

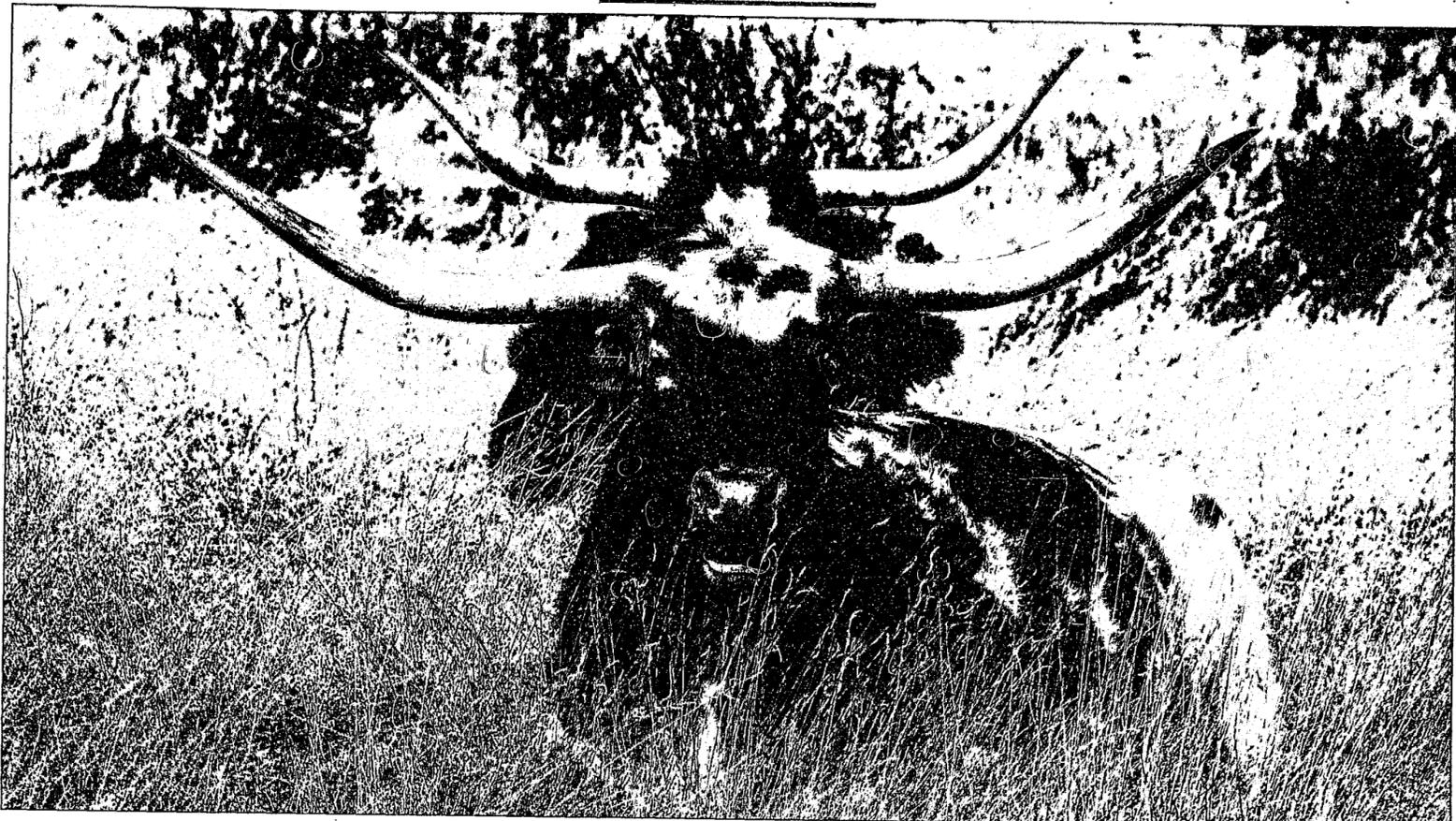
**FIRE DANGER  
MODERATE**

# RUIDOSO NEWS

'monopoly.'  
See page 6B  
or RN website

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, NO. 87 • 75 CENTS

## SEEING DOUBLE



Two longhorns created a double take for photographer David Tremblay on a drive to Capitan Gap.

COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

# School officials weigh budget

JIM KALVELAGE  
[jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com](mailto:jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com)

## Elective programs have funding concerns

**B**udget cuts and student needs for the 2011-2012 year at Ruidoso High School are being weighed by school district officials. High school principal Pauline Staski said the master schedule for the next school year is the biggest item being worked on in that respect.

Potential adjustments to the class offerings have people worried some electives could take a back seat, especially in band and choir.

"Balancing our curriculum to make sure that we are offering enough of what the kids need to have to graduate and at the same time being responsible in terms of our staffing," is the goal, Staski said. "We have completed pretty much talking about the AP (Advanced Placement) programs and looking at staffing for that and we've come up with a number of creative solutions which despite not offering two AP classes as teacher-taught, we're actually going to be able to give our

kids more options in terms of being able to take AP classes and college grade courses. In a way we're kind of excited because this challenge has led to a little bit of creativity and now our kids are going to have more opportunities than they ever had before.

"We're also looking at current-ly our elective programs. We're looking at a number of students who are requesting to take a foreign language and how do we work with those numbers with building a program. The current

focus right now is on our performing arts. There is a lot of concern about how do we have quality performing arts programs and at the same time be responsible and make sure that our teachers are doing a full job.

"I have probably greater ambitions that many people in my school in fact. I envision about 25 percent of our kids being involved in some kind of performing or fine arts. And I just don't know why we don't have that yet. And so a big focus of our discussion is why

haven't we been able to build that participation and what do we need to do to change the programs to build that. A lot of kids, my daughter included, lived for band. I have been a band parent for seven years. It's a big commitment but at the same time there's a way of making it enjoyable and fun and that's all that we're looking at."

Three options were being talked about before a Valentine's Day evening parent meeting to discuss performing arts at the high school.

See **SCHOOL**, page 7A

## Bingaman: Never intended capital to be family's permanent home

DIANNE STALLINGS  
[dstallings@ruidosonews.com](mailto:dstallings@ruidosonews.com)

In announcing his decision not to seek a sixth term as the Democratic senator from New Mexico, Jeff Bingaman said he and his wife never considered Washington D.C. a permanent situation.

"When I started in the Senate in 1983, and Anne, John and I moved to Washington, we never considered it a permanent move," Bingaman said. "We have always considered

New Mexico our home, and have cherished the time we have been able to spend here over the last three decades. At the end of this term, we will come home to New Mexico to live, and to pursue other challenges."

The five-term incumbent said he will not see re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2012.

'Great honor'

"Representing the people of

See **SENATOR**, page 7A

## Fair Board bullish on needs

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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What began as a review of proposed goals to achieve in a master plan for the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Capitan turned into a response by county commissioners to immediate needs at the existing facility.

Fair Board President Billy Bob Shafer said drainage improvements, new pens and chutes are needed before the youth rodeos begin in March and prior to the July 4th Smokey Bear Stampede.

The master plan will not be shifted aside, however. County

Manager Tom Stewart told commissioners at their meeting last week that he will issue a request for proposals from firms that specialize in such plans. Commissioners can rank the responders based on qualifications for negotiation of a contract to prepare a master plan.

Shafer said the fair board is using a main house on the new land acquired to expand the fair-ground for a meeting room and offices, and members are working on a plan for the additional property. For the benefit of the two new commissioners, he explained that the county pays the board

\$19,500 annually, which nearly covers utilities and the part-time help that takes care of facilities. With expenses in excess of \$80,000, the board generates the difference through the Smokey Bear Stampede.

The last time the basic facility was renovated was in the 1960s; Shafer said.

"We're in need of help for renovations," he said. "There used to be about 60 contestants there and it's about 300 today. The corral system gets flooded every year. It rains every fourth of July and

See **FAIR**, page 8A

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HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Ruidoso Hospice Foundation** executive director Jennifer Chadwick and board president Dave Milchin hold a \$6,000 check the Foundation received from The Leo S. & Emogene Burton Case Foundation, of Wills Point, Texas. This was the second year The Leo S. & Emogene Burton Case Foundation awarded \$6,000 to the Ruidoso Hospice Foundation.

**Pearce visits**

U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, (R-New Mexico), who represents the 2nd Congressional District, will be in Capitan at 3 p.m., Friday, for a townhall meeting at the Capitan Public Library. On Saturday, Pearce will attend a healthcare reform discussion at the Lincoln County Medical Center's Therapy Center conference room. The event is open to the

public on a first-come, first-served basis as seating is limited.

LCMC Administrator Al Santos will provide a brief presentation regarding an overview of the healthcare delivery system in Lincoln County.

"We're committed to improving the health of those we serve and feel it is important that Lincoln County residents have the opportunity to learn as much as they can about

healthcare reform," Santos said.

The discussion will begin at 9 a.m.

The LCMC Therapy Center is located at 213 Sudderth Dr. in Ruidoso.

**Sonic booms**

Officials with the 49th Wing have announced the flying schedule through Feb. 27.

Sonic booms could occur Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 3

p.m. to 5:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Thursday, Feb. 24, from 1:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.; and Friday, Feb. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

At this time no flights are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26, or Sunday, Feb. 27.

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

For additional informa-

tion, visit the Holloman Web site at [www.holloman.af.mil](http://www.holloman.af.mil).

**Prescribed burns**

The Roswell Field Office staff of the Bureau of Land Management plan to conduct several prescribed burns during the next six to eight weeks, two in Lincoln County around Capitan.

When conducted under controlled conditions, prescribed fire is effective in reducing hazardous fuels, improving wildlife habitat, and helps increase the health of the native plant community.

Firefighters plan to implement prescribed fire activities on the first of three projects that are currently identified for treatment with prescribed fire:

- The Cedar Hill Burn project site is located 30 miles northwest of Roswell on Cedar Hill off of Pine Lodge Road in Lincoln County, northeast of the town of Capitan.

The overall burn plan calls for treatment of multiple units over several years.

This week, firefighters will begin prescribed fire operations on the 2,500-acre unit that is slated for treatment this year. The estimated time needed to accomplish this project is four days.

- Eight Mile Draw prescribed fire project is located about 15 miles northeast of Roswell along the Pecos River.

Prescribed fire will be used to treat a fuel component consisting mostly of Sacaton grass within a 1,100-acre area. This site was previously treated in March of 2007.

Objectives that will be met through the use of prescribed fire include the reduction of hazardous

fuels, and improvement of wildlife habitat.

- South Mesa prescribed fire project, located at Ft. Stanton in Lincoln County just south of the Sierra Blanca Regional Airport, will be treated with prescribed fire to stop or minimize juniper encroachment.

The fuel component within this 202-acre project consists of grass and juniper that can be treated in one day under favorable weather and fuel conditions.

During ignitions, smoke will be visible from Capitan, Ruidoso and surrounding areas.

These projects will be accomplished one at a time during the next six weeks. Ignitions will be conducted only when favorable fuel and weather conditions are present.

While firefighters are igniting fuels, smoke will be visible, however, it is expected to have a short duration, as it lifts and dissipates.

Firefighters will monitor emissions closely to ensure that there are little or no impacts to communities or sensitive areas.

For additional information, contact Loretta Benavidez, Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist at 575-749-3278.

Information and updates about these prescribed fire projects will be posted on [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com)

**Meeting changed**

The regularly scheduled February Greentree Solid Waste Authority (GSWA) Board of Directors meeting, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, has been tentatively rescheduled for 10. a.m.

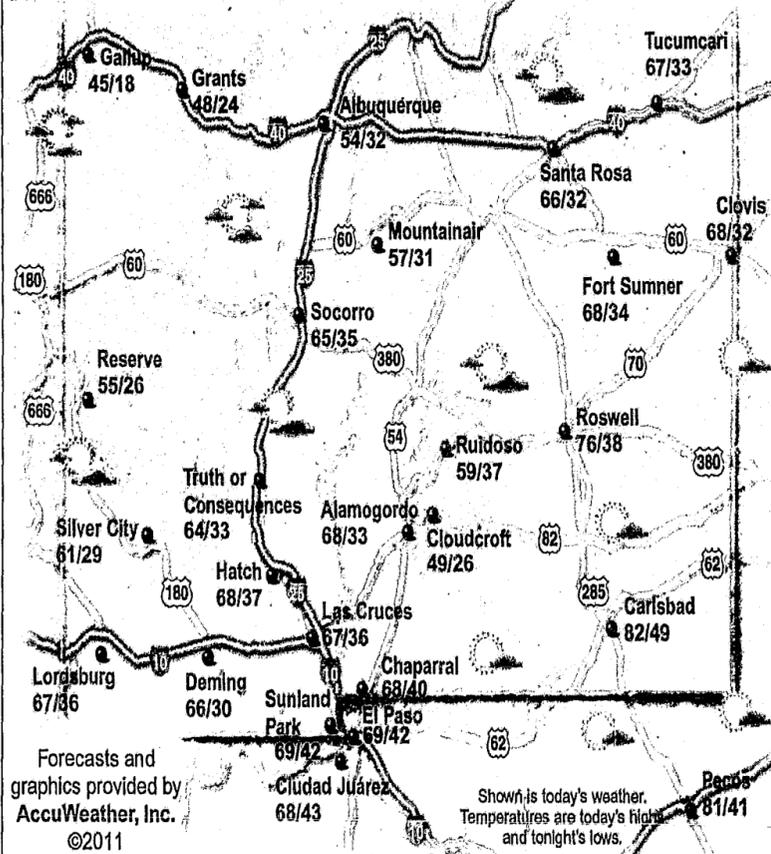
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

**AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso** AccuWeather.com

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<b>RealFeel</b> 59°	<b>RealFeel</b> 48°	<b>RealFeel</b> 54°	<b>RealFeel</b> 54°	<b>RealFeel</b> 47°	<b>RealFeel</b> 52°	<b>RealFeel</b> 56°
<b>Humidity</b> 59° 37° 20%	<b>Humidity</b> 52° 36° 27%	<b>Humidity</b> 60° 43° 20%	<b>Humidity</b> 59° 39° 14%	<b>Humidity</b> 55° 30° 20%	<b>Humidity</b> 52° 37° 37%	<b>Humidity</b> 56° 37° 24%
Partly sunny; breezy in the p.m.	Sunny, breezy and cooler	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny and windy	Very windy; partly sunny	Bright and sunny	Partial sunshine
Wind: SW 10-20 mph	Wind: W 12-25 mph	Wind: SW 12-25 mph	Wind: SW 20-30 mph	Wind: SW 25-35 mph	Wind: W 8-16 mph	Wind: SSW 7-14 mph

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

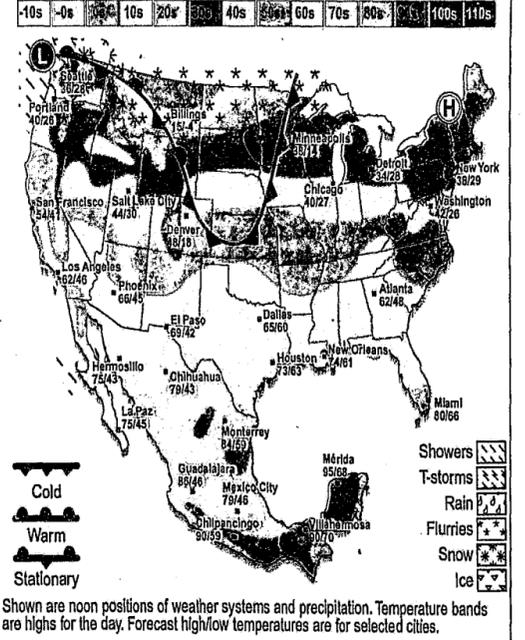
**Regional Cities**



**Almanac**

**Ruidoso**  
Statistics through Monday  
**Temperature:**  
High/low ..... 55°/30°  
Normal high ..... 53°  
Normal low ..... 22°  
Record high ..... 71° (1982)  
Record low ..... -8° (1964)  
**Precipitation:**  
Monday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.76"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.88"  
Year to date ..... 0.76"  
Normal year to date ..... 2.20"  
**Pollen:**  
Grass ..... Absent  
Trees ..... Low  
Weeds ..... Absent  
Mold ..... Low  
Predominant ..... Juniper  
**Alamogordo**  
Statistics through Monday  
**Temperature:**  
High/low ..... 61°/34°  
Normal high ..... 62°  
Normal low ..... 34°  
Record high ..... 79° (1972)  
Record low ..... 19° (1978)  
**Precipitation:**  
Monday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.46"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.42"  
Year to date ..... 0.46"  
Normal year to date ..... 1.19"  
**Weather Trivia™:**  
Q: What is the more common name for a silver thaw?

**National Forecast for Feb. 23, 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	Thu.	City	Today	Thu.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W		Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Abilene	72/56/pc	73/39/pc	Albuquerque	54/32/pc	52/29/s
Anchorage	19/7/s	25/17/s	Artesia	80/49/s	73/41/s
Atlanta	62/48/s	67/56/pc	Chama	44/20/c	43/17/s
Austin	74/62/sh	75/41/c	Clayton	52/22/pc	53/24/s
Baltimore	40/23/s	50/36/pc	Cloudcroft	49/26/pc	44/13/s
Boston	36/17/s	41/32/pc	Farmington	42/25/c	45/28/s
Chicago	40/27/pc	38/24/pc	Hobbs	76/37/s	70/36/s
Dallas	65/60/c	77/44/f	Los Alamos	49/24/pc	46/19/s
Denver	48/18/pc	49/21/c	Portales	68/34/s	66/28/s
Des Moines	44/24/c	36/20/sn	Raton	53/21/pc	53/18/s
Detroit	34/28/pc	42/25/f	Red River	42/21/pc	39/13/s
El Paso	69/42/s	64/37/s	Ruidoso	59/37/pc	52/36/s
Las Vegas	60/41/pc	60/44/s	Santa Fe	52/24/pc	48/23/s
Los Angeles	62/46/s	60/46/pc	Silver City	61/29/pc	54/28/s
Minneapolis	38/14/c	23/7/pc	Taos	48/22/pc	45/17/s
New Orleans	74/61/pc	75/62/c			
New York City	38/29/s	46/39/pc			
Philadelphia	38/27/s	45/37/pc			
Phoenix	66/45/pc	66/46/s			
Reno	45/25/c	43/30/sf			
San Francisco	54/41/pc	54/46/r			
San Diego	60/50/s	58/49/s			
Seattle	36/28/sn	32/14/sn			
Tucson	68/37/pc	64/36/s			
Tulsa, OK	62/45/c	62/34/f			
Wash., DC	42/26/s	51/41/pc			
Wichita	58/32/pc	41/28/r			
Yuma	68/46/pc	71/47/s			

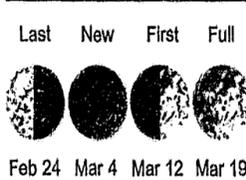
**Mexican Cities**

City	Today	Thu.
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Acapulco	89/70/s	90/68/s
Cancun	82/66/pc	84/66/s
Chihuahua	78/43/s	73/39/s
Ciudad Juárez	68/43/s	64/37/s
Leon	84/48/s	84/44/s
México, DF	79/46/s	81/46/s
Monterrey	84/59/s	90/57/s
Morelia	84/50/s	85/47/s
Oaxaca	90/52/s	90/54/s
Pto. Penasco	64/45/pc	66/46/s
Tijuana	61/45/pc	59/45/pc

**Sun and Moon**

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:38 a.m./5:55 p.m.      Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset none/9:54 a.m.

**Moon Phases**



**Extremes**

Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 94° in McAllen, TX  
Low: -22° in Willow City, ND  
Monday's World High/Low:  
High: 107° in Kolda, Senegal  
Low: -71° in Oymyakon, Russia



**Heroes with Heart**

Help End Abuse for Life (HEAL) recently announced the winners of the 2011 Heroes with Heart at the 2nd annual Awards Gala on Valentine's Day in Ruidoso.

The Heroes with Heart program celebrates local individuals and groups who perform extraordinary acts of kindness, commitment and philanthropy in Lincoln County and on Mes-calero Apache tribal lands.

This year's winners are:

- Animal Hero – Linda Henderson
- Arts Hero – Ruidoso Dance Ensemble

- Business Hero – Schlotzsky's of Ruidoso
  - Community Organization Hero – Joan Zagone
  - Elected Official Hero – Senator Rod Adair
  - Employee Hero – Yvonne Sanchez
  - Environmental Hero – Debra Ingle
  - Female Hero – Debbie Haines-Nix
  - Male Hero – Johnny Gray
  - Nest Advocate Hero – Selena Chino
  - Pastor Hero – Tim Gilliland
  - Student Hero – Students Against Destructive Decisions of RHS
- In addition, Dr. Debra Hewitt was selected as the

2011 Doctor Hero, a physician who provides exceptional understanding and medical care for victims of domestic violence who reside at the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter.

The Doctor Hero category accepted only internal recommendations from Nest residents and staff.

HEAL board and staff members were ineligible to be nominated or selected as a Hero. The Selection Committee that chose the winning Heroes consisted of community members not directly associated with HEAL. Judges were Barbara Mader of High Mesa Healing Center and a 2010 Hero with Heart, Sue

Harkness Soden of Weasel Video Productions of New Mexico, Sandi Aguilar of the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce and Curtis Williamson of Schlotzsky's of Ruidoso. Williamson did not vote on the Business Hero.

Harvey Twite from KEDU and Mrs. Ruidoso 2011, Audrey Gochenour, co-hosted the event, which was held at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

Award recipients received a HEAL Heroes medal and a framed congratulatory letter from Governor Susana Martinez.

Jerry Grace, HEAL board member, assisted the

Veterans of Foreign War to post and retire the colors and Deacon Bob Racicot gave the opening prayer for the ceremony.

Photographer Helene Kobelnyk documented the entire Gala, as well as taking pictures of each recipient on stage receiving their award.

Tomás Vigil entertained the attendees with his signature guitar music before the Gala and during intermission.

According to HEAL Treasurer Jules Videau, "We have received so much

positive feedback from folks saying they appreciated the fact we scaled back the Heroes Award Gala, due to economic hardship, but that we continued to host this important community celebration. It is important to us all."

For further information, call the Nest at 575-378-6378 or toll-free at 866-378-6378 or visit the HEAL & the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter Facebook page.

Pictured are the 2011 Heroes with Heart Award Recipients, courtesy of Helene Kobelnyk.

**FROM PAGE 2A**

Friday, Feb. 25, at the new GSWA facility, 26590 Highway 70 in east Ruidoso Downs.

The meeting is being rescheduled by Vice Chairperson Sherill Bradford due to lack of quorum on the Tuesday meeting.

The next regularly scheduled GSWA Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 22, at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact the Solid Waste Authority office at 378-4697; toll free at 1-877-548-8772 or via email at gswa@greentreeswa.org. General solid waste disposal and recycling information is available at www.greentreeswa.org.

**Alto Lakes meets**

The Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District Board will meet at 9 a.m., Thursday, in the Conference

Room of the ALW&SD Office located at 214 Lake Shore Dr., Alto.

**Summit planned**

The Second Annual Wildland Urban Interface Summit, put together by the New Mexico Association of Counties, the State Forestry Division and the Bureau of Land Management, is set for March 23-24 at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

The summit is designed to provide a chance for community members, fire specialists and local government leaders to discuss statewide efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire.

**Obermiller speaks**

The Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County will host guest speaker, Sanna Obermiller, at their Feb. 28 meeting. Obermiller is the Secre-

tary of the Lincoln County Right To Life organization and represents Lincoln County on the New Mexico Right To Life Board. She will be discussing pending

legislation on Right To Life issues.

Bring a sack lunch and join us at the Ruidoso Senior Center. For more information, call 430-7258.

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3 p.m. Wednesday for Friday	4 p.m. Wednesday for Friday	4 p.m. Tuesday for Friday

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager  
Marty Racine, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday

### OUR OPINION

## After the criticism, it's time to move on

We have no complaint about crisis response

It is not surprising that Village of Ruidoso officials would catch some flack for their handling of the recent water crisis that saw numerous broken pipes and which threatened to literally drain the community dry.

Because blame is an easy game – think Bush/Katrina or Obama/oil spill – and because frustrations can mount over something as critical as water, it's surprising there wasn't more criticism.

For our part, the *Ruidoso News* has no complaint over the city's handling of information vital to the public. In a fluid (OK, pun intended) situ-

ation, we received updates in a timely manner and those in the know on various aspects of the situation seemed always accessible to our reporters.

Lincoln County Commissioner Mark Doth has every right to voice his criticisms of the village's crisis response team, but he in turn should be prepared for his own backlash, especially since he wasn't on the scene with his sleeves rolled up, pitching in.

Image is everything. Whether past disputes with the village played a part in his comments, only Doth knows.

So, points taken, agree or not. Time to move on.

## Surprise! Water bill introduced by a lawyer

Water hasn't gotten much legislative attention this year. Maybe that's why one bill with far-reaching consequences has passed its first committee.

HB 109 would allow water permit applicants who disagree with the State Engineer's initial decisions to appeal directly to district court. In other words, a dissatisfied applicant could by-pass practice and precedent and see if the courts would hand down a more favorable decision.

This is wrong on so many levels. First, it allows anyone who can afford a lawyer to short circuit the system. Introduced by a lawyer, Rep. Nate Gentry, R-Albuquerque, the bill has lawyer job security written all over it.

Recently the State Engineer denied an application to pipe water from Fort Sumner to the Rio Grande for use in Santa Fe. What if an application like this went directly to court? What if a similar application, with consequences to you, went to court and you couldn't afford a lawyer?

Second, the system ain't broke and doesn't need fixing. Currently, a dissatisfied applicant must work through the agency's processes, which usually resolve grievances to everyone's satisfaction, but if they don't, then the applicant can go to court.

Last year, of 18 contested applications set for hearing, 10 were settled before the hearing, two were withdrawn, and two were dismissed on procedural grounds. That left four to receive a hearing. Under HB 109, 14 cases might have gone to district court unnecessarily. This bill would also allow unprotest cases to go directly to court.

Third, judges aren't experts in hydrology or water law. Even if the bill became law, a judge would still want to see the administrative record, but there would be little to look at.

"The district court relies on our administration and our expertise," said State Engineer John D'Antonio. "The courts are overloaded anyway. We've been

pretty successful in setting up alternative dispute resolution, and a lot of decisions get remanded back. I think some attorneys, under the guise of making us more efficient, wanted the bill, but it won't create any efficiencies. It will just backlog the district courts. They still have the ability to take our administrative record and look at it."

Regarding the State Engineer, at this writing D'Antonio is still on the job, having been neither fired nor reappointed. The governor would be well advised to not change horses midstream.

New governors understandably want their own people on board, but the State Engineer is too critical for a political decision or a political hire. The late Steve Reynolds served five governors and both parties. Eluid Martinez was appointed by Republican Gov. Garrey Carruthers and served Democratic Gov. Bruce King. D'Antonio was Republican Gov. Gary Johnson's Secretary of Environment before Gov. Bill Richardson made him State Engineer.

The State Engineer's Office is awash in serious issues, such as interstate compacts, adjudication of all state water rights, tribal water settlements, and the usual push and pull among agriculture, municipalities and industry. (Disclosure: My son was an entry-level paper pusher in the State Engineer's office for a few years, but what I write about here is the result of reporting on water issues over the years.)

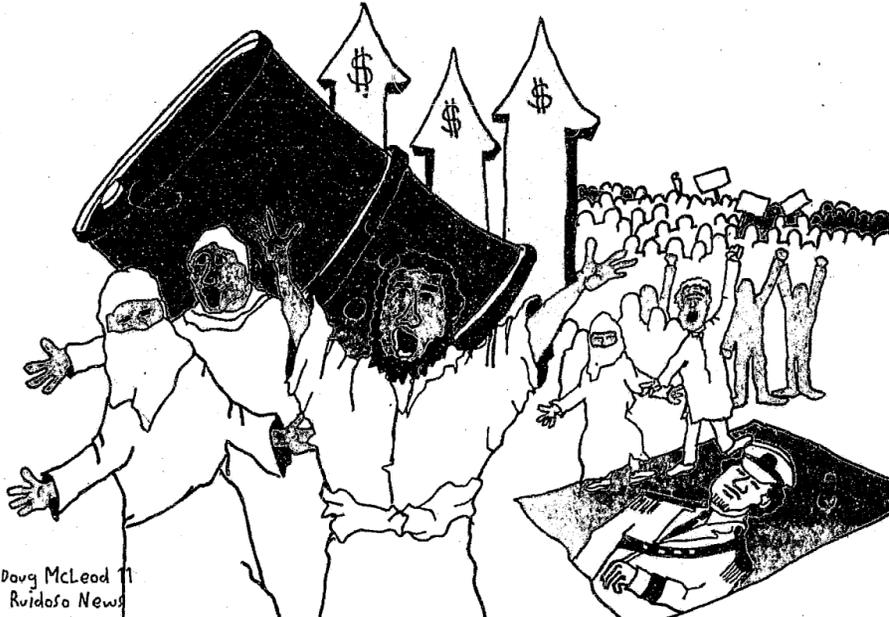
D'Antonio is not really a political creature. He is a hard-working, focused professional who would work with the powers that be and continue serving New Mexicans.

This is not a job for somebody who wants to be popular. D'Antonio has been willing to ask the hard questions: What will happen if we enter a sustained, serious drought? What will happen if we allow people to drill wells indefinitely? Then he's been willing to tell us the truth and not just what we want to hear.



**SHERRY ROBINSON**  
ALL SHE WROTE

## Foreign oil dependency, here we go AGAIN...



Doug McLeod  
Ruidoso News

### YOUR OPINION

## Village did a great job in water crisis

To the editor:

THANKS TO Mayor Alborn for getting on the radio and clarifying the situation [about the water crisis].

Looks to me like the mayor and all city workers did a great job of handling a situation in which around 60 percent of the houses in this town are unoccupied.

As for [critic] Mark Doth,

what a jerk.

Chuck Maly  
Ruidoso

### Is there a connection?

To the editor:

WE HAVE PAID close attention to radio, TV, and newspaper coverage regarding the recent water crisis. [Ruidoso Village Manager Debi] Lee stated that, though vil-

lage water lines were not damaged, somewhere between 428 and 500 private property water leaks were detected – most as early as Monday, Feb. 7.

Just wondering how many of those leaks were in the area affected by the village's shut-off of the Ebony PRV on Thursday, Feb. 10?

Kemp and Terry Christian  
Ruidoso

### GUEST COMMENTARY

## Budget cuts could be remedied

SEN. PETE CAMPOS  
District 8

The budget cuts under consideration during the current legislative session are a painful continuation of cuts we've made for the last several years.

But the recession that has forced these cuts is ending and there is hope that critical services can be restored as early as this fall.

The signs of an economic recovery, however weak and uncertain, are undeniable. Corporate profits, both nationally and in New Mexico, are up. Consumer spending and confidence are up. The steady loss of jobs appears to have leveled off, and while unemployment remains high, it's not getting any worse.

The effects of a recovery are not strong enough to forestall more cuts right now, but if the economy continues to improve, we should not wait until next year to restore services and programs that have already suffered.

The legislature will likely meet in a special session in September to adjust legislative and congressional districts based on the 2010 census and that is the perfect time to consider the state of the economy, carefully examine state revenues, and, if the improvements we're seeing now continue, restore funding to areas of the state budget that have been cut so badly since the recession began.

We will not return soon to the days when New Mexico enjoyed a \$6 billion budget, but even small increases will help ease the pain caused by cutbacks in education, health and public safety programs.

Our state budget is in many ways a moral document, a reflection of our collective priorities and our willingness to devote resources to those New Mexicans who are most in need of assistance or who may not be as fortunate as the rest of us. Inflation and enrollment growth



continue to drive up the costs of Medicaid, the joint state-federal program that provides health care to poor families – mostly single women and their children – and the disabled. Our public schools, which are the key to each student's individual success and our collective economic fortune, have suffered as programs have been cut and the number of students in each classroom has increased.

Additionally, public safety has been threatened as our prisons are becoming more crowded and fewer state police officers are on the street.

We've managed to work through this recession by relying on one-time federal funds, by shifting unused cash from state projects to operational spending and by cutting as little as possible.

We're doing everything we can to fund important public services and keep government running effectively – everything from sweeping up every available dollar from cash balances to implementing any efficiencies we can find – at the same time as we're working to keep the state's budget reserves at five percent of appropriations. But we've run out of easy solutions, and critical public services have been stretched to the breaking point.

We must jump at the first opportunity we have to restore funding of state programs to the appropriate level.

Using the special session on redistricting, which must be completed before the regular session next year, would also be

a wise use of legislators' time and the state's money. The special session on redistricting 10 years ago cost more than \$600,000. As difficult as redistricting can be, there is always some downtime during any special session, and we can use that time to consider how best to take advantage of what we hope will be an improved state treasury.

By this fall, we will also have the benefit of measuring the early effects of any state government restructuring plans that are implemented now.

Consolidating some state agencies and eliminating dozens of boards and commissions will not only save money, but also make state government more effective and efficient.

Because such major reforms do not happen easily or quickly, we can also use the time between now and the fall special session to work with Governor Susana Martinez on other restructuring proposals.

We'll also be close to being able to implement a new higher education funding formula for our two-year, four-year and research colleges and universities.

Our fiscal woes are not over yet, but there's reason to be hopeful. It took a long time for this recession to build up and finally make its effects known in the state treasury, and our recovery will be gradual. We've learned a lot, as individuals, institutions and governments, and we can apply those lessons in the future.

But we should not delay for even a few months an opportunity to repair the damage done by recent budget cuts.

Sen. PETE CAMPOS represents District 8: Guadalupe, Mora, San Miguel, Santa Fe and Torrance Counties. He can be reached at 500 Reynolds Avenue, Las Vegas, NM 87701; Capitol Phone 505-986-4311; Office Phone 505-454-2501; Home Phone 505-425-0508; or email petecampos@newmexico.com.

# Village manager: 'Financially we are stable'

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Before the deep freeze hit, driving up overtime expenses, Ruidoso Finance Director Nancy Klingman and Village Manager Debi Lee compiled a quarterly budget recap and told village councilors, "Financially, we are stable."

Bank statements were reconciled with finance records and in a few more months, auditors finally should wrap up the last two audits and deliver fund balances as confirmed starting points for Fiscal Year 2010-2011, Lee said at the council meeting Feb. 8.

"Overall, we are 27 percent to the good between budgeted revenue and received revenue," she said. "We did a good job projecting."

On the expense side, the village is 12 percent to the good balancing all funds, at

\$28 million budgeted and \$24.57 actually spent, she said.

Only the municipal airport spent more at the six month mark than revenue collected with a \$95,950 difference, about a negative 12 percent.

"The airport is spending more than we would like, but it has a dedicated gross receipts tax," Lee said. "We're working on getting it down to use more for capital improvements. Right now the money is being used for grant matches."

A believer in charts to help people follow sometimes complicated financial information, Lee presented a pie chart to show councilors the sources of revenue received by the village for the past six months.

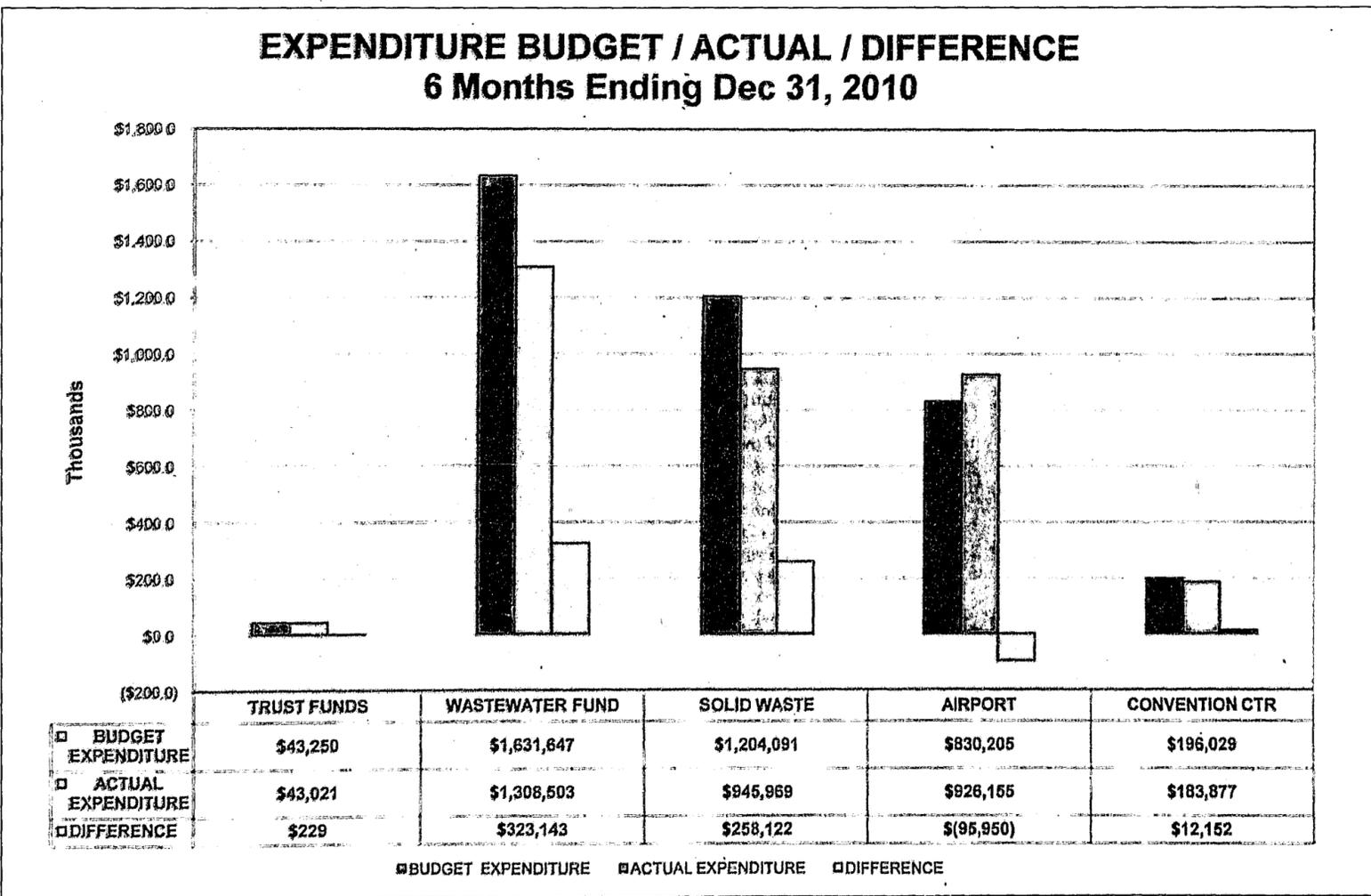
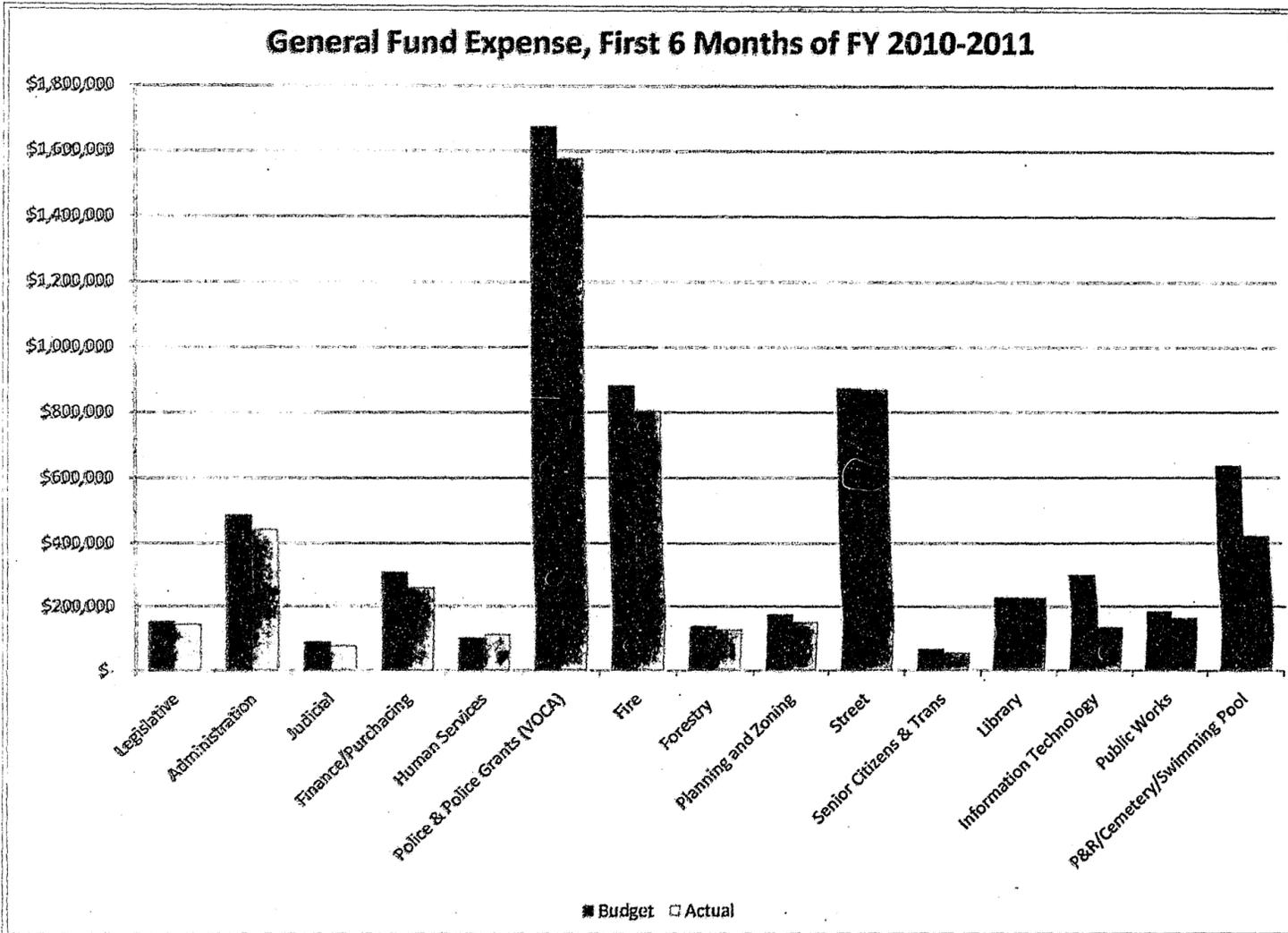
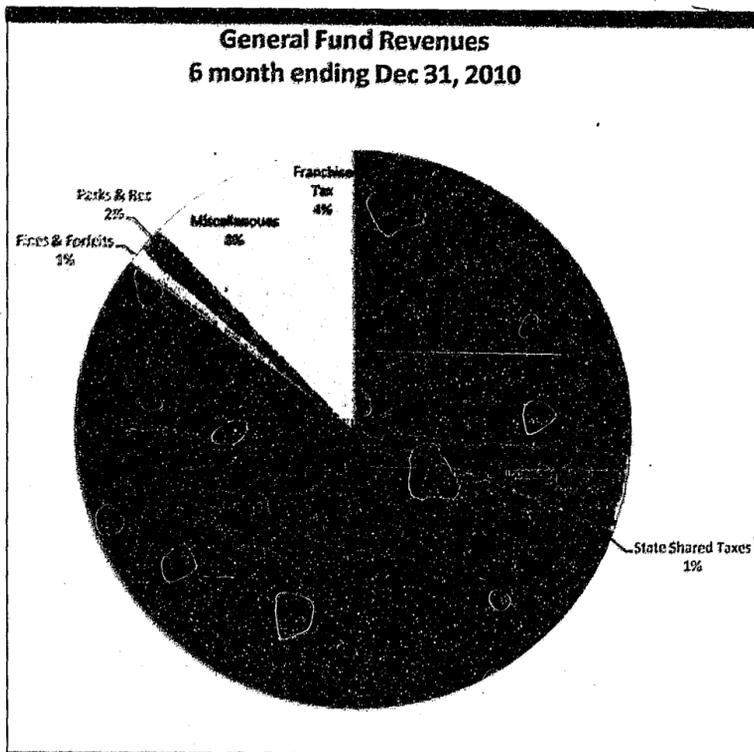
Gross receipts taxes account for 54 percent, followed by 18 percent from property taxes, 8 percent Miscellaneous and 8 per-

cent Intergovernmental Grants. Licenses and Permits, and Franchise Tax both brought in 4 percent, Parks and Recreation generated 2 percent, and Fines and Forfeitures, and State Shared Taxes both contributed 1 percent.

For the first six months, actual expenditures lagged behind budgeted except in Human Services. Both the Street Department and Public Library were about break-even.

Lee said because of the village's antiquated system, Klingman must manually work with the figures for percentages, but when the new system in stalled it will automatically show percentages as the year progresses.

"There isn't a lot of money or excessive spending," Lee said. "The departments are working well with us, doing without and being careful on spending."



# EDUCATION

## Making the right choice taught to students

JIM KALVELAGE  
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More than 300 students from schools in Ruidoso, Capitan and Carrizozo were asked to make right choices.

The message came Wednesday during an assembly about drugs and gangs held at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

In addition to reacting with Jeff Yalden, an international youth motivational speaker and author, the mostly middle school students also heard from the U.S. Attorney for New Mexico and a southern New Mexico special agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Using occasional humor to deliver a message of choices and respect, Yalden urged the teens to think before making choices.

"I think the problem is too many of you think that education is in school behind four walls and a teacher stands up and shares with you.

"To me, education is every day. Education is what you're doing, why you're doing it, when you're doing it, how you're doing it. Let me say this: I have learned the best from the people I have surrounded myself with. And when you're young, it's the wisdom and the experiences of people that have walked before you that give you the greatest education."

Telling the students he was kicked out by his parents as a teenager, Yalden

said he later married and became a close friend with his wife's grandfather, visiting the 95-year-old nearly daily for the next three years.

Urging the young teens to make good choices, Yalden said it brings real happiness. He remembered a conversation with the elder.

"He said he was trying to do things right but there was always time to do things over. Then grandpa said 'Why don't we just do things right the first time?'"

The relationship flourished but the grandfather died three years later.

"There are people in your life that you must go to. Take ego off your shoulder and open up your hearths and minds. Young people, I ask you, what do you want? 'Oh Jeff, I want to be happy.' You want to be happy? Happiness is something that you create. Happiness is doing the right thing."

Speaking about one of his daughters, Yalden said it is OK to be different.

"Too many of you are too concerned about what is said, what people think, about what people might do. Concern yourself more with what you're doing and where you're going and surround yourself with like minded people."

Leading off the event, U.S. Attorney for New Mexico, Ken Gonzales said where people end up in life is a result of choices.

The top federal law enforcement officer in the state asked the young teens to think about a number



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

U.S. Attorney for New Mexico, Ken Gonzales, above left, asks questions and gets answers from area middle school students during an assembly that focused on making right choices especially involving illegal drugs. Above right, youth motivational speaker Jeff Yalden tells local students to take time to think before making choices.

line, with zero in the middle, negative numbers to infinity on the left and positive numbers to the right.

Wrong choices, from decisions not doing homework, to behaviors such as gang involvement and drug use, put people onto the negative side.

"As you go down the negative side of the number line, where are you going?" Gonzales asked.

"We want to see you taking steps to go on the positive side to really improve yourself."

Citing prosecution of a man for multiple bank robberies, Gonzales said the man had become addicted to heroin and said he need-

ed the money to purchase the drug.

Speaking of the number line, Gonzales said the admitted bank robber had gone too far down the left side of the line.

A special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration also urged making right choices and provided three stories about those who had made bad calls.

Telling students she had been in a clique as a freshman in high school, one of the four girls in the clique acquired a joint and prod- ded the other three to join her in smoking the marijuana.

The other three teens turned down the offer.

After the girl with the joint smoked it, she later died. The marijuana had been laced with another drug. The DEA agent told the students that drugs are not worth the risk.

She also warned about pharm parties, where teens collect some of their parents prescription drugs and take them to a gathering where an assortment of pills are placed in a bowl and partygoers mix combinations.

"You may think it's safe because it's prescribed by a doctor. No, they're just a dangerous as illegal drugs and they still can kill you.

They say, 'Well, my parents are taking it. They're

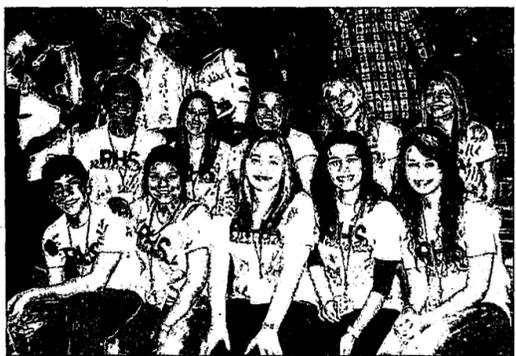
fine, they're functioning, they're healthy.' No, that's not the way it works. Your body's different. Your chemistry is different. Your parents saw a doctor to get that prescribed to them."

The two-hour assembly was provided through the DEA, U.S. Attorney's Office, and gang task forces on both the state and local levels.

Wrapping things up with a loud applause, Yalden said, "You guys are going to go home today and be asked, 'How was school today?' Ma, dad, I met the sexiest bald guy. And they're going to call the school and say like, 'Was this appropriate?'"

## RHS STUDENT COUNCIL AWARDED

The Ruidoso High School Student Council captured three awards earlier this month during the New Mexico Association of Student Councils' competition at Taos High School. The RHS Student Council was honored with the student council of the year exemplary award. The only other school to receive the exemplary award was Piedra Vista at Farmington. RHS also captured second place behind Deming High School for the banner the student council produced. A third place in Project of the Year was presented to RHS. The project was Military Appreciation in the category of citizen development. Cibola High School received first place and Aztec High School was second. RHS student council members (top row, left to right): Gage Barnett, Allie Thompson, Marikka Temple, Tessa Talsma and Emma Lindsey. Bottom row: Dennis Quintana, Jocy Hernandez, Juliann Lamb, Frankie Gavin and Carly Reynolds.



COURTESY



JOHN SODEN/FOR RUIDOSO NEWS

Two ENMU-Ruidoso students were awarded last week in Santa Fe for their outstanding academic performances. Samantha Yelley, top photo, and Sharon Wilson received the New Mexico All-State Academic Team awards from the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges and New Mexico Independent Community Colleges. The awards were presented by ENMU-Ruidoso President Clayton Alred. The ceremony took place Feb. 16 in the Rotunda of the state capitol.

## Gov. endorses social promotion bill

Legislation submitted by a southeastern New Mexico member of the state house of representatives

that would end social promotion in public schools was endorsed Friday by Gov. Susana Martinez.

The bill, offered by Rep. Nora Espinoza (R-Roswell) would stop passing students to the next grade that fail to achieve academic standards.

"Advancing students to the next grade without the tools required to succeed at the previous level only breeds frustration, disappointment, and ultimately apathy," Martinez said. "Ending social promotion will make sure that New Mexico's children are mastering the instruction they receive in key grades before advancing and it will stem one of the greatest failures of our education system — a 40 percent dropout rate.

### FROZEN?!

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# SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 1A

"One is to have one music teacher at the high school which would absolutely leave no change in program but would provide the teacher with a full schedule. We would continue to offer marching band, jazz band and choir. We would also be offering the dual enrollment music appreciation course one semester and a dual enrollment music theory course another semester.

"Another option is to leave the staffing the same and look for alternative assignments for the teachers. The difficulty deals with highly qualified certifications in that case.

"A third option, and this is the most radical, is to completely look at secondary music education in our district and look at it as

a 6-12 (grades) program. And so we would have a 6-12 drama teacher, a 6-12 choir teacher and a 6-12 band teacher. That's probably the most radical suggestion.

"You need to know not all of these came from me. These were all brainstorming among staff and other people who've been in and out of my office."

Other proposals could be considered in the wake of last week's parent meeting.

"Then we'll really have to really look at cost benefits and really ask what it comes down to in the situation. What will give us the biggest bang for our buck."

The high school has two band classes and a choir program.

A Feb. 17 report in RHS Today, a product of the high school's journalism department, said the parent/student/community meeting on Valentine's Day brought some heated dis-

cussions. Several proposals were offered at the meeting, such as not hiring a physical education teacher, reduction of the counseling department, salary cuts of 1-3 percent for all employees making more than \$50,000, funding some of the music curriculum through grants, institute a mandatory music requirement for graduation, having music teams district based instead of school based, trim sports and consolidate school bus runs.

Staski said part of the problem is the music program has been losing students at a faster clip than the overall school.

"The high school has probably lost about five percent do to kids moving out. And our music programs have lost about 25 percent in the same period of time. And so, it's not the kids that are being sent to us from the middle school, it's something that's hap-

pening at the high school level itself and we need to investigate and figure out how to change that because everybody needs music."

School board president Susan Lutterman questioned the role parents were playing in the issue. Staski said staff, parents and students have been involved.

"We all want the best music program with as many kids involved as possible. We know that for kids those are the kinds of activities that keep kids in school and keep them engaged. We know that that opportunity to perform in public is critical for developing workforce readiness skills.

"I'm disappointed in many ways that we didn't have a large enough presence at every football game and we don't have one at every varsity game. I come from a school system where 25 percent of the school was

not only involved in music but were involved in marching band. And they performed at every game, and concerts, and there were constant opportunities to see our kids perform. I don't see why our kids don't deserve that as well."

Lutterman said she recalled being involved in band beginning in the 7th and 8th grades.

"I think it made me want to be better. I wanted to be like that person in chair number one."

Staski said she sees a decision sometime after the end of the 60-day legislative session at Santa Fe.

"This decision may end up being partly driven by budget. What I find optimistic is that with none of these current proposals do the kids lose out at all," Staski said of the original three ideas. "They'll affect staff members but they won't affect our students and our students' pro-

grams."

The expanded list of options was expected to be discussed at a March 14 meeting at 6 p.m. at the high school's library.

School board member Rhonda Vincent urged the community to look at the forming master schedule and offer their ideas. She said Staski has been very open on that front.

"We're a community raising our kids together of what's important for our schools," Vincent said. "The bottom for this program is still there. We're not losing programs. We are looking at the budget and I think people are going to have to understand that.

"But bottom line, this program isn't going anywhere."

Staski said the goal is to have high school class offerings ready by late March to assure the "bugs are out" when students enroll for the next school year.

# SENATOR

FROM PAGE 1A

New Mexico in the Senate is a great honor, and a great responsibility which I have enjoyed for over 28 years," he said. "At the end of this 112th Congress, I will have been in public service for thirty-four years, four of those years as New Mexico's Attorney General, and 30 in the United States Senate.

"The end of this Congress is the right time for me to step aside and allow someone else to serve. It is not easy to get elected to the Senate, and it is not easy to decide to leave the Senate."

The senator said important work remains to be done.

"That is true today, and it will be the case at the end of this Congress," Bingaman said. "It will be true at the end of every future Congress as well. The simple truth is, there is no ideal time to step aside.

"I am proud of my service in the Senate, and the work of my staff in New Mexico and Washington who have shared in the trust given by the people of New Mexico. My family, and that fine staff, have made my service possible. We will continue to serve the people of New Mexico through the remainder of this Congress which has just begun."

Commenting on Bingaman's decision, President Barack Obama said, "From his time in the Army, to his service as New Mexico's Attorney General and Senior Senator, Jeff Bingaman has served this

country and the people of New Mexico for more than three decades.

"He has been a tireless advocate for preserving America's natural resources and promoting a clean energy future. Jeff has gained the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, in New Mexico and in Washington, and his voice on the floor of the Senate will be missed. Michelle and I offer Jeff our best wishes and deepest appreciation for his lifetime of service."

Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Communications Director Eric Schultz released a statement, saying, "Jeff Bingaman has done a terrific job representing the people of New Mexico. He is one of the most distinguished members of our caucus, and he will be missed in the Senate.

"We are confident that the people of New Mexico will continue to have two Democrats representing them in the United States Senate. With a heavily-leaning Democratic state and a potential crop of out-of-touch Republican candidates, it is clear that we will have a strong Democrat, who will hold onto this seat."

Former State Representative Harry Teague, a Democrat from the 2nd Congressional District, said, "Senator Bingaman is a true statesman and I am proud to call him a friend. For 34 years Senator Bingaman served the people of New Mexico proudly and with great dignity.

"I was always inspired by his passion for New Mexico and his commitment to making a differ-



RUIDOSO NEWS FILE

A pensive Jeff Bingaman meets with a constituent four years ago.

ence in the lives of people across the state. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and thank him for his years of work to better our state."

Commenting on Bingaman's decision, U.S. Sen. Tom Udall, a Democrat, said, "Jeff Bingaman is my friend and mentor. He has served the citizens of New Mexico and the nation for over three decades, and we owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude for his outstanding public service.

"Jeff has never been one to promote himself, but his accomplishments are too great to list. He has been a national leader in pushing for a 21st Century energy policy; he is an expert in the healthcare arena; and he is a champion in the effort to protect our environment and conserve our special public places in New Mexico and across the country for generations to come.

"He is one of the most thoughtful and serious legislators in the United States Senate, and his presence will be missed. However, we still have nearly two years to work together to help New Mexico and our country, and I look forward to his

would like to congratulate Senator Bingaman on his planned retirement. For more than three decades, he has worked tirelessly as a public servant. It has been and continues to be a privilege to call Jeff my friend and colleague. I look forward to working alongside him in his last two years serving the people of New Mexico."

New Mexico State Auditor Hector Balderas said, "Senator Jeff Bingaman is truly one of the few public servants who exemplify the best in America. Dedicated, hard working and whip smart, he uses his gifts to move our state forward through challenging times with an eye on what is truly best for our

state in the long-term.

"From being a national leader on energy policy, an advocate for our national labs, a responsible steward of our public lands to a champion for those without access to health care, he strikes the right balance of fiscal prudence, political pragmatism, and compassion. One of his greatest unspoken legacies will be that he has served as role model to young elected officials like myself on how to comport oneself in public life, focus on making people's lives better and do so with humility. I look forward to continuing to work with Senator Bingaman the next two years in improving the quality of life for all New Mexicans."

# Make your plans now!

# 2011 SPELLING BEE

## Make your Plans to Attend

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Wed. March 9th (Socorro, New Mexico, Private, West Texas)  
Wed. March 9th **FINALS** 1:00 p.m.

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Eugene Copass (Cope) Routh, 62, passed away January 7 at his home in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Cope was born September 29, 1948 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Eugene C. Routh St. and Lorette Routh. His parents both preceded him in death.

At 17, Cope joined the United States Marine Corp where he served in Vietnam until he was honorably discharged after sustaining critical injuries during an ambush.

After Vietnam, Cope returned home to Odessa Texas where he met and married Mary Ann Rhoads on November 21, 1970. Together they moved to the Austin area where Cope eventually began his career at The Oaks Treatment Center. With much guidance and mentoring Cope eventually returned to school at St. Edwards University in Austin earning a Bachelors of Liberal Studies. After this, he earned a Masters in both Psychology of Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy, from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. Upon graduation Cope returned to the Midland area to open a private practice and consult as an expert witness in many trials and mediations. It was also, here, that he began his love affair with Harleys and tattoos. Cope rode with the Brotherhood 74 for many years and only stopped after a terrible accident caused him to retire his bike. By this time, he and Mary had relocated to Ruidoso where he became very active with the local AA chapter. Cope loved Ruidoso, it was here that he found his true inner peace and happiness, and by the Grace of God, it was here that he found his way back to the Catholic Church guided by Father Al Galvan.

Cope was many things to many people. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, friend, and foe.

Cope is survived by his soulmate Mary Routh of Ruidoso and three daughters, Melissa Routh of Austin, Lori Kuhl and husband Jeff of Austin, Melanie Lauderdale and husband Keith of San Marcos, as well as, three beautiful granddaughters, Natalie Kuhl, Olivia Lauderdale, and Annabel Lauderdale. He is also survived by a brother, Michael Routh and wife Arita of Midland, Texas.

A memorial service was held at his beloved St. Eleanors catholic Church in Ruidoso, N.M. before holding a full service at Pumphrey Funeral Home in San Marcos, Texas on January 15. All memorial contributions may be made to St. Eleanors Catholic Church in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

# Municipal funding requests exceed \$11 million

■ Tight state budget is a major hurdle for county communities

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Despite the state's tight budgetary restraints, funding requests from the various local governments around Lincoln County exceed \$11 million.

The biggest requests, representing more than half of the capital outlay funding being sought from the state in the coming fiscal year, are from Ruidoso.

The village is asking for \$3 million to plan, design and make repairs to its main water reservoir. The dam that holds back water in Grindstone Reservoir has soft spots and the funding would shore up the structure. Another \$1 million was requested to make improvements to the earthen dam at Alto Reservoir. The funding, if approved by the legislature and the governor, would be funneled through the New Mexico Office of the State

Engineer. Ruidoso would also like \$750,000 from the New Mexico Department of Transportation to assist with funding of the construction of the first and second bridges in the Upper Canyon. The Eagle Drive bridge is also included in the \$750,000 request. A dozen bridges in the village were damaged or destroyed in July 2008 during flooding along the Rio Ruidoso.

Another \$500,000 request would plan, design and construct improvements to the water system at the village's Sierra Blanca Regional Airport.

Ruidoso also has hopes of receiving \$140,000 in state funding to renovate the wading pool facility and grounds at Schoolhouse Park. Another \$40,000 would renovate the tennis courts at the park.

"We know the tough shape the state is in," said Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn. "But you don't get anything if you don't ask."

Alborn said repairs at

both Alto and Grindstone dams are top priorities because the reservoirs represent the majority of the village's water supplies.

"And the bridges, Eagle Drive is so important. So are the ones in the Upper Canyon. It's expensive, when you have to do environmental impact studies and FONSI, Findings of No Significant Impact and other things."

Alborn said he and some other village officials will speak with lawmakers today while in Santa Fe.

The City of Ruidoso Downs has petitioned for \$1.09 million to plan, design and construct water system improvements, including water lines, valves and fire hydrants, in the Agua Frio Subdivision. Another \$850,000 appropriation would expand the sewer system along Griffith Drive, Escalante Drive and Parkway Road.

The Greentree Solid Waste Authority, former called the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority, has five requests that total

\$729,500. The projects would construct and equip solid waste collection stations, establish a recycling center, and purchase trucks to collect and transport trash.

In Capitan, the village has asked for \$400,000 to design and build a new senior center. A \$575,000 request would renovate a building for a community center in Capitan. An envisioned equipment/maintenance building would require \$675,000 in state funding.

The Capitan Municipal School District is seeking \$915,640 to replace the roof of the elementary school.

Corona asked for \$700,000 for a water reuse project. The Hondo Valley School District is seeking \$250,000 to construct a new health clinic on the campus. And Carrizozo has petitioned for \$75,000 to improve water system lines.

Missing from the list funding requests were any Lincoln County projects. County manager Tom

Stewart said there were projects that could have been submitted.

"The county decided not to submit any capital outlay because the new governor had enough problems," said Stewart. "With all the priorities the poor governor had to put up with, I sent her a nice letter and said congratulations on her election victory and Lincoln County will not be adding to your fiscal problems this year."

County commissioners late last year endorsed Stewart's recommendation to pass on making state funding requests.

The county did ask, in lieu of monetary requests, that action be taken with respect to the halt of military veteran burials at the state's Merchant Marine Cemetery at Fort Stanton.

Rep. Zach Cook (R-Ruidoso), one of a handful of area state lawmakers that carried the local funding requests to the Roundhouse, said there is about \$250 million potentially available for capital

outlay. "But we don't even know what's going to happen with that money," Cook said Tuesday. "There's a lot of talk of a big chunk of it going to the highways department for maintenance and repairing roads. Right now it's took early to tell what's going to happen with the money."

The \$11.69 million sought by Lincoln County local governments is a bit shy of 5 percent of the \$250 million that Cook said could be available. But the number of county residents is only a little more than 1 percent of the state's population.

"I just don't think that's realistic," Cook said of the capital outlay requests in Lincoln County. "They're very impassioned and they're being great advocates for their projects and the need for the money in Lincoln County," he said of local officials. "They're also very realistic and they understand the condition of the state budget and finances."

## FAIR

FROM PAGE 1A

floods that thing. The (livestock) contractor last time got upset, because the livestock was standing in mud and the horses couldn't buck and the bulls had trouble coming into the chute. The animal rights people were getting after us, because of the conditions."

Members tore out the pens and cleaned out the area, but hope the county

will help build the ground back up, he said.

He received verbal bids from the only two rodeo companies he knew of that performed the needed work, one for \$78,266 and the other for \$69,000 with the chutes included.

"We could get by without the chutes, but for safety," Shafer said. "We had a bucking horse go over an old chute into the crowd. It was pretty scary, but no one was hurt."

"We have an immediate need. Next month, the Lincoln County Youth

Rodeo starts and we have to get something up for the kids and for the Fourth of July."

The activities and crowds are too big for the existing facility, Shafer said. "The corrals are too small and over the last 10 years, we have been putting up portable corrals to hold livestock," he said. "We want to take those out, build up the land and put in drainage, and then plan in the future to build a better facility on the new property. These pens we're asking for today could easily be

moved there, but for now, they make the existing facility useful."

Stewart said the commission couldn't award anything during he meeting because the procurement procedure must be followed. He had hoped one of the firms contacted already was under a state or federal contract on which the county could piggyback, but they were not, he discovered.

"We should have waited for the RFP before mentioning the price," Commission Chairman Eileen

*"We could get by without the chutes, but for safety. We had a bucking horse go over an old chute into the crowd. It was pretty scary, but no one was hurt."*

Sedillo said.

"It's as a starting point," Commissioner Mark Doth said, then asked Shafer if the non-profit fair board composed of volunteers was providing any money?

"We're asking the commission to budget the money," Shafer replied.

Commissioner Jackie Powell said what she asked to be placed on the agenda for the meeting was an RFP to engage a planner for the master plan. "This is totally different than the master plan," she said. "We need to table and regroup. This has to be done before July 4th or we have no place to put the stock. Can we move what we do here to the new property?"

Sedillo suggested tabling the immediate renovation request until the afternoon.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter asked if the county Road Department could begin the dirt work in preparation, and Stewart said they already were given the directive.

Shafer said board members thought they would be further along, but then were hit with one freeze after the other. Sedillo told him in the future when the board has such problems to let the commission know, "so we all are on the same page."

Minter asked if the county has the money for the renovations.

"I will have to do some creative dancing with you," Stewart said. "We've talked and I know what the strategy is, but I have some hoops to jump through."

After lunch, commissioners untabled the item and Stewart summarized, "What I learned yesterday was the lack of a price agreement. I intend to get

with Billy Bob and fair board members and come up with something verbal on what is requested such as linear feet of fencing, gates and bull pens, to put into a generic RFP to spread to other firms, who may want to bid, and bring it back March 15 to the commission meeting as an agenda item.

"At that point, I will propose several projects I've been dragging my feet on and may put together an RFP with a solution to this thing to award and then I will suggest where the money should come from."

The manager said he feels comfortable releasing an RFP for a master plan in April and a contract award in June, "and get on with what we need to do with the fairgrounds. Before we go forward with a covered design for any arena, we need a master plan. We can adjust it. It's strictly a draft now. Several firms do a good job on things like this."

Most firms will put together a response that captures their skills in designing a master plan without specificity, the manager said. A qualification-based selection will occur with no prices discussed and the firms will be ranked. He will try to negotiate a contract with the top firm, but if a price can't be agreed upon, would move to the next firms in line.

Minter suggested some public meetings in Capitan on the master plan and possibly other areas, because other functions besides rodeos occur at the fairgrounds. Sedillo agreed. Powell asked that responders for preparation of the master plan include a list of their completed projects with photographs.

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— Lincoln County Commission —

# County manager Stewart tracks Santa Fe for pertinent legislation

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Not only is he charged with managing issues at home, Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart also is tracking 82 pieces of legislation of interest to the county.

The deadline to introduce proposed bills was last Thursday, he told county commissioners at their meeting last week. As of Feb. 15, legislators introduced 1,051 proposed new laws or rules, he said.

Some of particular interest are:

- House Bill 138, which

would increase the threshold for surplus property auctioned needing approval by the state Department of Finance and Administration from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Approval under that amount would remain with the county commissions or village councils.

- House Bill 391, which would increase the fine for leaving a livestock gate open from \$100 to \$1,000. Stewart said he's not sure what agency would be charged with enforcement, the Sheriff's Office, the State Police or State Game and Fish.

Commissioner Jackie

Powell said drivers should be alert to livestock on the road, "and if you hit something, it's your own fault."

- Senate Bill 52, dealing with electronic records requests, something Stewart said he noticed was applauded by leading newspapers in the state, but without mention of the requirement for a contract to avoid violation of the state constitution's anti-donation clause.

"I read where this is great, because it will decrease the load on everyone, but at the same time, there's a stipulation that requires a contract with the

person to whom you're sending the information," Stewart said.

Otherwise, supplying the information would violate the anti-donation clause of the state constitution, he said. "If a business wants regular dispersals of some type of record of the county, it would be sent, but they would have to reimburse the county at some rate," Stewart said.

- House Bill 367, would require Internet broadcast of all public meetings of elected or appointed boards that fall under the Open Meetings Act, but not the state Legislature or the

judiciary.

"They always seem to make an exception for the legislature and judiciary," Stewart said. "We've been considering that for a long time and I'm in favor, but the question is how do you do that, if all of our people don't have Internet access. The thrust is to make sure the meetings are available to people in an easier format."

"We are the most open government around and I'm totally in favor of that. The question is the mechanics."

- House Bill 50, Removal of Rogue Officials.

"Who do they have in mind for removal?" Commissioner Jackie Powell asked.

Stewart said if a judge and jury convicts someone of a crime, they lose their Public Employee Retirement Act benefits and are removed from office. "It's a court determination and that gives some insurance that the process respects people's right to defense," he said.

He emphasized that all the bills are just proposed and may not pass the House and Senate, or be signed into law by the governor.

## District ranger named

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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A new Smokey Bear District ranger will arrive March 1 to take over for Buck Sanchez, who left the Lincoln National Forest in May for a U.S. Forest Service position in Colorado.

George Douds, acting district ranger, announced the selection to Lincoln County commissioners at their meeting last week. "Thank you for your patience," he said. "It's taken a long time for us to have leadership. Dave Warnack is coming from recreation in the Gila National Forest supervisor's office. I've been impressed so far. He was acting ranger on the Sacramento District and had interaction with (the Otero County Commission) for about 120 days."

The relationship in Otero County tends to be more contentious than that in Lincoln County, he indicated.

James Duran from the Modoc National Forest in Northeast California will become the new Sacramento District Ranger, and Robert Trujillo, a native New Mexican, will join the supervisor's office in Alamogordo.

"We have ranger districts and then the forest supervisor's office with different districts and then a regional offices with a bunch of different forests and then the Washington D.C. office," Douds said, explaining the organization of the USFS. "The chief, the regional forester and forest supervisors can make decisions. The rest just provide data and our opinions."

The Lincoln National Forest consists of the Smokey Bear District in Lincoln County, the Guadalupe District around Carlsbad Caverns and the Sacramento District near the town of Cloudcroft.

Commissioner Jackie Powell brought up a private land owner, who is being asked to pay about \$70 a year for a special use permit to access his land through the federal forest. She contended the situation was unfair to the land owner. "Next year, the permit could be \$3,000," she said.

"It's part of our regulations and we're charged with doing it," Douds said. "I can't make exceptions. I know some have argued that not everyone is being charged (who is using access), but we are working on that as we come across them. It is not a priority." He added that one judge concluded a helicopter flight constituted "reasonable" access to a parcel of private property surrounded by a national forest.



DOUDS

Powell said the family of the man who contacted her homesteaded the land before New Mexico became a state and before the national forest was formed.

County Attorney Alan Morel said another option was to declare the forest road an "RS27" road that existed prior to statehood. "If that can be proved, the federal government has to recognize it, but \$60 a year is cheaper (that trying to prove prior existence). It's an expensive process," he said.

Douds said the Lincoln National Forest is checkerboarded with private land within its boundary. "The forest can be shut off by private landowners too," he said. "If that happens, we have to come up with the money and do a National Environmental Policy Act process and environmental assessment) or acquire legal easement."

Morel said it's possible the Forest Service could agree "up front" about the road and avoid court, or if an old map was found dated prior to statehood that showed the road.

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo said the widow of Jerry Carroll, a community activist and mining enthusiast, indicated he left her many old maps and she would bring them to the county. Sedillo asked that the woman be contacted and that members of the Land and Natural Resources Advisory Council be called for a meeting to research the road issue.

"I don't know where I go from here, but this guy could be shut off from access or the cost of a permit could go up," Powell said. "Why is the Forest Service different than the state Department of Transportation DOT or the city dealing with a turnoff to a home? There's a disconnect and it's just not right."

Douds said part of his regular job when he's not acting ranger is working with ranchers and he's not unsympathetic, but, "When they bump up against regulations, I must enforce them fairly and all are subject to the terms."

Powell said that, when it's a new situation, she can understand, but not if it's a homestead that existed before the federal forest.

# Get Mugged!

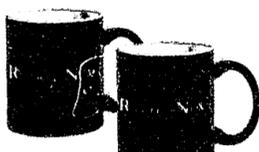
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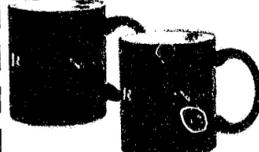


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# Special permit for pumping wells scrutinized

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

"Eventually, we all will have to come to grips with what we have (in water resources), not the bill of goods we've been sold about what we wish we had," an irritated Lincoln County Commissioner Jackie Powell said during a recent commission meeting.

The guest at the podium was George Douds, acting Smokey Bear District Ranger on Lincoln National Forest, who just concluded briefing commissioners about the status of a proposed reissuance of a special use permit for the village of Ruidoso to pump four wells on the North Fork of Eagle Creek on U.S. Forest Service land.

Powell said the village initially claimed the right to pump or divert 5,800 acre feet of water from the watershed, but that was reduced to 2,635 acres feet. "Out of that, they have until 2024 to prove the water (exists, is needed and used)," she said. An acre foot of water equates to about 325,800 gallons.

The water on the Eagle Creek Basin is 100 percent appropriated, she said.

One of the last applications for a change by the village on Eagle Creek was to try to transfer part of that 2,600 acre feet from groundwater back to surface water, Powell said.

"That means (Eagle Creek) would have to run double the 1,200 acre feet that originally existed and has senior rights, to take any of that," she said. "That hasn't and isn't going to happen. The science is there to prove over and over how much water is there."

"I'm hoping everybody can see how the Rio Ruidoso flow has receded. There's not much flow at reservation line."

New Mexico is a "prior doctrine" state, Powell said, which means, "the first in time, the first in right."

"The wells were there long before the subdivision and contributed to it not being a tributary of the Rio Ruidoso any more," she said. "Eventually, this area has got to come to grips with what we actually have and the drought conditions. We received 50 inches of snow and we're supposed to have 256 inches as average. We don't have a Rio Grande, a Mississippi or a San Juan. All we have is the Rio Ruidoso. We are populated now with water appropriated in 1927. Too much was allotted to start with and they did take some of that back."

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo reminded Powell that the county owns no water rights in that Eagle Creek Basin and may have no standing to comment.

But Douds said the North Fork pumping permit was at a stage where public comment is being gathered and commissioners, like any other person, could submit input.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter suggested a letter be sent to the U.S. Forest Service.

"In my mind, multiple areas of the county are affected by this final decision," said Commissioner Mark Doth. "I think it's incumbent upon the commission to make a comment."

County Attorney Alan Morel said the letter should

include science, "not that you just don't like it." County Manager Tom Stewart said he will meet with Powell and Morel and submit a draft letter at the commission's March 15 meeting for approval in time to meet the USFS comment deadline of March 21.

Douds told commissioners, "I encourage you to come (to a hearing last week) and have well-reasoned comments. Later on in the process, there will be a huge document you can read through with all the information the decision-maker gets."

"This is for reissuance of a special permit (that expired) and part of National Environmental Policy Act process is gathering information and putting it into the document that goes to the decision maker, the forest supervisor, who will make a well-reasoned decision."

Many specialists will contribute to the report and the Forest Service has to consider all input, he said. However, the agency also recognizes the need for a village water supply. "We can't just say I'm sorry, you get nothing," he said.

Douds assured commissioners, "This is not a popularity contest. We will take anything you submit that



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

A public information meeting put together by the U.S. Forest Service at Ruidoso Middle School Thursday drew a healthy crowd of public officials and Lincoln County residents, including Ruidoso Capital Projects Manager Randy Camp, right, and Deputy Village Manager Bill Morris, seen examining one of the maps on display. The session focused on the proposed method of handling a special use permit for the Village of Ruidoso to pump wells on the North Fork of Eagle Creek on land within the Smokey Bear Ranger District with enough safeguards and monitoring to protect against damage to homeowners farther downstream and to the underground aquifer.

is well-reasoned and go back and consider anything we missed."

He pointed out that a U.S. Geological Survey study of the North Fork stream system and how it

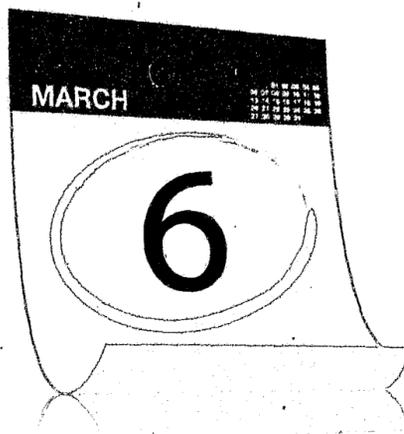
relates to other areas indicated that climate change is occurring. The shift is from winter precipitation contained in a huge snowpack with snow melt moving slowly underground to

monsoon rains and a bunch of precipitation all at once following the path of least resistance to the Pecos River, which cannot be touched because of New Mexico's court-ordered

water delivery compact with the state of Texas.

Powell said all municipalities and the county and other agencies must get together in planning for the future.

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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23, 2011

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

PAGE 1B

## side line

### Ski Report

**Ski Apache**  
The show 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](http://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: 22 inches  
Snow surface: Packed powder  
Snowmaking: Yes  
Weather for Wednesday: Sunny with gusty winds. High 59F. Winds WSW at 20 to 30 mph.  
Wednesday evening: A few clouds. Low around 35F. Winds WSW at 10 to 20 mph.  
Weather for Thursday: Windy with plenty of sun. High in the low 60s and lows in the mid 30s.  
Groomed runs: Sunny, Easy Street, Ramp, Lower Deep Freeze, Capitan Life, Lower Moonshine, Snokey Bear, Snow Park, Chino, Moonshine Gulch and Elk Ridge.  
Lifts open: No. 1, No. 2 (open to Midway), No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 8. Gondola open, weather permitting

### Results

**Boys basketball**  
Monday, Feb. 21  
Mescalero 62, Gateway 58  
Saturday, Feb. 19  
Roswell 86, Ruidoso 47  
Friday, Feb. 18  
Portales 64, Ruidoso 52  
Mescalero 60, Gateway 52  
Thursday, Feb. 17  
Hagerman 65, Capitan 38  
Quemado 77, Carrizozo 49  
Hondo 67, Vaughn 52

**Girls basketball**  
Friday, Feb. 18  
Portales 37, Ruidoso 28  
Mescalero 48, Gateway 45  
(Mescalero secures 2nd place in district)  
Thursday, Feb. 17  
Hagerman 21, Capitan 13  
Carrizozo 52, Quemado 20  
Hondo 61, Vaughn 27  
Corona 41, Lake Arthur 28

### Sports On Tap

**Basketball**  
**Girls**  
Thursday, Feb. 24  
Capitan at Mescalero, if Capitan beats Gateway Tuesday, 6 p.m.  
**Boys**  
Wednesday, Feb. 23  
Gateway at Capitan, 6 p.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 24  
Portales at Lovington, 6 p.m., district playoff

### 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 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 [aciontz@me.com](mailto:aciontz@me.com). Please attend if you can. The environmental stewardship program is key to maintaining the Club lease.

# Mescalero Warrior Challenge

Get set as 22 gladiators enter the IMG octagon for an adventure in mayhem

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

Just when you thought the "Dukes of Disorder" were off your radar screen of violence at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, just when you thought it was safe to venture out into the dark night for an innocent few hours of relaxation, maybe a quiet libation with your significant other, maybe a romantic dinner, something comes along to upset your appercept of tranquility and peaceful coexistence.

Something like another round of physical anarchy. Be calm. Rejoice. It's only a group of friendly warriors getting together to decide certain things in a public arena.

Like who's the toughest? Who's the best? Who has a future in the sport of cage fighting? These ring combat specialist - gentlemen, one and all - will have it figured out by the time all good little

boys and girls should be saying their beddy-bye prayers.

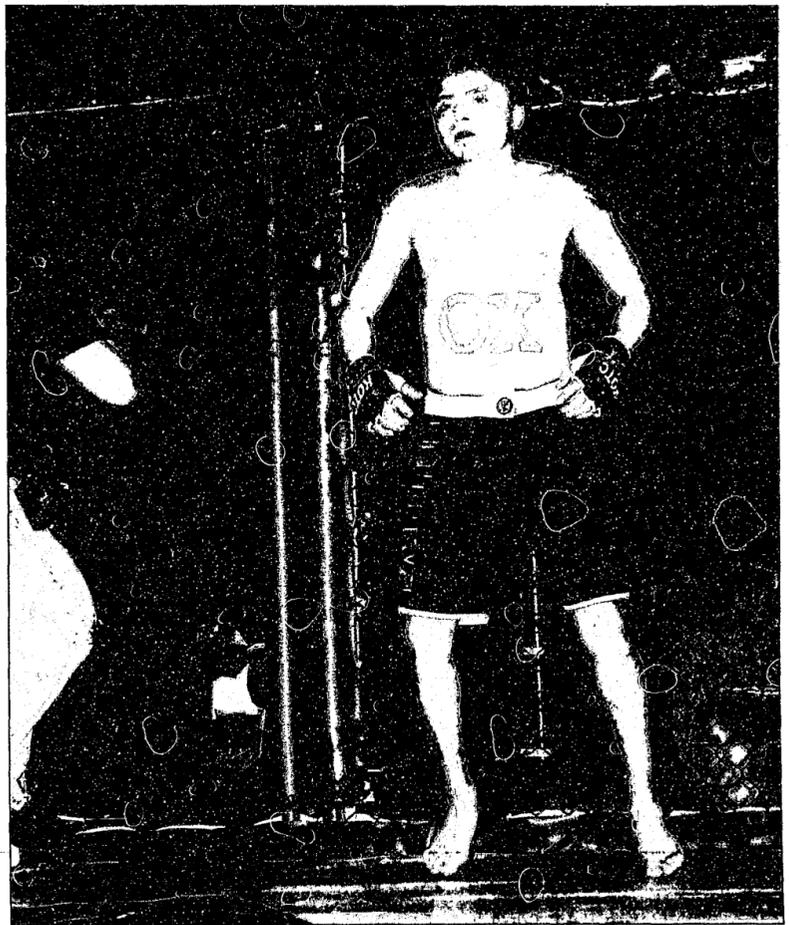
Reportedly, the TV luminary, Rachel Ray, voted the Inn of the Mountain Gods the most romantic casino/getaway.

After all, she might have been thinking of a date night viewing the "Champions of Commotion" as an amorous rendezvous amid the beauty of the whispering pines of Mescalero.

If that's the case, Mescalero/Ruidoso native, Coty "Ox" Wheeler, along with 21 other knights of destruction will be on hand Saturday, Feb. 26, to supply inspirational entertainment.

Since King of the Cage and IMG ended their contract (for the time being), Wheeler saw an opportunity to advance the popular sport and give it more exposure to local residents.

He has partnered with the well-known Greg



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See FIGHTS, page 2B

Coty "Ox" Wheeler will promote Saturday's fights and be in the main bout.

# Ruidoso Warriors end regular season

MIKE CURRAN  
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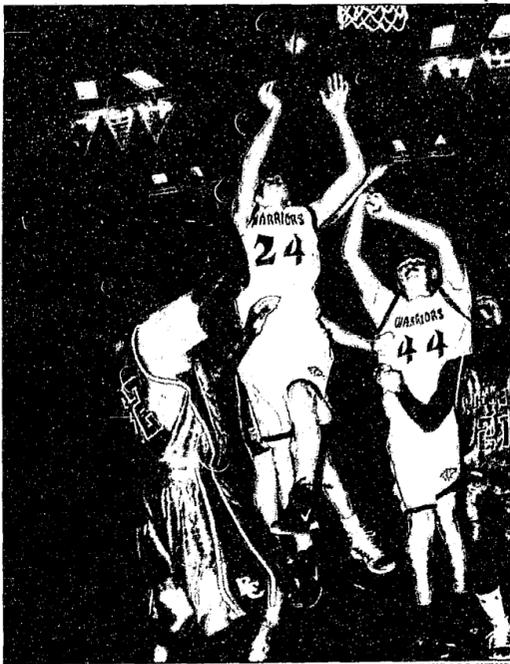
The Ruidoso Warriors ended their regular scheduled season with a 65-52 loss at district rival Portales Friday and a 86-47 loss at home Saturday against 4A Roswell.

The Warriors end their season at 10-14, 0-3.

"I really think we had a decent year," Ruidoso head coach Dennis Davis said.

"We beat some good teams and we lost some games we could have won. We were competitive most of the way but we had "dips" which hurt us at times."

It was a tough road game at Portales for RHS Friday as the Rams grabbed an early first



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See RHS, page 2B

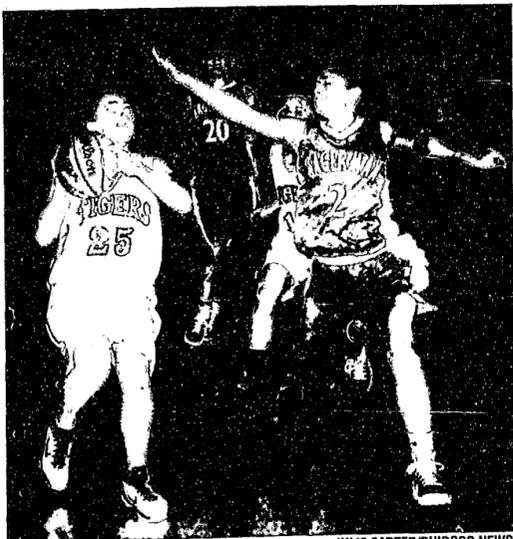
Tito Montoya, No. 24, gets up first for the rebound.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Terrence Shields heads into the "wild blue yonder."

# HAGERMAN SNARES CAPITAN TIGERS



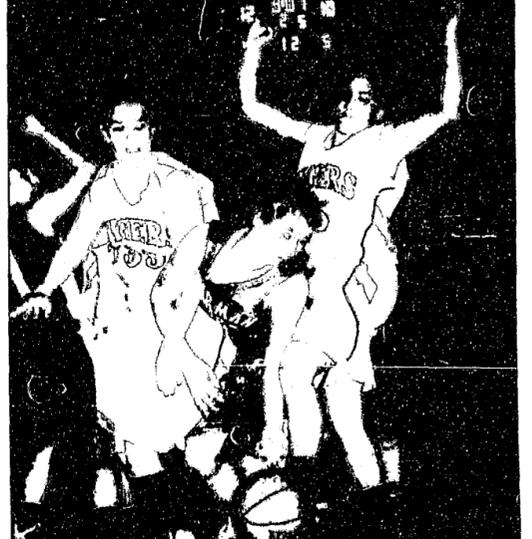
JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Jamie Fields, No. 25, went out with an injury early in the fourth quarter in Capitan's 21-13 defensive struggle loss to Hagerman Thursday.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

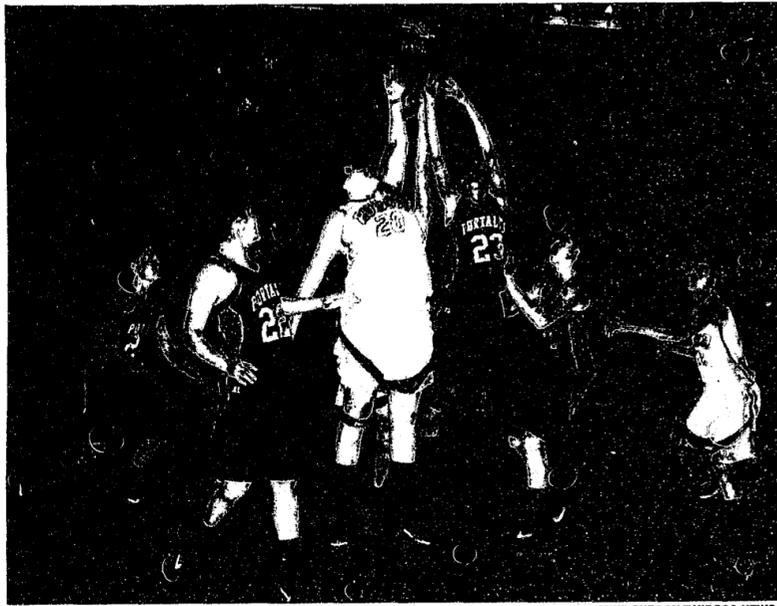
John Goodwin, center, goes for an over-the-shoulder grab as team-mate Garret Schultz blocks from behind in Capitan's 65-38 loss Thursday.



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Kaitlin Keaton, left, and Dustee Eldridge pull a "sandwich" play.

# RHS GIRLS LOSE AT PORTALES



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

The Lady Warriors, seen here in a Feb. 12 game against Portales, lost a district matchup contest with the same team Friday, 37-28, in Portales.

# RUIDOSO GYMNASTICS SHINES



MARY MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

At a gymnastics tournament in Las Cruces, Jan. 29, including nine teams from seven cities, the Ruidoso Gymnastics Club Level 4 Age 10 girls acquitted themselves well. Carson Vasile (4th from left) won a 1st place, Angela Lackey (5th from left) won second and Isabel Martinez (3rd from left) took third.

# FIGHTS

FROM PAGE 1B

Jackson (of Albuquerque) to bring a fight card of six professional bouts and five amateur competitions for your viewing pleasure.

For the professional Wheeler (135 pounds), Saturday's Mescalero Warrior Challenge main event (against Mike Chupa, at 155 pounds) will be his 28th fight.

At 23-4, he's putting his reputation and money future on the line.

Recently, his contract with the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) ended and he is currently in negotiations with the American mixed martial arts outfit for another contract for four to six fights.

Losing this Saturday's fight could really throw a monkey wrench into the plans.

"I'm glad to come home," the local warrior said. "I was raised in Mescalero and I went to school at Ruidoso

High School. This is where my heart is. This is a first Native American MMA promotion and I thought I could show kids in the area a way to get on the right path in life and stay off drugs, alcohol and get a sense of self-worth.

"I personally understand their plight. My gamble this Saturday is well worth the effort."

Wheeler's last fight was Sept. 2, in Tempe, Ariz., when he scored a second round TKO over Ray Robinson.

There will be a weigh-in and photo-op session, Friday at 6 p.m. Some of the UFC fighters on hand will be John "Bones" Jones (heavyweight), Carlos "Natural Born Killer" Condit (170-pound WEC champ) and Diego "The Nightmare" Sanchez who will also corner for Wheeler Saturday.

The fights on Saturday will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$35 and may be obtained at <http://innofthemountaingods.com/events/mescalero-warrior-challenge>.



COURTESY RYGAR/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Wheeler is training hard for his big IMG gamble match at Saturday's Mescalero Warrior Challenge.

# RHS

FROM PAGE 1B

quarter lead, 19-10.

Their momentum took them to the locker rooms with a 37-19 advantage.

In the third period of action, Ruidoso mounted a charge and outscored the hometown crew, 17-13, as both teams fought the last period of play tooth and nail with Portales coming out on top 16-15, to take the 13 point win.

For the Warriors, Terrence Shields hit double digits with 17, including a hat trick in 3-pointers, with Ismail Cook dumping in 15 points.

Thirteen RHS players saw court action.

The Roswell Coyotes came to the village Saturday and jumped out to a 22-11 lead in the first eight minutes of hardwood play.

By halftime the "desert dogs" claimed a 45-21 lead. The visitors won the third quarter, 13-10, and eventually won the contest by 39.

Shields hit "doubles"



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ismail Cook contributes to the cause.

with 10 as six-of-12 other players scored.

Even though the War-



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Daniel Salazar tries to stop an out-of-bounds.

riors have six seniors on the roster, only one played varsity basketball last season.

But the future could bode well for the Warriors in the next two seasons.

The Ruidoso "C" team, comprised mostly of freshman, went 15-1 this year under coach Layne Holland.

District playoffs begin Thursday for RHS.

The Warriors will play the loser of the Lovington/Portales game which will have been played Tuesday in Roswell.

If Ruidoso wins that game they will play again Saturday.

As for the state playoffs, coach Davis believes RHS stands a chance to participate.

"I think we'll get a chance to go," he said. We've won games against Hatch, Hot Springs, Cobre and West Las Vegas, so the seeding committee should take that into account.

"We will find out next Sunday."

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**RUIDOSO DOWNS POLICE BRIEFS**

**Feb. 10**

6:32 p.m. - Officer Chris Rupp responded to assist Corporal Joe Bailey.

Rupp reported that Bailey was out with four people at the back of a vehicle when he arrived and that Bailey reported smelling burnt marijuana when he stopped the vehicle.

Rupp reportedly advised Bailey that because of previous contact, he was aware that driver Jose Garcia, 16, was a juvenile.

Bailey reportedly found a 750 ml. bottle of Jim Beam bourbon, a multi-colored pipe, and several baggies of a green leafy substance that tested positive for marijuana, when he searched the vehicle.

Rupp reported Rene Talamantes, 15, claimed the marijuana was his. Rupp noted the marijuana appeared to be packaged for sale. Talamantes reportedly said he bought it from a man in El Paso, Texas and tried to sell it at school, but was unable to sell any.

Two juveniles claimed the bottle of bourbon, reportedly saying they found it near the school and

it only had a small amount in it when the found it. Rupp reported that neither of these juveniles tested positive for alcohol.

Rupp reported that Talamantes told him he had more marijuana and drug paraphernalia at home. At Talamantes' home, Rupp reportedly located two more pipes, 7.5 grams of marijuana, nine baggies, several small screens used for smoking drugs.

Rupp and Bailey cited Garcia and Talamantes and released them to their parents.

**Feb. 11**

1:51 p.m. - Officer Martin Valenzuela responded to Lincoln County Solid Waste on Highway 70 for an unwanted subject.

Valenzuela reports there was a civil dispute that involve yelling and foot-stomping.

Valenzuela did not issue any citations.

**Feb. 14**

7:02 p.m. - Officer Darrell Chavez responded to the Police Department to

take a report of a lost wallet.

Chavez reports the victim said they had lost their wallet the previous day at Walmart.

9:10 p.m. - Officer Martin Valenzuela responded to assist State Police officer Eric Marrujo with a traffic stop at mile marker 260 on Highway 70.

Valenzuela reports that Marrujo made a traffic stop for a possible driving while intoxicated and when he approached the vehicle, there was no driver.

Reportedly, there were three people in the rear seat and one in the right front passenger seat, but no one in the driver's seat and Marrujo wanted his assistance in identifying those in the car.

Valenzuela reported that the person in the rear, center was identified as Bruce Coyote. He was reportedly intoxicated and there was a warrant for his arrest.

Valenzuela reported there was also an arrest warrant from Ruidoso Downs Municipal Court for Asa Eugene Shanta, the front seat passenger.

**RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS**

**Feb. 7**

10:45 a.m. - Officer Josh Snodgrass responded to the 100 block of Leach for a report of a possible breaking and entering.

Snodgrass reports there appeared to be marks from a crowbar on the door frame, but the door was secure and there were no footprints in the snow around the house.

**Feb. 12**

12:06 p.m. - Officer Tyrel Tyson responded to Fun-trackers for a report of a larceny.

Tyson reports the Fun-trackers owner reported a Hispanic male tossed her a wallet, saying he found it, and then left in a hurry. She said the man got into a car and left.

The owner looked at the identification in the wallet and located the owner. The owner of the wallet reported that there was almost \$1,300 in cash missing from the wallet.

Tyson reports the man who turned the wallet in was described as in his mid-twenties, about 5-ft., 4-in. tall, about 220-pounds, wearing a black "beanie" hat and a black jacket. He was reportedly with a Hispanic female in her mid-twenties wearing a white sweat shirt, two teen age females and one male toddler.

The victim reported having taken a picture of the older female earlier.

**Feb. 14**

9:32 a.m. - Officer Tyrel Tyson responded to the 200 block of Apache Trail for a report of criminal damage to property.

Tyson reported that someone had thrown a rock through a bedroom window.

The victim reportedly suspected her ex-boyfriend, Robert Webb, 34, because he had recently been convicted of battery on a household member. The victim reportedly

told Tyson the man had been calling her and showed him calls from a cell phone on her phone. Tyson reported calling the number and when he identified himself, the person hung up and would not answer again.

Webb pleaded no contest to a charge of battery on a household member in Ruidoso Magistrate Court Jan. 27 and under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of criminal damage to property and Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Webb to 97 days in jail, time served, 267 days of supervised probation and fined him \$200.

Tyson reports that an arrest order had been issued by Ruidoso Magistrate Court Judge Lorena LaMay for Webb for failure to report to Adult Probation and Parole.

**RUIDOSO MAGISTRATE COURT CASES**

**Feb. 7**

**Christian Maldonado** appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of seat belt violation.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Maldonado to 364 days supervised probation and a \$50 fine.

LaMay also ordered Maldonado to receive screening with Gary Garland and follow all his recommendations and to pay \$148 in court costs.

**Christopher Kayitah**

appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of minor allowing self to be served under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Kayitah to 364 days of unsupervised probation and a \$200 fine.

**Jeremy Wood** appeared in court and pleaded no contest to obtaining firewood without a permit and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Wood to seven days in jail, time served, a

\$150 fine and 83 days supervised probation on the obtaining firewood without a permit and 364 days supervised probation. LaMay also ordered Wood to be screened by Gary Garland for drugs and alcohol.

**Michael Shultz** appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a charge of possession of marijuana.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Shultz to 364 days of supervised probation and a \$50 fine.

**CARRIZO MAGISTRATE COURT CASES**

**Feb. 16**

**Todd Holmes**, 45, of Alamogordo, appeared in court representing himself and pleaded no contest to a charge of driving on a closed road.

Judge Martha Proctor deferred Holmes sentence for 90 days and ordered him to pay \$73 in court costs.

New Mexico Game and Fish officer Curtis Coburn cited Holmes for driving on a closed road on Pajarito Ranch Nov. 13, 2010, with two licensed deer hunters in the vehicle with him. Holmes reportedly admitted seeing the sign that the property was posted.

**Feb. 17**

Defense attorney Todd Holmes waived the preliminary hearing for client **Nicholas Harford** and Judge Martha Proctor ordered Harford bound

over to District Court for trial on charges of conspiracy to introduce contraband into a prison, distribution of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Sergeant Ken Cramer charged Harford, 20, of Capitan, with putting marijuana in a birthday card and mailing it to Alex Rivera, an inmate at Lincoln County Detention Center on or about Jan 5, 2011. Harford and Rivera were allegedly cellmates at LCDC until April 23, 2010.

Holmes waived the preliminary hearing for client **Anthony Arauz**, 21, and Proctor ordered Arauz bound of to District Court for trial on charges of aggravated battery and conspiracy to commit aggravated battery.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Baltazar Romo filed charges against Arauz for allegedly participating in the battery of another

inmate at LCDC on Dec. 25, 2010.

Holmes waived the preliminary hearing for client **Antionette Aragon**, 33, of Ruidoso and Proctor ordered her bound over to District Court on charges of receiving stolen property of over \$500 and conspiracy to receive stolen property.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Ben Hazen charged Aragon with being involved in the burglary of a home in Hondo in which two cowhides, binoculars and a DVD player were stolen.

**Fredrick Walker**, 22, appeared in court for a preliminary hearing and Proctor ordered him bound over to District Court to stand trial on charges of aggravate battery and conspiracy.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Baltazar Romo charged Walker with allegedly participating in the battery of an inmate at LCDC on Dec. 25, 2010.

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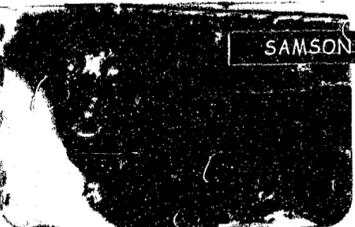


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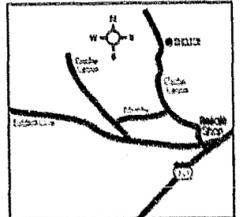


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**RUIDOSO NEWS**



**CARL**

is a vivacious little guy, about 6 months old. He is very outgoing and playful with other dogs. Carl weighs about 25 pounds and loves going to the dog park.

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**LORA**

is a beautiful black spaniel mix. She has wavy fur and a white stripe on her chest; Lora is very sweet and has an adorable face. She is about 4 months old.

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**MESSI**

is a friendly Mini Poodle mix. He is all white with just a little tan on his ears. Messi is a high energy dog and will need a home where he can get lots of exercise. He is friendly and well socialized.

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**LEE**

is a cute little guy, about 3 months old. He is very friendly and playful. Lee is sure to be a great family pet.

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**CAROLINA**

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

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**POLLY**

is a pretty, solid black cat with short hair. She is pretty laid back and quite friendly. Polly is about 8 months old.

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# LINCOLN COUNTY

## Capitan Schools art program reaches out

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

With only \$400 left in the art budget, Capitan Elementary art instructor Kelly Newell is launching a new art project and looking to the local art community for help.

"Our art program is funded by a New Mexico Public Education Department grant called Elementary Arts Education Programs," Newell said. "It pays for my time [with the art students] from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and it pays for our supplies such as paper, paint, pencils, clay etc."

In the days ahead, art students at Capitan Elementary will give the school their personal touch by individually painting ceramic tiles that will end up on the walls behind the drinking fountains.

Serving as backsplash protection at the elementary fountain areas, the tiles will add artistic enhancement to the school while giving the students

pride of ownership in the project.

There are 250 students sharing the funding for the elementary art program. "We start all projects with an 'Idea Book' where they sketch their own creative images of what we are working on," Newell said. "Each student has their own book that follows them through the grades. At the end of their elementary years, they'll have a record of their accomplishments and be able to see their growth in the art program as they get older."

Newell is asking the community to get involved in the new tile project. "We need the help to make the money we have left in the budget stretch far enough to get this done," she said.

"There are so many incredible artists in this area," she said, "that I hope there will be some that will want to help us. We need volunteers for all phases of the project. Anyone that would want to donate money or supplies towards



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Capitan 5th graders** show off their watercolor art inspired by the work of Georgia O'Keeffe's. The students are part of the grades K-5 art program led by Kelly Newell. The Capitan Elementary art program is funded with grant money from the New Mexico Public Education Department allowing for limited instruction time and minimal supplies. The program is looking to the local community of artists to help with their next project in the way of volunteers, funding or supplies for a ceramic tile project. Front: l-r, Ayanna Mendibles, Kate Ward, Dakota Dowdell, Kylie Pruet, Angeloe Casados. Second row: Harrison Moore, Price Bowen, Caleb Hightower, Dakota Hazen. Third row: Luci Geyer, Mark Hicks, Frankie Pirelli, Rodrigo Ruecla, Ethan Dunn, Sterling Violette, Tanner Laurance. Back row: Tayler Ratliff, Adrianna Romero, Mirando Huband, Rachael Rice.

the project, or their time in helping the students paint, getting the tiles fired, or

the many other phases would be so very much welcomed.

Artists or community members who wish to help with the tile art project

Capitan Elementary can call the elementary school at 354-8506.

## Top Seller



COURTESY

**Kristie Gallacher**, a 6th grader at Carrizozo Middle School, was the top seller in the Carrizozo PFK Fall Fundraiser. The Carrizozo PFK used QSP/Genevieve's for their Fall Fundraiser. Kristie sold \$525.35 worth of gift items with the Genevieve's catalog. A total of \$3,322.34 was received and after Genevieve's was paid, PFK earned \$1,131.18. The money earned is used for field trips, BRAVO!, Accelerated Reading Program, Scholarships, Christmas book exchange, and gives some financial relief to the After School Program. Program administrator, Kellie Gallacher says "Thank you Carrizozo for your continued support!" Carrizozo PFK is currently selling Mrs. Fields Cookie Dough with 5-Star Fundraising. Kindergarten through 8th grade students will be selling cookie dough through the week of February 21-27. For more information, contact Cathy Barela or Kellie Gallacher at 575-648-2346.

## Winds everywhere

Carolyn reported that a shed behind the Dolan House was hit with a microwind that totally destroyed it and a heavy oak desk.

There were a lot of tools and they were thrown about on the yard.

The past two mornings have been interesting at the Village Inn.

A group of college students and adults came in and I counted twenty people.



LINCOLN TRAILS  
ROSALIE DUNLAP

As they were sitting next to the booth we were sitting in, I had to talk to one of the adults.

He was Marc Benjamin, assistant softball coach for the Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah. The softball team was in Las Cruces for the softball tournament being held at NMSU.

They had won two and lost two games as of

Saturday evening.

They didn't really enjoy the wind blowing everything in their faces.

Marc remarked that it was probably snowing in Utah.

There were 16 team members, three coaches and one trainer.

This morning, Monday, we went to the Village Inn to have a late breakfast after blood test etc.

In the back was the Ocate basketball team.

Needless to say the waitress and waiters were very busy with the teams

and the regular customers.

Jon Amastae, El Paso, visited the Dunlap's Sunday.

He plans on being in Lincoln this coming weekend.

Ralph is scheduled to have a pacemaker put in Wednesday afternoon at the Mountain View Hospital.

Thanks to all the Creative Memory gals for all the messages.

It was so thoughtful of them to be thinking of me as I couldn't be there. Love you all.

## 'Zozo crews battle aftermath of freeze

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Like every other municipality in the county, Carrizozo's town crews were in full-time fix-and-repair mode after the recent bitter cold temperatures caused water line freezes followed by breaks during the thaw phase.

The weekend following freeze crews incurred 20-plus hours of overtime taking care of repairs.

The exact number of breaks was not known at press time.

Maintenance superintendent Joey Thornton reported the situation to the town council and mayor at the monthly meeting on Feb. 14.

All 585 water meters were also insulated by Tommy Guevara and his crew from the Lincoln Detention Center.

Insulation was cut and bagged in plastic, then placed under the lid of each meter.

The police department activity report showed that in January 12 calls were responded to and four cases were logged.

The department, according to Town Clerk Leann Weibrecht, is getting much closer to having a chief and a full time officer.

Currently only one part-time officer is serving the town since the resignation of Chief Rachel Weiser.

The monthly report to the council from the

Municipal Court indicated only one trial for the month of January and \$614 in fines levied and disbursed to the Town of Carrizozo.

The council approved a resolution to promote to the U.S. Congress the designation of the Carrizozo Lava Flow and the Little Black Peak Wilderness Study Areas as Wilderness Areas.

Both areas were designated as Wilderness Study Areas in 1980 and have been managed as federal wilderness areas since that time.

### P&Z

J'Layne Zamora was appointed by Mayor Mike Petty to serve as the Zoning Administrator. The trus-

tees approved the appointment.

Jack Ward was approved for his P&Z request to remodel his mother's home into an assisted-living facility at 1100 D Ave.

Carrizozo Works was approved to manage Project Warm Winter, a federal program to conduct an energy and community outreach program.

Sixty local homes will be approved to receive caulking, sealing, energy efficient shower heads etc.

For more information about the program, call Carrizozo Works at 648-5586.

Thirty-four town business registrations were approved, as were nine livestock permits.

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### COUNTY BRIEFS

#### First Friday change

Capitan Public Library's First Friday Adult Lecture will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 5. Mark your calendar.

Steven F. Havill, formerly of Lincoln County, returns to share his writing skills.

Guests will be enlightened by Havill and enthralled with his methods of writing.

Havill lives in Datil with his wife Kathleen.

He has written a series of police procedures set in the fictional Posadas County, New Mexico; along with other works.

Anyone who likes to see an investigation played out from the beginning to the end will definitely like Havill's Posadas series, a police procedural that has heart.

Havill continues to write

excellent crime thrillers as his series keeps evolving with a true time line.

Havill is a master at using procedural details to expose the complexities of small-town relationships, but he also excels at drawing meaning from the landscape.

Havill writes a series of historical novels set in 1890s Washington State and featuring young Dr. Thomas Parks, a trans-

planted city boy with a new practice.

Havill's characters have a depth and a clarity that's refined with every new book in the series.

Please join the Library regulars for an entertaining evening.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

Havill will hold a book signing on Sunday, March 6 at Chango's.

# Oñate football player stabbed at party

ASHLEY MEEKS  
Las Cruces Sun News

LAS CRUCES - An Oñate High School varsity football player is on life support after a fight early Sunday morning, according to law enforcement and friends of the boy.

Jerry Zamarripa, 18, who was struck twice in the head, and Anthony Sena, who was stabbed in the side, were flown to the University Medical Center in El Paso about 3 a.m. Sunday after Doña Ana County sheriff's officers were called to a loud party on the 8700 block of Tammy Lane, off Weisner Road, according to the

sheriff's office.

Authorities haven't yet said what Zamarripa was struck with, but several of his friends on Facebook posted he was hit with a baseball bat.

At about 10 a.m. Monday, friends of his family reported Zamarripa had been pronounced brain dead. A hospital spokesman could only say Monday afternoon that Zamarripa was in critical condition. Sena's condition is listed as stable, according to the hospital spokesman.

No arrests have been made and the investigation is ongoing, said sheriff's Lt. Michael Kinney Monday. Asked if there were any

suspects, Kinney said, "not that I can release."

The motivation for the attack remains unknown, and Kinney said he did not know how many people were at the East Mesa house party, if any adults were present or if alcohol were involved.

"I'm sure all that will come out when they complete the investigation," he said.

In case of possible retaliation against any alleged or suspected attackers, security and police presence on campus could be bolstered when school resumes today after Monday's Presidents Day holiday, said Stan Rounds, Las Cruces Public

Schools superintendent.

"What we're doing is evaluating (Tuesday's) posture at Oñate, as far as security," said Rounds, who declined to say if any of the individuals involved in the fight were alleged to be gang members. "There's allegations as to what this is. If it has any ramifications to that school site, we will likely increase security."

In addition, counselors and the district's grief-intervention team will also be at the school, he said.

"This is a horrible tragedy, first of all," Rounds said. "We certainly give our condolences to the family and, of course, to the

whole school family, when you lose someone."

Brandon Schapekahn, an Oñate junior, said Zamarripa is well liked among his teammates.

"He's a good guy, he's always making everyone laugh," Schapekahn said. "He talks to everyone, he's not one to start stuff."

Zamarripa, a senior, has played defensive end and tight end for the Knights, and has been a member of the football team the past four seasons. And he had worked hard to stay on the team, even though he had problems academically, said former Oñate Coach Kelly McKee.

"He was kind of a role

player for us," McKee said. "He played all four years, and was on our kicking teams."

"He was the kind of player you worried about academically; but he reached the point where we didn't have to worry about him, academically, at all. He's a young man who has worked awfully hard to be successful."

Schapekahn said Zamarripa has been a team player in the truest sense.

"He helped everybody on the field. He was out there every day - even when he was having problems making grades."

With reporting by Steve Ramirez

## Engineer sues New Mexico Department of Transportation

ASHLEY MEEKS  
Las Cruces Sun News

LAS CRUCES - A former state Department of Transportation engineer for Las Cruces is suing the agency, alleging he was terminated after he filed a 2008 complaint about what he said was pressure to improperly award business to connected companies.

Earl Franks alleges newly appointed Secretary of Transportation Alvin Dominguez defrauded taxpayers by pushing the department to award work for a decade to the companies of two former DOT employees, according to Albuquerque attorney Paul Melendres.

"This is a case of a state employee who stood up against corrupt practices at the DOT in order to save taxpayer money and ended up being fired in retaliation for his courage," Melendres wrote in a prepared statement.

DOT spokeswoman Bridget Spedaliere declined to comment on the case because it involves pending litigation.

Dominguez, a New Mexico State University graduate who joined NMDOT in 1995, allegedly pushed award work to Qualcon Inc., which is owned by former Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Transportation and Planning Ron Gaines, and Poly-Carb Corp.,

whose registered lobbyist is former NMDOT Secretary of Operations Benny Roybal.

Gaines testified in a 2005 deposition that, during a meeting with Franks and Dominguez, he asked for one of his bid prices to be lowered to make it look like his company's bid was lower than a competitor with the true low cost. Though it violated the New Mexico Procurement Code, Dominguez ordered Franks to follow through, an action NMDOT employees discovered in an agency e-mail Jan. 26, 2005.

"If Qualcon does the work and (the competitor) A.S. Horner, who actually would have been the low

bidder if Qualcon had not lowered a unit price, sees the work being done, they could have recourse against (the) District for illegal contract manipulation resulting in loss of work and revenue to them," the e-mail stated.

Franks subsequently e-mailed his supervisors about his concerns about using the two more expensive companies, especially after the 2007 collapse of the Interstate 35 Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis, in which he worried that money was being used to benefit Poly-Carb, not the safety of New Mexico bridges.

A trial date has been set for May.

## Grad student new regent at NMSU

DIANA M. ALBA  
Las Cruces Sun News

LAS CRUCES - Republican Gov. Susana Martinez on Tuesday named a student regent for New Mexico State University.

Christopher Dulany, 29, a master's student in business administration, is Martinez's selection. Dulany also works as a financial adviser at Edward Jones Investments in Las Cruces.

Dulany, a registered independent, said he was just notified Monday about being selected.

"I'm honored to be selected by Gov. Martinez and look forward to serving the students at New Mexico State, as well as the institution as a whole," he said Monday.

The state Senate must still confirm the appointment. Dulany said he's waiting to hear about the next steps in the process.

Martinez has not yet named anyone to a second vacancy on the NMSU Board of Regents - a post previously held by Blake Curtis, whose term expired

in December.

Dulany replaces NMSU student Regent Chris Anaya, son of former Regent Steve Anaya.

The student regent makes up one of the five members of the governor-appointed NMSU Board of Regents. Dulany will serve a two-year term, though non-student regents serve staggered, six-year terms.

One of the powers of the board is setting tuition rates, which have only gone up in recent years.

Dulany said he doesn't have enough information yet to state a stance on tuition hikes for the coming year.

Also Wednesday, Jacob Wellman, a political science student, was named student regent for the University of New Mexico.

"These talented young people will play an important role in providing a link between their student bodies, their board of regents and my administration," said Martinez in a news release.

The election process for a new student body president is under way.

## Apollo flight director to visit Alamogordo

ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS  
Staff reports

The flight director for NASA's Apollo missions will make appearances in Alamogordo and Las Cruces this weekend to mark the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 14 mission.

Milton Windler, the flight director of the maroon team for Apollo 8, 11, 13, 14 and 15, as well as lead flight director for all

three Skylab missions, will speak to space enthusiasts at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Clyde B. Tombaugh IMAX theater. His talk will follow a 9 a.m. presentation by Michael Shinabery, the New Mexico Museum of Space History's education specialist, titled "Animals in Space."

Windler will sign autographs after his presentation in the lobby of the theater.

The 40th anniversary celebration, as well as Windler's visit, is being organized by the Fellowship of Las Cruces Area Rocketry Enthusiasts.

The celebration begins at 9:50 a.m. Friday at the New Mexico State University east stadium parking lot and Corbett Center in Las Cruces.

More than 900 students from southern New Mexico are expected to attend the

activities at NMSU. Many of the school groups will launch their own rockets.

The first 100 space academy summer camp registrants receive a free ticket to see "Space Chimps" in the IMAX theater at 6 p.m. Saturday.



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# Downs slots targeted

MILAN SIMONICH  
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Sen. Steven Neville says Ruidoso Downs has a monopoly on state slot-machine leases, and he hopes to break it.

Neville, R-Aztec, is sponsoring a bill that would revamp the leasing law for five horse-racing tracks that also offer slot machines.

Each track is authorized by state government to have 600 slot machines. A provision of existing law enables these tracks to lease up to 150 additional slot machines, provided that they come from

another track that is not using its full allotment, Neville said.

R.D. Hubbard, who runs Ruidoso Downs, is leasing machines to the track in Hobbs, Neville said.

His bill would create competitors for Hubbard by permitting tracks to lease slot machines from tribal casinos.

"It's strictly about opening up the market," Neville said in an interview Tuesday. "I want to eliminate the monopoly that exists."

Neville's bill could get its first hearing this week before the Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee. His proposal is SB 484.

# Republicans try again to end licensing of illegal immigrants

MILAN SIMONICH  
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Senate Republicans, trying to repeal a law that allows undocumented immigrants to obtain New Mexico driver's licenses, failed three times this afternoon to get the issue to a floor vote.

Three Republican senators tried to amend a bill dealing with young drivers by including prohibitions against illegal immigrants receiving driver's licenses.

Democrats blocked one amendment from being attached to the bill. Sen. William Sharer, R-Farmington, offered that proposal, which was stopped on a 25-15 vote. One Democrat, Sen. Tim Jennings, D-Roswell, voted with the Republicans to allow debate on Sharer's amendment.

Proposed amendments by Sens. Clint Harden, R-Clovis, and John Ryan, R-Albuquerque, failed on 25-

14 votes. Jennings voted with the Democratic majority in those two cases.

The Republican sponsors said public safety is at risk because of New Mexico's licensing system. New Mexico is one of two states that grant people driver's licenses without proof of immigration status. Washington is the other.

Ryan said New Mexico's system creates a security risk because people in the country illegally can use the New Mexico licenses to board planes and move all across America.

Democrats countered that licensing illegal immigrants makes it easier for them to buy auto insurance, and roads are safer because of it.

Democrats also said the licensing system actually improves public safety, as undocumented immigrants can be tracked through the state motor vehicle database.

Sen. Howie Morales, D-Silver City, questioned why the Republicans were raising safety and national security concerns now, 10 years after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. New Mexico in 2003 approved the law that allows illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.

Sen. Eric Griego, D-Albuquerque, suggested that race was at the heart of the issue.

Harden, though, said New Mexico's licensing system will not meet requirements of the federal ID Act. He said state residents may need a passport to fly from one U.S. City to another, because New Mexico driver's licenses are compromised.

Republican Gov. Susana Martinez has pressed to repeal the licensing law, saying it weakens border security and makes New Mexico a magnet for illegal immigrants.

# Bill would protect New Mexico Chile

MILAN SIMONICH  
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Groceries, restaurants and roadside stands that falsely claim their chile is grown in New Mexico could be charged with deceptive business practices under a bill that advanced today.

Rep. Andy Nunez, an independent from the chile capital of Hatch, said his bill would stop false advertising that hurts New Mexico farmers.

His expert witness was Charlie Marquez, a representative of the New Mexico Chile Association.

Like Florida oranges, Marquez said, New Mexico chile is a premium product that deserves protection.

"We see cans of chile that say 'Hatch,' and that

product does not come from the United States," Marquez said.

Such dishonest business practices make it essential to approve Nunez's New Mexico Chile Advertising Act, Marquez said.

Members of the House Agriculture and Water Resources Committee endorsed Nunez's bill, though with a certain skepticism.

## Impossible to police

Rep. Don Tripp, R-Socorro, said he appreciated the intent of seeking truth in labeling and advertising of New Mexico chile. But, Tripp said, the proposed law could be "an impossible thing to audit or police."

Rep. Joseph Cervantes, D-Las Cruces, said Nunez's bill had holes in it. Namely, it mentioned only one type

of chile pepper — the "fruit from Capsicum annum, New Mexican-type."

Cervantes wondered if it also should include other New Mexico-grown peppers, such as jalapenos.

He also was wary of subjecting roadside fruit-and-vegetable stands to deceptive trade punishment that could crush these businesses.

Under the bill, the regents of New Mexico State University would administer and enforce the chile advertising act through the state Department of Agriculture. NMSU has not taken a position on the bill.

Nunez's bill faces its next hearing before the House Judiciary Committee. The proposal is HB 485.

# Over 1,000 new laws proposed at deadline

MILAN SIMONICH  
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Bullying would be a crime.

Spanking students in public schools would be outlawed.

The Native American Squash Blossom necklace would become New Mexico's "official necklace."

Thieves who embezzle from school districts would be subject to losing their vehicles and other property.

Thursday was the last day to introduce bills for this 60-day legislative session, and with the last-day flurry more than 1,000 laws have been proposed.

Some are weighty and sobering, such as attempts to reinstate the death penalty.

New Mexico is one of 15 states that does not impose capital punishment, having barred death sentences in 2009.

Rep. Dennis Kintigh and Sen. Rod Adair, both Roswell Republicans, have proposed bills to bring back capital punishment.

In what may come as a surprise, corporal punishment is still on the books as an option for public schools.

Sen. Cynthia Nava, D-Las Cruces, has filed a bill to outlaw paddling.

Nava, superintendent of the Gadsden Independent

School District, said she did not know of any districts that still allowed staff members to spank students. Her bill, she said, was intended to make sure corporal punishment does not happen by removing it from a statute that lists acceptable forms of school punishment.

Theft, unlike paddling, still goes on in schools.

Nava filed another bill to subject school employees to forfeiture of property if they are charged with stealing.

The bill sprang from a years-long, \$3.4 million embezzlement scheme in the Jemez Mountain School District, home to fewer than 400 students. The district's business manager, Kathy Borrego, pleaded guilty to embezzlement last year. Police said she killed herself two days before her sentencing.

Another bill on crime and punishment would make it a fourth-degree felony to recruit people for street gangs. The sponsor is Sen. William Sharer, R-Farmington.

Rep. Mary Helen Garcia, D-Las Cruces, filed a bill this week to make bullying a misdemeanor. Garcia is a retired school principal.

A shifting of resources to fight crime is proposed by Rep. Moe Maestas, a

Democrat and former prosecutor in Albuquerque.

He wants to eliminate thousands of misdemeanor cases statewide by preventing the Motor Vehicle Division from suspending somebody's driver's license for missing traffic court. Maestas said the threat of a bench warrant is enough for most people to keep court appearances.

Maestas would take savings from the reduced load in traffic court to lengthen sentences in homicide cases.

Money is scarce in this legislative session, but spending bills still pop up now and then.

One, by Sen. John Pinto, D-Tohatchi, would allocate \$175,000 for a feasibility study on a National Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center in McKinley County.

Sen. George Munoz, D-Gallup, is the man behind the necklace legislation.

His bill would designate the American Squash Blossom as the state necklace.

New Mexico has an official insect — the bolo — and an official tarantula hawk wasp — so a necklace has been hard to argue against.

Munoz's bill for the necklace cleared the Senate on a 33-0 vote and now is in the House of Representatives.

# Inspections of jails could become a thing of the past, if bill becomes law

MILAN SIMONICH  
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — Way back in 1865, the New Mexico territory approved a law requiring county commissioners to inspect jails.

The statute is still on the books, and it is strangling government efficiency, freshman state Rep. Conrad James said Tuesday.

Bernalillo County has more than 1,000 cells, and jail inspections by county

commissioners are time-consuming and create safety concerns, said Tom Swisstack, a deputy county manager.

Swisstack appeared as a witness for James, R-Albuquerque, who proposed to simply eliminate the law because of the difficulties it causes in larger counties.

Members of the Health and Government Affairs Committee said James had raised a valid concern, but they found his bill inadequate.

Democratic Rep. Mimi Stewart, the committee chairwoman, said someone has to inspect jails, though it need not be elected officials with myriad other responsibilities. She suggested that James rework the bill so it provides for an alternate means of inspections.

He agreed, saying the law is antiquated and needs to be fixed.

The bill is HB 426.

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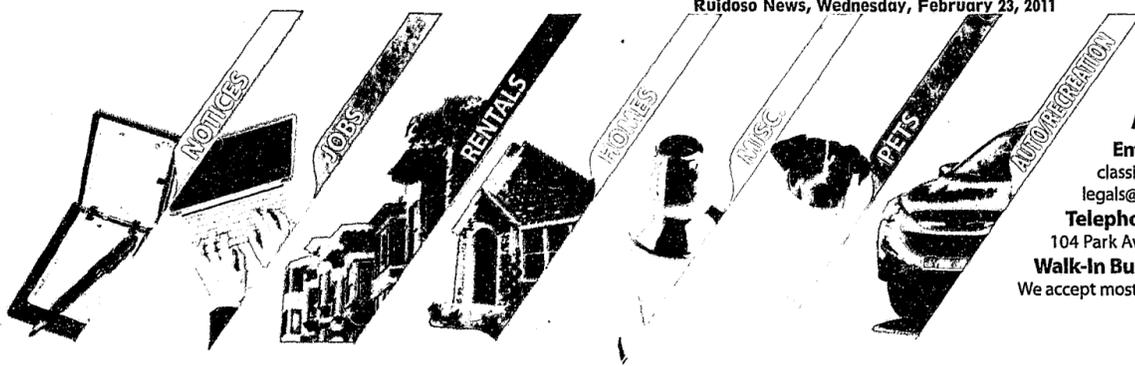
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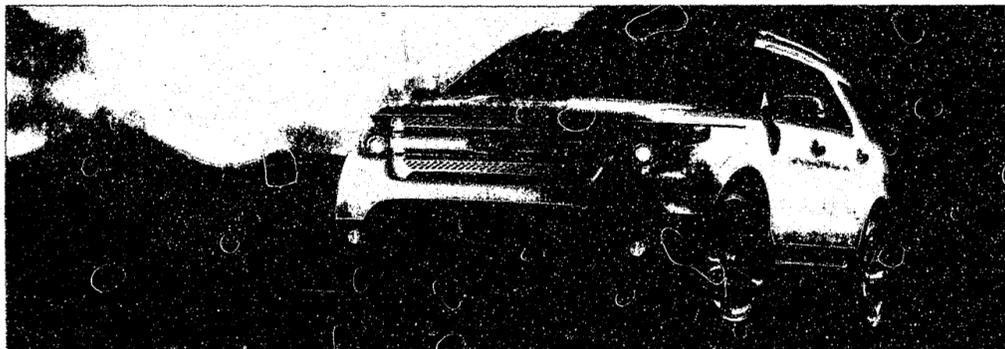
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## 2011 FORD EXPLORER



The 2011 Explorer has been redefined to raise customer expectations of what an SUV can be – with best-in-class fuel economy, improved driving dynamics, state-of-the-art technology and world-class craftsmanship.

The 2011 Explorer with V6 power delivers 25 percent better fuel economy than the 2010 model. When equipped with the available 2.0-liter EcoBoost™ I-4, Explorer fuel economy is improved by up to 30 percent.

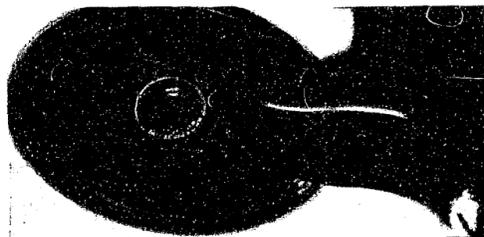
The all-new Explorer also increases on-road comfort, capability and driving dynamics. The shift to a unibody construction platform enabled a

reduction in road noise and significantly decreased body roll in dynamic cornering situations.

Explorer targets top safety ratings with a stiff structure and a class-leading array of active and passive safety features. From the boron front bumper beam through the hydroformed front frame rails and high-strength steel side-impact tubes, the body structure is designed to provide a quiet, rattle-free ride. In the instance of a crash situation, these elements come together to help protect Explorer driver and passengers inside a safety cage of strength.

### STANDARD CONVENIENCE

- MyFord™ driver connect technology, including a 4.2-inch LCD
- MyKey® programmable vehicle key
- Air filtration system
- Media hub
- Easy Fuel™ (capless fuel filler)
- Cruise control
- Power windows, with one-touch down for driver
- Power door locks with child safety rear door locks
- Tilt/telescoping steering column
- Four 12-volt powerpoints
- Cargo hooks



### SAFETY/STANDARD

- AdvanceTrac® with RSC® (Roll Stability Control™) with a Curve Control feature to provide braking optimized by individual wheel
- Second-generation first-row airbags, side-seat airbags
- Belt-Minder®
- Front passenger sensing system
- Energy Management System pretensioning, for height-adjustable first-row seat belts
- LATCH (Lower Anchors and Tether Anchors for Children)
- SOS Post-Crash Alert System™
- Safety Canopy® System
- Tire Pressure Monitoring System

### VITAL STATS

**Powertrain:** 3.5-liter Ti-VCT V6, 290 hp @ 6,500 rpm, 255 lb.-ft. torque @ 4,000 rpm  
**Series:** Base, XLT, Limited  
**Fuel economy:** 17 mpg city/25 mpg highway (est.)  
**Production location:** Chicago Assembly Plant, Chicago  
**MSRP:** Starting at \$28,995

### TERRAIN MANAGEMENT

The key to Explorer 4WD capability is the terrain management system. Replacing the traditional SUV transfer case, the new system takes the guesswork out of maximizing 4WD. Rather than employment of four-high, four-low and auto settings, the Explorer terrain management system is selectable by situation. The four settings – available by shift-on-the-fly – include normal, mud, sand and snow.

Each setting provides unique engine behavior, throttle trip-in, transmission shift scheduling and calibrations for traction and stability control systems. The terrain management system also includes a Hill Descent Control™ that provides engine braking to increase driver confidence and control when descending a steep incline.

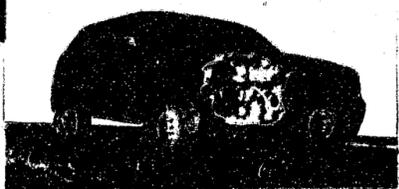


### CURVE CONTROL

Curve control technology, debuting on the 2011 Explorer, senses when a driver is taking a curve too quickly and rapidly reduces engine torque and can apply four-wheel braking, slowing the vehicle by up to 10 mph in about one second.

Curve control is effective on dry or wet pavement, and is expected to be particularly useful when drivers are entering or exiting freeway on- or off-ramps with too much speed.

The patent-pending system works by measuring how quickly the vehicle is turning and comparing that with how quickly the driver is trying to turn. The system applies the precise amount of braking required on each wheel to enhance the individual wheel braking of the traditional stability control system.



9/2010

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