy of Shelly Frost

The storms

What a week for all of New Mexico. Record breaking

temperatures, frozen pipes, no gas, rolling blackouts, (we had six from 45 minutes to more than two hours which created many unexpected problems.

It was announced this evening that El Paso will get water at 10 a.m. Monday.

Although we received around four inches of snow or more it was a dry snow. We did fine with no problems

But so many people took it as a personal affront.

I don’t understand some people because it was just an inconvenience. Kay Rucker west of Lincoln reported -19 degrees. That is cold!

I really don’t have much news besides the weather.

I was up most of the night with Ralph and he is in the Mountain View hospital undergoing tests.

Hopefully I will know something Tuesday morning when the doctor comes in.

I told him he had to be home for our 64th wedding anniversary Wednesday.

We have good friends taking me back and forth to the hospital.

We also have a good Samaritan on the block who takes care of our garbage can.

I have no idea who it is. I thought I would get out early to bring it up from the street this morning after the pickup and it had already been put back in place.

COUNTY BRIEFS

Feral hogs

The Upper Hondo Soil and Water Conservation is helping to sponsor a workshop to bring awareness for the growing feral hog problem in the state and in Lincoln County.

There will be a half-day workshop on Feb. 18, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Lincoln County Fair Grounds in Capitan.

Topics to be discussed include:

- wild pigs: biology, and history;
- feral hogs: impacts, disease concerns, regulations, control;
- control techniques;

Representatives from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, U.S. Forest Service and the New Mexico Livestock Board will be on

hand to address specific questions.

For more information, contact the Lincoln County Extension Office at 648-2311.

Blood drive

Carrizozo High School is Sponsoring a Blood Drive, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., at the school at 800 D Ave. in the Multipurpose Room.

United Blood Services – the State’s only community blood provider – put out a critical appeal as a result of the drop in donations due to the recent extreme winter storms.

Because of the storms throughout the state, a majority of blood drives have been canceled and people have not been able to make it in to the centers

to give blood.

This has had an extremely adverse impact on the blood supply. UBS estimates that their supplies are 70 percent below what is needed.

To make an appointment, call Carol Wilson at 575-648-2346 ext. 135, call 1-888-676-LIFE to schedule an appointment or check www.unitedbloodservices.org for more information.

Volunteer donors must be at least 17, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, be in good health and are encouraged to eat a hearty meal before the donation. Sixteen-year-olds may donate with Parental Consent.

Woman’s Club

It’s time for the

Carrizozo Woman’s Club Annual Valentine Bake Sale.

It will be held on Friday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Wells Fargo Bank at 401 Central Avenue in Carrizozo.

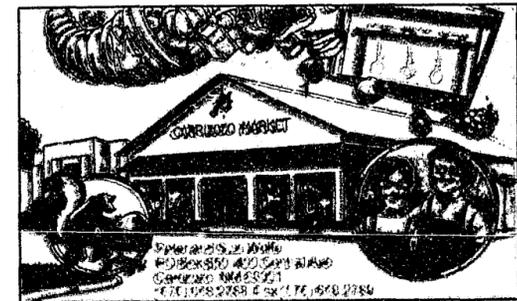
The women of the club are famous for their delicious home made treats.

There will be cakes, pies, cookies, breads, muffins and many other wonderful items.

The proceeds from the Bake Sale go to the Scholarship Fund.

Each year the Carrizozo Woman’s Club awards a scholarship to a deserving high school senior to help with the expenses of college.

Be sure to stop by the Bake Sale and pick up something for yourself or for your special Valentine.



Lincoln County Fairboard

Meeting, Feb. 16, 7 p.m. – Junior Livestock Superintendents 6 p.m. The meeting will be held in the brick house across the canyon south of the fairgrounds.

Romance Review

Valentine's Day

Monday, February 14

The Grocery-Man Sets His Sights

I was working in a small independent grocery store in Lubbock, TX. One door down from us was a flower shop and the prettiest girl worked there after school and on Saturdays. The owner of the flower shop introduced us and I later expressed to him that I was going to ask her on a date. He told me that I was wasting my time because she was engaged to a Sailor.

Well that just made me more determined to take her out so I started "flirting" with her found out that her boyfriend was out of town. I asked her out to eat and a movie and by this time, I had her convinced I was the "greatest", with a new car and I dressed very well. She had the softest black hair and a figure that held me spellbound.

Well the first date went well and we continued to see each other for about 3 months and one night I took her home to meet my parents and the first words out of my mouth were "this is the girl I am going to marry". She was speechless and my parents were beyond words. We had never mentioned anything about getting married.

As things turned out, we had a great wedding in March, one month later and spent our Honeymoon in Ruidoso at The Whispering Pines motel. We came back for the next 4 years and they put us in the same cabin each year. The Sailor Ruth Ann was engaged to fell to the wayside and we traded the wedding rings he had given her for our first vacuum cleaner.

They said it would never last but this year is our 49th Anniversary and we were blessed with three wonderful children and I have always said, "It takes a special woman to stay married to a grocery-man!

Bob and Ruth Ann Crumpton
Ruidoso

Pair of Knee High Leather Sandals Sparks Life Long Relationship

It was 1967. Young Street was the place to stroll in downtown Toronto. All things artisan were good. I happened upon a small leather shop after work. I worked at Grant Advertising and I was 23 years old. I saw a small display with a pair of handmade leather sandals that styled right below the knee. I knew I had to have a pair. I walked in and they did not have my size because the leather maker only made custom orders. He needed my personal measurements. I made an appointment to get my feet and legs fitted the next Saturday.

That week went by like any other week. I was looking forward to the sandals. It was spring, soon it would be summer and I could wear them anywhere, to the stores, to the movies, to the beach. They were a serious pair of sandals.

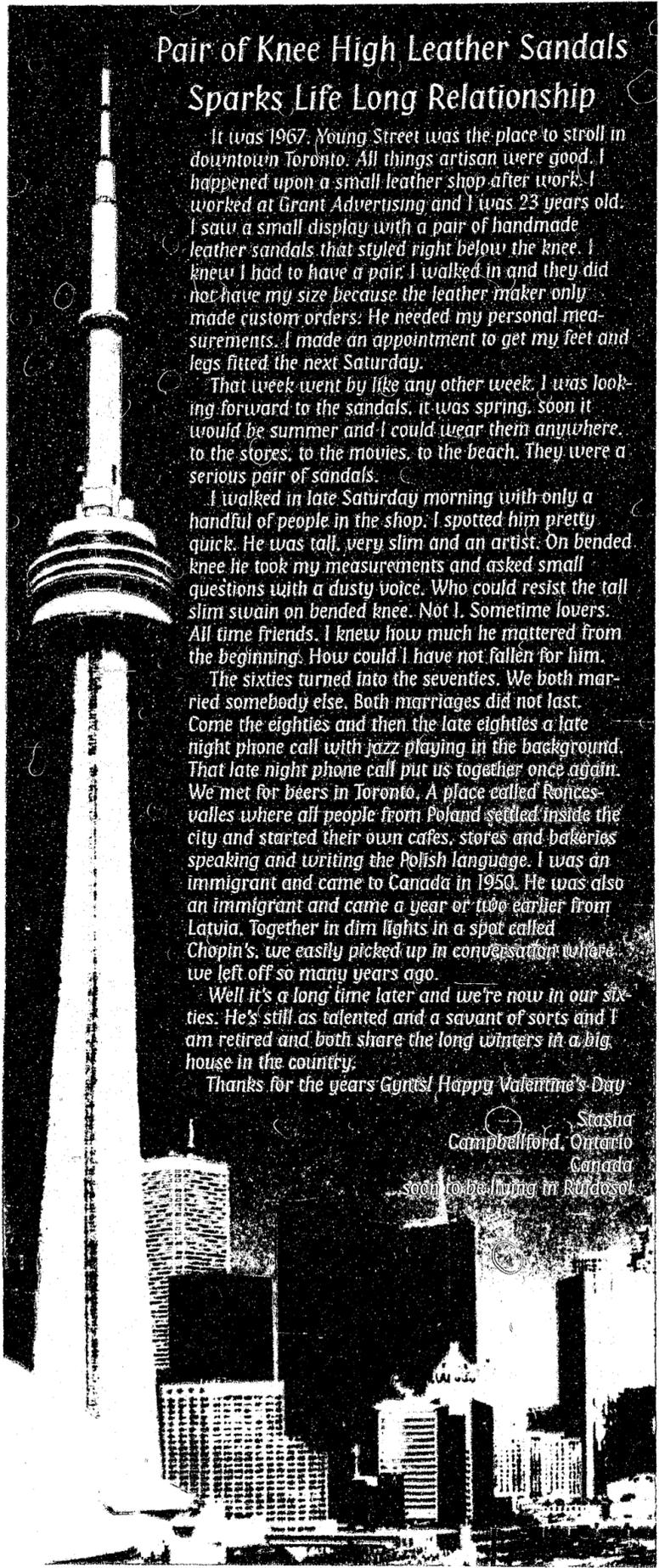
I walked in late Saturday morning with only a handful of people in the shop. I spotted him pretty quick. He was tall, very slim and an artist. On bended knee he took my measurements and asked small questions with a dusty voice. Who could resist the tall slim swain on bended knee. Not I. Sometime lovers. All time friends. I knew how much he mattered from the beginning. How could I have not fallen for him.

The sixties turned into the seventies. We both married somebody else. Both marriages did not last. Come the eighties and then the late eighties a late night phone call with jazz playing in the background. That late night phone call put us together once again. We met for beers in Toronto. A place called Roncesvalles where all people from Poland settled inside the city and started their own cafes, stores and bakeries speaking and writing the Polish language. I was an immigrant and came to Canada in 1950. He was also an immigrant and came a year or two earlier from Latvia. Together in dim lights in a spot called Chopin's, we easily picked up in conversation where we left off so many years ago.

Well it's a long time later and we're now in our sixties. He's still as talented and a savant of sorts and I am retired and both share the long winters in a big house in the country.

Thanks for the years Gynt! Happy Valentine's Day

Stasha
Campbellford, Ontario
Canada
soon to be living in Ruidoso!



Valentine's Day Weekend

SATURDAY AND MONDAY
FEBRUARY 12TH & 14TH
FREE MOVIE NIGHTS
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Starring Johnny Depp & Juliette Binoche. Shows at 6:30pm

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Valentine's
3 Course Dinner
Feb. 12 -14, 2011

APPETIZER One to share
Shrimp Cocktail served with 1/2 dozen boiled shrimp. Served with Mango salsa, our homemade cocktail sauce and lemon slices.

MAIN COURSE
Each person chooses one selection plus one sidekick of choice.
Oven Roasted Prime Rib 10oz cut, Smothered Chicken, 10 oz. Ribeye or Grilled Salmon.

DESSERT
Choice of any dessert for your table.
One to share with your valentine!

Cobbler * Cobbler A La Mode * Brownie * Brownie Sundae

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K-BOB'S STEAKHOUSE



Romance Review 2011
The Ruidoso News
Invites You!
to be part of our
Valentine's Day Contest

The Ruidoso News is running a Valentine's Day Contest and would like readers to share their stories on

"How we met..." Sit Back, reminisce and share your most romantic, humorous or disastrous stories on how you met or how you proposed.

We'd like to receive entries in these three categories:



1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each category!

1st prize - A \$100 Valentine's Gift Basket

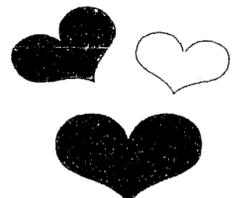
2nd prize - A \$75 Valentine's Gift Basket

3rd prize - A \$50 Valentine's Gift Basket

Selected advertisers and The Ruidoso News are preparing Valentine's Day Gift Ideas and are excited to offer the prizes above for the best story in the three categories.



Contest Deadline
Wednesday, February 11, 2011 - 5p.m



E-mail your submissions to rbarrett@ruidosonews.com,
bethbarrett@ruidosonews.com tthomas@ruidosonews.com,
or drop off or mail to 104 Park Ruidoso, NM 88345"

Mescalero man receives 5 years

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A Mescalero man, initially charged last year with sexual abuse and assault resulting in serious bodily injury, pleaded guilty Tuesday in U.S. Federal Court to the injury assault.

Kaul Ray Duffy, 23, admitted that he assaulted a woman at her residence on March 20, 2010, by choking and beating the victim.

Duffy had been arrested on Oct. 28 after a criminal complaint accused him of assaulting the woman dur-

ing a three-hour period, strangling her and threatening to kill her.

Under the terms of a plea agreement, Duffy will receive a prison term of five years, followed by three years of supervised release.

The victim told an agent with Bureau of Indian Affairs Mescalero Agency Police that she had been raped and physically assaulted by Duffy on March 20. The criminal complaint stated that the next night the woman's vehicle was taken by Duffy and was later found by police damaged and disabled along U.S. Highway

70. The following morning Duffy was accused of breaking into the victim's residence, choking her, and stating he would rape and kill her.

Duffy said he and the woman had consensual sex before an argument and physical altercation. He contended he had not taken the woman's vehicle and did not shoot out a window at her home.

The plea agreement was presented before United State Magistrate Judge William Downes in Las Cruces. The U.S. Attorney's office in New Mexico prosecuted the case.

RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

Jan. 30

5:35 p.m. - Officer Larry Smith responded to a possible battery in progress.

The victim reportedly told Smith the assailant pulled a couch pillow from under her and twisted her arm, trying to steal her prescription oxycodone.

Smith reports he was unable to locate Todd Kizer, 34. Smith requested and Judge Lorena LaMay issued an arrest warrant for Kizer on a charge of battery on a household member.

LaMay set the bond at \$10,000 cash only.

Feb. 1

1:27 p.m. -- Corporal Mike Weaver responded to 2704 Sudderth for a report of a vandalism at a cabin in the 100 block of Fern Trail.

Weaver reports the victim reported several things broken in the cabin.

Weaver reported the victim told him she was charging the renters credit card for the damage and just wanted a police report to document the damage.

5 p.m. - An alleged victim came into Ruidoso Police Department to report her wallet stolen.

Corporal Aaron Frost

reports the victim said she thought her wallet had been stolen at about 2 p.m. when she was inside Club Gas. She had not locker her car.

Feb. 3

10:46 a.m. - Officer Tyrel Tyson responded to the 100 block of Lupine Loop for a report of a breaking and entering.

Tyson reports that he discovered the back door had been kicked in, but the neighbor who reported the incident said there appeared to be nothing missing.

MAGISTRATE COURT RUIDOSO CASES

Cases from Jan. 27

Gervase Peso appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of telephone harassment under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of bribery of a witness and Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Peso to three days, time served, in jail, a \$300 fine and 361 days of supervised probation.

LaMay also ordered Peso to have no contact with the victim and to pay \$73 in court costs.

Justin Phillips appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of battery on a household member.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Phillips to 72 days, time served, in jail, a \$300 fine and 292 days of supervised probation with zero tolerance.

LaMay also ordered Phillips to pay \$73 in court costs, to find a job and remain employed, and to enter into and successfully complete a Batterer's Intervention Program approved by Children, Youth and Families Division.

Margarito Primera appeared in court and pleaded no contest to charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, open container, two counts of attempt to commit forgery and two counts of concealing identity under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney

Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State amended two charges of forgery to attempt to commit forgery and Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Primera to two consecutive 364-day terms of supervised probation and two consecutive 182-day terms of supervised probation.

LaMay ordered Primera to pay \$961 in fines and \$488 in court costs.

Jonathan Wrinkles appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of battery on a household member.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Wrinkles to 52 days in jail, time served, 312 days of supervised probation and a \$500 fine.

Erick Thompson appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of disorderly conduct under a

plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of battery on a household member and Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Thompson to 182 days of supervised probation, fined him \$300 and ordered him to have no contact with the victim.

Mark Silva appeared in court and pleaded no contest to resisting, evading or obstructing an officer under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Deputy District Attorney Reed Thompson.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of battery on a

household member and Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Silva to 364 days of supervised probation and a \$500 fine.

LaMay also ordered Silva to obtain screening with Cope for alcohol, remain employed and to pay \$73 in court costs.

Delbert Holder appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of criminal trespass.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Holder to 52 days in jail, time served, 312 days of supervised probation and ordered him to serve three days in jail to cover court costs and a \$100 bench warrant fee.

LaMay also ordered Holder to stay off McDonald's Restaurant property.

Jerry Romero appeared in court and pleaded no contest to charges of

attempted burglary and attempted breaking and entering under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed charges of burglary, breaking and entering and larceny.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Romero to 364 days of supervised probation, with zero tolerance, for each count, and a \$500 fine for each count.

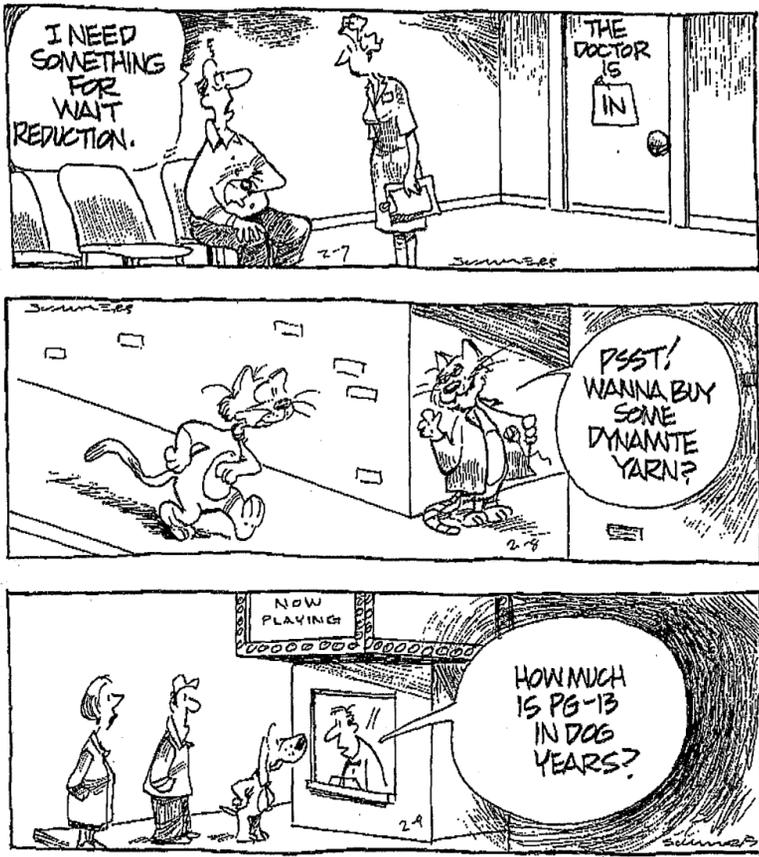
LaMay also ordered Romero to have no contact with Greg Baca and Frederico Soto, continue his education and obtain screening for anger management with Gary Garland.

LaMay also ordered Romero to pay \$126 in court costs.

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I	H	T	R	F	D	S	
I	H	N	F	R	F	G	
E	U	T	P	W	S	P	

PAR SCORE 150-160
BEST SCORE 215

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

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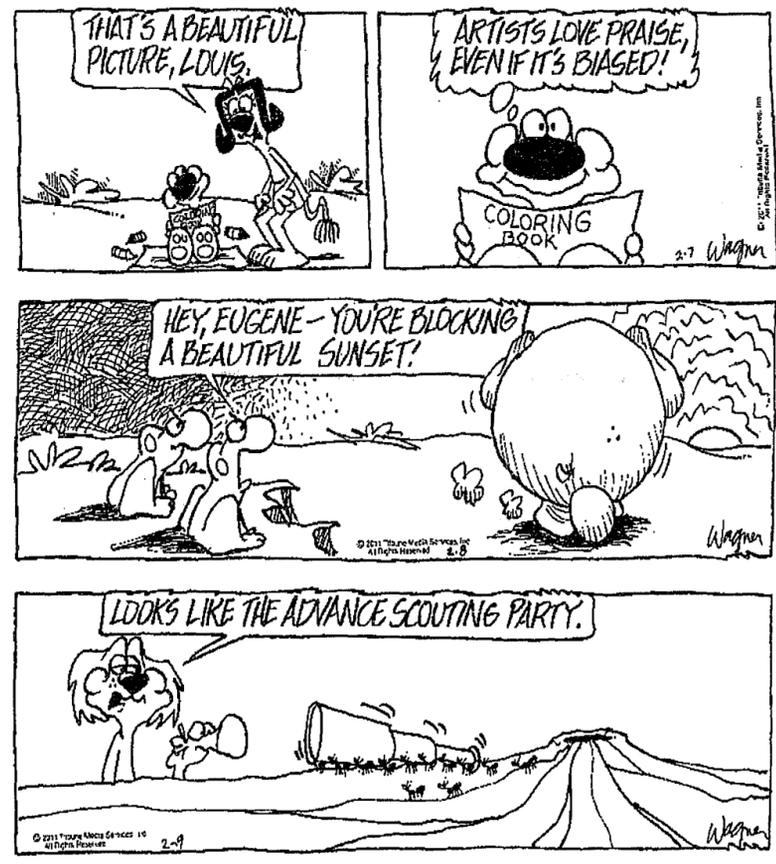
JUMBLE
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

T I F E D
Y E V A H
Y O R C A N
P I G N U M

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

Answer:

ANIMAL CRACKERS



SUDOKU
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group
Level: 1 2 3 4

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

SOLUTION TO TODAY'S PUZZLE 2/9/11

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

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

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PAR SCORE 150-160
TOTAL 215

RACK 4 = 78
RACK 3 = 68
RACK 2 = 12
RACK 1 = 57

T	O	R	R	E	N	T	
G	R	I	L	F	L		
S	H	R	I	F	T		
U	P	S	W	E	P	S	T

Jumbles: FETID HEAVY CRAVON IMPUGN
Answer: What the tree planters did at mealtime: THEY "DUG" IN

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Misc. Items 625
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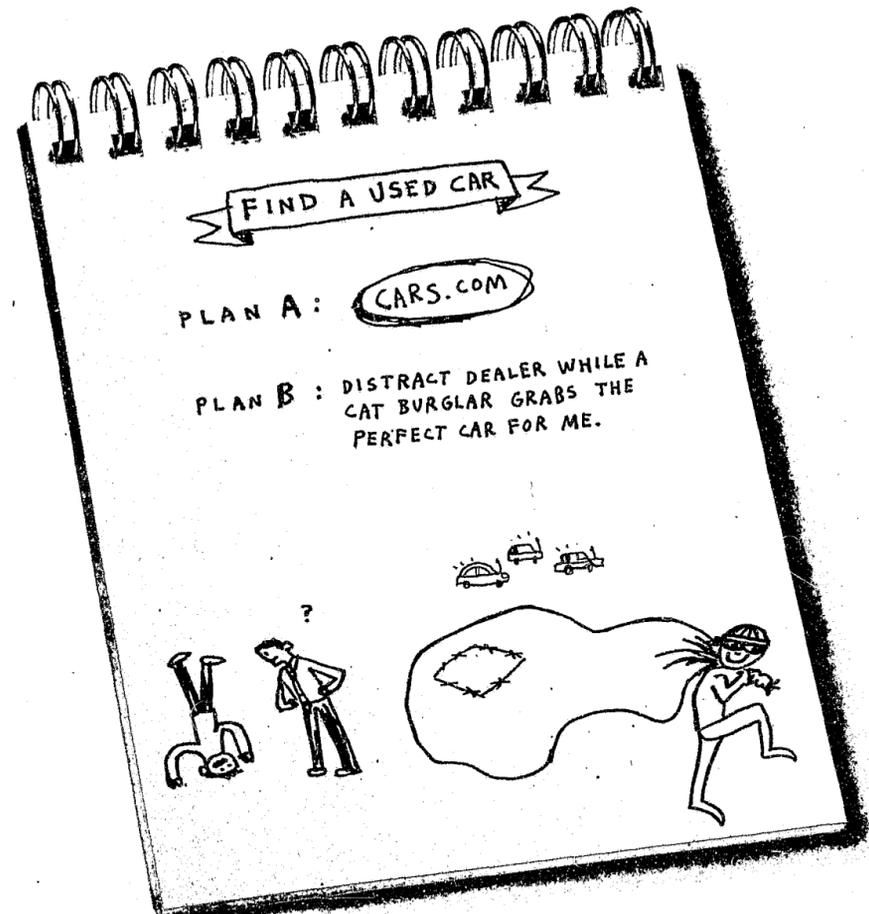
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