

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, FEB. 18, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, NO. 86 • 75 CENTS

**FIRE DANGER
MODERATE**



Blame flows like water

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Harsh criticism of the handling of the recent water crisis in Ruidoso caused by sub-zero temperatures freezing pipes and breaking lines was leveled Tuesday by Lincoln County Commissioner Mark Doth. Ruidoso officials countered that they didn't see Doth offer any suggestions or attend the emergency briefings that spanned a full week, and the mayor said that, in his opinion, Doth may be carrying some personal animosity toward the village that prompted the comments. The commissioner's district includes Upper Canyon and adjoining segments of

County commissioner critical of village's response to water crisis; village counters

the village hit the hardest after village water tanks experienced a massive drop in storage. Because most of the homes in the area are unoccupied during the winter and utility officials suspected a significant water main break had occurred there as well as leaks in private homes, service was shut down last week and remained off for nearly seven days. Service was restored Monday and Tuesday, but some individual homes in that area and throughout the village still need repair to their pipes and installation

of a cut-off valve on the private side of the meter before coming back on line. More than 500 separate leaks were detected in the village, said Village Manager Debi Lee. Doth slammed the handling of the emergency by the village during a commission meeting in Carrizozo Tuesday. "I was extremely disappointed in the Village of Ruidoso," he said. "This was the most mismanaged and confusing crisis I've experienced. My district...was the hardest hit. It was a mess. Why it took so long for a response I don't know. Part of this could

have been resolved, if the village aggressively tried to repair the water lines during the (July 2008) flood (on the Rio Ruidoso), but I was told they were out of money. This will happen again." He questioned how village officials could be caught off-guard or experience a "misreading" of the major drops in water storage at the Alto Crest 5-million-gallon tanks. "I don't know why. This was a screw-up of major proportions. They should have been prepared. The weather forecast was out there," Doth said. "Every time it hovers around zero temperatures, we have frozen busted pipes and they know that and it

See **BLAME**, page 9A

JUST DUCKY



A mallard found this marshy area across from Ruidoso High School to its liking this week.

COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

Harris' contract approved - again

■ After a 'procedural' error criticized by the Foundation for Open Government, school board OKs extension

JIM KALVELAGE
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An extension of Ruidoso Municipal School District Superintendent Bea Etta Harris' contract was unanimously approved Monday by the district's education board.

The board had taken action last week to ratify extensions approved in early 2010 and 2011, but the executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government said that votes may not have been legal because the matters were not listed as action items on the two earlier meeting agendas.

"I speak for the entire board about the (New Mexico) Open Meetings Act," said board president Susan Lutterman. "It's designed to encourage transparency and this board totally endorses that. It was the board itself that discovered our procedural mistake in relation to the personnel matter concerning Dr. Harris."

"And it was the board that moved to rectify the error. So please let me emphasize there was no attempt to circumvent the Open Meetings Act, this was simply an inadvertent procedural error and it's

See **TAXED**, page 11A

See **HARRIS**, page 11A

County adopts policy over taxable benefits

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Changes in Internal Revenue Service requirements mandating that fringe benefits for employees be taxed prompted Lincoln County commissioners to adopt a policy resolution Tuesday.

The resolution outlines how employees and county finance should handle cell phones, government vehicle use, payment of per diem when overnight travel is not required, county uniforms and utilization of independent contractors as employees.

Commissioner Jackie Powell, who is a book-

keeper, issued a warning to county employees and the public in general, about sticker shock at the end of 2011 when they figure their income taxes and the taxed fringe benefits.

"Employees are going to get hit hard," she said. "The county picks up 80 percent of their (health insurance premiums) and they [employees] will be paying more taxes (because that financial help will be taxed)."

"Congress still is struggling with the details of the Health Care Reform Act and there might be changes," said County Manager Tom Stewart. They were criticized heavily for their stance on taxing employer-provided cell phones and modified their position on that, he pointed

out.

"I'm so mad," Powell continued, apparently unconvinced of any change for the better. "The accountants of the United States let us down. They are not telling us what's going on."

"They talk about a payroll tax cut when in fact, your federal income taxes went up 45 percent. They hid that because your Social Security - an employee pays in one-third less. It used to be 6 percent and now it is 4 percent, yet we all know Social Security is in trouble and sinking, yet they are putting in a third less and it will just sink faster, in my opinion."



LOVERIN

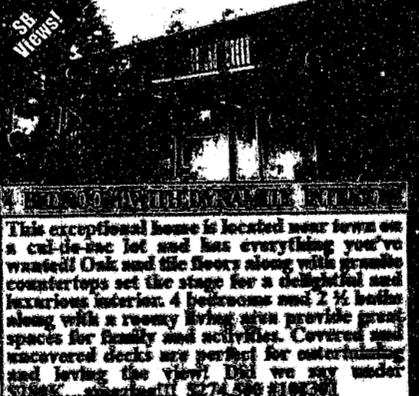
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Proctor honored

Jean Proctor (second from left) was honored as "Outstanding Citizen" during the Ruidoso Downs Beautification Committee meeting on Feb. 16. Proctor has been a member of the committee for

several years and has given countless hours of volunteer time to her hometown of Ruidoso Downs. Proctor came to Ruidoso in 1967. Her love of music and children took her into the music program and an instructional aide in the Ruidoso School system at

Nob Hill School for grades 1st through 3rd in 1973. She retired in 1993. In 1989 Jean became a Doe (Elks Lodge women) and her enthusiastic involvement lead to presidency of the women's organization. Jean is also a "Pink

Lady" volunteer with the Hospital Auxiliary and gives freely of her time working in the thrift shop, aiding in blood drives, knitting caps for the newborn babies, and willing to chair committees as needed. She joined the group in 1992. When there is an oppor-

tunity she loves to play the piano for the Does (national and local), weddings, church events, and most joyfully for family and friends. Proctor was born in Haydock, England, and married the love of her life, serviceman Calvin Odell

Proctor, in 1945. They arrived in the United States in 1947, and in 1988 she became a U.S. citizen in Las Cruces. Her immediate family includes four sons, one daughter, 11 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Driver's licenses

New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division offices statewide, including those operated privately or by municipalities, will not issue or renew driver's licenses and identifications Monday, because of mandatory system upgrades by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. The one-day suspension of service applies only to regular and commercial driver's licenses. MVD

offices will be open Monday for other services, such as vehicle registrations, VIN (vehicle identification number) inspections and road tests. The privately run MVD outlets, MVD Express and MVD Now, also will be unable to issue or renew any driver's licenses after 12 p.m. Saturday. The federal agency that hosts the databases used by the MVD when issuing and renewing driver's licenses and identification cards

will be upgrading those systems starting Saturday afternoon and running through early Tuesday. "These are necessary upgrades that allow the Motor Vehicle Division to follow proper federal guidelines when processing and issuing driver's licenses," said Demesia Padilla, Cabinet Secretary-Designate for the State Taxation & Revenue Department. "The upgrades have been planned by federal authorities over the weekend to minimize impacts on our customers." MVD is encouraging individuals whose driver's license is scheduled to expire over the weekend or on Monday to renew them by the end of the day.

will meet at 9 a.m., Feb. 24, 2011 in the Conference Room of the ALW&SD Office located at 214 Lake Shore Dr., Alto.

Housing authority

The Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 requires the Eastern Regional Housing Authority of New Mexico to prepare a 5-year and Annual Plan covering the operations of the Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. In accordance with the requirements, a copy of the plan for fiscal year 2011 is available for public viewing beginning Feb. 18 at the office of the Eastern Regional Housing Authority at 106 E. Reed, Roswell. The public is welcome to view the plan and submit comments starting Feb. 18 and continuing through

March 17. A public hearing will be held on March 18, at 11 a.m., at the office.

For information regarding the 2011 5-year and Annual Plan contact Irene Andozola at 575-622-0811, ext. 17.

The Eastern Regional Housing Authority serves 12 New Mexico counties including Lincoln County.

Search and Rescue

The White Mountain Search and Rescue (WM-SAR) team will hold its regular meeting Monday evening, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. (board meeting at 5:45pm; all are welcome) upstairs at the First Christian Church, 1211 Hull Rd., Ruidoso. All interested outdoors people are welcome to attend. Topics will include: the recent Winter Survival Class taught by Guillermo, callout software demon-

stration, and the upcoming ESCAPE New Mexico SAR conference.

MAW request

Military Appreciation Week officials are soliciting complimentary rooms from lodgers and asking homeowners who are willing to have a troop or two as house guests the evenings of Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30. Call Millie Woods, 336-2828.

Tire recycling

A tire recycling will be held today, Feb. 18, and Saturday, Feb. 19 at Schoolhouse Park next to the recycling bins, 510 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso. Items accepted will be car, light truck and SUV.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

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AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso AccuWeather.com

| TODAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| RealFeel: 69° Humidity: 36% Mostly sunny Wind: SSW 8-16 mph | RealFeel: 67° Humidity: 28% Partly sunny and breezy Wind: SSW 12-25 mph | RealFeel: 46° Humidity: 36% Very windy; cooler Wind: SW 25-35 mph | RealFeel: 44° Humidity: 26% Mostly sunny and breezy Wind: W 10-20 mph | RealFeel: 48° Humidity: 19% Mostly sunny and windy Wind: SSW 15-25 mph | RealFeel: 43° Humidity: 31% Very windy; partly sunny Wind: SW 30-40 mph | RealFeel: 37° Humidity: 33% Mostly sunny, windy and cooler Wind: SW 20-30 mph |

Regional Cities

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2011

Almanac

Ruidoso
Statistics through Wednesday

Temperature:
High/low 66°/43°
Normal high 52°
Normal low 22°
Record high 66° (2011)
Record low 0° (1952)

Precipitation:
Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date 0.72"
Normal month to date 0.68"
Year to date 0.72"
Normal year to date 2.00"

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

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

Alamogordo
Statistics through Wednesday

Temperature:
High/low 77°/33°
Normal high 61°
Normal low 33°
Record high 79° (2000)
Record low 16° (1990)

Precipitation:
Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date 0.46"
Normal month to date 0.32"
Year to date 0.46"
Normal year to date 1.09"

National Forecast for Feb. 18, 2011

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/Low | Sat. Hi/Low | City | Today Hi/Low | Sat. Hi/Low |
| Abitane | 76/53/s | 73/57/c | Albuquerque | 61/38/pc | 68/37/c |
| Anchorage | 33/6/sf | 19/7/pc | Artesia | 83/51/s | 84/53/pc |
| Atlanta | 74/48/pc | 70/54/s | Chama | 44/22/pc | 48/28/c |
| Austin | 74/54/pc | 73/59/pc | Clayton | 57/35/pc | 67/36/pc |
| Baltimore | 72/47/pc | 54/28/s | Cloudcroft | 54/34/pc | 58/32/pc |
| Boston | 54/33/c | 40/21/pc | Farmington | 51/32/pc | 56/36/r |
| Chicago | 48/24/s | 40/34/pc | Hobbs | 79/44/s | 74/47/pc |
| Dallas | 75/56/pc | 73/56/c | Los Alamos | 50/30/pc | 52/30/c |
| Denver | 58/27/pc | 55/27/pc | Portales | 69/38/s | 75/41/pc |
| Des Moines | 50/33/s | 52/33/pc | Raton | 54/27/pc | 62/32/pc |
| Detroit | 49/28/pc | 40/30/s | Red River | 42/28/pc | 45/24/c |
| El Paso | 76/47/s | 78/49/pc | Ruidoso | 67/48/s | 66/45/pc |
| Las Vegas | 85/44/c | 58/42/r | Santa Fe | 57/33/pc | 61/33/c |
| Los Angeles | 64/50/r | 60/46/sh | Silver City | 64/39/s | 66/38/c |
| Minneapolis | 33/18/pc | 39/18/pc | Taos | 52/27/pc | 55/33/c |
| New Orleans | 74/56/pc | 72/59/pc | | | |
| New York City | 65/37/pc | 40/30/pc | | | |
| Philadelphia | 67/41/pc | 40/29/pc | | | |
| Phoenix | 70/51/c | 67/47/r | | | |
| Reno | 39/26/sn | 35/20/sf | | | |
| San Francisco | 49/41/sh | 49/40/c | | | |
| San Diego | 63/52/c | 62/48/r | | | |
| Seattle | 45/30/pc | 45/28/s | | | |
| Tucson | 71/49/s | 74/46/sh | | | |
| Tulsa, OK | 71/62/pc | 69/53/c | | | |
| Wash., DC | 76/43/pc | 56/34/s | | | |
| Wichita | 61/41/s | 65/50/c | | | |
| Yuma | 72/51/c | 67/46/r | | | |

| Mexican Cities | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| City | Today Hi/Low | Sat. Hi/Low |
| Acapulco | 90/70/s | 90/70/s |
| Cancun | 81/63/pc | 79/61/pc |
| Cihuehua | 81/68/s | 84/50/pc |
| Ciudad Juárez | 77/48/s | 79/48/pc |
| Leon | 84/45/s | 85/38/s |
| Mexico, DF | 79/41/s | 77/41/s |
| Monterrey | 82/59/pc | 84/50/pc |
| Morelia | 84/45/s | 86/49/s |
| Oaxaca | 88/60/s | 82/50/s |
| Pto. Penasco | 73/52/c | 68/44/c |
| Tijuana | 64/50/c | 59/48/r |

Sun and Moon
Friday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:44 a.m./5:50 p.m.
Friday: Moonrise/Moonset 6:41 p.m./6:38 a.m.

Extremes
Wednesday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 91° in Pecos, TX
Low: -17° in Presque Isle, ME

Wednesday's World High/Low:
High: 107° in Garoua, Cameroon
Low: -85° in Oymyakon, Russia

Moon Phases

Full Last New First

Feb 18 Feb 24 Mar 4 Mar 12



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

Free Valentine's Day hugs were provided by SADD (Students against destructive decisions) at Ruidoso High School. Pictured preparing for the event are, left to right: Cynthia Schleck, Dana O'Toole, Tanner Wapaha, Brian Purnell, Lindsey Power, Will Wenner, Brianna Travis and Tameia Parker.

FROM PAGE 2A

tires with or without rims, plus discarded pots and pans.

No large commercial tires, please.

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Forest rule

The U.S. Forest Service unveiled its proposed Forest Planning Rule today that would establish a new national framework to develop land management plans to protect water and wildlife and promote healthy communities.

Forest Service land management plans guide management activities on the 155 national forests and 20 grasslands in the National Forest System, including the Lincoln National Forest in Lincoln County.

The proposed planning rule provides a collaborative and science-based framework for creating land management plans that would support ecological sustainability and contribute to rural job opportunities. The proposed rule includes new provisions to guide forest and watershed restoration and resilience, habitat protection, sustainable recreation, and management for multiple uses of the National Forest System, including timber.

"This proposed planning rule seeks to conserve our forests for the benefit of water, wildlife, recreation and the economic vitality of our rural communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The pro-

posed rule will provide the tools to the Forest Service to make our forests more resilient to many threats, including pests, catastrophic fire and climate change. Healthy forests and economically strong rural communities form a solid foundation as we work to win the future for the next generation."

Publication of the proposed planning rule in the Federal Register will kick off a 90-day public comment period. The Forest Service will use comments to develop a final rule for publication in late 2011. To encourage public engagement, the Forest Service is hosting an open forum to discuss the proposed rule on March 10 in Washington, D.C. The meeting will be Webcast to allow for national participation, and

additional public forums will be conducted throughout the country. The proposed rule, meeting information, and additional information can be found at www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule.

Highlights of the proposed planning rule include:

- A more effective and efficient framework that would allow adaptive land management planning in the face of climate change and other stressors.
- Increased requirements for public involvement and collaboration throughout all stages of land management planning.
- Improved ability to respond to climate change through provisions to restore and maintain healthy and resilient

ecosystems.

• Increased protections for water resources and watersheds.

• More effective and proactive requirements to provide for diverse native plant and animal species.

• Provisions to guide the contributions of a National Forest or National Grassland to social and economic sustainability.

• Updated provisions for sustainable land, water and air-based recreation.

• Requirements to provide for integrated resource management of a range of multiple uses and values, including timber, wilderness, energy, mining, grazing and ecosystem services.

• New requirements for a local and landscape-scale monitoring program that are based on the latest science.



02/14/2011

COURTESY MARYBETH SAMUELS

Alice Eppers, center, Vice Chair of the New Mexico Republican Party, 2nd-District, visits with officers of the Lincoln County Republican Party: Jack Schuster, 1st Vice President, right, and Karen Clontz, 2nd Vice President, left. Eppers was the featured speaker at the February RPLC's dinner meeting. Her remarks included the support and working relationship between the state and county GOP organizations. As the manager of Rep. Steve Pearce's Roswell office, Eppers related some of the challenges in establishing the Roswell operation. Schuster gave a briefing on the pending state House and Senate bills.

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LCCT (501C3) is representing all of Lincoln Co. at the State Competition in Artesia this March. Come support the cast and crew for small donations to PO Box 2005, Ruidoso 88355.

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 Men Only - Differences, Getting Along with the Opposite Sex \$20
 Coffee and Conversation with Dr. Ron Rockey • 7 - 9 PM
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Acceptance - Our Need to Belong \$20
 Co-Ed Conversations with the Rockeys • 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26
Irresistible Internet You: Easy, Low-Cost Ways to Build Your Online Brand \$105
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FEBRUARY 23 • 1 PM
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OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager

Marty Racine, editor

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OUR OPINION

Lesson learned in contract talks

School board must communicate with public

Since they're in the business of education, let's hope that the Ruidoso School Board learned a valuable lesson in the nuances of the state's Open Meetings Act during its process to extend the contract of the school district's superintendent.

For our part, we'll accept outgoing board president Susan Lutterman's explanation that there was no "attempt to circumvent" the Open Meetings Act - that the lack of a proper agenda on the matter

was a mere procedural error. That said, we can also view the oversight as the result of a less-than-forthcoming culture on the board toward communicating with the public. Perhaps the media is somewhat at fault for not holding the board more accountable, requiring transparency in its decision-making - though the *Ruidoso News* has ramped up its coverage in the past year.

So we move on, with lesson learned by the old board - and, hopefully, the new.

Just send me a press release about the next audition call

It is a mystery to me how a New Mexico State Legislator sleeps at night. That is not a reference to guilty consciences over lobbyist favors - although certainly there may be some of that - but rather the sheer weight of seemingly impossible decisions.

Should we continue investing millions in the Spaceport near T or C? Should taxpayers in Alamogordo who may never even see the Rail Runner have to subsidize that high speed train rumbling between Belen and Santa Fe? Should the Mutant Cannibal Grasshopper be crowned the Official New Mexico Horribly Repugnant Pest?

Tough questions all, but the biggie facing our state is this: must we continue subsidizing the film industry?

Here's how it works. If a film producer goes out and buys \$10,000 worth of lumber to build a set, the state will write him a check for 25 per cent, or \$2,500. Under a proposed revamp by Governor Susana Martinez, the refund would drop to 15 per cent, or \$1,500.

Governor Susana bristled when the state paid a film production company \$25,000 to fly Richard Gere to New Mexico on a chartered jet, a \$100,000 flight. (Where was he flying from, one marvels?) That actually happened, causing the average New Mexico taxpayer to wonder...ummm, how about Southwest? Actually, the legal loophole allowing that \$25,000 payment has been closed.

Still, there is debate on whether these big money rebates are a good deal for New Mexico. Conflicting studies abound. One getting considerable attention was completed in Massachusetts whose film rebate is identical to ours. That study showed the taxpayer got back 69 cents for every tax dollar it spent. Math has never been my forte, but that would not appear to be smart business. You look at our schools gone begging and wonder if the film guy shouldn't buy his own lumber.

One reason many would root for the filmmakers hanging out in New Mexico is that it is a sexier business than, say, chile

harvesting. Now, wait, no offense to our good friends in Hatch. Chances are, though, you won't see the Chile Festival Queen onstage at the Academy Awards as you did the young songwriter who grew up at the Halfway Bar between Hobbs and Carlsbad.

Hanging on to its sweet deal may be a difficult task for the film industry that is no doubt circling the Roundhouse corridors in search of support. May

I suggest you are auditioning the wrong players? Concentrate instead on gaining favor with those who mold public opinion.

Were the directors to feature certain editors in their films, newspapers

might be more likely to look favorably on lights, camera, action. We might suggest these: Clara Garcia, *Valencia County News-Bulletin*. Think Jay Lo roles. Or David Stevens, *Clovis News Journal* and *Portales Tribune*. Mean guy, John Wayne in a nasty mood, pilgrim. The editor of the *Mountain View Telegraph* makes the cut on name alone. Check the marquee. Rory McClannahan. Does it get any better? Plus, Rory actually had a Screen Actors Guild card 20 years ago.

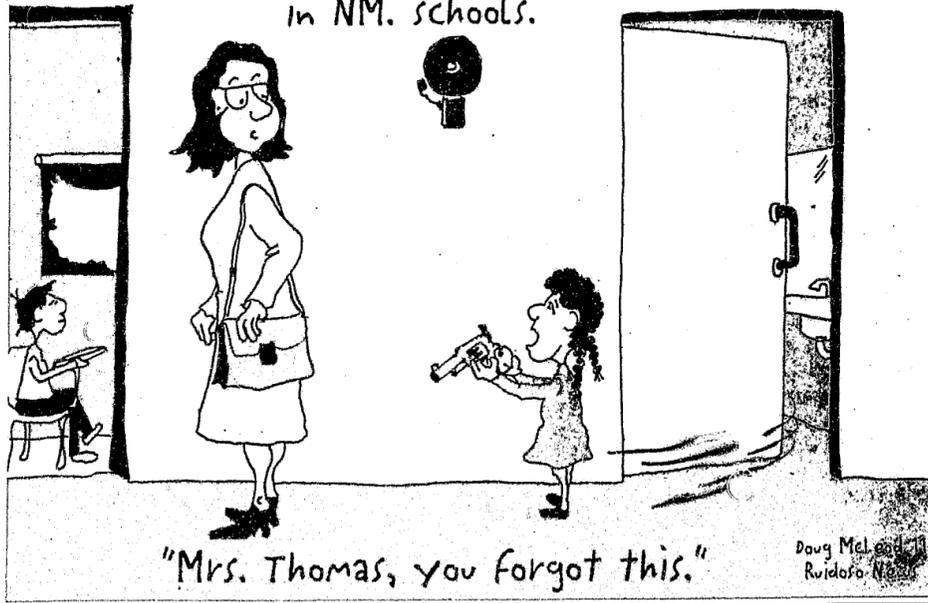
This is not to say Clara, David or Rory can be bought. They are news folks with impeccable journalistic ethics. It is just that when we see our colleagues in New Mexico-made movies, newspapers might get feeling warm and fuzzy about incentives. Just a thought.

The editor-movie star combo is not without precedent. Google the 1969 counterculture classic *Easy Rider* and you will see the part of sheriff was played by our good friend and New Mexico Press Hall of Famer, the late Keith Green. Keith got to hang out with Peter Fonda, Jack Nicholson and all those guys.

I never admitted my envy to Keith. Truth is, I would sell out for a part in a movie. Make no mistake, unlike Clara, David and Rory, I can be bought. And we're not talking big bucks.

Have a nice day.
NED CANTWELL is available for audition calls at ncantwell@bajabb.com.

HB136 Concealed Handgun Bill... in NM. schools.



YOUR OPINION

Interior secretary has balanced approach

To the editor:

SECRETARY OF Interior Salazar's recent announcement reversing the Bush-era "No More Wilderness" policy was much welcome news in southern New Mexico.

Here, ranchers like myself sustainably graze cattle on public lands and in wilderness areas - alongside hunters, anglers and recreationists. All appreciate a

balanced, common-sense approach when it comes to how our public lands are protected and maintained.

Whereas the previous administration's directive was to make oil and gas drilling the top priority for our public lands, Salazar's directive restores a much-needed balance of considerations. Under Salazar's reversal, not only are multiple uses such as hunting,

fishing and grazing ensured for current and future generations, local citizens and communities have greater voice in these decisions.

As a third-generation rancher, sportsman and outfitter who grazes his cattle in a nearby wilderness, I see this as a win-win for everyone.

Dale Henderson
Winston, NM

GUEST COMMENTARY

We must work together to protect the lobo

RAY POWELL
New Mexico Land Commissioner

Wolves have captivated my interest as a scientist and policy maker for more than 30 years and I strongly support their reintroduction into the wild. Working up close with captive wolves as a veterinary student, I grew to marvel at their intelligence and complex social structure.

Science now tells us that wolves play an important role in maintaining the health of ecosystems. And all creatures, including humans, need healthy ecosystems to survive and thrive.

During my recent election campaign, the federal wolf recovery effort in New Mexico was a flashpoint, with strong feelings on all sides. The debate over the future of wolves in many ways mirrors the larger challenges I face as the steward of New Mexico's 13 million acres of state trust lands.

As Land Commissioner, it's my job to balance the many uses of state lands to generate jobs and pay for public schools and higher education. At the same time, it's also my duty to protect the long-term health of the land and habitat for New Mexico's diverse plants and wildlife.

For most New Mexicans who enjoy the outdoors, our public land and water is the only natural "estate" we will ever own. Whether you like to hunt, fish, bird watch or spend time hiking and camping with friends and family, our public lands are a big part of what makes New Mexico such a special place to live.

And that's where wolves come in. Nature gave wolves the job of keeping elk and deer herds healthy by ensuring only the fittest animals survive. Wolves can also help keep coyote populations in check in a more natural way. A recent scientific study demonstrated that in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, pronghorn fawn survival was four times higher in areas with



wolves, than in areas without wolves. Science often yields surprising answers.

In short, wolves are an essential part of the balance of nature and when they are fully restored they will help keep our lands healthy, productive, and beautiful.

New Mexico also has a long and important tradition of farming and ranching and there has been some depredation of domestic animals in the areas of reintroduction. This has caused conflict between wolves and ranchers over the years since wolves were first re-introduced in 1998. There have also been programs designed to compensate for losses, although it has been disputed whether they adequately considered the full value of loss.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and their state agency and private partners have been working with the local agricultural community to manage conflicts in creative ways that protect livestock and keep wolves in the wild. A respectful and collaborative partnership between all parties interested in and affected by the wolf is the foundation

to the long-term survival of the wolf.

After declining over the previous six years, the number of Mexican wolves in the wild increased in the last year to 50. That's great news, although still far short of full recovery for our native Southwestern gray wolf.

The remarkable ongoing recovery of our nation's most critically endangered gray wolf, the lobo, the revered mascot for the University of New Mexico, is made possible by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed 38 years ago during the Nixon Administration. Mexican gray wolves have been protected because they were placed on the official list of endangered species in 1976 when they were teetering on the very brink of extinction.

The ESA rightly requires that adding and removing species from the list must be based on the best scientific information available. In passing the ESA, Congress recognized that science, not politics, should determine how endangered species and the habitats they depend on are managed and restored.

But legislation now before Congress would remove all gray wolves from the protection of the ESA, including our Southwestern lobo. With just 50 wolves left in the wild in New Mexico and Arizona, the Mexican Gray Wolf remains one of the most imperiled animals in North America. Now is not the time to play politics and remove the safety net of the Endangered Species Act for our lobos.

Now is the time to work together to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to hear the beautiful and haunting call of the wild wolf.

Making a place for wolves in New Mexico is part of my vision for balanced management of our state trust lands.

The compassion of the human spirit shown by caring for the well-being of our fellow species will serve to keep the Land of Enchantment forever enchanted.

— Ruidoso Village Council —

Manager praises public library's five-year plan

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Ruidoso's Library Director Beverly McFarland, her staff and members of her Library Advisory Board were praised by Village Manager Debi Lee for "an exceptional presentation" of a Five-Year Plan for the library.

A plan must be submitted annually by the Library Advisory Board to the Village Council to comply with the village's Comprehensive Plan. The submission helps develop the library's Fiscal Year 2012 budget request.

Looking back at 2010, goals were met in four out of five categories, including establishing a Map Library network and adding more

bandwidth for the public network under Technology, adding E-books and audio downloads and introducing Wii games under Collections, providing basic computing, using an MP3 player, genealogy and other classes to help publicize the library's resources under Programs and Services, and each staff receiving four hours of library training by attending conferences and eight hours of safety training annually under Staff Development.

The goal of purchasing carpet tiles to replace worn and wavy areas of carpet in the adult section for \$15,000 was not met under Furniture, Building and Grounds.

That goal was moved to 2011, with the addition of

replacing the circulation desk and a price tag of \$20,000. Replacement or cleaning of worn upholstered furniture, buying computer labs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and industry standard chairs is the goal in 2012 for \$10,000, along with \$20,000 to repair holes in fascia, exterior stonework and patio, redo plumbing, pipes and fixtures.

From 2013 to 2015, with \$10,000 each from the village and from Friends of the Library, the goal is to remodel the Children's Library to include sound proofing, security and space for teenagers.

Using proceeds from state general obligation bonds in 2011, library offi-

cials hope to replace six public computing and two staff workstations, to add a digital copier and printer for the public in 2012, and to upgrade the self-check, inventory and security system in 2013 to 2015.

A few of the other goals include developing a Library Volunteer program to preserve, collect and assess the Archives collection and to plan and promote Teen Read Week and Teen Tech Week, an initiative to encourage teens to use library technology.

In filling board vacancies, the council:

- approved Mayor Ray Alborn's appointment of Elizabeth "Lisa" Morales to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- appointed Village Manager Debi Lee to the Policy Committee of the Southeast Regional Planning Organization and Street Director J. R. Baumann to the Technical Committee, representing the village.

- approved an amended joint powers agreement between the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, State Police Division, and the village for office space lease at the Ruidoso Police Department for \$22,000 annually.

- authorized submission of an application to Wright Express for an automated fuel card program for village vehicles.

- approved an easement to James Townsend in exchange for an easement

on property east of Grindstone Dam.

- adopted a resolution authorizing submission of an application for airport aid to the New Mexico Department of Transportation Aviation Division for \$124,545, with an obligation of sponsor matching money of \$3,114, and authorization to accept the resulting grant offers for a Sign and Marking Plan at Sierra Blanca Regional Airport.

- authorized scheduling a public hearing on March 8, on an ordinance amending the village's municipal code Chapter 74, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, to update requirements for utility notification prior to excavation.

Pigs gone wild: County commissioners briefed on feral hogs

DIANNE STALLINGS
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When you're a Lincoln County commissioner, your area of required expertise might take an unexpected turn, as commissioners discovered Tuesday, when they waded in on the issue of feral pigs.

They were briefed about a workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the county fairgrounds in Capitan

dealing with the threats posed by domestic pigs gone wild, County Extension Service Agent Pete Gnatkowski said people need to understand the extent of the feral pig infestation. Officials with the New Mexico State University Extension Service and Wildlife Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture were billed to lend their expertise to the program.

"It's important people realize (pigs) are becoming a big problem, especially in Lincoln County," said Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo.

Gnatkowski said population control falls to wildlife service trappers under the USDA. They respond to complaints in certain areas of the state.

The pigs devastate crops and rangeland, and spread disease to domestic live-

stock, he said.

"A lot of people like to hunt them, but they are not regulated by the state Game and Fish Department," he said.

Can be dangerous

Commissioner Jackie Powell said the pigs can be dangerous.

"These pigs can get you thrown off a horse in high country," she said. "They come out of the brush."

She's heard they are heavily into the Hale Lake area and by Fox Cave off U.S. 70 East have killed cats.

"You know (the novel character called) Old Yeller, he caught rabies from these types of pigs. They're real mean, especially if they have babies," Powell said. "They're usually not friendly. They blow out a bush like quail."

Gnatkowski said the

wild pigs will eat just about anything, even fawns and lambs. "They can live anywhere there is some water," he said.

Most of the troublesome pigs are domesticated stock that went wild, but some have interbred with wild javelina, members of the peccary family found throughout Texas and the Southwest, and which evolved from South America.

Agreement will help sterilize feral cat colony in the Downs

JIM KAIVELAGE
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A feral cat colony in a part of Ruidoso Downs will be targeted for spaying or neutering.

The Humane Society of Lincoln County will undertake the initiative after the city council signed onto a letter of understanding between the city, the humane society and the Ruidoso Animal Clinic.

The humane society was awarded a \$4,500 Summerlee Foundation grant for the project, said the organization's executive director Margaret Lahey. The foundation is a Dallas-based non-profit animal protection organization.

"I think when they used to be brought in and they used to be euthanized," Lahey said. "This is just a more humane way for that situation."

The cats would also be vaccinated and receive rabies shots.

Asked by Mayor Tom Armstrong about any cost to the city, Lahey said there was none, except for the expense of the city's animal control officer to trap the cats, take them to

the animal hospital and return them to their environment at the Willow Mobile Home Park after they have been sterilized.

A part of the grant paid for traps and transfer cages.

Lahey said a year and a half ago the city's animal control officer estimated the cat colony's population at 100.

"As you can see we've got a lot of cats," Armstrong said. "I won't call them feral cats. I have a cat out there myself somewhere. He's not feral, he's just running around. I am very glad to see this program. We've needed something like this for a long time. I understand this program will be going on as long as you have funds for this."

Lahey said the effort would continue until the entire colony is spayed or neutered.

"As part of the agreement with the grantor, we have to agree that we'll do 100 percent of the colony. To achieve the most effectiveness you need to get all the cat sterilized."

Lahey said in the future another area of the city could see the same effort if

Armstrong: "I have a cat out there myself somewhere. He's not feral, he's just running around."



the funding can be found.

"This is kind of a pilot program. And if this is successful then we'll move onto the next largest colony. Eventually, if they're sterilized, the numbers will

dwindle over time."

The program, where the cats are released after treatment, was applauded by City Councilor Gary

Williams.

"The cats really can be a beneficial aspect of what we can do for controlling the rodents that are in our city."

The felines will have their ears notched and cauterized so it is clear which are sterilized.

Flyers will be posted in English and Spanish advising residents before trapping starts so they will know to keep pet cats in at night to avoid being

trapped.

The Ruidoso Animal clinic will charge the Humane Society \$75 for the procedures on female cats, and \$50 for males. After paying for the traps and transfer cages, Lahey said almost \$3,700 remains to pay for the sterilizations. Once the grant funding is depleted, the humane society will provide additional funding to complete the Willow Mobile Home Park project.

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BUSINESS

Downs urges state to retain film tax credit

JIM KALVELAGE
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The City of Ruidoso Downs, with Mayor Tom Armstrong breaking a tied 2-2 city council vote Monday, will urge state lawmakers to maintain the existing film tax credit incentive until a thorough economic impact study can be done.

Several pieces of legislation have been offered this legislative session in Santa Fe to change or monitor the finances of New Mexico's film incentives. The most drastic, to end the subsidies, was offered by Rep. Dennis Kintigh (R-Roswell).

Questioned by City Councilor Gary Williams about the benefits of the program, Ruidoso Downs Film Liaison Harold Oakes pointed to the several year ago filming of the "Book of Eli" in Carrizozo. He said it provided a major economic boost for Carrizozo and Lincoln County.

"What happened here is, when Gov. Martinez was elected, this was one of the things she wanted to cut back on," Oakes told the councilors. "She wanted to cut back from 25 percent to 15 percent. Dennis Kintigh, a representative of this region, introduced legislation to away with it. For me, I think the film incentive has something for everybody."

Oakes said most of the film jobs are green and the industry uses union members.

"The rebate is in fact a tax rebate when you really get down to it. So if you're looking at cutting taxes and getting tax money back to people, a rebate is a way of doing it."

Oakes noted two economic studies of the incentives have been undertaken and each came back with different results.

"The two studies that are out there were done with two entirely different methods," Oakes said. "So that's the problem with the results. One showed that there was a positive impact, like a \$1.15 return on every \$1 that was spent by the movie industry. And the other one showed a 96-cent return for every \$1."

City Councilor Dean Holman said it made sense to ask lawmakers to hold off on reducing the tax subsidy until a clear understanding of the impacts are known.

"Something more than just voting and not knowing for sure what the result would be," Holman said. "Do you have any idea who would do the study?" he asked Oakes.

Oakes said he did not know.

"As the film liaison, what I'm asking for the city to say, 'Yes, we support the film industry's keeping the

incentives until we can prove that these incentives either don't work or are costing us money. If they cost us money, we don't want to do it. I mean I don't want to do it if it cost us money. Prove that they either work or they don't work before we do something to kill an industry."

Holman called that logical.

"It's not a yes or no," Hollman told fellow councilors of the resolution. "What we're asking for at this point is before we decide yes or no, get some educated criteria so that we'd be less apt to make a mistake either way. Not just throw it out there and say the economy is bad and we're cutting back, which I have a tendency to do."

"And when the governor first said this, I was thinking, yep, I agree with her. But I hear what you're saying," Holman told Oakes. "And it just makes sense."

City Councilor Rene Olivo joined Holman in voting for the resolution that called the movie industry important for the local economy.

Councilors Williams and Tommy Hood cast votes against the call. Stating the resolution just asks for more time to study the issue, Armstrong voted affirmative to break the tie.

A similar resolution was endorsed Tuesday by the Capitan Board of Trustees.

RUIDOSO VALLEY GREETERS



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

New Casa Feliz owner Kathy Dunn, top photo, readies to cut the ribbon Thursday. The shop, at 1031 Mechem Drive, suite 1, has added a floral department and is now called Casa Feliz & Flowers. In addition to offering gifts, furnishings and home accents at the shop, Dunn is also an interior decorator. Fusion Medical Spa esthetician Morgan Ingram, medical director Dr. Stephen Rath, esthetician Heidi Johnson, and Janet Henley, RN, BSN, nurse injectionist, (above left to right) are surrounded by greeters as they cut the ribbon. Fusion Medical Spa is at 1900 Sudderth Drive, in the River Crossing complex.

Beer and wine license approved for La Hacienda

A beer and wine license for a reestablished restaurant was approved by Ruidoso Downs city councilors Monday, following a series of questions about a nearby school bus stop.

La Hacienda Mexican Restaurant is at 26133 U.S. Highway 70, the location of the former Old West Cantina. The Alcohol and Gaming Division of the New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department had given tentative license approval, pending the city's consideration, said Mayor Tom Armstrong.

Public testimony was

absent during a hearing, but City Councilor Tommy Hood started council discussion with questioning about the sometimes presence of school students.

"Is this where the bus stop is, where it stops down there right in front of Denny's?" Hood asked.

City Clerk Carol Virden said she believed the school bus stop was immediately east of Big O Tires.

"The liquor license requirement is they have to be 300 feet from a school," Virden said. "This doesn't have any impact on the requirements of the regula-

tions department."

While complying with the distance from schools factor, Councilor Gary Williams said there still are kids in the area because of the school bus stop.

"I realize that it's not a full-fledged liquor establishment. But then again, I don't want anything coming with people saying we don't watch out for our kids."

Williams said however that he could concur with the beer and wine license.

Councilor Dean Holman noted the liquor license application certified there

was more than enough distance from the nearest church or school, both on Sutton Drive in Ruidoso.

"I'm trying to think on some of these other places that we have in the city, whether or not the busses are right in those areas," Holman said. "We have some others of these licensings and we approved some since then and this didn't come up before."

Councilor Rene Olivo noted the La Hacienda building had previously been a bar for a long time.

Williams noted a lot of the school busses that come

into Ruidoso Downs travel onto residential streets to pick up and drop off students.

"In this particular instance, a majority of the kids come from the residences down there on Friedenbloom (Drive). Is there ever the case where the bus could go down there and drop the kids off and we wouldn't have this issue of kids meandering around a location, especially on 70?" Williams asked. "Anyway to address this with the school district about a change in the bus routes closer to the resi-

dences?"

The mayor said the bus contractor could be approached.

"We can check and see," Armstrong said. "A lot of these are bigger busses and they got smaller and narrower roads to travel on."

The city council was unanimous in approving the beer and wine license.

Later, in the council meeting Holman reminded that the 1970s motion picture "Casey's Shadow" included scenes from the old Hollywood Inn, now the home to La Hacienda.

- Jim Kalvelage

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Grass fire scorches acreage north of Carrizozo

JIM KALVELAGE
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A Lincoln County grass fire burned 65 acres Tuesday and destroyed a pickup truck equipped with a camper shell.

The Broady Fire was reported about 3:30 p.m. on about 25 miles north of Carrizozo in the Windmill Ranches Subdivision.

"It was a lady who decided to do a controlled burn on a no-burn day," said Travis Atwell, director of Lincoln County's Office of Emergency Services. "Luckily there was a two-track road on the east end that held most of it. It jumped (the road) on the northern part and they (firefighters) picked it up pretty quickly. We did lose one RV camper in the process."

A citation was to be issued to the woman.

Seven fire trucks with 15 firefighters from volunteer departments at Carrizozo, Corona and White Oaks responded.

Three homes in the subdivision were temporarily threatened, Atwell said.

The flames swept through grasses and piñon/juniper trees. A Carrizozo crew returned to the location Wednesday to check for any rekindling.

"It is dry and people need to be careful, because the fire we had the day before near Lincoln, the second one we've had near Lincoln, started from a car parked in the grass," Atwell said. "People really need to pay attention. Right now, even with the snow we have on the ground, the fire is just burning over the top of the snow. The vegetation is already cured, it's drying



The entrance to Windmill Ranches.

some locations. And the winds were expected to possibly return over the weekend. The strong winds, low humidity levels and warm temperatures combined to create critical fire conditions

Burning ban in place

As a result, Lincoln County has issued a temporary ban on outdoor burning through Monday, Presidents Day. The National Interagency Fire Center said Lincoln County was moving from a very high fire danger to an extreme status, said county manager Tom Stewart.

"We have experienced recent grass fires that indicated just how dry we are and the recent snow is not helping that much," Stewart said. "Open burning is temporarily prohibited."

and it's going to burn. If there's grass that's coming through the snow it will burn right on top."

The Broady Fire was one of six that broke out in southeastern New Mexico Tuesday, said Dan Ware, with the state's Forestry Division. Three others happened on Monday.

Critical period coming

"The next few days will see critical fire weather in much of southeastern and eastern New Mexico," Ware said. "Even if winds aren't blowing, it's dry enough for grass and brush fires to grow quickly."

A red flag warning was issued Wednesday and Thursday for much of southern and eastern New Mexico by the National Weather Service. Strong winds, with gusts of 45 to 50 mph, were reported at

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County commissioners question indigent fund success rates

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

After approving an indigent health care provider agreement for substance abuse with Cheryl Aiken under the category of mental health, Lincoln County commissioners wanted to know more about that segment of claims against the fund, which is fed by a special gross receipts tax.

Aiken established a practice and wants to be able to tap into the Indigent Healthcare Fund for patients who qualify, County Manager Tom Stewart said.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter asked about the success rate of the treatment.

"I had alcoholics in my family and the only thing that worked was (Alcoholics Anonymous) and that's free," she said. "How much are we paying for this?"

Stewart said he didn't

Powell: "It's not the program that fixes them. It's them that fixes them. It's self-responsibility."

think the federal act covering patient privacy would allow the county to track the success rate on each case it funded.

"These providers are providing a service, just as if someone is (physically) sick," Stewart said. "Sometimes a doctor loses a patient and they die. These (treatments) are not court-ordered. It's totally up to the patient."

Commissioner Mark Doth asked what percentage of the overall IHCF is consumed by mental health care providers.

IHCF Director Scott Annala said a \$750 cap is applied over a three-year period. While he hasn't figured percentages in the

past, he will put together that information for Doth, he said.

"I, like Kathryn, had dealings with another program," Doth said. "It's tough. It's never ending. That's why I like to know the percentages."

Commissioner Jackie Powell said many mental health care providers don't stay long in Lincoln County. They burn out, come and go, she said.

"It's not like we have 40 providers," she said. "We get two and one leaves and another comes up. They also have to qualify under our guidelines. It's hard to keep providers. It's a necessary service."

Powell added, "It's not



JACKIE POWELL

the program that fixes them. It is them that fixes them. It's self responsibility."

Commissioner Tom Battin said if adequate care is not provided, the associated impacts spill over into other services such as sheriff's office with domestic violence and crime.

Annala said the county can't discriminate in any way against mental illness or substance abuse. In line with what Powell said, two new providers were added to the county (non-hospital

related) qualified list six months ago and he heard one already left the area.

A provider can qualify one time in three years through the indigent fund. If the cap isn't met the first year, the person can go back for the next two years.

Stewart said if substance abuse claims became a problem, the commission has the authority to review and eliminate the treatment as a service for which it will reimburse from the fund.

Battin said because of the rising cost of health care for inmates in detention centers, the states of Texas and New Hampshire have begun a study on sentencing policies, particularly nonviolent prisoners, in an effort to reduce the jail populations and to look for alternative treatment.

They are motivated by rising costs, which Battin heard were around \$1.5 billion a year. He suggested Stewart talk to the county detention center management firm to see if they are aware of any studies that might be helpful for Lincoln County.

Stewart said because sentencing is handled through the judicial system, New Mexico House Joint Memorial 17, calling for a mental health jail study, was introduced by State Rep. Rick Miera (D-Albuquerque) and passed the House, 64-0. It's currently in two committees in the Senate. "It would behoove us to watch it," he said.

The memorial requests the Interagency Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative and its member departments study the needs and available resources for people with mental health disorders in crisis situations to develop strategies to improve services, treatment and care outside of law enforcement and detention to reduce the

number of people with mental health disorders in detention or requiring law enforcement intervention.

In other items related to indigent health care, commissioners:

- approved 57 out of 60 claims submitted for a total of \$94,173.16 under the Sole Community Provider program that reimburses the county hospital for indigent health care. The total fiscal year to date is \$764,065.63.

- approved 56 out of 64 claims submitted by non-hospital related health care providers for the medically indigent under the IHCF or a total of \$41,272.68, bringing the year to date to \$265,947.80.

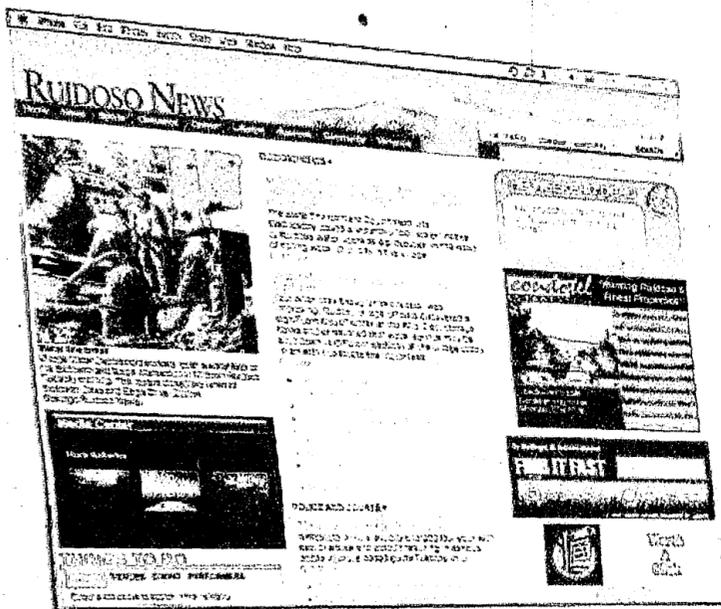
"Last year, the average indigent health care monthly payment was \$26,234.85," Stewart said. "Last year we spent \$314,818.20 of the budget for claims. The average month this year thus far is \$33,243.48. At this time in the fiscal year, we are projected to spend \$398,921.76 of the \$517,088 budgeted."

"To exceed our current budget line, the remaining average monthly expenditure with four months to go would have to exceed \$62,785 per month. Given the history of the fund, this is not likely."

Therefore, the fund remains healthy and money not expended will be carried forward and/or used to offset higher than expected prisoner health care costs (at the county detention center) as discussed at the midyear budget."

Minter noticed five claims against the ambulance service from the Lincoln County Medical Center, the county-owned hospital in Ruidoso. Some were reimbursed at 100 percent, others for less.

Annala explained that some transport involves multiple agencies, requiring a split of reimbursement, and others do not.



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* Source: January 2011, Ustream Traffic Reports.



BLAME

FROM PAGE 1A

was supposed to go lower than that. I didn't receive a reverse 911 (advisory automated telephone call) until Monday or Tuesday and it should have been a standard thing to let people know what's going on. My understanding is that (village officials) are not sure how (the reverse 911) operates.

"On a good note, I thank all the county employees like (Emergency Services Director) Travis Atwell, the National Guard, Ruidoso police and fire and the Road Department and Water Department. They're still working on this. I was told yesterday that they would fix a leak, cover it and another springs up 10 feet down the road."

Responding to Doth's remarks Wednesday, Mayor Ray Alborn said, "It's easy to criticize but I never saw the guy around here. If he's an engineer or into water production, I wish he had come around. There seems to be a lot of second-guessing. I think that's a cheap shot, myself. He never called me. I never heard from him or saw him, and we asked for volunteers. He had the opportunity."

"This is just my opinion

and I'm not speaking for anybody else, but he owns Grindstone Graphics and they didn't get their contract (with the Village) renewed and Mrs. Doth applied for the director of tourism and didn't get that. He spoke to me (about that) and was unhappy about it."

The two men also had a conversation about the timing of ball fields being fertilized when the University of New Mexico Lobos practiced in Ruidoso after Alborn heard Doth was displeased. "It's my opinion the guy's got an ax to grind with the village and every chance he's got, he takes a shot. If he's that unhappy, maybe he should move," the mayor said.

As for trying to repair water lines while accomplishing all of the other jobs created by damage from the flood, Alborn pointed out that Don Scott with the Federal Emergency Management Agency complimented village employees and administration Monday for managing to negotiate through all of the federal requirements and studies to replace a bridge in two years, instead of the usual three years. Scott, who spoke to councilors during a special meeting to approve a contract price, will be back in town to talk to other groups about the complicated and lengthy process of trying to receive

Alborn: Troops happy with accommodations

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

The decision for 130 soldiers in the New Mexico Army National Guard to stay at the main village fire station while in Ruidoso to help with the water emergency came from the presiding colonel.

Mayor Ray Alborn said Wednesday that apparently, the word circulated to some citizens that the soldiers were unhappy about sleeping at the station on Sudderth Drive and Paradise Canyon.

"Someone called lodgers about providing some free rooms," the mayor said. "I had a conversation with the colonel and he said they were perfectly happy with their accommodations. The requirement is that they have running water and two hot meals a day."

"I received a call that the rooms were set up and I said it was the colonel's decision that all of the soldiers stay in one place. He wanted to keep them all together, not some in beds and others on cots." Alborn said he confirmed the decision with Gen. Ken Montoya, who stopped by to check out the situation in Ruidoso.

The mayor said he also heard the rumor that some soldiers slept on the floor.

"I don't believe that," Alborn said.

"Some of the lodgers were unhappy, but it is not my job to override the colonel," he said, adding that when he and other village officials were seeing off the units as they left for home, no one mentioned any disappointment about the accommodation arrangements.

some reimbursement from FEMA for the flood damage.

Alborn said Doth "must have gotten some bad information during all of this," but added, "Why didn't he come by?"

Doth said his irritation isn't with how the disaster

was handled once the problem was pinpointed. He was bothered by how long it took to identify what was happening and the failure to effectively communicate to the public. He didn't come by because after the problem was figured out, "I needed to let them do their

job and they did it fine. My beef is that it took them so long to identify they had a massive problem on their hands. And then once it was identified, they confused the heck out of everybody with their press releases. They said the crisis was averted when it was just beginning."

As for having a grudge, Doth said he was bothered by the inept handling of public relations and communications during the crisis.

"We did have the contract many years ago and part of our responsibility was emergency information and we did a damn good job, and this was when email was just in its infancy," he said. "We did it by fax and phone calls at 4 a.m. getting the word out and making sure people got the message. I know what I'm talking about. Yeah, I look back and know what can be done. (The village) hired a bunch of people to do a job and nobody was doing it."

"They have a brand new person who is a tourism manager and I never heard one peep out of her. The reverse 911 should have been employed since the get-go, but wasn't. Lee was on the line saying water may be shut off, to be determined. That doesn't instill confidence in the public and she was the public information officer on this. There were a bunch of inexperienced people, who don't know the water system. Those (old lines) were discovered in the flood and nothing happened. The businesses in Upper Canyon have a real gripe and (the village) puts \$2 million into the convention center. Come on."

His other personal dis-

appointments with the vil-

lage don't matter, he said. "It has everything to do with incompetence," Doth said. "Once they identified the problem, they got on it. But identifying the problem and the communication was atrocious."

During the commission meeting Tuesday, Commissioner Jackie Powell, who lists Grindstone Graphics and Marketing among her clients, contended that 28 degrees below zero was not a record low, although climate data for the past 50 years listed minus 26 degrees as the lowest.

"You need to pass down

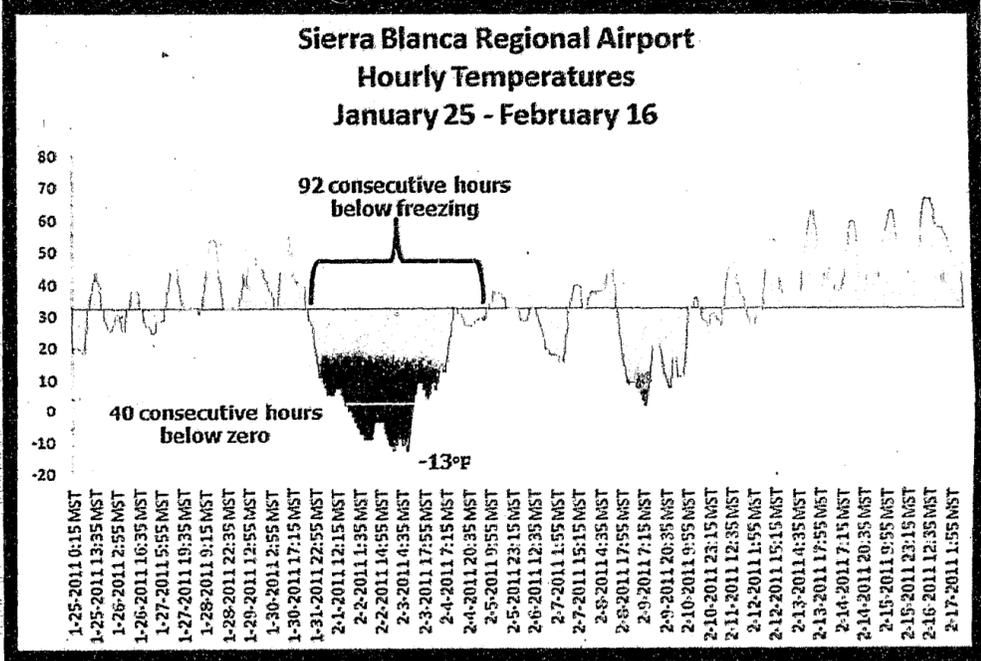
to everyone who lives here that (former vice president) Al Gore's global warming doesn't affect us much," she said. "This isn't the first time. My family in 1963 saw 40 degrees below. They thawed out lines with welders and some homes burned down. This country can be very harsh, but can be paradise too. We need to pass down these things. This was not a record. I'm waiting for the 48-inch snows we used to get about three times a year, one usually around Easter, that paralyzes blades. It's a harsh country. It can be good, but always be prepared for the harshness."

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo observed, "It's amazing how this storm could stop us in a minute, especially the younger generation who haven't been through hard times without water."

Doth added that another disaster "is just a matter of time."

"I know the county is trying to assist and help any way we can and I commend that, but we've just got to do better," he said.

First in the Ruidoso News



This graph, produced by the National Weather Service forecast office in New Mexico, shows the depth of the Arctic cold that gripped the Ruidoso area at the beginning of February. The readings were recorded at Sierra Blanca Regional Airport, northeast of the village. Some unofficial readings in the more immediate Ruidoso area were colder than minus 20 degrees. Note the rebound in temperatures the past week, including a high of 66 degrees Wednesday at the airport. The range between that high and the two-week earlier minus 13 is 80 degrees.

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HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

Why bother teaching music?

“Without music, the world would be silent.” When my teenage daughter voiced this simple opinion, I’m sure she was thinking of the sound that music makes. But to a parent who has ensured that she’s received formal musical instruction from age five to the present, her statement carries profound meaning.



Anna Wilson Juivo

I live with a radio broadcaster and a high school student, so like it or not, I am regularly exposed to impromptu

impassioned speeches regarding the community issue du jour. For several weeks, I’ve listened with interest to their contentious responses to the proposal to reduce local school music programs.

And I have to say I agree with their ranting for the most part. However, I’m one of those weird parents who believes that ultimately

it is the parents’ responsibility, not the government’s, to ensure that their children receive quality education, including

musical instruction. It seems to me, though, that someone has lost sight of the bigger picture: the importance of music.

Why is it that we become so focused on minutia when faced with the most critical issues? I often feel like our educational administrators have become nothing more than bean counters, so preoccupied with budgets and costs and strategic plans that they’ve lost sight of the actual purpose of education.

Proposing that we should cut the music program is like saying that I should give my dog less food because he’s not eating. Does that make sense? Maybe I’m not giving

him the right food. Or maybe he’s sick and needs medical attention. But if I continue to withhold food simply because he’s not eating, eventually he will starve to death. What will I say then? Fido wasn’t eating, so I took away his food. No one was signing up for music, so we canceled music.

The decline in music programs starves the very segment of the population that needs musical training the most: the young.

We applaud them as our future leaders and then don’t give them the basic building blocks for success? And what kind of priorities are we modeling for them? That the only things that matter are numbers, reducing costs,

and living within a budget?

Personally, I don’t think music should be an option or an elective; I think it should be required curriculum at every level, from kindergarten through doctoral programs. (Maybe then, we’d have better music.)

And why do we even bother teaching music in school? Why do companies like Kindermusic exist? Why is there always a waiting list for the best private music instructors? I’ll tell you why. Because

intelligent people know that early musical training develops a part of the brain that nothing else does. Because children with early musical training do better at math.

Because children with early music training prefer harmony to dissonance (literally and figuratively). Because there is a connection between rhythm and literacy. Because there is a connection between music and intelligence.

Quite simply, there is a connection between music and success.

“Without music, the world would be silent.” Silent, as in, without communication. Without literacy. Without intelligence. Without reason. Without harmony.

I don’t know what the outcome of the current community discussion about school music programs will be, but as for me and my house, we will be musical.

Hospice – helping families in Lincoln County

JENNIFER CHADWICK, RN & BRITT BEATTY, LPN
For the Ruidoso News

The Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice Foundation is a non-profit company, organized exclusively to provide assistance to the families of Lincoln County for end-of-life care.

Formed in 2002 and governed by a local non-profit board, the Foundation has ensured that in the past year, all qualified applicants have received financial assistance for medications, home health and hospice care, medical supplies and equipment for their loved one.

The Foundation has also covered expenses such as a Lifeline (a personal emergency response system), installation of a phone, heating costs and travel costs for family members to visit loved ones who were going through the end-of-life transition.

Recognizing the need for emotional and spiritual support surrounding issues of end-of-life, the Foundation publishes a monthly bereavement newsletter available to any Lincoln

County resident, as well as faith and community support groups.

Caregiver, community and health care provider education on issues related to end-of-life is also offered.

The Foundation’s funds are available to Lincoln County residents who meet the financial guidelines.

Individuals are eligible for assistance if they meet the Foundation’s requirements and have been residents of Lincoln County for at least 90 days.

The term “medically indigent” means that the person, or person’s spouse or dependent is determined to be unable to pay for covered services after the individual has attempted to make payment and has exhausted all other financial resources and they meet the basic eligibility income criteria depending on the household.

Applicants do not have to be receiving Home Health Care or Hospice services to be eligible for financial assistance.

To qualify, the prospective person to receive services must be diagnosed with an incurable illness

with a life expectancy of 12 months or less.

There are also volunteers who can assist those in need to complete applications for Medicaid, Indigent Fund and medication assistance programs.

The Ruidoso Hospice Foundation is made possible by gracious and generous donations and community support.

Funds have been received by memorial donations, bequests in a will and private donations.

All donations are tax deductible and none of the funds are used for operating expenses.

Ninety-two percent of all proceeds are returned to community members.

Fundraisers

The Foundation also holds three annual fundraisers each year, which provide entertainment and enjoyment for the whole family. They include:

- The Flying J benefit: Dinner and a show with a silent auction that includes items donated by supporting, community business partners, to include art, jewelry, clothing, gift certificates and more.

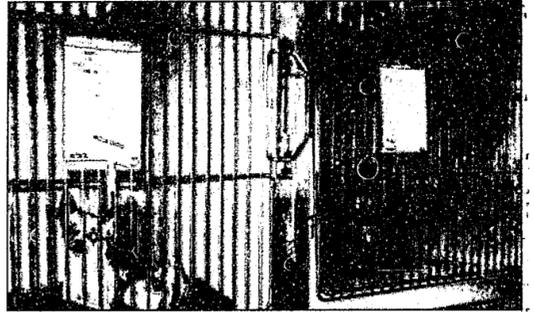
This fundraiser is usually held in April or early May.

• The Annual Monarch Butterfly Release: A symbolic, personal memorial where butterflies are reserved for individuals to warm in their hands and release in a beautiful setting.

• Tour de Ruidoso: Sponsored by the Bicycle Club, this fundraiser is actually three cycling events ranging from 100 miles of our beautiful county to a nearly flat 20 miles, all with wonderful views. This event has gained national attention and demonstrates the collaborative and professional effort of our community. Local civic groups (Kiwanis and Rotary), as well as our Police Department, and Department of Transportation make this event possible.

The Hospice Foundation encourages families to utilize the funds available for end-of-life care.

All inquiries can be answered by calling Ruidoso Home Care & Hospice at 575-258-0028.



NEW SMALL DOG KENNELS AT THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

SHELTER NEWS

HUMANE SOCIETY OF LINCOLN COUNTY

We continue to make improvements at our shelter. This week, we installed six new kennels for small dogs.

Within the last year, we have acquired five new large dog kennels and six small dog kennels. In addition, due to the generosity of our supporters, we have received over \$5,000, which we intend use to purchase several medium sized kennels.

Last Sunday, one of our board members rescued two puppies on Gavilan Canyon Road. They are currently in quarantine at the shelter and will be released into the general population in a day or two.

These little guys are unbelievably cute and cuddly. One is a female Australian blue heeler about three months old, while the other is a female German shepherd, also about three months old.

They were having a marvelous adventure until our board member came along. Some lucky people are going to get two great

dogs. We need to find homes for two of our young dogs that have been in the shelter for too long.

One is Sampson, who was featured on our Wednesday Pet Page in the Ruidoso News. He is a four month old Retriever mix.

The second dog is Carl, a pit bull terrier, who was featured on the Pet Page two weeks ago. Carl is about six months old.

Both of these little guys need to get out of the shelter and in to loving homes.

Wanda Seitz, our resale shop manager, has asked that we put out a call for help. After two record-setting months for sales, Wanda is running out of merchandise to sell. She needs more appliances, furniture and smaller items.

We wish to express our deepest appreciation to our supporters. In response to our mailing, we have 81 memberships renewed and counting.

One supporter, who has requested anonymity, donated \$2,400 to our kennel replacement fund.

CHUCKS PICK OF THE WEEK

721 Mechem Dr
Ruidoso, NM
575.257.4010

Yucca Root
Yucca (also known as Manioc or Cassava) is a white, starchy tropical vegetable that is widely grown and consumed in Africa, Asia, Latin America and The Caribbean. In many countries, Yucca is a dietary staple. It is usually eaten boiled, steamed and in flour form as thickeners or additional ingredients for noodles, cakes and pastries. Fresh Yucca has thick, dark brown skin that resembles a tree's bark. Store whole Yucca as you would potatoes, in a cool dark place. Yucca can easily be substituted for potatoes in soups and stews. It also contains a high amount of vitamin C and carbohydrates.



Things you'll need

- Yucca root
- salt
- 1 cup of sour cream
- 3 cloves of garlic
- crushed juice of 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup of fresh cilantro
- olive oil
- sea salt
- pepper



How to prepare Yucca Root.

1. Fill a cooking pot with enough water to cover your Yucca Root. Salt the water (optional) and bring it to a boil.
2. Meanwhile, scrape or peel off the brown crusty skin from the Yucca Root, much like you would a carrot or turnip. You can use a paring knife to do this, although the outer skin can be quite tough, with a slightly waxy texture like tree bark, and is not as easy to peel as other root vegetables. A peeler might work better.
3. Place the peeled Yucca in boiling water, turn the heat to medium high and let cook for 20 to 25 minutes, just as you would when boiling potatoes. When the Yucca is fork tender, take it out of the pan with tongs and set it on a cutting board. Let the yucca cool for 10 to 15 minutes.
4. While you're waiting for the yucca to cool, make a sour cream dip for your yucca fries by mixing the sour cream with crushed garlic, the juice of a lemon and cilantro leaves. Refrigerate.
5. Cut the Yucca into strips about 1 inch thick and 2 to 3 inches long, as if you were cutting steak fries. Toss the yucca fries in olive oil to coat, and then sprinkle with sea salt and freshly ground pepper. Arrange the fries in a single layer on a shallow baking sheet and place in a 450F oven. Turn the fries after 15 minutes and continue to bake for another 15 minutes or until the texture is to your liking. Serve with the dip as an appetizer or as a side dish.

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HARRIS

FROM PAGE 1A

going to be corrected right now."

At the regular February meeting last week, education board member Kerry Gladden Eastep noted the board, during their Jan. 12, 2010 and the Jan. 11, 2011 meetings, inadvertently failed to provide notice that it would be taking action on the personnel matter that had been discussed in preceding closed sessions. Upon returning to open sessions, the board voted to extend the superintendent's contract.

"But the actions themselves, required in open sessions, were not items on the meeting agendas. Last week the previous actions were ratified by the school board under an action item titled 'Proposed action regarding the ratification of previous actions of the board taken on Jan 11, 2011, in the absence of proper notice.'"

Sarah Welsh, executive director of the New Mexico

Foundation for Open Government, said the public was never made aware, through the earlier agendas, that an extension of the superintendent's contract would be voted on.

On Monday, during the special meeting, Lutterman said the contract extension needed to be considered again.

"Unfortunately, at the Feb. 8, 2011 board meeting, despite providing an adequate summary of the Jan. 12, 2010 and Jan. 11, 2011 board meetings regarding the extension of the superintendent's contract, sufficient notice was not provided to inform the public that action would, in fact, be taken to extend the superintendent's contract."

"To ensure the public is fully apprised and aware of board action regarding the board's intention with regard to the superintendent's contract, this present meeting was appropriately noticed for the board to take action on the issue of extending the superintendent's contract," Lutterman said during the special Feb. 14 meeting.

Stating that transparency is needed, Kerry Gladden Eastep said the superintendent is evaluated each year by the board.

"There's a lot of great things people don't know about Dr. Harris," Eastep said. "And I'm very proud to say through our evaluations and communications with her, what a great job I personally feel she has done and will continue to do for us. And if this district knew the heart of this woman, and I'm probably violating something, but she looked at us and said cut my pay."

"She was willing to cut her pay when we asked her to please stay. That's the kind of woman you have leading your district and I honor you for that Dr. Harris and I appreciate it."

A motion to extend the contract at the same pay as the existing contract was offered by Vincent and endorsed unanimously by the five-person board.

"It's just like we haven't cut any of the teachers' salaries," Lutterman said of maintaining the salary level.

Harris is paid \$115,000 annually.

Newly elected education board members Cecil Davis and Curt Temple, who will be seated next month, attended the special meeting. After the session, Temple said he considered extending Harris' contract out to the summer of 2013 as a bit much.

"There was still 17 months left on the contract so I'm not sure that we were in a panic mode to renew it," Temple said of the agreement that had Harris as superintendent until July of 2012. "A lot of other places in the area, in the county, the leaders get one-year contracts. That's been standard operating procedure with the board before for superintendent. Until I can get in there and look and learn, I really can't say."

Temple said locking in Harris' salary through the middle of 2013 could become an issue depending on budgeting and state funding.

"I have no agenda on going in there and getting rid of the superintendent,"

Temple said. "I need to look and see what the evaluations are. My whole goal is going to do whatever is best for the Ruidoso school system."

Education board member-elect Davis, agreed, but added he needed more information.

"I could never get an answer how much she's being paid in the first place. You say you're extending her contract without raising her pay. Well how much is she being paid in the first place? I think we should know that."

Davis said Harris' job is about as secure as it has been.

"That position is never a secure job. As far as me personally, anything or anyone that's in the way of the budget, we got to look at it. That's including her position also. As long as she's doing what I think needs to be done, now that I'm getting into the situation to where I know what she was hired for in the first place."

"As soon as I'm sworn in, where I can really say and do what I need to say about

it, then I can talk more freely about it."

Devin Marshall, the soon-to-be third new member on the five-person education board, said extending the superintendent's contract out to the middle of 2013 probably should have been left to the new board.

"I believe she already had a contract through 2012 and that seems adequate at this point. I haven't seen a track record. I don't know if she's been on a two-year contract or a one-year contract, so I think that would be my question."

Marshall said the state's financing for public education is also an issue.

"I know she is being very amiable about her salary, and from what I've heard, she's offered to work with the board on her salary."

Marshall said she has no agenda and simply wants to look at the entire picture.

"Look at how we're spending in our budget. Look at what our curriculum plan is. I don't have any personal reason for anyone losing their job."

TAXED

FROM PAGE 1A

At the end of 2011, she hopes all the fringe benefit and other tax increases hidden in new laws go away and members of Congress change their minds, Powell said. "But it's \$10 here and \$40 here," she said. "I don't know about you, but I don't have \$20 more at the end of the year. This is how much more your taxes will go up. I'm disappointed in any accountant who is not pointing up that fact."

Dealing with the new fringe benefit taxing policy, Stewart told commissioners, "As a follow up to last month's discussion of IRS required fringe benefits, I attended a training at the New Mexico Association of Counties meetings in Santa Fe." The speaker was Robert Ching, the state's federal, state and local government IRS specialist, who conducts local government audits to ensure compliance with IRS directives.

"During the presentation, I took copious notes on how to construct policies to ensure that the county was complying with IRS directives and to avoid fines," Stewart told commissioners.

He submitted a consolidated policy resolution meant to cover all of the issues a potential audit by the IRS could possibly address, he said. "When the IRS visits for an audit, it is envisioned that this single document of policy will address the concerns highlighted in a typical IRS audit," Stewart said.

The policies of IRS appear to be ever-changing," he said. But the issue of current concern is "independent contractors, who should more accurately be reflected for tax purposes as 'employees' of the county," he said.

"Accordingly, a checklist provided in IRS Form SS-8, the county has no such employee at this time, but the county manager and staff remain vigilant to ensure that no such relationships are established."

He cited as a significant IRS change as of Dec. 31, 2010, that the county and all employers are to provide the value of the employer's

sponsored health care benefits to the employee's W-2.

"To give employers a chance to make adjustments to payroll recording, the recording on the W-2 will be optional in 2011," Stewart said.

"The intent for this first year is to make employees aware of the amount of benefit that they are receiving. Taxation of the benefit will, in all likelihood, come in subsequent years."

In the resolution, Stewart said he began with a pretty well-crafted introduction.

After laying the need for a policy at the feet of the IRS, he wrote, "The resolution is intended to address the concerns of the IRS while restating and re-emphasizing prior policies of the county. These policies and the enforcement thereof, are subject to audit by the IRS at any time. All prior policies of the county remain in force. However, where this policy modifies and established IRS related fringe benefits or wage collection policy, this policy will take precedence. When federal or state law supercedes any policies established in this resolution, those provisions will take priority. Since IRS rules continue to evolve, this resolution is subject to updating as new laws and interpretations are established."

The topics covered were:

- cell phones, which were divided into essential (law enforcement and

emergency services, the county manager, road superintendent and road foreman) and seven non-essential (other elected officials and some department where individuals are away from the office for extended periods while doing their jobs) categories. When a private cell phone is used, a \$20 stipend may be paid, reflected in payroll. Two cell phones already were eliminated and Stewart said he's looking at a third.

• government vehicles use, which is limited to official use with exceptions approved by the manager based on certain criteria. They can be used for commuting when specifically authorized by the county commissioners, and when the employee is involved in law enforcement, emergency and maintenance or are on-call and the distance from the place of residence adds significant response time. The IRA wants mileage logs kept and Stewart said the county finance director designed one that he tested and modifies. Anyone taking a vehicle home that is not modified for a specific use, pays \$3 a day.

• per diem reimbursement for travel that does not involve an overnight stay. The IRS rules say that travel should not be reimbursed without tax implications for the individual. However, the rule conflicts with state policy that mandated employees who

travel at least 35 miles from home in excess of two hours beyond the normal workday shall be reimbursed for per diem expenses.

Stewart's version states that if an employee submits a claim for travel that does not include overnight, and the duty day is exceeded by more than two hours, the employees shall be reimbursed the per diem and the amount will be added to the employee payroll to allow the amount to

be taxed.

• county uniforms, which may only be worn on-duty for maintenance and law enforcement. The \$50 a month paid to deputy sheriffs as a uniform allowance is taxable and will be run through payroll.

• independent contractor/employee policy, which Stewart said must be continually monitored to ensure contractors truly are independent and not employees, and that the proper tax form 10-99 is

issued and filed. He outlined the technicalities and how he will handle challenges. If the county goes out for request for proposal for a contractor, the entity should have a list of other clients.

"With this resolution, I've tried to pick out what auditors have found in other counties, some of which have been fined as much as \$260,000, I was advised," Stewart said.

First in the Ruidoso News

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El Paso Times
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Cook bill would stiffen DWI penalties

MILAN SIMONICH
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Drunken drivers and even drunken juveniles are targets of state legislators.

Rep. Zachary Cook, R-Ruidoso, filed a bill Wednesday to seize the vehicles of people arrested on suspicion of a second DWI offense.

"It's a very stiff penalty," Cook said in an interview. Gov. Susana Martinez endorsed his bill during a news conference in which she called drunken driving an epidemic in New Mexico.

The defense bar said Cook's bill would raise constitutional questions about due process rights and would be unworkable financially.

Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe have vehicle seizure laws, but implementing a statewide statute would create new expenses for court staff and impound lots, said Ousama M. Rasheed, president-elect of the New Mexico Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

"It is pretty much undoable from a financial

standpoint," Rasheed said. Asked about costs, Martinez said the state would find money to fight drunken driving and all the human damage it does.

Her guest at the news conference was Pauline Espinoza, whose 40-year-old husband, Mark, was killed by a drunken driver in April 2009.

The man who caused the crash was Sam Padilla, then 18, who plowed into the Espinozas' vehicle after leaving drug court.

Cook said he expected opposition on the seizure bill from people who say

taking a family's vehicle would punish an innocent spouse and children.

Sen. Kent Cravens, R-Albuquerque, introduced a similar bill to seize the vehicles of those whose licenses were suspended or revoked for drunken driving. It has stalled in committee.

Other DWI bills

In addition to the bill by Cook, Martinez backed two measures by freshman Rep. Tim Lewis, R-Rio Rancho. They would mandate longer sentences for those convicted of repeat

drunken-driving crimes. One bill would require that a DWI conviction count as a crime when a defendant is charged as a habitual criminal. It currently does not.

Lewis' other bill would lengthen prison sentences for people with multiple DWI convictions.

Martinez said that, as the district attorney in Las Cruces, she prosecuted a man who had 21 arrests for drunken driving and 10 "usable" convictions.

But a deficiency in New Mexico law is that punishment for drunken driving

does not increase after the seventh conviction, Martinez said. Lewis' bill would change that, so those with extraordinary numbers of convictions could be punished with more prison time.

Cravens is sponsoring another bill to tighten a section of New Mexico law aimed at teenagers who drink.

Cravens said it is illegal for those under 21 to possess or buy alcohol, but it is not illegal for them to be drunk.

His proposal, SB 309, would change that.

Voter photo ID bill fails again; Committee Democrats block bill

MILAN SIMONICH
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Democrats closed ranks Thursday to block a bill that would have required most New Mexico voters to show photo identification when voting in person.

Members of the House Voters and Elections Committee tabled the proposal on a 7-6, party-line vote.

The sponsor, Rep. Diane Hamilton, R-Silver City, said she was disap-

pointed to be defeated again, her third try at a photo ID system for voters.

Her bill would have exempted absentee voters and those with tribal identification numbers from having to provide photo IDs. Hamilton said many tribal members do not like to be photographed.

Rep. Edward Sandoval, D-Albuquerque, said he voted to block the bill because it would treat New Mexicans differently. Voters who vote in person

would be held to a stricter standard than those who mail in ballots.

County clerks, who oversee elections, also opposed Hamilton's bill. Some clerks favor a photo identification system, but they said Hamilton's bill was poorly conceived.

The potential for voter fraud is greatest with absentee ballots, yet Hamilton's proposal ignored that, said Daniel Ivey-Soto, executive director of the clerks' organization.

Martinez: End social promotions in schools

MILAN SIMONICH
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Kids who cannot read still get promoted to the next grade, a practice that Gov. Susana Martinez says keeps New Mexico mired near the bottom of national education rankings.

Martinez on Thursday appeared with legislators from both parties to push

for a bill that would end "social promotion." No child should move up unless he or she has mastered the basics, Martinez said.

She said 80 percent of the state's fourth-graders do not read proficiently. This contributes to another alarming statistic — a high school dropout rate of 40 percent, Martinez said.

Bills by Reps. Mary Helen Garcia, D-Las

Cruces, and Nora Espinoza, R-Roswell, seek to outlaw promoting unqualified students.

The legislators said they had agreed to try to merge their bills, as the themes are similar. Both, for instance, would block third-graders who are not proficient in reading from advancing to the fourth grade.

Garcia, a retired school principal, said parents would be compelled to accept the school staff's decision, based on tested reading proficiency. Everybody would know a child's standing and everybody would work to improve it, she said.

Sen. Cynthia Nava, D-Las Cruces, is superintendent of the Gadsden Independent School District. She appeared with the governor and other legislators to support a law against social promotion.

Asked if she had seen promotion of unqualified students in her district, Nava said, "Yes, I have."

The proposed system, to be phased in over a couple of years, would gear everyone for a change toward higher standards, Nava said.

Honesty needed

"We need to be honest with kids and with parents," she said.

Children in early grades typically can be held back without resistance, Nava said. Opposition comes from students intent on moving from middle school to high school, as they do not want to be separated from their group, she said.

Martinez said her idea is to focus on kids in grades 3, 5 and 8. Those unable to keep pace in class work would be held back.

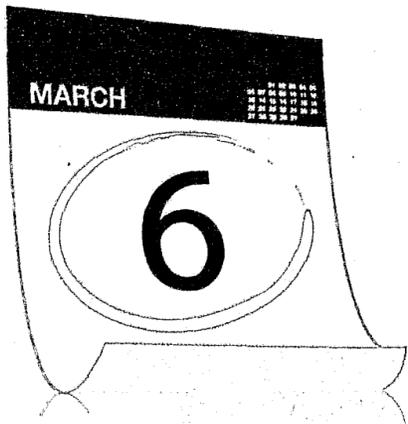
Nava said making the system work correctly would require more resources, perhaps some from state taxpayers and others that already are in place.

Hanna Skandera, secretary designee of the Department of Public Education, said the state is positioned rather well to provide more academic help to kids struggling to read. Title I funds and money designated to help children with reading can be tapped for this effort, she said.

Nava has introduced two other bills aimed at more accountability in schools. They would create state evaluation systems for teachers, principals and school staffs.

Her proposals are SB 502 and SB 503.

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Burglars target homes for sale in Alto area

JIM KALVELAGE

Several for sale homes in the Alto area have been burglarized in recent months. A real estate office that had one of their listings broken into notified the Alto Lakes Property Owners Association of the burglary there and at another company's listing. "As soon as we heard the

first incident occurred up on Eagle Ridge, and it seemed to specifically target for sale homes because someone used a crowbar to crack open that lockbox that the Realtors use," said Ron Duncan, secretary/treasurer of the property owners group. Duncan said he thought three homes had been burglarized the past few months. "We forwarded one of our Neighborhood Watch

emails to one of our members up here that is a Realtor and asked him to pass it along to the Realtors' association, which he did just to let them know that those homes have a certain vulnerability." Lincoln County Sheriff Rick Virden said in one of the break ins a washer and drier was stolen, as well as a couch and a satellite receive. Another he was aware of involved the theft

of kitchen items, such as plates, pans and utensils. Duncan said the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office has been very cooperative. **Call the Sheriff** "They are our favorite people, I'll be very honest with you. And I don't think they give us any special attention but they have been so good this past couple of years with their just running patrols through

here on a regular basis. And our conversation with the sheriffs has been this: If you see something unusual, call us. We'll sort it out. Don't hesitate that if you think there's a car at a residence that shouldn't be there or that normally is not there, you call us and we'll come out and check it out." The Alto Lakes property owners group instituted the Neighborhood Watch

program a couple of years ago. "We have 26 families, who are full-time residents here, who kind of walk, drive or bike their neighborhoods and while doing that just kind of keep an eye out for anything that looks out of the ordinary." Duncan said anyone who feels something is wrong at a residence in their neighborhood should contact law enforcement.

RUIDOSO POLICE

Feb. 13

9:35 p.m. - Corporal Aaron Frost and officers Larry Smith and Steve Corbin responded to the 500 block of Wingfield Street for a report of a violent domestic disturbance in progress.

Frost reports that when he arrived he met the reporting party in the driveway. He reported she was visibly shaken and crying.

Frost reported he approached the house and observed Anthony Rue, 39, in the kitchen yelling at someone across the house. Frost reportedly entered the house and yelled at Rue to get his attention. Rue was uncooperative and Frost reported he had to tackle Rue into the sofa in the living room. Corbin then reportedly handcuffed Rue, who Frost said continued to be combative. Frost reports the then tased Rue and Corbin used his baton to apply pressure to Rue's arm to get him to comply.

Frost reports Rue had scratches on his neck and blood around his eye. Rue reportedly told Frost his dog jumped up on him and scratched him.

Frost reports after Rue was secured, he returned to the house and found the victim sitting on the sofa treating a bleeding middle finger. She refused medical treatment.

Frost reports she was initially uncooperative. Then she reportedly told him that Rue had been pushing her around the apartment most of the evening. She reportedly said that Rue had jumped on her, held her down by the face and throat, choking her and making it hard to breathe. She reportedly scratched Rue to get him off her.

Frost contacted Adult Probation officer Ryan Wright, who asked for a alcohol breath test on Rue. Rue reportedly refused to submit to the test.

Frost arrested Rue on charge of battery on a household member and resisting, evading or obstructing an officer.

During the booking process, Frost reports that Smith gave Rue a pen to sign something and Rue stole the pen, sticking it into his boot.

Reserve officer John Obermiller transported Rue to Lincoln County Medical Center for medical clearance.

Frost reports that one of the nurses told him Rue had been asked to sign something and kept her pen. Frost reportedly found the pen in Rue's boot.

Rue is on two years of probation for an October 2009 no contest plea to charges of driving under the influence and driving while license suspended or revoked. Rue was charged with a 6th DWI.

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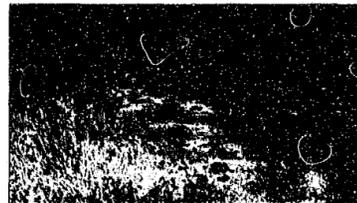
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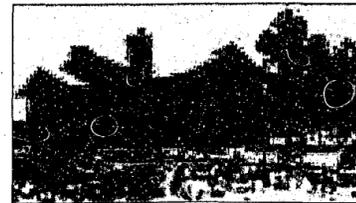
TWO HOMES ON THE RIO RUIDOSO - 12.43 acres adj to nat'l forest. Mstr suite w/FP & balcony. Pond w/water feature. Satillo tile, parque flooring, sun room w/FP, 20 treed orchard. Ride your horses out the back gate to forest land. Guest Qtrs 2/1/1. \$829,900. #107819



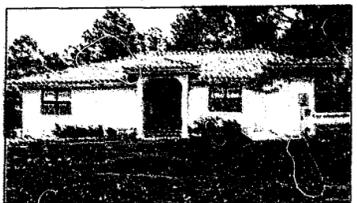
STUNNING TERRITORIAL HOME ON BONITO RIVER 10 Acres. Custom interior w/New England pine floors, open kitchen w/tile counter tops, marvelous great room w/FP. 4 Bed, w/4 baths. Includes art studio & shop w/sq of 1792 for shop. \$775,000. #107627



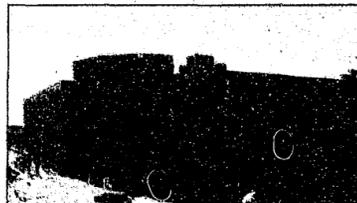
EAGLE CREEK HOME ON FABULOUS 9.5 ACRES Gated seclusion in Eagle Creek II. 4 Br, 5 Ba well designed home on seasonal creek. Wonderful covered porch-huge back deck & great views. Study/5th Br & lots of storage. Game-hobby room + loft. Owner/Broker. \$750,000. #107605



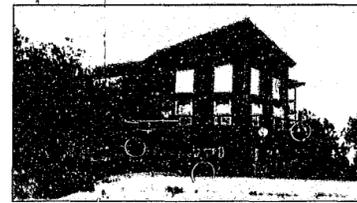
ENJOY THE SIERRA BLANCA VIEW FROM THE DECK Golf m'ship home in Alto. Custom cabinetry, gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, L/R & Master Br, gas FP, lots of storage room, wet bar, hardwood floors & nicely landscaped w/auto sprinkler system. Furniture negotiable. \$639,900. #107134



BEAUTIFUL STUCCO HOME 3 Br, 4 Ba w/tile roof. Includes a family room & a study. Full golf membership. Furniture can be purchased from seller. \$460,000. #102593



ASTONISHING VIEWS! Absolutely expansive views from one of the most private ridge lines in Rainmakers. 1 Level patio home. Exquisitely appointed w/granite counter tops & real wood floors in this 3 Br, 2 bath home. Full golf. \$419,000. #108308



CLASSY HOME WITH BIG VIEWS On over 8 1/2 acres: 3/3/2 w/over 3200 heated SF. Awesome decks, courtyards, paved drives, gorgeous kitchen, construction integrity & location are only a few of the MANY WONDERFUL AMENITIES. \$399,000. #107411



WONDERFUL TERRITORIAL HOME Big views of Sierra Blanca, 3 bd, 3 bath, 2 car garage, covered decks, stucco exterior, Gerard roof, FP, 2 living areas, level access, paved circle dr, cathedral ceilings, bar & golf membership. Fully furnished. \$389,900. #108190



BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM HOME Great home on 5 ac w/seasonal river behind it. Fantastic, all useable land. Great horse property. Nice big sun room, 900 sq ft separate studio/workshop, RV parking, big river view. Custom stained glass. \$387,500. #106769



CHARM OF THE 1900'S TERRITORIAL PERIOD Adobe home built in 1900, remodeled, old world flavor of early mining district. Originally a hotel for miners. Tile floors, tin ceilings. Small barn, 3 car carport, bunkhouse, shop, 2 wells & comm water. \$375,000. #107253



GREAT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY 7 Rooms plus living quarters right in town. Very clean lodge, hot tub, BBQ area. Lots of history in this place of prime commercial land. \$369,000. #108259



LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS ONLY 500 feet of Hwy 48 frontage, very level. Office building & well house. Many options for improvement & use. Two access from Hwy 48. All 5 lots fenced. \$352,000. #108251



AWESOME COMMERCIAL/HOME SET-UP Sudderth frontage, 2 doors down from Taco Bell, 2200 approx sq ft w/2 bed, 2 bath. Large retail shop in front. Sunny location - beautiful fenced back yard. Lease/purchase options. \$274,500. #106863

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GRAND MOUNTAIN CABIN WITH A BIG VIEW There is plenty of room for everyone in this mountain home. Sit by the fire & read or play pool in the game room. 2 Bedrooms w/s additional sleeping rooms. Furnishings available outside of home sale. \$250,000. #108250



CLASSIC RIVER CABIN Awesome location on the Rio Ruidoso w/100 foot tall pine trees. Knotty pine cabin w/newer metal roof, A/C; furnace. If you've been looking for a reasonable place on the river, this is it! \$239,500. #108139



BEAUTIFUL TREES, BIG SB VIEW Sweet valley & lake view important to you? This could be your condo in the woods! The top of the Mt. setting of this 3 Br, 2.5 Ba' condo has huge decks & comes fully furnished. \$236,900 #108217



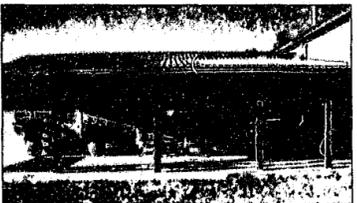
GREAT PRICE & YEAR-ROUND LOCATION On this 3/2. Pretty lot with views. Enjoy den with fireplace. Only \$230,000. #108001



PERFECT MOUNTAIN GETAWAY Huge living area with rock fireplace. Nice private deck and bonus room with hot tub. Perfect for a rental property or personal retreat. \$229,000. #108460



LOVELY ONE LEVEL @ ALTO - SUPER PRICE! Full golf membership = 2 courses - 36 holes. Level access land & 1 level home, south windows provide sunny local & views - sw colors - neat floor plan for great gatherings - 2 decks + studio/sun room. \$217,500. #107674



SUPER PRICED 3 BR, 3 1/2 BA STUCCO HOME 2000+ Sq ft, unfurnished - furniture can be bought separately. Priced well below current appraisal - great access to schools, just outside Ruidoso city limits. \$199,000. #105971



FANTASTIC VIEWS OF SIERRA BLANCA. Remodeled, fully furnished, 4 bd, 2 1/2 bath, condo. New refrig air, fireplace, game room. Ready to be enjoyed. Great get away or full time residence. Sit on your deck & watch the sunset over Sierra Blanca. \$179,500. #108282



WOW! 1 LEVEL NEWLY REMODELED HOME New kitchen & baths w/stainless steel appliances - Jacizzi tub - new windows - recent roof - tile porch - yard - 1 level paved central access - pellet stove. Fully & beautifully furnished. Owner financing possible. \$178,000. #108286



170 FEET OF RIVER FRONTAGE One acre with mature trees, Easy level access. Nice 2200 sq ft barn/shop. House is in excellent condition. Some fencing, private well. \$168,500. #108296



YOUR COZY CABIN IN THE WOODS Storybook appeal in this 1 Br/1 1/2 Bath cabin in popular Cedar Creek. Big rock FP, charming wood interior, large deck on .50 ac in the tall pines. Includes Murphy bed. Lots of storage. In forest compliance. New septic. \$164,000. #107724



SKIERS DELIGHT! Cute 3 Br, 2 bath cabin with small loft, fireplace, fully furnished. Nice wooded lot, good access. Great for summer fun, too! \$155,000. #108114



COZY MOUNTAIN CABIN 2 Br, 1 3/4 Ba with updates. Lots 16,17,18, huge fenced back yard. Tons of potential. Nice covered front porch. Wildlife abound in this area, birds, deer, elk to mention a few. Seller related to listing agent. \$118,500. #108317

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 464-3600.

Snow past 48 hours: 0 inches
Season total: 56 inches
Mid-mountain snow: 30 inches
Snow surface: Packed powder
Snowmaking: No

Weather for Friday: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 63F. Winds SW at 15 to 25 mph. Friday evening, Partly cloudy skies. Low near 45F. Winds SW at 10 to 15 mph.

Weather for Saturday: Windy with a mix of sun and clouds. Highs in the mid 60s and lows in the mid 40s.

Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, Ramp, Lower Deep Freeze, Capitan, Lite, Lower Moonshine, Smoke Bear, Snow Park, Chino, Moonshine Gulch and Elk Ridge.

Lifts open: No. 1, No. 2 No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 8. Gondola open, weather permitting

Results

Boys basketball
Tuesday, Feb. 15
Capitan 60, Gateway Christian 51
Hagerman 94, Mesclero 42

Girls basketball
Tuesday, Feb. 15
Capitan 40, Gateway Christian 33
Hagerman 49, Mesclero 24

Sports On Tap

Basketball
Girls
Friday, Feb. 18
Ruidoso at Portales, 5:30 p.m.
Gateway at Mesclero, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 15
Mesclero at Hagerman, 5:30 p.m.
Capitan at Gateway, 5 p.m.
Vaughn at Corona, 5 p.m.
Boys
Friday, Feb. 18
Ruidoso at Portales, 7 p.m.
Mesclero at Gateway, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 22
Valley Christian at Hondo, 6:30 p.m.

On Deck

Gun Club Meeting
Ruidoso Gun Club will be holding an annual general meeting at the gun range Feb. 27, at 2 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is twofold: To bring the membership up to date on the issues concerning the lease with the Forest Service which will include the Forest Service requirements of an Environmental Stewardship Program and the plan to meet those requirements. The reason to hold the meeting at the range is to show the membership the areas requiring work and with a cost estimate of the dirt work needed to meet the lease agreement with the Forest Service. Election for officers of the Gun Club will be held. Nominations can be made at the meeting. Elected officers will take their positions in March. If you have a topic for discussion it may be included by emailing aclontz@me.com. Please attend if you can. The environmental stewardship program is key to maintaining the Club lease.

Little League Baseball
There will be an opportunity for late registration signups on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 5-7 p.m., at the Community Youth Center Warehouse. For info contact Brian Mosher at 937-8749.

Double gold for Lexie Doth

LAURA DOTH
For the Ruidoso News

Mother Nature has been a bit fickle this winter. She has roared into ski areas and dumped tons of snow, and then disappeared for weeks at a time. The Arizona Snowbowl knows all about that. The Flagstaff area ski resort enjoyed copious amounts of snow in December, but then the snowflakes stopped. Currently without snowmaking capabilities, and with a USSA sanctioned ski race scheduled for Feb. 5-6, the Snowbowl staff carefully groomed their limited base and hoped for more snow. It didn't happen. As the date neared for the scheduled slalom race, race officials contacted Durango Mountain Resort about moving the race to Purgatory.

With a flurry of activity, the crew packed their bags, computers and race equipment and moved the entire race to Durango, Colorado.

Disappointed that they wouldn't be able to compete

at one of their favorite ski areas, the Ruidoso Ski Team packed their bags and headed north to Colorado instead of Arizona. Temperatures were dropping as they pulled into Durango, and they waxed and prepped their skis for cold snow temperatures. Due to the abrupt change of racing venue, the field of racers for the Southern Series Slalom was smaller than usual. Even so, over 60 athletes from Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico headed for the slopes early on Saturday, Feb. 5. Temperatures hovered in the single digits with a below zero windchill as the racers inspected the first of two race courses they were required to negotiate. As they inspected the storm clouds rolled in, and snow began to fall, changing the on-hill visibility from good to sometimes non-existent.

On Upper Hades, race organizers deviated from normal procedures by setting two separate courses side by side. The girls started first and raced through the gates set on skier's right.



ZACK DOTH/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Lexie Doth shows off her winning slalom form that earned her two gold medals in Durango.

The boys followed, but ran the first race on the course set on skier's left. Following the morning run, the racers switched and each group competed on the opposite

race course. The girls course was set by Durango's ski team coach. It was very tight and required quick turns all the way down. It was so chal-

lenging that there weren't a lot of smiling faces at the end of the morning run. This was definitely not a See **GOLD**, page 2B

Tigers advance through Gateway

MIKE CURRAN
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Olympic ice skater Tenley Albright once said, "Winning brought me a wonderful sense of completeness."

That being true, the Capitan boys and girls basketball teams should feel replete lately. On Monday both teams entertained the D7-1A Gateway Warriors and plunged the visitors into the despair of defeat.

Twenty-four hours later the Tiger teams journeyed to Gateway in a home-and-home tilt bearing the same results with the Lady Tigers dooming their Gateway adversaries, 40-33, while the Tiger boys deep-sixed the Warriors, 60-51.

Four district wins in two days – not bad.

Girls

Things looked bleak for the female felines of Capitan for the first 24 minutes of play. The Gateway hosts grabbed an early 11-9 lead going into



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Jamie Fields looks for help in the Lady Tigers' 40-33 win.

the second quarter. Both squads battled each other to a 7-7 standstill in the subsequent period of action and the Lady Warriors took an 18-16 advantage into the locker rooms at the half. The Lady Tigers were well within striking distance at that point and you

might have expected them to put the "petal to the metal" in the third eight-minute period and streak out to the lead. But, oh no; instead the Gateway girls improved their leading margin by two as they won the third quarter, 9-7, and took a 27-23 lead into the



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Tim Dickinson goes for two in Capitan's 60-51 win over Gateway.

last period of play. But not to worry: as it turned out the Lady Tigers were merely lying in ambush for their prey. In the last eight minutes of the contest the Capitan hardwood crew put on a dazzling offensive/defensive display as they bounded out of hiding,

outscored the Lady Warriors 17-6, and won going away by seven points. They had them all the way.

Capitan's Jamie Fields hit double digits scoring 10 points – all in the last quarter.

See **TIGERS**, page 2B

Quantum of solace

"There he goes jumping over sticks again," my father said as we drove by the field.

It was the early 70s. The wind was whipping up sand from the adjacent beach. It was the dead of winter and hardened sleet remained on the ground from the previous night's storm. A neighbor, Bill Jankunis was high jumping on an improvised set up of sticks and guide poles and an old mattress was placed upon old tires to break

I watched him on numerous days. He

would run and jump several times and then retreat to his small bungalow across the street from the grass field to warm up. A few hours later he would emerge and was practicing again. In our little neighborhood of refurbished winterized beach houses where civil servants; firefighters, sanitation workers and cops were the top of the food chain we didn't quite know what to think about his strange practice sessions.

Ocean Breeze and its residents had

See **SOLACE**, page 2B



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Tip of the Week:

Don't get complacent:

After record breaking cold weather and much needed snow, our normal gorgeous sunshine always returns. However, during winter when temperatures rise quickly, storms follow. Bring in or cover that firewood, winter is still upon us! (Good skiing to you!) Joe Zagone

-Joseph A. Zagone

See some of CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate's listings on the back page of section A TODAY!

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GOLD

FROM PAGE 1B

"feel good" race course. As the snow continued to fall, the older, ability class girls started the racing day. Starting second in her division, Lexie Doth worked her way down the hill finishing with a time of 53.47.

Ability class racers combine the times of their two races for a final finish time and placement. After the first run, Doth was sitting in first place by less than a second. It would be important for her to nail the second run to secure a first place finish.

As the snow thickened and visibility dropped, the younger age class girls headed down the course. Nine year old Ari Mumma, a J-5 racer, followed Lexie out of the gate. Struggling

with the difficult course and the worsening weather conditions, Ari finished cleanly and posted a time of 1:12.55. That put her in 9th place for the morning run.

Over on the boys course, Aric Jenson was preparing to start. The boys course was set by the Flagstaff ski team coach. It was a completely different type of course with the gates set further apart, allowing for a more streamlined approach to the race. As Aric readied at the start, a full white-out descended on the mountain. Bad weather rarely deters racers, and they sent the athletes down the hill anyway. With such poor visibility, Jenson missed a gate and was disqualified. Because he is an age-class racer and each race is scored individually, he still had the opportunity to race again in the afternoon.

For the afternoon race,

the start order was changed, with the slowest racer starting first and the fastest racer starting last. With the fastest morning time under her belt, Doth was determined to hang onto a podium finish.

The storm lifted a bit, and Doth had a perfect view of the course. The more open course favored speed, and she ripped down the mountain. She finished cleanly with a time of 41.87, a full 1.16 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor. Her combined time of 1:35.34 gave Lexie her first gold medal of the weekend.

Also on the second course was teammate, Ari Mumma. She too used the more open course to her advantage and turned the speed on. She negotiated the course in a time of 56.09 moving her up to 8th place for the afternoon run.

Over on the other course,

Aric Jenson was enjoying the much improved visibility. While the course was much more challenging than his morning run, he navigated all of the gates this time and completed the course with a time of 1:25.55, good enough for 12th place in his division.

While the winter storm continued to drop snow on the mountainside, the racers settled in for the night and prepared for Sunday's competition. Race organizers reverted to a more traditional format for Sunday, Feb 6 and all of the racers competed on the same course in the morning and then switched to a totally new course in the afternoon.

The ability girls were once again slated to start the competition. Fresh off her Saturday victory, Lexie Doth made another nice run in the morning. This time she had some competition.

Her time of 43.73 put her in second place, just .22 seconds behind the first place time.

Ari Mumma struggled with the accumulation of soft snow and was a little hesitant coming down the hill. She finished with a time of 53.59, netting herself an 8th place finish for the morning run. Aric Jenson fought headwinds during his run, but still finished cleanly. His time of 1:03.85 landed him in 10th place.

Determined to seal the deal and finish on top, Lexie Doth prepared for her final run of the competition. By now, the sun was shining and it was cold and windy. Shrugging off the weather, Doth put together a stunning run, moving quickly through the slalom course.

She crossed the finish line in 39.28 seconds, demolishing the competition by

2.63 seconds. She made another trip to the podium to collect her second gold medal of the weekend with a combined time of 1:23.01.

Back on course, consistency was the name of the game. Ari Mumma again finished her race cleanly in a time of 53.20. This gave her another 8th place finish. Aric Jenson was feeling more confident on his second run. He raced down the hill in a time of 1:02.63 for an 11th place finish.

Coach Mark Doth was proud of his racers. "The kids all did very well. Lexie really is coming into her own, and gave it her all this weekend. Ari and Aric were both sick, but still managed to perform well." The Ruidoso Ski Team continues to train at Ski Apache and will hit the road again next weekend when Lexie Doth will compete in a Smartwool race in Durango.

TIGERS

FROM PAGE 1B

ter - including two 3-pointers. Not to be outdone, Kaitlin Keaton also dumped in 10 for the game.

It would appear the Lady Tigers' defense gets stronger with every game. That has to be good news for coach John Devine and his staff.

In the last six games the

Capitan girls have played, only Mescalero has scored more than 35 points against them.

And they will have needed a strong defensive effort Thursday when Hagerman came to Tigerland.

Last Friday the Tiger girls lost to the Lady Bobcats by four, 30-26, but that game was up for grabs the entire way.

Boys

The Tigers are having

a good year and Tuesday's win over the Gateway Christian Warriors didn't hurt their cause a bit.

When the Tigers left the cage they smoked out to a 23-8 first quarter lead.

That onslaught had to have left a strong message in the minds of the Gateway players and was probably an important key to the game.

Give credit where credit is due, however, as the

Warriors did not give up and instead battled the Capitan maulers to a 10-10 standoff in the second period of play.

Both teams ended the half with Capitan up, 33-18. The Gateway boys chipped away and outscored the tigers in the third and fourth quarters, 16-15 and 17-12, respectively, but the first period scoring frenzy by the Tigers greatly helped to net them a nine-point win

for the night.

Four Capitan athletes hit double digits as Rudy Chavez and Logan Eshom each hit for 12, Dustin Blowers pumped in 11 and Strait Sedillo contributed 10.

With the win, Capitan now goes to 13-6 overall and garnered an important 4-1 district record.

Coach Johnny Carson has had his boys hitting on all cylinders in the last two games, both against

Gateway. Last Friday's 27-point loss at Hagerman was an up close and personal realization of what a juggernaut-like squad the Bobcats are.

Thursday's return engagement with the Hagerman crew should have been interesting.

The Bobcats sport an amazing 25-0 record and are 5-0 in district action (as of this writing).

They pulverized Mescalero Tuesday, 94-42.

SOLACE

FROM PAGE 1B

had their day. The neighborhood was only a shadow of its former self.

In its heyday in the 1930s through the 50s it was the summer destination of hundreds of New York City residents who rented the beach bungalows and swam in the clean bay waters.

It was a strong neighborhood with a Labor Day Block party where a train would pull up and take us kids for a ride. By the late 60s and 70s driftwood from rotting piers piled along the beach and tar from barges, and sewage and chemical waste made the water un-swimmable except for a hardy few.

The once pristine FDR boardwalk that was built during the Depression fell into disrepair and sections were commonly set afire by vandals.

At nightfall the blighted beach and boardwalk became a haven for perverts and drug dealers.

Perhaps the one bright spot we all embraced and

found solace with was Bill Jankunis.

Jankunis went to New Dorp High School where he set hurdles records and twice cleared seven feet in the high jump.

He would frequently go back to school at night after the basketball team went home to practice.

As a student at the University of Colorado in 1974 Jankunis had finished fifth at the NCAA high jump competition. In the spring of 1976 Jankunis' best finish at the AAU high jump was a lackluster fourth.

Incredibly he came back with a personal best high jump of 7-feet, 5 3/4-inches to win the 1976 U.S. Olympic Trials.

On that day a quiet and humble man from a small beachfront community was the best in the world beating out friend and world champion Dwight Stones.

On the weekend of July 4, 1976 we celebrated the bicentennial anniversary of the nation's founding.

We watched from the boardwalk as an armada of tall-masted ships and Queen Elizabeth II aboard her Royal Yacht Britannica

passed us en route to Boston Harbor where even then, a group of anti-corporate, anti-globalists had hurled several barrels of crude oil into Boston Harbor - their own rendition of the Tea Party.

Back in New York, the Gucci Brothers and Macy's put on a spectacular display of fireworks on the harbor. Like most of the country we had painted our fire hydrants and fire alarm boxes a patriotic red, white and blue.

I was standing on the sun deck pavilion with Mr. O'Reilly. I had grown up with his four daughters.

"You 18?" he said as he handed me a Rheingold.

"Sure," I said as I gulped down my first cold one even though I was only 14.

The bicentennial inspired a patriotic fervor in Americans as we tried to forget the memory of Vietnam, Watergate, and the city's bankruptcy the year before.

Suddenly John O'Reilly reeled around and grabbed a long haired man by his green army jacket.

He had a marijuana joint in his mouth he was in the process of lighting.

"Smoke your dope somewhere else," O'Reilly said as he released the man and the man walked away while simultaneously flipping him off.

"Sorry, another Hippie, draft dodger, and pothead. Can't understand being a World War II veteran, and guys not serving Billy," O'Reilly said.

"I understand," I replied.

O'Reilly pulled a copy of the local paper out of his bag and turned towards the sports. There was a whole section devoted to Bill Jankunis. You could see his face beam with pride as he read it.

"That Billy's going to the Olympics. It's good for us to have a home town kid make it," O'Reilly said.

I looked over at the article and I spied the last page of the classified section which was sticking out. Mr. O'Reilly had underlined the article in pen.

My father had told me about it the day before. The O'Reilly's home was in foreclosure and the public notice was in the newspaper.

After 25 years the furniture factory where he worked in the Bronx had shut its doors and relocated to China.

As the summer started we waited anxiously for the start of the 1976 Summer Olympics in Montreal. All

the talk was about the Olympics and Jankunis.

It was on those sultry afternoons in late July that we gathered at Drew Garvey's home for barbecues.

Mrs. Garvey made us smores while most of the adults from the neighborhood drank beer from a fresh keg.

They brought out their new wood grained Magnavox 26-inch color TV and everybody huddled around to watch the Olympics.

We marveled at Nadia Comaneci, the 14-year-old Romanian girl who had perfect scores and won three gold medals in gymnastics. We staged mock boxing matches as we watched Sugar Ray Leonard win the gold in boxing and we sat in awe as Bruce Jenner won the decathlon with the most points in history.

We watched on television as Dwight Stones, the 1972 bronze medalist, on a cold rainy afternoon in Montreal, cleared (7-3) in the final for third place in the high jump and a bronze eclipsing his friend, Ocean Breeze's finest, Bill Jankunis who failed to clear 7-3 and placed 13th on that day.

Four days later, Stones broke the world record with a 7-foot 7 1/4-inch effort at a meet in Philadelphia.

I remember the unsettling silence we all felt. The trepidation leading up to the event was gone as we watched Bill's downcast face as he stood in the cold rain following his loss. There were quiet good byes and everybody went home. The party was over for Ocean Breeze.

The congenial Bill Jankunis, his children grown, his Olympic days long since over, now a carpenter by trade, still lives in that same little bungalow with his wife.

Mr. O'Reilly has been dead almost that long, succumbing more from broken dreams than his penchant for alcohol.

The civil service nobility that once ruled Ocean Breeze have either died off or moved away and have been replaced by an ethnic blend of Russian, Polish and Albanian immigrants. They fancy the newly gentrified beachfront neighborhood, and lovingly refer to it as Little Odessa.

Boardwalk signs are now both in English and Russian.

There are still plans in the works to build a state of the art indoor track and field center; strangely enough it is to be directly across the street from the sun deck pavilion where a young boy used to jump over sticks many years ago.

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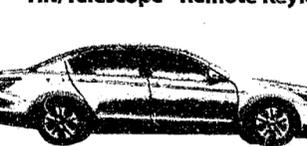
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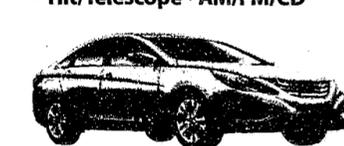
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 United Methodist. White
 Oaks and Third in Capitan.
 505-648-2846.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Carrizozo Community
Church (A/G)
Barbara Bradley, pastor.
 Corner of C Ave. & Thir-
 teenth.
BAPTIST
First Baptist Church
Hayden Smith, Pastor.
CATHOLIC
Santa Rita Catholic
Church
648-2853. Father Franklin
 Eichhorst.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Perry Zumwalt, minister.
 Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo,
 NM.
EPISCOPAL
St. Matthias Episcopal
Chapel
Carrizozo, 6th & E Street.
METHODIST
United Methodist
Church Parish
Trinity - 1000 D. Ave.
 648-2893/648-2846, Car-
 rizozo. Johanna Ander-
 son, pastor.

MESCALERO
Carrizo Christian Fel-
lowship Leonard Kanese-
 wah III, Pastor. 56 White
 Mt. Dr., 3 mi. W. of Inn of
 the Mountain Gods
 Mescalero. 464-4656

RELIGION

Home-based synagogue riles retirement community

Q. I live in Century Village, West Palm Beach, Fla. Recently, the following article appeared in the Palm Beach Post. (MG note: I've edited the article for the sake of brevity). Any advice?

- R., West Palm Beach via email



The God Squad
MARC GELLMAN

A Century Village man found an alternative to making the one-mile walk to an orthodox temple just outside the gates of his suburban West Palm Beach condo. He bought a second unit in Century Village and turned it into a makeshift condo of prayer. This hasn't gone over well with the neighbors, who've soured on the daily parade of men in and out of the unit, turning what was supposed to be a single-family apartment into a kind of synagogue. The man told the county's code enforcers that he bought the second unit because his health prevent-

ed him from walking to the existing temple, a Sabbath requirement. He's hired an attorney to fight the county's effort to make him stop using his second unit for religious purposes. "It's part of his religious observance to pray three times a day," said his attorney. "He's just having his friends over to pray with him. The Constitution doesn't limit how many times a day you can pray." "It's just that the men are showing up with big hats instead of golf and tennis outfits," the lawyer said. Neighbors of the man also complained that his religious friends have been seen using the pool for early morning nude bathing as part of their religious cleansing rituals. The county has taken the view that the man's use of his spare condo violates the county building code because it's not being used as a single-family unit.

The county has set the matter for a hearing before a magistrate on March 2. **A.** On one hand, I'm very much pro-prayer, but on the other hand, as a middle-aged New York Jewish guy, there's a chance I'll be moving to Century City one day soon myself and I wouldn't want to alienate my new neighbors. While Judaism requires regular daily prayer, it also requires that the laws of the state be observed. Those laws clearly prohibit what this man is doing. He's created a non-synagogue synagogue, which is neither legal nor morally sensitive. His first option should be to find some way to get to the 'real' synagogue to pray. I know how hard it can be to get 10 Jews together for daily prayer. This man is actually weakening his synagogue by praying in his condo. Also, assuming he's not bedridden and can get out during the day, the mile walk to the synagogue is not an obstacle but a perfect daily health regimen. If he is disabled, perhaps he could find

someone to push him over to the synagogue in a wheelchair, or hire someone not bound by Jewish Sabbath laws to drive him to synagogue. Failing that, he might try to move his daily minyan to a meeting room in the condo clubhouse. The key element in finding a solution is for both sides to try something they've apparently never attempted: talking to each other and listening to each other's concerns. This man should understand that having a synagogue across the hall is not a trivial concern for many condo residents. His neighbors should keep in mind that they're not trying to close down a bookie joint. All parties need to try harder, and without lawyers, to work things out in a peaceful, considerate way. Keeping the peace is also a high Jewish value, and it should preclude provocative actions, no matter how sincerely motivated by personal piety. Perhaps things might be better if this guy's friends arrived for daily prayers in the clubhouse wearing golf outfits and

saying things like, "Oy vey, did I just shoot a big birdie on that bunker hole!" The one thing I do feel strongly about is Jews engaging in nude bathing in retirement communities. In fact, I'm against nude bathing for seniors of any faith. **NOTE FROM MG:** My thanks to readers for sharing your stories of miracles. Here's an especially touching example from a registered nurse who works with dying patients in hospice care: "In my line of work, I hear many families talk of their miracles. They may not be earth-shattering phenomena, but to them, they're as miraculous as the parting of the Red Sea: a text message from a son far away at the moment his Dad took his last breath; the mother with dementia who had a lucid moment and told her daughter to put up the Christmas tree for Dad because he'd need it (she died 2 days later); the flower that blossomed in February when a wife asked for a sign that her husband would be OK

when he left her ... "My favorite story was from Mary, who died during kidney surgery and was moving into a wonderful space when she heard a voice tell her to go back ... She said she saw them working on her in the OR, and for the next three years, while getting chemotherapy, she'd tell everyone her story and implore them to never fear what comes after this world because "it's absolutely wonderful!" "I'm sure, in your line of work, you've heard of loved ones coming in dreams to family members and bringing them a lasting sense of peace. Were these just good dreams? "No, I've seen it happen too often. I believe God sends these little miracles all the time ... to ensure that nothing in this life is haphazard and there really is Someone bigger than you and I looking over us in life." - F., via email

Send questions to The God Squad, c/o Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, NY 14207.

Children and God

Q. How old does a child have to be before they can understand who God is, and things like that? My husband thinks we ought to start bringing our 3-year-old boy to church, but I don't see any use in it, frankly. But I'm open to changing my mind. - Mrs. P.McN.



Billy Graham
MY ANSWER

may not realize why - but they'll realize it's an important part of your life every week. You'll be setting an example for them that they'll never forget. As they grow older, they'll also learn about the Bible and about Jesus. They'll realize that God loves them and wants to be their friend. They'll understand that He wants us to turn away from bad things and do what is good. They'll profit too from books and Bible lessons designed for children their age. The most important thing you can do, however, is to let your child see that Christ makes a difference in your life. Get a children's Bible storybook and read it to your son every day. Pray before meals, and pray with him also.

A. It's a mistake to think that just because children can't understand everything about God, they can't understand something about Him. Jesus rebuked His disciples when they tried to keep children from Him - and we shouldn't keep them away from Him either (see Mark 10:14). Going to church, they will learn that church is important to you. They

Learn the important lessons quickly

Q. December and February hit me a double - double lick every year. Dec. 24 is my wife's birthday, and Dec. 25 is Christmas. Feb. 1 is our anniversary and Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day. Those four dates are 52 days apart. Needless, to say, that is a very expensive time of the year for me. But, a better investment, I could never make. Those gifts of love and appreciation insure a year of married bliss. However, I had better not forget or try to roll them all into one gift. I



Clarifications
BY CHARLES CLARY
RUIDOSO PASTOR

have found that several smaller gifts at the appropriate times are better than one. I used to purchase roses for our anniversary, until we passed three dozen. More just seemed to be sort of redundant. All of those dates, in a short period of time, made it a real challenge to come up with something special. Alice loves to receive gifts, so years ago, I settled on a plan to spread things out over the course of the year. When I would be over seas on a mission trip, I would bring back some-

thing from a foreign country. When I would be away preaching a revival or doing a Bible conference, I would bring back a reminder that I was thinking of her while I was away. Those gifts seemed to be pleasing to her. Those gifts really took the pressure off me for big time, earth shaking, very expensive presents for those four special days. The truth is this ... the gift of "I'm missing you and I want to be with you and spend time with you," is the most important gift that a man can give to his wife. You see, it is important that a woman knows that you spent time thinking of her and about something

for her. The old saying that "I was thinking of you" really means something. But it is not enough to say it. There needs to be some concrete evidence of the fact. You have to know her well enough to give her something that she would really enjoy, that she would really like. Remember this, a wife wants to know that you know her, as well as, that you are thinking of her. I have learned these things over 53 years of marriage. I don't know why it took me so long. Why does it take so long to get smart and so short to get old? If you learn quick, you will have help for today and hope for tomorrow.

Donnelle "Dee" Yazza

Prayer service for Donnelle "Dee" Yazza, 35, of Mescalero was Wednesday, February 16, at 6:00 PM in St. Joseph's Mission at Mescalero where the funeral mass was held Thursday, February 17, at 10:00 AM with burial that followed at the Mescalero Cemetery.

She passed away Saturday, February 12, 2011 in Ruidoso. She was born February 9, 1976 at Mescalero and had lived there all of her life and was a homemaker. She is a descendant of Perico, Big Hunter, and Chief San Juan. She is survived by a daughter, Alyssa Marie Louise House; a son, Issman Whitman Duane Shanta; father and step-mother, Don and Zeldia Yazza; brothers and sisters, Tyroy Yazza, Frank Klinekole Jr. and his wife Mildred, Adora Klinekole, and Aldon Coriz and his wife Cheree; grandmother, Bernadine Chino. She was preceded in death by her mother, Rayma Enjady, grandparents, Frank C. Chino, Wallace and Celine Enjady and brother, Bahe K. Yazza. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.lagroneruidoso.com

Claudie Ray Wells

Claudie Ray Wells, 82, went to his heavenly reward on February 15, 2011, at his home in Rio Rancho, NM. Ray (he never used Claudie, most people did not even realize that was his name) was born August 30, 1928 in Gran Quivira, NM on the family homestead to James L. and Mennel McDaniel Wells. He attended barber college in Fort Worth, TX at the age of 17. He proudly served his country in the Army enlisting in 1946. He was stationed in Japan and Alaska in the medical squadron. He was later in the Navy, serving in several areas including Boston. While in Boston, he was set up on a blind date with Marjorie Sully, whom he married in Billerica, MA on June 14, 1952. Ray barbered in Boston until they moved to Carrizozo, NM, at which time Ray opened his own barber shop in late 1954. Ray and Marjorie operated several businesses in Carrizozo, living and raising their family there for 45 years. Ray became an ordained minister and was the pastor of the Assemblies of God church in Carrizozo and later Ruidoso. His dedication to the ministry led him to do visiting preaching in many different places for much of his life. Ray and Marge lived in Nogal and Ruidoso, eventually building several homes and settling in Rio Rancho. He was a faithful member of the Grace Outreach Church in Rio Rancho making many good friends there. He was preceded in death by wife Marjorie in 2005, parents, three brothers, granddaughter Jessica and great granddaughter Janise. Ray is survived by his son, Gerald Wells and wife Peggy of Atlanta, GA; daughters Donna Ortiz and husband Carl of Albuquerque; Diana Wells of Nogal; Debbie Wells of Ruidoso; sister-in-law, Judith O'Brien and husband Carol Finkbeiner of Tularos; brother, Bill Wells of Clauch; sisters, Nora Austin of Estancia; Dora Hubbard of San Antonio, NM; Lora Morris of Andrews, TX; 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews. Ray was a very special person, loved by many, possessing a wonderful sense of humor and the best example of a kind, selfless, Christian man that we, his family will ever know. Visitation for Ray will be from 1:00p.m. to 2:00p.m. and funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 18, 2011, at Grace Outreach Church, 2900 Southern Blvd S.E., Rio Rancho with pastor Kent Bernard officiating. Interment will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 19, 2011, in the White Lake Cemetery, Grants, NM.

LINCOLN COUNTY

4-H is the Bomb



Thirteen Lincoln County 4-H members attended the New Mexico 4-H Senior Leadership Retreat. The theme this year was "4-H is the Bomb! Detonate it!" During the retreat, all of the members were able to attend leadership workshops that pointed out the strengths of all the members and their clubs including ideas on decision-making, recreation and teamwork. Each member attended four workshops, enjoyed a formal dinner at which Kaleb Cleckler was installed as a New Mexico 4-H Ambassador followed by a dance. Sunday workshops were attended as well and put on by the Arizona 4-H Leadership Team. Members who attended from Lincoln County were from the Rockin' H, Ruidoso and Carrizozo 4-H Clubs. Standing l-r, Shelley Sweat, Christian Sweat, Taryn McAlister, Robbie Richardson, Lauren Smith, Harley Bonnell, Allyssa Juarez, Forrest Sweat, J'nae Wood, Carmen Tate, Michelle Stearns and Kirsten Wilson. Seated, Kaleb Cleckler and Kylie Gaines. Submitted by J'Nae Wood, Lincoln County 4-H Reporter.

COURTESY

Ropers and relatives

We've all got them. Relatives, kinfolk, family – or whatever you call them in polite company. You can also add to that list a brand of cowboy called "roper."



Cowgirl Sass & Savvy
BY JULIE CARTER

You know the ones. They show up on your doorstep after a decade among the missing and are just sure you are thrilled to see them. However, it's also a given that they are running from the law, an ex-someone or a catastrophic event of nature. And, they need food and money.

In the continuing saga of "Deliverance-style" relatives, the phone rang one night last week.

Long-lost cousin Leeza was on the other end of the line. The last time she

had appeared on the doorstep was when Hurricane Kat-rina was causing a mass exodus from the coastal areas.

She arrived with a couple of horses and a pig in the trailer and all her worldly belongings.

Leeza announced that she and her sister Dixie are coming next week to stay a couple days.

She made it sound like it was simply time for a family visit, but the truth be known, she is sure the world is ending December 2012, so she wants to tell everyone goodbye and collect any family heirlooms that might be up for grabs.

Dixie is the one who occasionally works at Walmart when things get

tight, but her real career and way to make a living is raising doves. I didn't inquire how that was going.

Giving a family update during her call, Leeza reported that the cousin who plays the banjo is now teaching banjo at the local college.

She said he came by this way frequently and always intends to stop and visit but cannot remember what town I live in.

He has a law degree. I assured her it was fine, that it was likely a good distance out of the way for him to come by.

The other cousin who either runs underwater seismographic equipment looking for deep water oil in the Gulf or plays in a rock band, whichever he is not mad at that week, has now begun to supplement his income with raising chickens.

Leeza had asked him

what he was doing with all those chickens and he told her that they provide all the fresh eggs they could ever want.

Pointing out that one can only eat so many eggs, he told Leeza that he has further diversified his sources of income by selling fresh eggs "here and there."

A college degree can get you amazing opportunities.

The usual suspects that come to practice at Jake's roping arena were invited to come to a Tuesday night dinner party.

For people who rope and rodeo, Tuesday is more likely to be "open" for socializing.

Many important events for rodeo people happen on Tuesdays – weddings, funerals, birthday celebrations, anniversaries.

They are too busy competing on weekends to attend those kinds of things.

On Monday night, things started to unravel the short, but elite, guest list.

Fred called and his dad was "real sick" and he and his wife needed to rush down to see him.

Fred's brother J.D., also invited to the dinner, would be going as well.

Tuesday morning another call reported that Gary's daughter, who has been going to have a baby for the last six weeks, was now headed for a C-section today, tomorrow or sometime.

Gary would be standing by at the hospital and unable to attend dinner.

The realtor gal, who wanted to meet the roper crowd and had every intention of attending, called to say she was tied up in a house deal the other side of Hades and would not be able to make it.

And the last holdout,

Les the super looper, called and postponed his arrival time three times, whittling it down from dinner to a 10 p.m. cocktail only. He never did show up and has not been heard from yet.

At the 11th hour, Fred called again to say he and his wife would be there after all. Daddy wasn't as sick as they thought.

However, J.D. called to say he was still going to stay and sit with Daddy but would be happy to come by for dinner next week.

While that hadn't yet been planned, it seemed it was going to be.

Some days the thought crosses one's mind to simply put a sign on the door that says: "Gone somewhere. Be back in the sometime."

Julie can be reached for comment at jcarter@ruidoso.com.

King named 2010 Cattleman of the Year

Bill King, of Stanley, was named the 2010 Cattleman of the Year by the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association (NMCGA) during the recent Joint Stockmen's Convention held in Albuquerque.

"Bill has been a national leader in breed organizations, cattlemen's associations and probably is as politically astute as any cowman this state has ever had the privilege of working with," said Bert Ancell, NMCGA President, of Las Vegas.

"We are pleased to have this opportunity to thank him for his years of service to the NMCGA and the cattle industry."

The Cattleman of the Year award, sponsored by Wells Fargo, is given annually by the NMCGA to a member in recognition of that person's contributions to the industry.

The King family ranches

in central New Mexico, and are known both for quality cattle and political service.

The son of Governor Bruce and Alice King, Bill's political roots are as deep as his cattle industry roots, Ancell said.

"Bill never takes credit when things are accomplished behalf of the beef industry, but is always there, working behind the scenes to make things happen.

His expertise, both in the political arena and in cattle production and feeding, has been very valuable to our industry."

King raises registered Hereford, Angus and Charolais cattle, as well as herd of commercial cattle, on the family ranch near Stanley with the help of his three daughters: Becky Spindle and her husband Tom, Jenny Caldes and Stacy King.

He has served eight years as chairman of the



COURTESY

Bill King, center, is named the 2010 Cattleman of the Year.

New Mexico Livestock Board, is secretary/treasurer of the Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District and is the immediate past president of the American Hereford Association.

He is a past president of the NMCGA and has been active in the association, including the Feeder Committee, for many years.

"We truly appreciate his dedication to and work on behalf of our association and industry, and are

pleased to present him with this honor," Ancell said.

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

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

SPELLING CHAMPS



COURTESY CAPITAN SCHOOLS

Capitan Schools held its annual Spelling Bee on Jan. 26. There were 26 participants who qualified in their classrooms to compete in the Capitan District Spelling Bee. The participants were:

4th Grade – Chaeli Hohen, James Mitchell, Sarah Olmstead, Paul Payan, Jenna Dement, Payton Hall, Jenna Herbert, and Avonlea Ward. **5th Grade** – Savannah Bond, Stephen Ellison, Jacob Smith, Shelby Southard, Ayanna Mendibles, Frankie Pirelli, Kylie Pruett, and Taylor Rattliff. **Mid School** – Kaitlyn Rattliff, Gavin Trost, Lauren Bason, Lain McWilliams, Dominic Salcido, Ulises Guereca, Elise Coakley, Alyssa Chavez, Ohlin Skeen, and Tyelynn Woodall. The winners for fourth grade were: 1. Paul Payan; 2. Sarah Olmstead. Fifth grade winners were: 1. Shelby Southard 2. Savannah Bond. Middle school winners were: 1. Lauren Bason; 2. Ulises Guereca; 3. Elise Coakley. Final winners were: Elementary Champion and Overall Champion: Shelby Southard. Middle School Champion: Lauren Bason. Both Southard and Bason will be representing Capitan at the El Paso Times Spelling Bee on March 9, in El Paso. Pictured, l-r, Sarah Olmstead, Paul Payan, Ulises Guereca, Savannah Bond, Elise Coakley, Shelby Southard and Lauren Bason.

CARRIZO MARKET

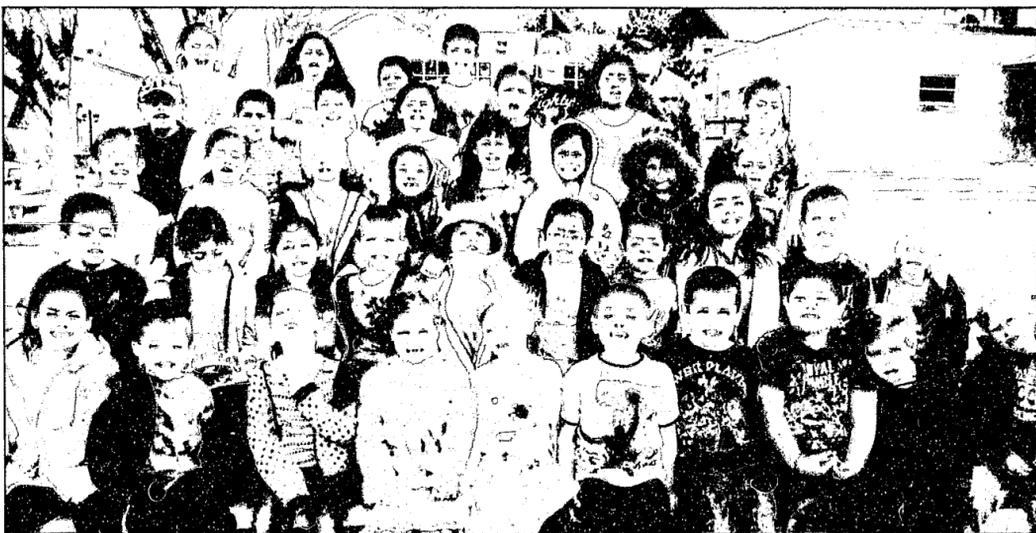
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Carrizozo Schools ¡BRAVO!

Carrizozo Schools January ¡BRAVO! winners are: **Front Row:** Emily Hill, Deven Zamora, Jessica Ceja, Julie Gonzales, Ashley Burch, Cayden Chavez, Izalah Parkhurst, Joel Villanueva, Nate Morales, and Collton King. **2nd Row:** Robert Lueras, Bella Bartz, Monae Ceja, Daniel Najar, Erollyn Lueras, Kaitlin Guevara, Jameal Garcia, Sydney Zamora, Jacob Parkhurst, and Hunter King. **3rd Row:** Robert Gonzales, Tazia Swift, Dallton King, Ethan Ortiz, Joanna Vega, Kelsie Guevara, Melissa Barela, and James Hemphill. **4th Row:** Austin Vega, Desi Ceja, Nathan Montes, Ryslyn Lueras, D'anna Willingham, Mya Zamora, and Mathias Zamora. **Top Row:** Samantha Miller, Savannah Sanchez, Julian Garcia, Patrick Hooten, Orion Wyatt, and Dominic Barela.



CAPITAN HONOR ROLL

A Honor Roll

Grade 9: Natalie Barnwell, Jacob Griego, Tristan Romero, Madison buechter, Kaleb J. Cleckler, Kymbra Espinosa, Alana Willingham.

Grade 10: Samuel Cade Haynes.

Grade 11: Christopher T. Olmstead, Kersti L. Davis, Jamie Fields, Aurora Hart, Martiza L. Nava, Colby Preciado, Colorado Romero, Garret Sterling Schultz, Maribel Villegas.

Grade 12: Scheryiah Juliann Romero, Robert Eshom, Chase Morel, Monique Quiroz, Amanda Carrie Willingham.

Berryhill, Jordan Leann Burch, Walker Riley Bymoan, Samuel A. Edington, Thomas Fields, Joshua James-Evaristo Hernandez, Tara Shae Herrera, Makala Hopkins, Zachery L. Kreidler, Emilee J. Krieger, Ruben Mendoza Jr., Teyna Rose Montoya, Alexis Mikhail Trost.

Grade 10: William Wyatt Berryhill, Julia Bertrand, Kirsten Chaitra Creighton, Cory Everett, Alexis C. Farris, Sidni Leigh Hughes, Alyssa Rian Miller-Juarez, Alejandro Rueda, Bobby Ray Serna, Jayda Tayne Silva.

Grade 11: Steven Zamora.

Grade 12: Joshua C. Bellin-Gallagher, Jessica Cadena.

Reported by CHS

AB Honor Roll

Grade 9: Nathaniel

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. to 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 available to address specific questions.

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

PFK cookie dough

The Carrizozo Schools PFK Cookie Dough Fundraiser is still underway. The elementary students will sell Mrs. Fields cookie dough until Tuesday, Feb. 22.

For more information, call 648-2347.

Tire recycling

Free tire recycling available, Friday, Feb. 18, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 19, 8 a.m. until noon at Schoolhouse Park in Ruidoso.

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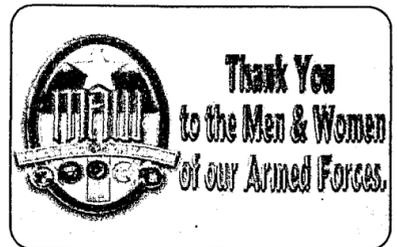
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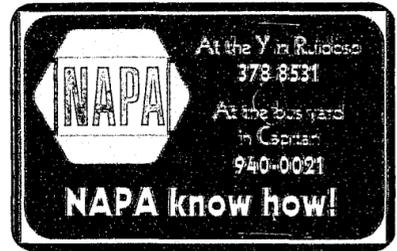
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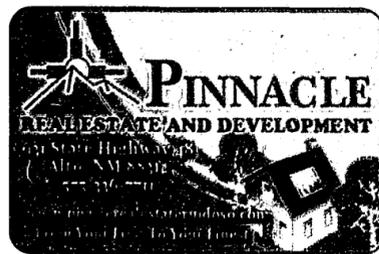
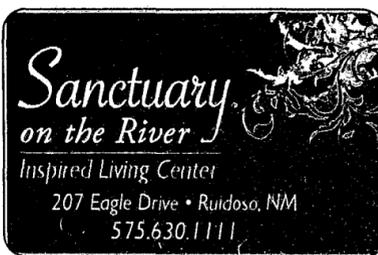
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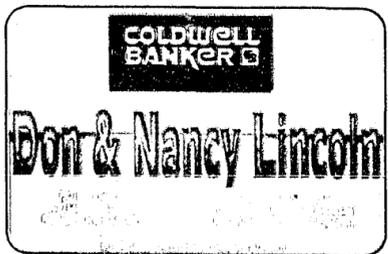
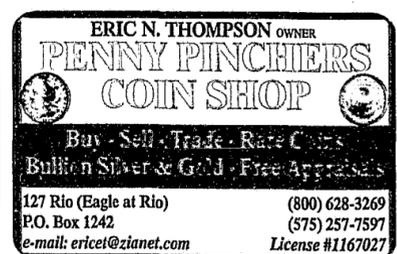
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Ford's Better Idea

By Warren Brown
The Washington Post

The 2011 Ford Explorer is more of a wagon and less of a truck than its predecessors. But it's a fully capable sport utility vehicle one of the best engineered, best equipped, and arguably safest and most environmentally friendly midsize SUVs made by Ford or by any other vehicle manufacturer.

SUV haters will have to dig deep into their bag of biases to come up with an even mildly plausible reason for hating this one. And the likelihood is that they won't find any.

The facts of the new Explorer speak for themselves:

- Traditionally heavy truck based, fuel consumptive, body on ladder frame construction has been replaced by a lighter, more car-like, unitized body build process. Yet the new Explorer is no less capable than its truck-based forebears, including those first "covered truck" four-wheel-drive Explorers introduced in 1991. It can still plow through sand and mud, rain and snow. It can ford streams and climb

rocks, or simply take you to a grassy picnic knoll or to a campsite where paved roads end. It can also be outfitted to pull a trailer weighing 5,000 pounds

- Back in 1996, in response to criticism that the Explorer was "underpowered," Ford installed a 5-liter, 210-horsepower V-8 engine in the Explorer XLT - the "popularly equipped" model, meaning the one bought by the most consumers. That was a big deal.

The 2011 XLT driven for this column comes standard with a 3.5-liter, 24-valve V-6, which is a substantially smaller engine than the 1996 V-8. But the new V-6 delivers a maximum 290 horsepower and 255 foot-pounds of torque, which means it leaves that old lumbering V-8 in the dust. The new engine is also more fuel-efficient, with a federal rating of 17 miles per gallon in the city and 25 mpg on the highway using regular gasoline.

In the 1996 V-8 Explorer, you were lucky if you go 17 miles per

gallon on the highway and 14 in the city.

- And then there's safety. Let us stipulate that anything made or driven by human beings can end in disaster. We are prone to error. That being the case, the 2011 Explorer is about as good as it gets when it comes to SUV safety.

The new Explorer offers inflatable seat belts in the rear seats, the first available on a mass-market vehicle. Inflatable belts are better than traditional strap models in the matter of dispersing crash energy transferred to the human body. That could mean fewer abdominal and other internal injuries in a vehicle collision. Standard equipment includes electronic stability and traction control, and those work in tandem with a technology - the Terrain Management System (TMS) - borrowed from Land Rover, the British

SUV company once owned by Ford.

It's best to think of TMS as a kind of road-surface butler. In the Normal setting, used on paved roads, it sends more torque to the Explorer's front wheels and serves the rear wheels only when needed (when it is detected via sensors that the rear wheels have better gripping power than the front wheels). The Mud/Ruts setting permits the drive wheels to dig in and pull out of the mess. The Sand (only) setting sends the Explorer into low gear and maximizes Torque, twisting power generated by the engine, to the drive wheels. The Sand/Gravel/Snow setting limits wheel slippage and increases traction on slippery surfaces.

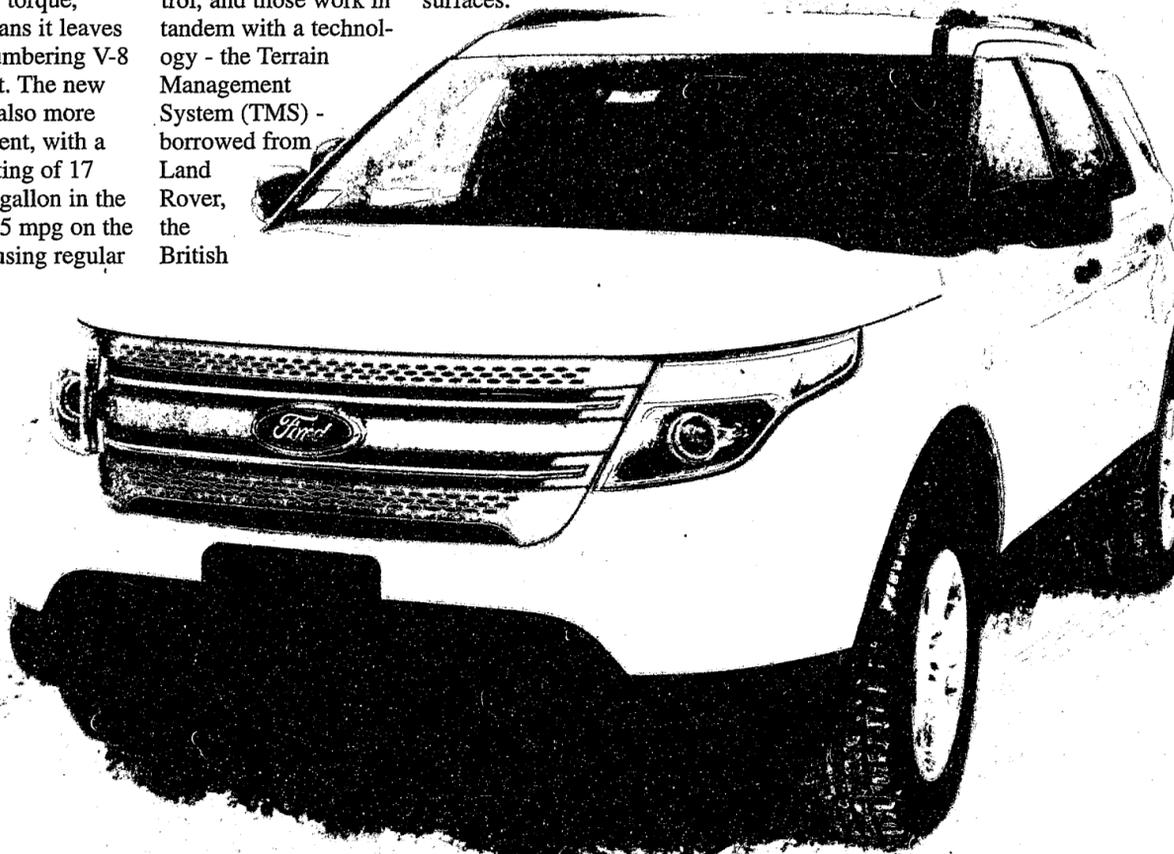
In short, Ford has done a heck of a good job here. It has taken a variety of complaints against traditional SUVs and turned them into pluses. Even the front end of the new Explorer, for example, is designed to do less damage to smaller vehicles in vehicle-to-vehicle crashes.

And Ford did not forget about the touchy-feely good stuff. Fit and finish are excellent, easily among the best in the business. The new Explorer's cabin looks and feels good, even with standard "premium" cloth seats. Amenities abound. Ergonomics - ease of reach and use in the matter of gauges and dials, largely assisted by advanced electronics - notably the trade-

marked My Ford Touch operating system, are best in class.

A quick comment on My Ford Touch (MFT): It changes the tactile interaction between the drive and instrument-panel controls. The twisting and turning of dials is virtually eliminated. Slight touches do the job. MFT gives the driver voice control when touching proves inconvenient.

It's amazing, simply amazing. Even if you have no intention of buying a sport-utility vehicle, and especially if you remain among those benighted souls who haven't driven a Ford lately because of long-invalid memories of poor Ford quality, you should check this one out. It will very pleasantly surprise you.



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| | AWD, LINCOLN LUXURY | \$309/MO. |
| 5J4271 | 08 FORD EXPEDITION 4X4 ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$33,195 NOW \$26,721 |
| | EDDIE BAUER, HEATED/COOLED SEATS, MOONROOF, 3RD ROW SEAT | \$319/MO. |
| 5637 | 10 LINCOLN TOWN CAR ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$36,845 NOW \$30,855 |
| | LINCOLN LUXURY WITH 7,250 MILES! | \$369/MO. |
| 5653 | 08 FORD F150 CREW CAB 4X4 ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$30,070 NOW \$26,175 |
| | XLT, ALLOYS, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS, TILT, CRUISE, CD, A/C | \$319/MO. |

Wholesale

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| 6J0861 | 04 CADILLAC ESCALADE 4x4 | WAS \$25,485 NOW \$23,280 |
| | HEATED LEATHER, NAVIGATION, MOONROOF, ONSTAR, LOW MILES | \$299/MO. |
| 5J4302 | 08 FORD F-150 4X4 ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$21,495 NOW \$19,222 |
| | STX, BEDLINER, TOPPER, A/C, TILT, CRUISE | \$229/MO. |
| 5644 | 08 MERCURY MILAN AWD ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$23,320 NOW \$20,727 |
| | PREMIER, MOONROOF, FULL POWER | \$249/MO. |
| 5634 | 10 FORD MUSTANG HARD TOP ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$23,070 NOW \$19,997 |
| | 4.0 V6, AUTO, LEATHER, SHAKER 500 | \$239/MO. |
| 5657 | 10 FORD ESCAPE 4X4 ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$24,245 NOW \$22,997 |
| | XLT, AUTO, ADVANCETRAC W/ RSC, FULL POWER, ECONOMY! | \$279/MO. |
| 5655 | 09 DODGE NITRO 4X4 | WAS \$22,500 NOW \$19,550 |
| | SLT, STABILITY CONTROL, REMOTE START, SATELLITE, AUTO, LOADED! | \$239/MO. |
| 5656 | 09 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 4X4 ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$45,020 NOW \$42,977 |
| | ELITE, MOONROOF, DVD ENTERTAINMENT, NAVIGATION, THX AUDIO, MUCH MORE! | \$519/MO. |
| 5658 | 10 FORD ESCAPE 4X4 ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$24,245 NOW \$22,997 |
| | XLT, STABILITY CONTROL, SAFETY CURTAIN, SATELLITE RADIO, GREAT ECONOMY! | \$279/MO. |

Wholesale

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| 5622 | 09 FORD ESCAPE 4X4 ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$23,320 NOW \$19,997 |
| | XLT, SAFETY CANOPY, ROLL STABILITY CONTROL | \$239/MO. |
| 5630 | 08 MERCURY MARINER AWD ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$24,645 NOW \$21,455 |
| | NAVIGATION, MOONROOF, 6 CD | \$259/MO. |
| 5K4101 | 07 FORD EDGE AWD | WAS \$25,675 NOW \$23,727 |
| | SEL, DVD, NAVIGATION, HEATED SEATS, LOADED! | \$279/MO. |
| 5629 | 07 FORD EDGE AWD ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$25,815 NOW \$21,747 |
| | SEL PLUS, HEATED LEATHER, VISTA ROOF, TOW PACKAGE | \$259/MO. |
| 5642 | 08 CHRYSLER 300 C | WAS \$25,985 NOW \$22,727 |
| | HEMI, HEATED LEATHER, MOONROOF, REMOTE START | \$269/MO. |
| 5647 | 08 DODGE CHARGER AWD | WAS \$26,980 NOW \$23,888 |
| | RT, DVD, MOONROOF, LOADED! | \$289/MO. |
| 5631 | 10 LINCOLN TOWN CAR ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$34,820 NOW \$29,747 |
| | LIMITED, LOADED, SAVE \$13,700 OFF MSRP! | \$359/MO. |
| 5K4251 | 07 FORD FOCUS ZX5 | WAS \$9,995 NOW \$7,979 |
| | SE, 4 CYL, AUTO, PW, PL, CRUISE, TILT, CD | \$95/MO. |
| 9K0113 | 07 FORD FUSION ✓ CERTIFIED | WAS \$14,545 NOW \$12,797 |
| | SE, LEATHER, SPOILER, 6 CD | \$159/MO. |
| 56321 | 07 CHRYSLER 300C | WAS \$23,985 NOW \$21,477 |
| | HEMI, HEATED FRONT/REAR SEATS, MOONROOF, LOW MILES, LOADED | \$259/MO. |
| 56462 | 03 PONTIAC GRAND AM | WAS \$10,285 NOW \$8,725 |
| | GT, V6 RAM AIR, MONSOON SOUND, SPOILER, ENHANCED TRACTION, LOW MILES! | \$129/MO. |
| 5654 | 10 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS | WAS \$21,180 NOW \$19,075 |
| | LS ULTIMATE, LEATHER, TRACTION CONTROL, SAVE 10,000 OFF MSRP! | \$229/MO. |
| 8K0421 | 08 CHEVROLET 2500 CREW CAB DIESEL 4X4 | WAS \$37,295 NOW \$33,545 |
| | DURAMAX, SILVERADO LT PKG., ALLISON TRANSMISSION, HIDEAWAY HITCH, FULL POWER! | \$399/MO. |

Wholesale Import

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| 6K4091 | 07 TOYOTA COROLLA | WAS \$12,475 NOW \$10,475 |
| | CE, AUTO, TILT, CRUISE, POWER WINDOWS, LOCKS, 38MPG! | \$129/MO. |
| 5623 | 08 MAZDA 3 | WAS \$15,880 NOW \$12,955 |
| | AUTO, FULL POWER, ALLOYS, GREAT ECONOMY! | \$159/MO. |
| 5615 | 07 MAZDA MIATA CONVERTIBLE | WAS \$19,975 NOW \$15,747 |
| | AUTO, SHIFTER PADDLES, 6 CD, SIDE AIRBAGS! | \$189/MO. |
| 5640 | 2008 VOLVO S40 | WAS \$19,450 NOW \$16,855 |
| | ALLOYS, SAFETY CANOPY, TRACTION CONTROL | \$199/MO. |
| 5616 | 08 MAZDA MIATA CONVERTIBLE | WAS \$22,800 NOW \$19,977 |
| | 6 SPEED, SIDE AIRBAGS, FOGLIGHTS, LIKE NEW, ONLY 3,100 MILES! | \$239/MO. |

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Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Tilt Steering Wheel, Speed Control, SYNC Voice Activated System and Much More!!

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SAVE \$7,000
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FACTORY REBATES \$5,500 OFF
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Xlt Package With Full Factory Power, Keyless Entry Pad, And Tailgate Step.

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MSRP \$27,215
REFL. DISCOUNT \$750 OFF
FACTORY REBATES \$3,000 OFF
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2010 FORD FUSION HYBRID



41 MPG
MSRP \$28,725
REFL. DISCOUNT \$1,000 OFF
FACTORY REBATES \$2,000 OFF
SALE PRICE \$25,725
Factory Power Equipped Including Ambient Lighting, Controlled Climate Control, SYNC Voice Activated System, and Satellite Radio.

LINCOLN LUXURY

2011 LINCOLN MKZ AWD



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REFL. DISCOUNT \$3,500 OFF
FACTORY REBATES \$1,500 OFF
SALE PRICE \$49,355

2011 LINCOLN MKT AWD



MSRP \$59,340
REFL. DISCOUNT \$3,500 OFF
FACTORY REBATES \$1,500 OFF
SALE PRICE \$54,340

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38 MPG
\$206 per mo.
Sport Appearance Package Including 6 Speed Automatic, Moon Roof, Heated Seats, Ambient Lighting, Sync Voice Activated System and Satellite Radio

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