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RUIDOSO

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, No. 93 • 75 CENTS

**FIRE DANGER
MODERATE**

Downs hikes taxes

JIM KALVELAGE
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New GRT rate will add to some bills at Walmart, other stores

A heftier gross receipts tax will tap shoppers in Ruidoso Downs beginning July 1. City councilors Monday unanimously approved imposition of a one-half of one percent environmental services gross receipts tax to finance increased sewage collection and treatment requirements. The new tax will put the GRT in the city at 7.625 percent.

"The initial and primary purpose will be for the additional costs to operate our new wastewater treatment plant," Ruidoso

Downs Public Works Director Cleatus Richards told councilors. "Utilities, particularly electric, will practically double over the next year. Chemicals will be another item. It's a much more sophisticated plant, a much larger plant. Lab expenses are also going to increase."

The Ruidoso councilors put the environmental services GRT in

place in the village 14 months ago.

"It is a tax that was approved by the legislature with the assistance of our past governor, basically to help Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs," Richards explained. "The tax is available only to these two communities. It is to assist in the funding of the increased cost attributable to the new waste-

water treatment plant and for other improvements to sewer systems that are mandated under our EPA agreement for the sewer plant. Under the EPA agreement we're mandated to connect areas of our community that are not served by our current sewer system. The Agua Fria (subdivision) area alone is approximately \$3 million to pay for all the sewage

business, and that's mandated under our settlement agreement with the EPA and the state Environment Department. So we have to start generating funds to make progress on making those improvements to our system."

At the new wastewater treatment facility, charges for utilities were estimated to go from \$384,000 annually to \$768,000, according to a briefing to the mayor and city councilors. Chemical costs, currently listed at \$60,000, were projected to advance to \$200,000 a year. A dou-

See TAXES, page 7A

County opposes North Fork permit

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In a strongly worded letter to the U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln County commissioners propose to lay out the county's opposition to a special use permit that would allow the Village of Ruidoso to pump four wells on the Lincoln National Forest.

County Manager Tom Stewart said Tuesday during the commission meeting that the letter was written by Commissioner Jackie Powell, then filtered through County Attorney Alan Morel and the manager.

Commissioners postponed action on the letter until 10 a.m., Monday, after Chairman Eileen Sedillo left early to be at her husband's bedside in a Las Cruces hospital, where he was taken by ambulance late the previous evening connected to kidney problems.

Vice Chairman Powell was participating by telephone conference call from Idaho, where she was attending a session on water. Former chairman Tom Battin stepped in to head the meeting and he suggested the postpone-

See PERMIT, page 8A

NEW CITIZEN



ROBIN ZIELINSKI/LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

Norgie Vasquez of Ruidoso enjoys a few moments with her daughter, Natasha, 4, before receiving her certificate of citizenship Friday at the Ramada Palms in Las Cruces. Vasquez joined 89 others, representing 16 countries, at the naturalization ceremony conducted by U.S. Magistrate Judge Gregory B. Wormuth. Vasquez, formerly of the Philippines, now has a clothing store, Norj Apparel, in Ruidoso.

Stream runoff forecast is not a pretty sight

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The influence of the ongoing La Niña weather pattern has dramatically affected the snowpack in the Sacramento Mountains and the forecast for the spring stream runoffs.

"La Niña, two small words that

have a pretty big effect on a lot of southern New Mexico's real estate over the fall of 2010 and so far right through the winter of 2010 and 2011, even right onto the beginnings of spring here," said Ed Polasko, a hydrologist with the National Weather Service in New Mexico.

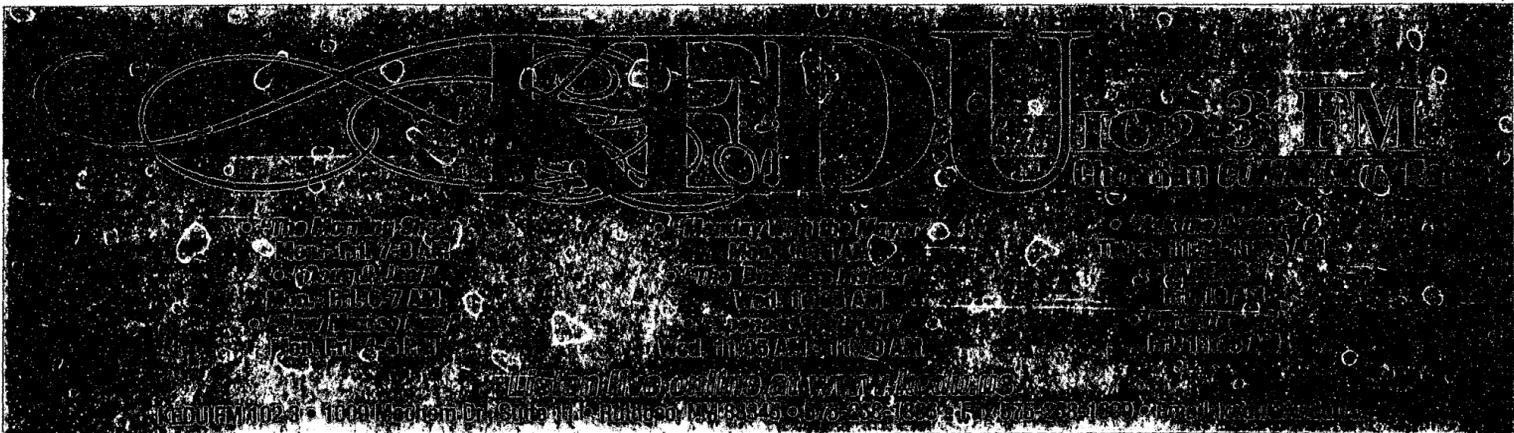
The Natural Resources

Conservation Service, in their March water supply outlook report, said the southern end of New Mexico has been especially impacted with below average snowpack accumulations, a complete reversal of the pattern last year.

The report noted temperatures dropped to well below average for a

good part of February, which helped maintain some of the snowpack created by precipitation that fell on Feb. 1-2. But all in all, the storm track has not been favorable for much of the state this winter, as is typical for La Niña. The report added there is not much indication

See RUNOFF, page 7A





JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

Former Peace Corps volunteer Lydia Radosevich is presented with a mayoral proclamation dedicating March as Peace Corps Month. The now 50 year old program has seen more than 200,000 Americans serve as Peace Corps volunteers in 139 countries. Some 2,000 of the volunteers have come from the State of New Mexico.

JUB meets today

A meeting of the Joint Use Board of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is set for 10 a.m. today at Ruidoso Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows Dr. The agenda includes an update on construction of the \$36 million plant scheduled to open this month.

Alto Lakes meets

The Alto Lakes Special Zoning District Commission will meet at 9 a.m., Thursday, in the Stag Room at the Alto Lakes Golf and Country Club, 1 Mulligan Dr., Alto.

Appliance disposal

Lincoln County residents with hot water heaters, pipes, dishwashers and washing machines damaged from recent below zero temperatures, can dispose of them free at

Greentree Solid Waste Authority on U.S. 70, east of Ruidoso Downs. Disposal fees will be waived at the facility at 26590 U.S. Highway 70 across from Duds and Suds for those appliances through April 27.

Call 575-378-4697, ext. 13, for more information.

Lincoln board

Members of the Lincoln Historic Preservation Board will meet at 7 p.m., Thursday, in the old Community Church in the historic settlement of Lincoln. Items on the agenda include a request for approval of a new garden fence by Herb and Chula Marsh, and a deteriorating building letter update.

Downs cleanup

The annual Great American Cleanup in Ruidoso Downs has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9.

The event will concentrate the cleanup efforts along U.S. Highway 70 and in neighborhoods. Registration and a run-down of safety tips will begin promptly at 8 a.m. in the Ruidoso Downs Senior Center. T-shirts, safety vests and gloves will be provided to all volunteers. At noon everyone will gather again for lunch and prizes.

Additional details about the cleanup initiative are available at city hall by phoning 378-4422. Greentree Solid Waste will be open until 12 p.m. on April 9 to take large household items for proper disposal. Call the solid waste authority at 378-4697 for further information.

Prescribed burns

The Roswell Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans to conduct several prescribed burns during the

next six to eight weeks. Beginning next week, 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, NM on Cedar Hill off of Pine Lodge Road. The overall burn plan calls for treatment of multiple units over several years.
- On Tuesday, firefighters began ignitions on the Juniper Prescribed Fire unit (which is part of the Cedar Hill Burn), located about 30 miles northwest of Roswell, NM. Conditions were favorable and ignitions began at approximately 9:58 a.m.

Sonic booms

Officials with the 49th Wing have announced the flying schedule for the week of March 14-20. Sonic booms could occur

Wednesday, March 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Friday, March 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

At this time no flights are scheduled for Saturday, March 19; or Sunday, March 20.

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

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

Cave program

On Monday, March 21 at 7 p.m., Jim Edwards will be presenting a program on Fort Stanton Cave and a DVD of Snowy River.

Snowy River is a significant, large-diameter passage within Fort Stanton Cave. It receives its name from a bright white crystal

calcite formation covering the bottom of the passage.

Today, approximately five miles of the previously unknown passage has been mapped, without reaching its end.

The public is invited to join the Lincoln County Bird Club for this very special presentation. Meet at the Training Center behind the Forest Service Building on Mechem Drive.

Earthday Picnic

Keep Ruidoso Beautiful is partnering with local residents to host the second annual Earthday Picnic which will be held April 17 at Wingfield Park from noon-5 p.m.

The event is free to the public and will host music, dancing and games for all ages. There will be a clothing swap booth to exchange unwanted items.

The event is still in its organizational stages and organizers are looking for interested bands, educational booths, volunteers and door prizes. Contact: 973-4119, 937-2725 or email dearcommon-ground@aim.com for more information.

American Legion

The American Legion, Ruidoso Post 79, monthly meeting is Saturday, March 19 at 11 a.m.

Legion member-visitors are welcome.

Post 79 is located at the southeast corner of Spring Street & U.S. Hwy 70 in Ruidoso Downs. For new member applications or more information, contact the Post Adjutant, Vic Currier at vic.currier@gmail.com or call 575-973-1719.

Tax day Tea Party

The Lincoln County Tea Party organizers will sponsor a Tax Day Rally at Wingfield Park in Ruidoso on Saturday, April 16, beginning at 2 p.m.

Former state representative and gubernatorial candidate Janice Arnold-Jones is scheduled to speak at the rally.

AccuWeather® 7-day forecast for Ruidoso AccuWeather.com

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 79° Humidity 17%	RealFeel 71° Humidity 17%	RealFeel 65° Humidity 29%	RealFeel 60° Humidity 25%	RealFeel 57° Humidity 20%	RealFeel 43° Humidity 36%	RealFeel 53° Humidity 36%
75° 53° Mid with plenty of sun Wind: W 8-16 mph	71° 45° Sunshine and windy Wind: SW 20-30 mph	65° 43° Sunshine and breezy Wind: S 10-20 mph	64° 45° Mostly sunny and breezy Wind: S 15-25 mph	61° 37° Windy with times of clouds and sun Wind: SSW 25-35 mph	53° 34° Very windy; variable clouds, cooler Wind: WSW 25-35 mph	56° 40° A.M. rain; otherwise, turning sunny Wind: WNW 10-20 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 61°/32°
Normal high 58°
Normal low 25°
Record high 72° (1972)
Record low 3° (1954)
Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.52"
Year to date 0.76"
Normal year to date 3.00"

Alamogordo
Statistics through Monday
Temperature:
High/Low 74°/34°
Normal high 67°
Normal low 39°
Record high 82° (2007)
Record low 17° (1954)
Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.28"
Year to date 0.46"
Normal year to date 1.58"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: What is the exact length of winter?
A: 89 days and 7 minutes.

Sun and Moon
Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 7:13 a.m./7:11 p.m.
Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 4:04 p.m./4:50 a.m.

Moon Phases
Full Last New First
Mar 19 Mar 26 Apr 3 Apr 11

Extremes
Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 91° in Laredo, TX
Low: -4° in Champlin, MI
Monday's World High/Low:
High: 110° in Birni-N'koni, Niger
Low: -43° in Summit Station, Greenland

National Forecast for March 16, 2011

National Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Abilene	76/58/pc	87/60/pc
Anchorage	35/24/c	34/22/c
Atlanta	86/48/s	75/53/s
Austin	78/62/pc	83/63/pc
Baltimore	62/38/r	65/43/s
Boston	49/39/r	55/40/s
Chicago	57/41/s	61/49/c
Dallas	73/60/pc	80/62/pc
Denver	75/41/pc	71/31/pc
Des Moines	64/50/s	66/45/sh
Detroit	52/37/pc	56/50/pc
El Paso	83/52/s	84/52/s
Las Vegas	82/59/pc	68/47/pc
Los Angeles	70/52/pc	70/50/pc
Minneapolis	50/38/pc	54/35/c
New Orleans	72/57/s	75/61/s
New York City	58/42/r	62/48/s
Philadelphia	59/42/r	64/45/s
Phoenix	89/62/s	84/54/s
Reno	54/31/c	50/34/c
San Francisco	53/46/sh	59/48/c
San Diego	65/56/pc	63/53/pc
Seattle	49/36/r	49/39/c
Tucson	88/56/s	86/49/s
Tulsa, OK	75/57/pc	78/59/pc
Wash., DC	64/42/sh	66/47/s
Wichita	72/54/s	81/52/pc
Yuma	93/61/pc	81/55/s

Regional Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Albuquerque	74/46/s	75/41/s
Artesia	86/52/s	92/52/s
Chama	59/32/pc	56/24/c
Clayton	79/45/s	80/37/pc
Cloudcroft	64/38/s	62/24/s
Farmington	71/39/pc	66/31/c
Hobbs	84/45/s	85/42/s
Los Alamos	64/38/s	61/29/pc
Portales	80/43/s	86/43/s
Raton	77/33/s	77/32/pc
Red River	55/34/s	52/24/pc
Ruidoso	75/53/s	71/45/s
Santa Fe	72/36/s	73/33/s
Silver City	75/43/s	75/42/s
Taos	68/33/s	68/27/pc

Mexican Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Acapulco	90/70/s	90/70/s
Cancun	84/66/pc	82/66/pc
Chihuahua	84/48/s	88/48/s
Ciudad Juárez	82/52/s	84/52/s
León	84/50/pc	84/52/pc
México, DF	75/48/pc	77/50/pc
Monterrey	86/81/pc	90/81/pc
Morelia	85/50/pc	83/52/pc
Oaxaca	88/50/pc	88/54/pc
Pto. Penasco	81/55/s	79/55/s
Tijuana	88/52/pc	84/48/pc

Village council considers adopting code of ethics

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A code of ethics will be considered for Ruidoso village councilors.

"I'm requesting your help on my behalf," Councilor Rafael "Rifle" Salas told his fellow elected village legislators. "This is solely for me that I adhere to a code of ethics. It's been just under a year that I attended a New Mexico Municipal League newly elected officers training (where a code of ethics was outlined). This is something that I strongly believe in."

A sample code of ethics from the New Mexico Municipal League would call on council members to: "Represent the interests of all people served by this municipality; Not use the organization or my service on this government body for my own personal advantage or for the individual advantage of my friends or supporters; Keep confidential information confidential; Approach all governing body issues with an open mind, prepared to make the best decision for the whole municipality; Do nothing to violate the trust of those who elected me or of those we serve; Focus my efforts on the mission of the municipality and not on my

personal goals; Never exercise authority as a governing body member except when acting in a meeting with the full governing body or as I am delegated by the governing body."

Salas said the code of ethics is pretty basic.

"It refers to a mission of the municipality. This (a copy of the village's mission statement) came from a previous administration back in the late 90s, and it stated in my office, as I was the parks and rec director from then until I retired, because I truly believe that that mission statement and those principles, here we list them as goals, but that's something that just kept me going on for what services that we would providing for the department."

Salas recalled the village council had a retreat in 2005 at The Lodge Resort at Cloudcroft that included some department directors.

"I remember the planning and the future vision of it. People drew pictures on a sketch board. And I believe Councilor Shaw's picture was selected for the vision of what Ruidoso was. From that, I enjoyed the resolution that came out of that of a strategic focus of what the council was addressing out of that meeting. And what brings

Salas: "This is something I strongly believe in."



back to this page of the mission statement and the goals, it addressed everything that was on here."

Salas told the other council members that he wanted them to keep him "on the straight and narrow" in serving the public.

Village Councilor Denise Dean agreed that a code of ethics should be adopted.

Shaw said such a code was attempted before.

"There was a lot of research done," Shaw said. "I am all for it, a code of ethics. I think it keeps you more obligated. It is your own personal promise. I think that it needs not teeth so much as a reminder of exactly how important it is."

She said a code of ethics could be enacted either through a resolution or an ordinance.

"I agree with you 100 percent," Councilor Jim Stoddard told Shaw. "After

reading some of these things I guess I can understand why some people may not have wished to vote for it. But I think that it is far overdue and I think it should be a resolution."

As an example of why a code of ethics is desirable, Mayor Ray Alborn told of a recent headline in an Austin, Texas newspaper where a resident used a freedom of information request to obtain copies of emails from city councilors.

"During a council meeting each one had a laptop and they were emailing on how they were going to vote on each item. Then the manager got up before them and they ripped the manager from stem to stern. And then the deputy manager got up and they got after him as well. And then the fire chief got up and the overriding theme was this was the typical sales pitch of the fire chief

and don't pay any attention to it. And this was all out as public information distributed to the newspaper and the citizens. So I'm pleased with what we've done here but I also think this is very important."

Village legal counsel Dan Bryant told officials there are many ways to approach a code of ethics.

"What's before you is a proposed code of ethics that has been developed by the (New Mexico) Municipal League and has been adopted by numerous municipalities."

"With a code of ethics it is exactly what one of you mentioned earlier - my

personal commitment to a standard of morality with respect to my service."

On the other hand, Bryant said a code of conduct would be an ordinance that goes further.

"I'm not recommending one end or the other at this point," Bryant told the council. "It really is a function of the government body, how you want to work together and be responsible to each other. It's really a peer relationship between the seven of you."

Salas and Shaw said they would work together to get a code of ethics before the council.

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New committee to coordinate military goals

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Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn and the Village Council appointed members to serve on a new committee in an effort to coordinate and invite soldiers, veterans and their families to enjoy the beauty and benefits of Ruidoso.

Military 365 elected Dreamcatcher Café & Coffeehouse owner Lynn Crawford as chairman, because of the many contacts he has made with military personnel. Harold Oakes, who has a history of military service, was elected co-chair of this effort.

"Military 365 are meeting weekly to organize and establish their marketing plan, budget and mission and they are passionate about working with our military and veterans in New Mexico and West Texas," Alborn said.

"The purpose of the committee is to reach out to the military people and their families so they can see

Ruidoso as a weekend or vacation destination place," Village Manager Debi Lee said. "We want to market Ruidoso as a destination location and entice our Military to come to Ruidoso and enjoy their time when they are here."

Crawford added, "We are focusing on developing our partnership with the military bases to develop and enhance the economic engine as well as benefit our military members. We want to accentuate and expand on what MAW has already started by showing the military families what Ruidoso has to offer."

Members of Military Appreciation Weekend put together two events each year to honor the active duty military and their efforts. Military 365 will be the committee that reviews and supports their funding requests to the Ruidoso Lodgers Tax Committee and the Village Council.

Military 365 also will target other military and veterans activities includ-

ing Fort Stanton Live and M-Games. The committee is planning to survey the bases to learn more about what the military would like to see when considering weekend and vacation travel.

"It is very definitely an opportunity to honor our military and veterans as well as support the activities of MAW as we all work toward a common purpose as defined in the mission of Military 365," Lee said.

"While MAW is for the active duty soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines, Military 365 is much more far-reaching. An important aspect of Military 365 is not only to active military, but also to the families and the veterans, to get those folks involved to take advantage of some of the benefits the merchants are offering our military," Crawford said.

"The way we came up with Military 365 as our name is to be able to offer incentives and marketing initiatives to the military on a day-in and day-out basis to show what Ruidoso has to offer. Not only on the bi-annual basis that MAW currently offers, but summer activities, skiing, snowboarding and all the things that Ruidoso has to offer."

"Offering that to the military, military families and the veterans of the military would be of great benefit to everyone involved. We want to give back for all they have done for us."

"There's a lot of interest and energy in this effort," Lee said. "Bringing this committee together helps to connect everybody so that great results can happen for the village and for everyone who is serving or has served our country."

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OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager
Marty Racine, editor

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OUR OPINION

Unofficially, the fire danger is extreme

Can we get to the monsoons, already?

Every year about this time, it seems, we trot out the old editorial about fire danger and the consequences of carelessness in the face dry conditions. This year the situation is even more acute. A prolonged La Niña has walled off southern New Mexico from the parade of storm tracks that wash off the Pacific Ocean, leaving us drier and windier than usual. Now, with warming temperatures and spring's onslaught of gusty weather, we will dry out even more rapidly.

As this is being written, the Bonito Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment is being asked to respond to a campfire in Philadelphia Canyon, near Bonito Lake. It sounds like another example of "what were they thinking?"

Also, as this is written, the official fire danger in the Lincoln National Forest remains "Moderate." Don't be fooled. We don't know why the Forest Service seems slower than ever to respond to changing conditions - we're sure the agency has its trigger points - but as far as we're concerned, the fire danger is extreme. Take every precaution, and let's get to the monsoon season unscathed.

Legislature does have its moments of civility

Here's a word legislative Democrats and Republicans use for each other quite often, one you won't see often in the press: collegial.

You might think a legislative session is only one step above Jello wrestling, but you'd be wrong. The language is civil, even courtly: "Gentle lady from Chavez... Gentleman from Cibola..."

Bringing their collective experiences and loyalties to the process, lawmakers understand that they will disagree, and they do it respectfully, for the most part. As hearings stretch into the wee hours, and floor agendas grow longer, there is the occasional blowup, but they soldier on. Everyone is heard.

With all the party-line votes, I had wondered if legislators think for themselves any more. They do. The parties seem to marshal their votes for certain issues, but otherwise individuals vote their conscience and their constituencies. We've seen some dramatic crossovers, some shows of independence. And collegiality.

Last week, when Rep. Larry Larrañaga, an Albuquerque Republican, presented his bill making it a crime to kill or injure the unborn child of a pregnant woman, he met resistance from Santa Fe's Rep. Brian Egolf, a Democrat. None other than House Majority Leader Ken Martinez rose to Larrañaga's defense, noting that his bill reflected the latest thinking in case law and showed a lot of hard work. The bill passed.

Then there was the matter of old oil and gas wells.

Rep. Thomas Garcia, a Mora County school superintendent, is one of the Democrats' most adroit debaters. (The scribe sitting to my left calls him "the closer." The one on my right thinks he's a bully.)

Garcia usually saves his ammunition for Republicans, so it was surprising to see him sponsor and defend a bill that would require new rules to keep a well that might be productive in the future from being prematurely plugged and abandoned.

Rep. Mimi Stewart's girlish voice doesn't serve her well in a debate, but she made up for it in tenacity, grilling Garcia about the genesis of his bill and its impact on groundwater protection. For a change, Garcia seemed to be cornered.

Rep. Don Bratton, an engineer, was next to speak.

"I've spent a career in oil and gas," said the Hobbs Republican. "As economic circumstances change for a well, it may be necessary to stop production, but if you require all the tubulars to be pulled out and a plug set to temporarily or permanently abandon a well, that costs thousands of dollars."

As technology provides new ways to remove hydrocarbons or prices improve, an unproductive well can become productive. "Any time you have to go in and re-equip a well or drill out plugs, it adds to the cost and creates an economic decision by the operator," Bratton said. "If you drive up costs, the decision is to not go in."

That decision, in turn, reduces tax revenues. Lawmakers may not know what a tubular is, but they understand reduced tax revenues.

As for groundwater protection, there are safeguards to ensure the stability of a well bore, and if an operator disappears into the night, an orphan well fund maintained by the industry will be used for remediation.

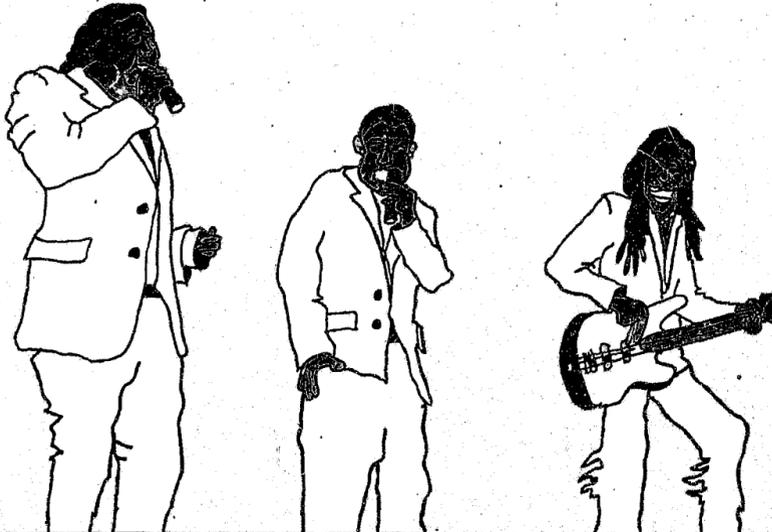
"Decisions have to be made every day about whether it's economical to operate a particular well," Bratton said. "This merely allows more time before we're required to go in and remove equipment and plug a well."

Despite lawyerly arguments from Egolf, the House passed the bill 48 to 20.

In both cases a reasonable, informed response seemed to pivot the outcome. Somebody was listening.

Maybe you disagree with a vote or still suspect politics behind every decision, but our noisy democracy often works. And respectful debate and collegiality oil the gears.

Earth, Wind, & Fire were hot in the 80's...



...hopefully, this spring, their namesake performs elsewhere.

YOUR OPINION

Different takes on unions

To the editor:

HAVE YOU FOLKS seen the anti-union ads on TV lately? Wow. I guess the rich people paying for these ads don't care about us middle class working people.

The reason this country is great is that we have a strong and large middle class. I can see that the union movement contributed greatly to the creation of this middle class. Wages in this country have grown very little over the last 10 years while the rich have gotten a lot richer.

The Republican war on the middle class is what drove me away from my party.

Chuck Maly
Ruidoso

To the editor:

HIGH PRICES on fuel are dri-

ving this country back in a deep hole. Some food prices have gone up as much as 20 percent in the last 30 days. Four-dollar-a-gallon gasoline and diesel will take this country back.

More people will lose their homes, cars, max their credit cards and once again the American dream will be out of reach for millions of Americans.

A lot of big businesses are making record profits while the working people in this country, bite the bullet. It is a bad scenario when big oil companies get richer and richer while millions of Americans can not put food on the table for their families.

President Obama needs to start thinking about helping the non-union workers in this country as well as the union workers. Private workers are paying the

price so public union workers can have their lucrative benefits.

We cannot afford to let unions take over this country. General Motors should have been a good lesson to the American people. Seventy-five-dollar-an-hour wages and workers retiring with outrageous benefits are why the American taxpayers had to bail out General Motors.

As far as public workers, they should not get one dollar more an hour than private workers that are doing the same job.

Like New Mexico, every state should have the right-to-work law.

If we do not slow down the unions, they will break this country with their so-called "collective bargaining."

Jack Hemby
Ruidoso Downs

Cavalier attitude just energizes voters

To the editor:

LAST THURSDAY, March 10, I drove to Santa Fe to attend the Voter and Elections Committee for the hearing of HB577, the Photo Voter ID bill sponsored by Carlsbad Republican Cathryn N. Brown. What I saw was a classic example of our government in non-action.

The meeting that was scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. was finally called to order at 9:15. HB 577 was the last item on the agenda.

Our Lincoln County clerk and deputy clerk made the trip the night before so they could meet with six to eight other clerks from around the state and prepare for the meeting.

Also in attendance were Secretary of State Diana Duran and members of her staff. The rest of the crowd consisted of citizens such as me, some having traveled up to three hours to take part in their government.

Discussion of the first three bills was delayed by long pauses:

Representative W. Ken Martinez meditating on "unforeseen consequences," Representative Rodello declaring she was confused, and the sponsor of one bill along with his expert witness and clerk editing text in situ a number of times.

Some jolly exchanges regarding abbreviations and commas also took place.

The final two agenda items were bills sponsored by Representative Brown. At about 11 a.m., Chairman Garcia called for a hearing of the first of Brown's bills. Representative Brown stated that bill was undergoing minor revisions and requested that HB577 be heard next.

"No, it's late," said Chairman Garcia, whereupon Speaker Lujan popped up like a jack-in-a-box stating that it was time for the call to the floor. There was discussion whether it would be heard on Saturday or the next Tuesday, with no decision being made. I left not knowing when to return.

So let's see: It was clear to observers that the Democrat majority on the committee had deliberately wasted time in order to avoid a hearing of HB577. It didn't matter that our county wasted precious tax dollars for our clerks to make the trip or that the hours spent by our county and state officials could have been put to better use.

The cavalier attitude of those committee members is what motivates people to get out and campaign for individuals who will not disrespect the citizens and who will remember who they work for.

Glynis Racine
Capitan

Footnote: Saturday, March 12, the Voters and Elections Committee continued hearings on HB577, rolled it over to Tuesday, March 15, where they voted 7-5 to table it.

The vote went down party lines with every Democrat voting to table.

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JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

With onlookers from both Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs on hand, Ruidoso police detective Doug Babcock (left) is sworn in as Ruidoso Downs police chief by Municipal Judge Harrold Mansell.

Babcock sworn in; severance policy changed

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Newly sworn-in Ruidoso Downs Police Chief Doug Babcock will be a "key employee."

Babcock, who assumes his duties today, will join City Clerk Carol Virden as the two key employees at Ruidoso Downs.

A key employee is described as so essential that the city would suffer if they were to depart. Including Babcock required an amendment to the city's Master Severance Pay Plan, which was approved

Monday by the city council.

"The reason for that is to primarily give our new chief of police the ability to be included under the severance pay plan," City Attorney H. John Underwood said of the amendment. "The only amendments in it are that it takes out the provision that somebody must be employed by the city for five years before becoming eligible. And it applies to the employed position as being a key position.

"The other amendment is that it puts a provision in that says that the city has

determined the service of this particular key employee is essential to the well-being of the city so that it will allow the new chief of police to be eligible for our severance pay plan."

The severance plan provides for two months of salary and health insurance premium payments from the city if a key employee is terminated for reasons other than a conviction of a state law or a crime of moral turpitude.

The initial master severance pay plan, enacted in 2008, had just the city clerk as a key employee. A city

manager, which Ruidoso Downs has not had since

"I think we'll have a good time going forward with the police department. I think we've got great things in the works."

March 2008, is also considered a key employee.

Questioned by City Councilor Gary Williams, Underwood said only the

city clerk and police chief would presently be covered by the severance plan.

"The removal of the five years, what is the reason for that?" asked Williams.

Underwood replied the amendment would make the new police chief immediately eligible. Babcock, who was sworn in Monday evening to a round of applause, was to take the helm of the police department today.

"I'm looking forward to working for everybody here," Babcock said. "I think we'll have a good time going forward with

the police department. I think we've got great things in the works."

Babcock, a 17-year veteran of the Ruidoso Police Department, was appointed to the Ruidoso Downs police chief's position by Mayor Tom Armstrong and approved by city councilors on Feb. 28. He replaces Alfred Ortiz, who was terminated by a 3-1 vote of the city council on Nov. 22, 2010, following a six-month probation period. Ortiz had been the chief for four years.

First in the Ruidoso News

— Mescalero Apache Tribe —

Former president dies

ALAMOGORDO DAILY
NEWS REPORT

Virginia S. Klinekole, former president of the Mescalero Apache tribe, passed away Sunday night in Alamogordo.

Klinekole was elected president in 1959, according to a news release from the tribe, and served two terms in that office. She was the first woman president of the tribe and the first woman elected to lead any major tribe in the United States.

After becoming president, Klinekole served many years as a member of the Tribal Council. Her final term ended in 1986.

"Ms. Klinekole's tenure on the council was concurrent with that of my father," said tribal President Mark Chino. "She served the tribe during an exciting time in the tribe's history.

"As president, she helped lead the tribe to great success."

Born in 1924, Klinekole grew up in Three Rivers. According to the release, she was a well-respected expert in tribal culture and language.

Klinekole contributed to various histories of and

appeared in numerous documentaries about the tribe throughout her life.

"Her greatest contribution was to Apache language preservation and education," the release says. "She was inducted into the New Mexico Association of Bilingual Education's Hall of Fame in 1984."

Klinekole was a member of the Tularosa School Board in the late 1960s and served on the Mescalero Apache School Board in the 1980s and 90s.

She served on the New Mexico Indian Education Advisory Council in the 1980s and received the third annual governor's award for outstanding New Mexican women in 1988.

Klinekole's husband, the former Bruce Klinekole Sr., had been a survivor of the Bataan Death March.

They had four children — Bruce, Gregg, Gina and Ruth — who gave their mother numerous grandchildren.

Klinekole did not survive to see her first great-grandchild, who is expected in the next few days.

"I am deeply saddened by Ms. Klinekole's passing and my prayers are with her family," Chino said.

Village plans to sell properties

JIM KALVELAGE
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Ruidoso will put on the market six municipally-owned properties including just over nine acres in the Alto area that had been considered a couple of years ago for a new village cemetery.

"I think this is something that started some time ago," Village Manager Debi Lee told council members about a proposed sales agreement. "You awarded the RFP (Request for Proposals) to Darien Ross."

Ross is an associate broker for Pinnacle Real Estate and Development Inc. in Alto.

"She's anxious to get started," Lee said. "She's got some interest in a couple of the pieces I know. What we're asking for your consideration is to allow her to be our real estate broker to sell these properties."

The properties include 1.68 acres of residential zoned land in the Airport West subdivision, about two-thirds of an acre with a land use described as an Upper Canyon cabin in the Ruidoso Acres subdivision, nearly two acres of commercial zoned property in

the Palmer Gateway subdivision, more than two acres that are called commercial zoned as Taos Park in the Skyland Addition subdivision, more than three residential acres in the Wingfield Homestead subdivision, and the 9.19 acres of land behind TR's Market in Alto.

The one-year agreement with Ross could be renewed annually should it take more than a year to sell the properties. The contractor would be paid a six percent commission for residential property and 10 percent for raw land.

Village Attorney Dan Bryant said he had reviewed the agreement for professional services and found it acceptable.

"And my compliments to (purchasing agent Vicki) Miss Eichelberger. She was very thorough in putting in all of the clauses that are required for a public entity's contract. She did a great job."

Councilor Gloria Sayers said she had spoken with Ross about a \$40,462 line item for the agreement.

"I thought it was unusual that we had a number there before anything has been done. I realize the standard commission is six

percent and raw land 10 percent. Can you explain that \$40,000 and what it is because she was unaware of it?" Sayers asked.

Eichelberger said the amount was just to show there is money budgeted for commissions.

"That is not what we are going to be paying her. I mean I do that for everything when we have that standard form there which gives the line item where the money will be coming from."

Eichelberger said Ross will receive a sales commission out of the line item.

Councilor Rafael "Rifle" Salas said he would like proceeds from the property sales to revert back to proper village departments.

"For instance, like the Upper Canyon cabin and the nine acres behind TR's Market, I know that came out of the water utility fund. Those sales of those two should go back to that fund in large part. And I know the rest of them are pretty much general fund, but I'll go back to where we sold a portion of park property to First National Bank. That's where that allocation after that sale went back to the Parks and Recreation Department."

Lee said a sales contract, negotiated by the manager, would come back to the council.

"And you can have a closed meeting to discuss and finalize any costs associated with the sale. But once the sale is finalized, it comes to you in a contract that you would approve. At that time we would identify which fund that land was acquired by and then the money from the purchase would return to that fund. It's kind of like the auction. The monies that are generated from that auction will go back to the appropriate department that sold that equipment or whatever they sold."

Lee said land that had been purchased with general fund money could have its sales proceeds targeted to a specific project.

"At this point we don't have any designations for the dollars that we anticipate."

The village council unanimously approved the agreement with Ross at their March 8 meeting.

Ross will undertake an "aggressive sales program" to sell the surplus municipal properties, according to the agreement for real estate services.

EDUCATION

Ruidoso Schools look at paperless board meetings

JIM KALVELAGE
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The paperless computer world may be looked at for meetings of the Ruidoso Municipal School District Board.

The program, called Blackboard, is being used in Capitan, Ed Vinson, the president of the Capitan Municipal School District Board told Ruidoso school officials last week.

"When I first came on the board, the New Mexico School Boards Association's home page had an advertisement on it that said 'paperless board,' the six-year member of the Capitan district board said. "And I was curious about that so I looked at it and the cost of the paperless system that they would sell you was like \$26,000 and it cost you another \$3,000 or \$4,000 every year to keep up with it. And I said that's ridiculous, there's got to be a better way."

Vinson said he looked for several years and eventually connected up with Gary Cozzens at the Region IX Education Cooperative based in Ruidoso who said the system readily was available.

"And the state has already paid for it. It won't cost you anything. And the schools are already using it."

Vinson said his ears perked up and he checked into the system.

"We put together a paperless board system for the Capitan schools. Now why do you need that? Well, you don't get those books like that anymore," Vinson said, as he pointed to the meeting agenda document package that Ruidoso school board members had. "And they you don't come to the meeting and have to shuffle and find out what page goes where to substitute what page has been updated and all that. It's just so much easier."

After bringing up the Capitan school board's web page on his computer and projecting the images, Vinson showed the monthly meeting documents were online along with an array

of other schools information.

"We've got all the stuff that you need to refer to on this site. For our board meeting in Capitan we've got the opening of the board meeting, the review and adoption of minutes, consent agenda items and if someone has a question we can break that out. All of those are in this document. You can see our activities, our cafeteria, payroll, check listings, March transfers. All that stuff is in there. And the documentation to go with it is in there too."

Vinson said the person that creates the file simply goes into Blackboard and "clicks" it in, instead of someone having to create a number of paper copies. He said in addition to saving paper and ink, the electronic posting eliminates the paper shuffling that occurs when a document changes at the last minute.

"What it does do is it given you the information ahead of time so that you can look through it, browse through it, read it, and get up to speed on in before you come to the board meeting."

Much of the information is also available online to the public.

"They can read through all of the documents. They don't have to sit out here wondering what they're looking at, what numbers you're talking about. That's one of the most frustrating things I had. Before I was a board member I said 'What are they talking about? I wished I could see all of that.'"

Video monitors also display the information for board members and meeting attendees.

The Blackboard system can block access of confidential documents from the general public.

"Plus you have the flexibility of who on your staff can edit this and change it. Another level of input allows people to put stuff into it."

"All of our staff, our business manager, our financial manager, all those people can dump their documents into it but they can't change it. You

want to create levels so that when your principal does a principal's report, instead of having to worry about I've got to print this and get it to the secretary and I got to do this, he just dumps it into Blackboard and it's automatically there."

Vinson urged the Ruidoso school board members to become familiar with the system.

"Blackboard is the standard by which most students in college today are taking classes. Our state has paid for this and I like to use everything that the state has paid for. I don't want to waste anything because if we don't use it they'll take it away."

Vinson said there is so much in Blackboard his district has yet to get to some of the features.

"I heard from Mr. Cozzens the other day that there's the possibility that as we get our teachers and our classes online with Blackboard, we can do away with snow days. Oh my goodness, what a neat idea! As a board member that's big."

He said two-way communications are possible.

Asked by Ruidoso school board president Devin Marshall if someone highly technical was needed to set up the system, Vinson said the district already has the information technology staff.

"It does take some time to get used to it, but once you get used to it it's very simple. To be very honest with you, we had two members on our board that were not tech-savvy. They didn't like computers, didn't want anything to do with them, didn't have email addresses.

"For them we printed paper documents for two months. The second-month they closed the book, pushed it over, and said don't print anymore. One of the strongest against it was one of our board members that just was voted out in this past election. But he, at the last meeting, had his iPad with him."

Marshall told Vinson that Ruidoso school officials would be calling on him.

PINK FOR PREVENTION



COURTESY

Ruidoso Middle School eighth graders Anissa Prieto, Jorge Herrera and Jasmine Dolan (left to right) spurred the school to focus awareness on breast cancer awareness and prevention.

Spring classes at ENMU-Ruidoso

Spring II classes at ENMU-Ruidoso started this week and run until May 13.

The last day to register for the eight-week classes is today, March 16.

Several physical fitness classes are offered as well as Criminal Procedures, Biopsychosocial Foundations of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and Special Attractions and Event Management.

The Casino Management class contains an optional travel component to Las Vegas, Nev. to study mega-casinos.

Trip expenses are the responsibility of the student.

For more information on the classes call ENMU-Ruidoso at 257-2120 or stop at the campus at 709 Mechem Drive in Ruidoso to register.

Community ed

• Introduction the Music Scoring and Scanning Software: Robert Walshe introduces the computer program "MuseScore" to students interested in writing music, arranging music for a group, importing MIDI files from the internet, correcting parts, and scanning sheet music into a computer.

Some basic music knowledge on note values, rhythms, and pitches is

suggested. The class takes place Saturday, March 19 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The fee is \$35 or \$25 for seniors.

• Ruidoso Bear: Paper Piecing Method: Make a flannel bear pillow from old flannel shirts or new material.

The paper piecing method is easy and has myriad applications. The finished bear pillow will have great detail without a lot of small pieces.

The class takes place on three consecutive Saturdays: March 19, 26 and April 2 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The fee is \$45.

To register, call ENMU-Ruidoso Community Education at 257-3012.

JANUARY BUZZY BEES



COURTESY

Headstart Buzzy Bees, top photo, Back row: l-r, Brooklyn Salas, Lianna Fielder, Michael Rogers, Eric Leyva Castillo, Diana Castillo, Camilla Pelcastre; Front row: Sixto Herrera, Dakota Turner, Erik Ochoa, Zion Gayford, Joel Ortega, Aliyah Vega, Valeria Villegas Solis Kindergarten Buzzy Bees, bottom photo, Back row: Emberlyn Allen, Xzavier Urban, Emma Drane, Nittalai Patel, Gabriel LaPaz, Gael Gomez, Jasmyn Burn, Elizabeth Quintana; Middle row: Anaya Rocha, Saul Gutierrez-Lucero, Dayanara Perez, Journie Hernandez, Ryley Loit, Gabriela Moreno; Front row: Daniel Ambriz, Salimm Hernandez, Savannah Mendez, Zander Ahidley, Darius Sundayman.

Frizzell awarded IHS Scholarship

A member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe is a recent recipient of an

Indian Health Scholarship through the Indian Health Service.

Felicia Frizzell is attending the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry in San Francisco. She had attended Ruidoso High School.

Frizzell is one of more than 300 Native American students across the country receiving Indian Health Scholarships for fiscal year 2010.

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HUGE SELECTION!

TAXES

FROM PAGE 1A

bling of lab expenses lifted the anticipated cost to \$70,000. Equipment maintenance would also double to \$120,000 a year.

The expense of periodic replacements of membrane filters was listed at \$20,000. The five areas of plant expenses, currently at \$539,000 a year, would jump to \$1.178 million, under the estimates.

"We need to start creating reserve funds to meet those expenses because they are coming," Richards said.

Sewer main costs

Additionally, an estimated \$4.4 million will be needed to repair the sewer main in Ruidoso Downs that goes to the treatment plant. The interceptor line was damaged in the 2008 Hurricane Dolly flooding along the Rio Ruidoso. Richards said the Federal Emergency Management Agency will reportedly pay much of the repair costs though he added he was awaiting a firm commitment from the agency.

"Have you had any discussions with them (FEMA) over a period of time, are you continuing discussions with them, are you getting a feel for where they may be going with this?" Councilor Gary Williams asked Richards.

Richards said an Environmental Assessment for the interceptor line has been approved.

"Hopefully soon they'll be moving into final design and final cost on the project. At that point we'll

have a much better understanding of the full cost and also of the extent that FEMA will participate."

Richards said the \$4.4 million dollar estimate would be shared, at 15 percent to Ruidoso Downs and 85 percent to Ruidoso. The city's 15 percent would be \$662,000.

City Finance Director Terri Mosley said the new environmental services GRT would take the current 7.125 percent GRT in Ruidoso Downs to 7.625 percent.

Rate moves upward

Of the more than 200 New Mexico locations with varying GRT rates, 35 have bigger hits, including Ruidoso, where the rate is 8.625 percent. The state takes much of the GRT with a 5.125 percent rate. Above that level are local option taxes that can be enacted at the municipal and county levels. Currently, the GRT does not apply to most groceries and drugs.

"We've already been hit with a tax at the beginning of the year, January 1, with the business retention tax," reminded Williams.

The three-sixteenths of one percent tax, to provide a gaming tax credit for the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino, was approved by voters in Lincoln County last September. It took the total GRT rate in Ruidoso Downs from 6.9375 percent to the current 7.125.

The upcoming July 1 increase was expected to bring an additional \$200,000 annually to the city. Richards said \$96,000 would be applied to Ruidoso Downs' 15 percent share of the expected high-

er wastewater treatment plant costs.

The excess would go into reserve to pay for future sewer line repairs and expansions.

City Councilor Dean Holman looked back on the history of financing the \$36 million dollar plant used by Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs.

"Probably four or five years ago we (Ruidoso Downs) raised property taxes to supplement the wastewater treatment plant. As I recall, the reason that the council did that at that time was because we have a considerable amount of moderate-to poverty-level residents and we didn't want to raise the rates on water and sewer because some of them were struggling and we were having some defaults so we went with property taxes.

Property taxes safe

"The settlement plan that Cleatus (Richards) has mentioned, mandated by the state and federal governments, we don't have any option except to comply or be fined very heavily. I would hate to see us do anything more to raise property taxes. That was done once and the property owners have shouldered that burden now for quite some time. This tax would involve more people. So I think this is definitely the way to go."

Mayor Tom Armstrong said the city's "hands are pretty much tied."

Ruidoso Downs resident Wayne Williams said increasing the GRT was a wrong plan.

"You might want to take a look at cutting out the



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

City Councilor Gary Williams (center) questions Ruidoso Downs Public Works Director Cleatus Richards (right) about sewage collection and treatment costs that would be covered through an increase in the city's gross receipts tax. In background is Councilor Tommy Hood.

waste. As far as putting money in the lockbox for future expenditures, you know how that works. It doesn't. I've never seen a

city government, a federal government, any other government that could save money until it was needed. You've got money, you'll

spend it. So don't try to pull that cloud over everybody's face."

First in the *Ruidoso News*

RUNOFF

FROM PAGE 1A

that the trend will shift in the coming months. Polasko said looking even a year out is questionable.

"What we've seen is a real reduced number of storms, significantly less precipitation than what we saw a year ago, and an early start to our windy season," Polasko said.

As a result, the streamflow for the Rio Ruidoso, March to June, is forecast to be 3,000 acre-feet, or 41 percent of average at the Hollywood gauge on Ruidoso's eastern edge. That's about one-third of last year's forecast at this time.

High elevation precipitation immediately west of Ruidoso remained below

average during February at 61 percent of normal, compared with 183 percent of average last year. A month earlier the Rio Hondo/Ruidoso Snotel station had a snowpack at 71 percent of normal. Year-to-date precipitation is 76 percent of average, compared to last year's 190 percent. The snowpack in the Rio Hondo Basin is also much lower this year, at 57 percent of average, compared to last year's 184 percent.

Polasko said La Niña may have peaked.

"It looks like the La Niña phenomenon out in the central Pacific Ocean, which consists of colder than normal sea surface temperatures having an effect on the storm track, peaked in December and January and we're kind of getting out of that. And the

temperatures out there in the Pacific Ocean are starting to warm a little bit.

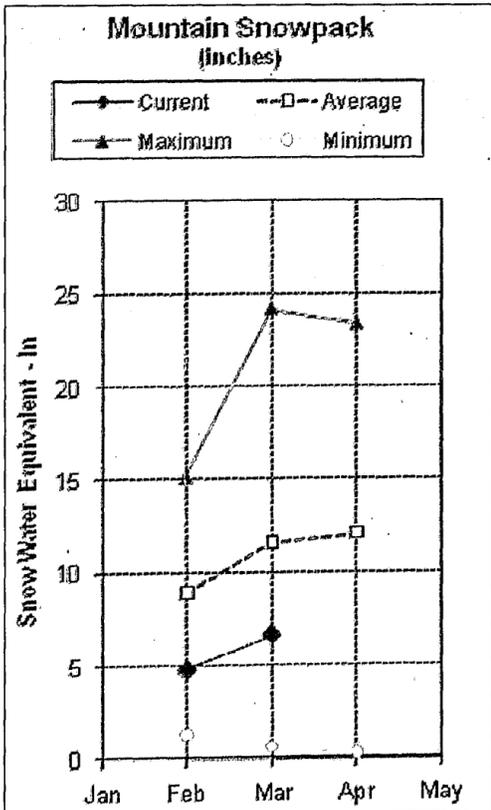
"Now the problem is the influence of La Niña will probably be with us right through the spring. And that kind of argues a continuation of where we've been - lots of drier storms mostly generating wind. And if you get some precipitation, it doesn't last for a long time, and it tends to favor the northern half of the state rather than anything down south."

A "double whammy," according to Polasko, is that the lack of moisture has heightened fire concerns. He said it may not be until late June or into July before the monsoon season helps to ease the fire season.

While La Niña is easing its grip there's no guarantee wetter weather is on the horizon.

"Simply because we went from an El Niño in the winter of 2009-2010 and we had plenty of snow and most people were happy except for those folks who were trying to shovel their driveways every third day. And then 2010-2011 turned right around and we had the evil sister La Niña. It doesn't follow that we're either going to see a repeat of one or the other come 2011-2012.

"Now, having said that, the odds do favor a La Niña influence next winter also, simply because of the other ocean influences that we've seen that tend to last for longer periods of time. And when they've been in the situation as they are now, we tend to have kind of a back-to-back La Niña possibility more so than another swing from La Niña to El Niño. That's kind of a long-winded way of saying don't get your hopes for next winter because it may not work out that way."



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County stands by its stance on wells

Letter drafted to Forest Service, but no action taken Tuesday

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Although action was postponed Tuesday on a draft comment letter for the U.S. Forest Service on a special use permit for a village of Ruidoso wellfield, Lincoln County commissioners said they stood by their conclusions.

They said the comments were based on scientific data and unless village officials can show where that information is wrong, they will send the letter as written.

In the draft, commissioners wrote that because of the village's approach, past history, and recent statements about water, the county believes the village is putting the whole area's investments at risk. "A large part of the underground watershed that some Lincoln County residents depend on for their way of life is put at risk by the pumping of wells that the Forest Service has allowed to date."

Specifically, the county advocated a maximum initial threshold for production of 300 acre feet per year and an uninterrupted flow of the Eagle Creek stream, which would represent a significant deficit for the village water supply, when about 1,600 acre feet are used in the basin now.

That figure should be adjusted even lower, if the current thresholds and mitigations are not sufficient to maintain surface

resource conditions, commissioners contend in the letter. An acre foot of water equates to about 325,800 gallons of water.

The county opposes authorization of Well Number 2 that never was equipped or used, contending it should be declared abandoned and be decommissioned.

The county also opposed a permit for more than 10 years in duration, and even then, "only with considerable stipulations for operation, monitoring and adaptive management by the Forest Service."

No monitoring

The county "resists" any monitoring done by the village, the letter states. The Forest Service or the Office of the State Engineer should be responsible, commissioners wrote.

They suggested the operational data, including depth of the water table, quantity and rate of diversions be relayed electronically directly from the wells to a Forest Service office to be continuously recorded. The county recommended that a continuous in-stream flow be required as a condition any time pumping occurs.

The county "strongly and totally resists any consideration of flow augmentation," which could occur only by pumping groundwater into the Eagle Creek stream.

That action would further expand the cone of depression underground and the resulting degradation of natural resources discussed in a report by the

U.S. Geological Survey, commissioners wrote.

They contended the village allowed the monitoring gauge at Eagle Creek to jam up with debris. To ensure accurate data, the Forest Service needs to make sure this monitoring gauge is clear. The county also asked that a pump shut off switch be located in a tamper proof box at the flow gauge.

A saturated stream bed and a full Alto Reservoir are vital to downstream resources, commissioners stated. "We resist a Forest Service conclusion that does not restore riparian vegetation by keeping the Eagle Creek stream bed and reservoir wet."

They noted that the USGS study "reports no record of zero-flow days in the decade before the North Fork wells were drilled."

An analysis of baseline streamflow without the wells is needed, they insisted.

Commissioners pointed to the Forest Service Manual 2541.34, entitled Water Rights and Uses for Other Purposes, that mandates if "projected water requirement conflict with existing or potential Forest Service uses and rights, or will adversely affect National Forest resources, the potential permittee must seek alternative water sources or develop mitigation plans acceptable to the Forest Service."

That item would appear to limit the action available to the USFS for meeting the purpose and need for action, they pointed out.

The county supports the

measures necessary to restore, sustain or improve aquatic habitat and fish, streamside recreation, fishing and wildlife viewing, riparian vegetation and municipal water supply on the Eagle Creek Basin, with the exception of transfers of water rights, they wrote.

Commissioners wrote that they question the authority of the Forest Service as it relates to water rights transfers to other parts of Eagle Creek or to other stream systems.

A significant part of the growth around Ruidoso was based on water rights numbers that proved to be erroneous, they wrote. The village's lack of infrastructure planning for the past 20 years "put the whole area in a precarious position."

Investments 'at risk'

"Lincoln County feels that the applicant is putting the whole area's investments at risk," and the Forest Service allowed the negative impact on the watershed by allowing the pumping, commissioners contended.

"The 1984 Eagle Creek water rights were brought about by the assumption that the underground system where the well fields like are separate from the Upper Hondo Watershed," they wrote, "That has proven to be an untrue statement."

The village allowed a previous special use permit to lapse in about 1995, and continued to pump using a renewable annual agreement with the USFS.

PERMIT

FROM PAGE 1A

ment, because officials with the village of Ruidoso sent a letter Monday asking for a chance to present more information to commissioners.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter asked if the village representatives were bringing new scientific data with them. "I read the reports and understand how critical (the wells on the North Fork of Eagle Creek) are to Ruidoso. I'll all for proceeding. I don't think we're going to get more data from them."

But Battin said, "I think it's important we involve the village in discussions and they have a chance to visit with us, because more than half of the residents of this county live in Ruidoso and it supports our economy. Three of the five commissioners have a significant number of electors in Ruidoso or close by and I would urge you to try to develop a rapport, to cooperate and work together responding to these issues. I think we have a stake as commissioners in what happens to Ruidoso."

Calling Battin "the diplomat" of the commission, Minter said, "I think he is, saying to take the higher road and not treat them as they did us." She was referring to a recent move by the village to eliminate county representation on a board that governs a regional wastewater treatment plant shared by Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs.

Although he voted for the postponement, Commissioner Mark Doth said the time of the meeting Tuesday was advertised and posted. "Here we are putting our business on hold, when they could have been here" for the item on the Tuesday agenda.

Powell criticized the attitude of some Ruidoso officials as failing to acknowledge that other communities are involved and "help make Ruidoso work."

In the letter to the commission, Ruidoso Mayor Pro-Tempore Jim Stoddard wrote that the proposed county comments made available to the village council "are extremely one-sided and do not accurately reflect the findings of the U.S. Geological Survey study of the North Fork of Eagle Creek, nor do they accurately reflect the decisions of the New Mexico State Engineer with regard to the village's water rights on the (creek)."

The potential reduction being considered in a new special use permit would drastically affect the village's water supply and will not benefit the North Fork or Eagle Creek, he contended.

He said councilors are confident after a chance to present pertinent materials and information, they will convince the commission to "modify the tone and import of its proposed comments."

A special meeting was required Monday, because by 5 p.m. that day, comments on the environmental impact of a proposed special use permit must be submitted. Although he was told the deadline was extended, Morel said the official publication in the Federal Register listed that date.

Speaking by conference call, Powell told the other commissioners that water is becoming the common denominator everywhere and communities are reaping the problems of the policies they sewed for the past 30 years. Using scientific data, real leaders must face up to the limited water resource and plan for that. "Isn't that what leadership is?" she asked.

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Airport manager president

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Justin King, manager of the Sierra Blanca Regional Airport owned by the village of Ruidoso, recently was elected president of the New Mexico Airport Manager's Association.

Born and raised in New Mexico, King attended the University of Wyoming and earned a bachelor of science degree in Architectural/Mechanical Engineering in 2001. He worked in the western United States as an engineering consultant before attending flight training with Mesa Airlines Pilot Development in Farmington.

He earned his private, commercial, instrument and multi-engine certificates from MAPD.

He also worked as a project engineer with the Wyoming Department of Transportation before being recruited in 2008 by the Village of Ruidoso as a project manager. He became airport manager in 2009.

The other association officers include Vice President Mark Fratrack, Taos Airport manager, and Board Members Jennifer Brady, Roswell Airport manager; Jim Montman, Santa Fe Airport manager; and Steve Summers, Clovis Airport manager. They will assume their respective offices in April.

The Association is an affiliate of the New Mexico Municipal League, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization in Santa Fe representing all of the state's incorporated municipalities.

Public's input solicited for Ruidoso River Trail

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The public can comment on proposed plans or offer ideas Monday for the Ruidoso River Trail, a Billy the Kid Scenic Byway project.

The meeting will run from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Village of Ruidoso Council Chambers at Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows Dr.

Everybody who has an interest in the Ruidoso River Trail Project should plan to attend. The design team from Loris & Associates will be there to solicit public input on the trail. They want to know what people in the community would like to see along the trail.

The Billy the Kid National Scenic Byway received a Federal Highway Administration grant to complete Phase I of the River Trail, which will run along the Rio Ruidoso from Two Rivers Park, behind the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, to just

behind the River Crossing condominium project.

"We are in the design process right now, and the design team will take the information gathered at the public meeting and use it as they begin the trail design," said Laura Doth,

who wrote the grant application and serves on the local byways committee.

"Phase II will run from that point to Eagle Drive," she said. "We are waiting to hear about the funding for Phase II. The grant is sitting on the Secretary of

Transportation's desk in Washington DC.

"As soon as the budget is passed in Washington, we should hear about that grant."

The Ruidoso River Trail is a project that the Ruidoso community has

been wanting for many years, Doth said.

"We are finally to the stage that we are soliciting public input on the project," she said.

"We invite everybody to come to the public meeting to learn more about the

project and to offer their input."

Ideas voiced to date have included art exhibits, botanical labeling, activities related to terrain, park benches, handicap access and multiple entrances and exits.

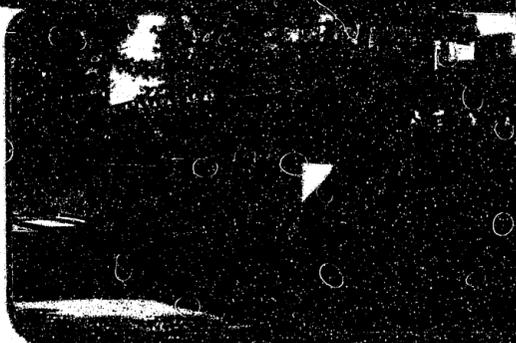
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Open Thursdays in Ruidoso



Utility digging 'One-Call' now official

JIM KALVELAGE
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New Mexico One-Call, the phone number to request that all utilities mark where their underground electric, gas, cable, water and sewer lines are before digging, is official in Ruidoso.

The village council adopt changes during their meeting last week to the ordinance related to utility location requirements.

"We had our own operation for many years," said Bob Decker, the village's engineer.

"And as the One Call system started, people slowly moved to the statewide system. What we're doing here is recognizing something that occurred a number of years ago. We're just kind of tidying up the ordinance."

The Ruidoso Utility Council used to provide utility locates. It was disbanded a number of years ago.

"The Ruidoso Utility Council was one of the first utility councils that I was a member of eight years ago when I was hired by Zia Natural Gas Company," said Village Councilor Angel Shaw.

Councilor Denise Dean questioned deleting a part of the ordinance language that required utilities to indicate, within 48 hours of a notice of intended excavation, the location of its buried lines.

"I mean we need them to mark this before they can start excavation, is that not correct?" she asked.

"What it amounts to is that if the utility does not mark it within that specified time, then if they hit it, it's the utility's obligation to pay for it," Decker said.

"In other words, it's the responsibility of the utility to respond within a designated time period. You can't just sit and make the contractor wait forever."

New Mexico One Call is accessed by phoning 811.

The adjusted utility locate ordinance was approved on a 4-2 village council vote. Councilors Shaw and Dean voted no.



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PAGE 1B

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache

Ski Apache to close Monday, March 21, for the season. The snow resort is open daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. You may call 464-1234 for the latest ski report and information. The ski report is culled from www.skiapachesnowreport.com

Tickets: Season passes are normally available by phone at 464-3600.

Snow past 48 hours: 0 inches

Season total: 59 inches

Mid-mountain snow: 20 inches

Snow surface: Spring conditions

Snowmaking: No

Weather for Wednesday: Sunshine. High near 70F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph. Wednesday evening, clear skies. Low 51F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph.

Weather for Thursday: Windy with plenty of sun. Highs in the low 70s and lows in the mid 40s.

Groomed runs: Bunny, Easy Street, Ramp, Top Notch, Lower Deep Freeze, Capitan Lite, Lower Moonshine, Smokey Bear, Snow Park, Chino and Moonshine Gulch.

Lifts open: No. 1, No. 2 (open to Midway), No. 3, No. 4, No. 5 and No. 7. Gondola: open, weather permitting

Results

Baseball

Saturday, March 12

Eunice 3, Ruidoso 2 (7 innings)

Sports On Tap

Baseball

Saturday, March 19

Artesia at Ruidoso, 1 p.m.

On Deck

Ruidoso Junior Golf

The Ruidoso Junior golf Association in partners with the Ruidoso Golf Teams will be hosting the first of six scrambles at Kokopelli Golf club on Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. The second of the six scrambles will be held the following day, March 27, at Cree Meadows Golf course at 1 p.m. To sign up and for more info call Melissa at Cree Meadows at 257-5815.

RHS nipped in home opener

Visiting Eunice Cardinals shave hometown nine on two unearned runs

MIKE CURRAN
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With a 2-2 record, the Warriors hit the field Saturday with optimism as they faced off against the untested 2A Eunice Cardinals in Ruidoso's initial home game. Instead, the visitors left with the victory as they nudged the hometown crew, 3-2, on two unearned runs.

The Ruidoso JV boys were luckier than their older brethren and took a 7-6 win over their Eunice counterparts.

Senior right-hander Brendan Flack took the mound for the Warriors with Ryan Yaksich behind the dish. It was the first inning that Flack gave up the only earned run of the contest but Ruidoso answered in the bottom of the second inning on a towering home run by senior Jacob Vasquez over the left-centerfield fence to knot the

score at one each. Both teams went to the fourth still tied but Eunice moved ahead by two unearned runs, including, what would prove to be the winning run.

In the top of the fifth, with Eunice leading 3-2, Julian Lopez was brought in to relieve Flack and did his job, blanking the visitors for the final three innings. In his first inning appearance Lopez, with a Cardinal on third, the junior hurler threw a wild pitch, but redeemed himself nicely by quickly covering home, receiving the throw from Yaksich at the backstop, and tagged the runner out at the plate.

Ruidoso inched closer to Eunice in the bottom of the sixth, scoring a lone run. With one out in the bottom of the seventh inning, Lopez singled smartly to left and the hopes of the hometown boys remained alive. But it



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See BALL, page 2B

RHS JV catcher Robert Lopez smashes a single to left center to help the JV team beat Eunice, 7-6.

Zen, baseball and the game of life

Zen is about living in the moment. The process of edification demands that we stop analyzing the world around us, just see and enjoy, and forget about the past and future. Quiet the mind and concentrate on the present. I was watching the panorama of the jagged Organ Mountains in the background; a misty purple hue seemed to join the peaks to the glaring afternoon desert sun as the two teams took the field.

Their faces displayed an inner serenity, a reverence for the game. Zen-like, they were devoid of ego. A warm glow emanated from the collective souls of the players, coaches and their devoted fans — it was family. My son was one of two non-Hispanic players. Another was a Japanese-American boy.

Baseball like police work is a fraternity. You are accepted unconditionally if you exhibit perseverance. My son was accepted with his first at-bat, a run scoring base-hit followed by a walk in which he later scored. His team-

mates had seen his mettle-playing with constant pain with acute tendonitis, never missing a practice.

The felicity I had felt from watching a simple baseball game gave way to a bevy of disconcerting thoughts. I was back to thinking of Harry Smith. I had found out hours earlier that "Smitty" had died of kidney cancer. We had grown up together in Midland Beach. We had played baseball, paddleball, and we went to school together. An expert pugilist as a teen he

became a cop several months after me. During our first few years we worked together in the worst neighborhoods in Brooklyn as members of a conditions team.

I was reunited with Smitty at the Staten Island landfill following the tragedy of September 11th. We worked together day in and day out for several months breathing in the caustic air.

In my final year he was my "go to" guy in narcotics. He was my best Sergeant and we execut-

ed over a hundred search warrants together. He always had a fresh pot of coffee ready for me when I came to work. Smitty handled the myriad problems of running a narcotic's module and he made me look good. On my retirement day he took me out to a German restaurant for bratwurst and several liters of cold Spaten beer. I was in heaven.

It was only six months ago that I found out he developed kidney cancer from his work at the dump. I called him on a monthly basis and he told me the cancer had entered his bones. I asked about his treatment and he was resolute about sticking with the advice of his oncologist that recommended a combination of radiation and chemo.

I implored him to see my New Mexican chelation doctor who had worked wonders with me and with hundreds of patients with liver disease. I told him about the miracles of people with Stage 4 liver cancer who with a combination of alpha lipoic acid IV's and naltrexone were now in remission. I told him I would pay for his hotel and help pay for his

treatments. In the last few months the tone on the other end of the phone grew faint. His former robust voice seemed to wither as our conversations became curt and strained as we were both at a loss of words.

I now realize that we spend most of our time thinking about getting ahead, our psyche and irrepressible egos locked into an endless cycle of competition, winning at all costs; we are never happy with our station in life, never simply enjoying the here and now. It is now in hindsight that I savor the cups of coffee I had with Smitty.

Baseball can be as spiritual and Zen-like as a walk in the woods, marveling at the beauty of nature. Life, I have found is about the journey, not the destination.

Sergeant Harry Smith left a wife and three children. He is the third cop I know of with 9/11 related kidney cancer. He was my best Sergeant. I just received word that my favorite detective, Detective Dave V., just 38 years old now has Stage 4 colon cancer. They both spent months at the landfill.

Commentary: Lack of team chemistry doomed Aggies

JASON GROVES
Las Cruces Sun-News

There is always a bitter taste following a loss, especially the last loss of the year.

But even this time, it feels different with the New Mexico State Aggie men's basketball team.

There were expectations from the beginning of the season to return to the NCAA Tournament. The

talent was there.

But as the season played itself out, it quickly became apparent that there was something missing.

The first sign was two lopsided losses to Massachusetts and USC early on in Springfield, Mass. More defeats mounted, turning into seven straight including series sweeps against rivals UTEP and UNM.

Chemistry can overcome

injuries and turn the season around despite a poor win-loss record.

But this team had none. That was never more apparent than in the Aggies' final win of the season, a 66-60 victory over Nevada in the Western Athletic Conference Tournament quarterfinals.

With 37 second left in the game, freshman guard Christian Kabongo was fouled with his team up

three points.

On the play, Aggie forward Troy Gillenwater believed to be open for a lay-up, and indicated as such after the whistle.

Rather than dropping the issue and stepping to the foul line, Kabongo and Gillenwater exchanged words and had to be separated by teammates before Kabongo ultimately missed both free-throw attempts.

Players at this level are

ultra-competitive by nature, but perhaps this one incident, played out on ESPNU, shed some light on why the Aggies fell short of expectations.

I wasn't the only one who noticed.

After Boise State ended the Aggies' NCAA Tournament hopes with an 81-63 thumping in the tournament's semifinals, La'Shard Anderson was asked if he noticed any quit in

NMSU.

"Before the (second) half started, we felt like they were going to come out hard so we just wanted to keep up the energy and continue to play hard," he said. "At a point, I felt like they kind of got frustrated with each other."

Marvin Menzies never used injuries as an excuse this year, but they certainly

See AGGIES, page 2B

Defending WAC Tourney champs end season with loss

JASON GROVES
Las Cruces Sun-News

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — When they were down five before scoring, they didn't panic.

When they were down 10 in the first half and down by eight at halftime, they didn't panic.

The New Mexico State's men's basketball had shown the ability to come from behind in the Western Athletic Conference Tournament last week in Las Vegas. The Aggies couldn't make it happen again on Friday, falling to No. 2 Boise State 81-63 in the late WAC semifinal at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nev.

"When we got down, we kind of lost our poise and composure and that was something that we had just started to really get in the last couple games," said NMSU head coach Marvin Menzies, whose fourth sea-

son ended at 16-17. "To not be able to sustain it in this game that could have propelled us into the finals was very disappointing."

It was a disappointing end to an inconsistent season for players, coaches and the NMSU fan base.

"It was difficult to watch the guys trying but we were just a half-step late to everything," Menzies said. "For whatever reason, we just didn't have the energy. I don't know if it was a shorter rotation. It's still fresh in my mind so it's hard to wrap my mind around why it was such a bad performance by us."

The WAC crowned the Utah State Aggies the 2011 champs for the second time in three years Saturday night when they beat the Boise State Broncos, 77-69.

Utah State defeated San Jose State 58-54 to make it back to the tournament title game, where NMSU beat the UtAgs last year.

The Aggies were never a threat to the Broncos, who evened their WAC Tournament record at 2-2 against NMSU.

Leading by eight at halftime, Boise State opened the second half 7-for-11 from the floor, hitting five triples in the first six minutes. The Broncos scored on their first nine possessions of the second half, connecting on four consecutive 3-pointers for a 56-34 lead with 14:33 to play. Robert Arnold hit three straight 3s and freshman walk-on guard Jeff Elorriaga knocked down a 3. Elorriaga finished 4-for-6 from 3-point range for 12 points.

"We had some good looks that didn't go down. At the end of the day, they are young adults and young adults are fueled by the glamour and the glamour is scoring. There is no glamour in defense."

The Broncos were 6-for-

9 from 3-point range in the second half and 9-for-15 (60 percent) from long range for the game. Boise State finished the game 48.9 percent from the field with six players in double figures.

Tyrone Watson led the Aggies with 15 points, Hernst Laroche had 12 and Christian Kabongo had 11 with eight assists.

"They did a good job taking us out of things," Menzies said. "They started in zone and went to man and it really flustered my guys and they didn't respond very well."

The Broncos took NMSU forward Troy Gillenwater out of the game early, doubling him every time he touched the ball.

Gillenwater scored five points in the first half on 2-for-5 shooting. He finished 5-for-9 with 12 points.

"You can't guard (Gillenwater) with one guy," said first-year Boise State coach Leon Rice,

whose team moved to 20-11 on the season. "We tried to limit his touches as much as he could and then when he got it, we wanted him looking at four sets of eyes and make every shot a contested shot." With Gillenwater taken care of, Boise State's accuracy from long range and point guard La'Shard Anderson did the rest.

Anderson ran circles around whoever was trying to guard him. Anderson finished with 16 points and nine assists. Ryan Watkins had 16 and Arnold and Daequon Montreal finished with 11 points and nine rebounds.

Anderson and the Broncos started Friday's game with the level of energy the Aggies showed for 40 minutes in a 66-60 win over Nevada on Thursday when they erased a four-point halftime deficit.

Instead, it was the Broncos who played like a

team knowing if they jumped on NMSU early, they could end the game.

The Broncos outscored NMSU 21-8 in the first 5:27 of the second half.

"We have had two great battles with them so I don't think anyone saw that coming as far as the margin," Rice said. "We got hot there for five minutes and that seemed to blow it open."

NMSU trailed the entire game but closed to within one on a Watson follow with 7:30 left in the first half. It was the closest the Aggies would get.

Menzies said he was disappointed the Aggies couldn't advance and extend the career of senior Gordo Castillo, who was 1-for-5 for three points in his final game.

"This loss is going to sink in and just the feeling of what we are going through will make us step it up next year," Watson said.

BALL

FROM PAGE 1B

was not to be as the Cardinal pitcher, Daniel Gallegos, took out the last two Warrior batters.

In four innings on the rubber, Flack looked good as ever, recovering from surgery on his right arm more than a year ago. Lopez threw three innings of goose eggs in relief.

"Flack has really worked hard and has waited for a year to get back on the mound," Ruidoso head coach Gilbert Alvarado said.

"Our pitching was good, only giving up one earned run in seven innings of

baseball.

"We put ourselves in a position to win but didn't. It's kind of how the game sometimes works out."

So what are Alvarado's expectations for his boys?

"I have high hopes for them," he said. "And they have high expectations for themselves."

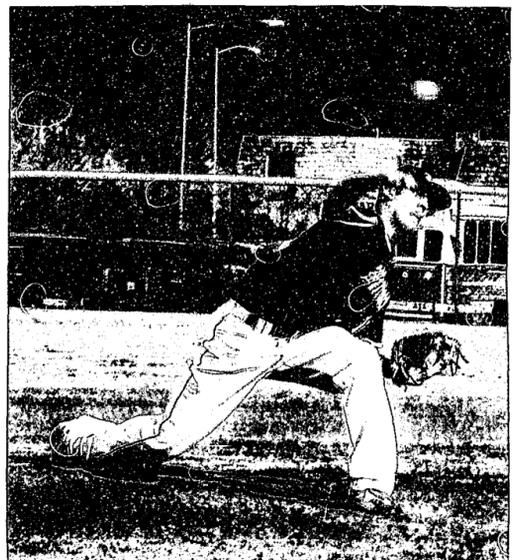
"With the tough schedule we play, no team is going to rollover for us — it's going to be a dogfight the whole way. I want to see every team's No. 1. I think we can stack up against anyone's top talent."

The Warriors will have traveled to Roswell Tuesday, but will again play at home Saturday when they entertain the Artesia Bulldogs at 1 p.m.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Brendan Flack pitched four strong innings of baseball Saturday.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Julian Lopez pitched three scoreless innings in relief.

AGGIES

FROM PAGE 1B

contributed to a lack of chemistry on the court.

Perhaps the key to the

Aggies' season was a man on the NMSU bench in street clothes, forced to watch his teammates play one of their worst games with the season on the line.

Wendell McKines' broken foot and a number of

other injuries contributed to the team's struggles. McKines' effort has proven contagious throughout his career. Out of uniform however, McKines' greatest asset couldn't rub off on his teammates.

While Wendell wanted to be out there, it was apparent his fellow Aggies did not.

As the season played itself out, we shouldn't be surprised that it ended this way.

A close loss against Utah State late in the season and advancing to the WAC semifinals gave Aggie fans hope that perhaps the team had finally put it together.

Menzies was lost for words while trying to

explain the lack of effort in Saturday's loss to the Broncos.

Perhaps the Aggies should consider Anderson's words as a starting point in what will be a long off-season.

PLEASE ADOPT ME!

Adoption Special

Adoption Fees Cats & Kittens - 2 for \$40 or 1 for \$25 Dogs \$50



KEISHA

If you were at our off-site on Saturday, you may have met Keisha. She was the big dog lying on her back getting her belly scratched! Keisha is a big, beautiful, blue and white American Bulldog mix. She weighs about 65 pounds and is a big softy. Keisha gets along well with most other dogs, loves people, is spayed and current on her vaccinations. She is a bit hearing impaired, but is quite attentive.

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RANDY

is a very striking young male cat. He has short hair and is a flame point in color, which simply means he has a white/cream colored body and orange on his face, ears and tail. Randy also has beautiful, bright blue eyes. He does excellent with other cats and is very well socialized.

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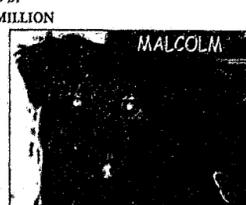




ROMAN

is a lovable guy, whom we think is a lab and Aussie mix. He weighs about 65 pounds, is white with a few stray black spots, has a docked tail and is very inquisitive. Roman does well with other dogs that are about his speed.

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ruidoso.net
It's where to go!



MALCOLM

is a cute retriever mix puppy, about 5 months old. He is very friendly and plays very well with other dogs. Malcolm also walks great on a leash and would do very well with children.

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RAY & SUE ALBORN



ISABEL

is a very sweet Border Collie mix. She walks very well on a leash, plays with other dogs and is quite gentle. Isabel is very well socialized and is sure to make a great pet.

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JANET & KEN LANE
IN MEMORY OF TODD



LILITH

is a beautiful tortoiseshell with silky smooth medium length fur. She does get along well with other cats and kittens and is quite affectionate. Lilith is about 8 months old and should make a great pet.

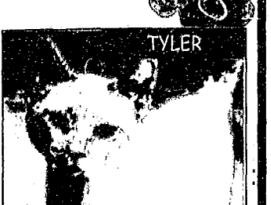
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BANJO

is a very affectionate kitten, about 3 months old. She plays very well with other kittens and also loves attention from people. Banjo is black with very faint tabby markings

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TYLER

is a very handsome flame point, about 6 months old. He is friendly, playful and full of personality. Tyler was found abandoned here at the shelter with 3 other cats, all of whom are very unique looking and friendly.

SPONSORED BY
JOANIE HOUL

Ruidoso Gymnastics Club grabs gold in Albuquerque

The Feb. 26, 2011 State Gymnastics Championship Meet, hosted by the Albuquerque Gymnastics School proved rewarding for the Ruidoso Gymnastics Club. The Level 4 team brought home 10 individual state titles and two All Around state titles. All the athletes who won first place in an individual event were awarded the state championship in that event.

Level 4:

7 year olds:

Suntana Zamora: 6th place all around

8 year olds:

Division A:

Hope Misquez: 1st place Vault, 1st place Balance Beam, 2nd place all-around

Division B:

Kalyn Saiz-Thetford: 1st place Vault, 1st place Balance Beam, 3rd place all-around

10 year olds:

Division A:

Carson Vasile: 1st place Floor Exercise, 1st place all-around (state champion)

Division B:

Angela Lackey: 1st place Balance Beam, 1st place all-around (state champion)

Isabel Martinez: 1st place Floor Exercise, 2nd place all-around

Nina Herrera: 1st place Vault, 6th place all-around

11 year olds

Division A:

Eliana Chavez

Division B:

Alizabeth Autrey: 1st place Balance Beam, 2nd place all-around

12 year olds

Alissa Gonzales: 1st place Balance Beam, 2nd place all-around

Lexi Lucero: 5th place all-around

13 and older

Kristine Clarke: 5th place all-around

The Level 4 Team finished third out of 18 teams.

Teams from Albuquerque finished first and second, as well as, fourth and fifth. You are keeping pretty good company if you can finish right in the middle of the Albuquerque teams.

They have about three times as many kids on their teams as Ruidoso Gymnastics Club does.

Club coach Amy Eggleston was thrilled with the teams third place finish. "They looked fantastic - definitely peeked at the right time," Eggleston said.

Level 5:

12 years olds:

Natalia Espinosa: 2nd place all-around

Leah Flores: 5th place all-around

Level 6:

9 years old:

Taylor-Anne Luck: 2nd place all-around

Karina Martinez: 5th place all-around



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso Gymnastics Team, Levels 4, 5, and 6, front row, l-r, Angela Lackey, Karina Martinez, Nina Herrera, Isabel Martinez, Eliana Chavez, Carson Vasile, Hope Misquez, and Kalyn Saiz-Thetford. Back row, Lexi Lucero, Leah Flores, Natalia Espinosa, Alissa Gonzales, Kristine Clark, and Alizabeth Autrey.

All-Around standings for Ruidoso Gymnastics Team, Angela Lackey, No. 1, Isabel Martinez, No. 2 and Nina Herrera, No. 6 (far left).



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Carson Vasile won three medals in Level 4, Age 10, Division A, as All Around State Champion, Floor Exercise State Champion and Vault, second Place.



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Nina Herrera stands on the No. 1 podium position as a Level 4, Age 10, Division B, Vault State Champion.



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Angela Lackey and Carson Vasile (right) enjoy the moment.



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Angela Lackey won three medals in Level 4, Age 10, Division B, as All Around State Champion, Balance Beam State Champion, and Floor Exercise, second place.



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

In the Level 4, Age 10, Division A, floor exercise Carson Vasile (center) is the First Place State Champion.



SIMON MARTINEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

In the Level 4, Age 10, Division B, floor exercise Isabel Martinez (center) took the First Place State Championship and Angela Lackey (left) earned second place.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Schools at bargaining table for wind turbine tax plans

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Affected school districts are the only other taxing entity mandated to sit at the bargaining table when county officials discuss payments in lieu of taxes as part of industrial revenue bond issues for wind turbine projects.

In an advisory letter earlier this year to Larry Winn, chairman of the Claunch-Pinto Soil and Water Conservation District, which covers portions of Torrance County, Socorro County and northwestern Lincoln County, Assistant New Mexico Attorney Gen. Justin R. Woolf wrote that the county was not required to seek approval from anyone other than the affected school district.

The ruling also clarifies possible future requirements for Lincoln County, because several wind turbine projects are proposed for development in the northern section of the county.

Conservation District officials asked for an opinion whether a county government had the authority to enter into agreements that would affect the taxing authority and thereby reduce the income of other local public bodies without the consent of those bodies.

Woolf wrote that his office concluded that a county government does not need to inform or obtain

consent from a soil and water conservation district when it issues industrial revenue bond under the County Industrial Revenue Bond Act, even when the bond issue has a negative impact on the district's tax base.

The High Lonesome Mesa Wind Project is located in Torrance County and uses wind turbines to generate electricity.

Torrance County approved a \$190 million industrial revenue bond issue to finance the project, which will not be subject to property taxes for 30 years.

In exchange, the project developer agreed to make payments in lieu of taxes to Torrance County and the Estancia School District.

Soil and Water out

The Claunch-Pinto SWCD imposes a tax levy on real property within its boundaries under the same method as county ad valorem taxes.

Because the property and improvements of the HLMWP are no longer subject to assessment and taxation, the conservation district will not receive the proceeds of its mill levy on that property for the 30 years period of the IRB arrangement.

Although the conservation district was negatively affected by the financing transaction, it was not consulted or involved in the negotiations between Torrance County and the

developers, Woolf wrote.

The county under the IRB Act essentially issues the bonds to acquire a project and typically, will convey the project's property back to the developer when the bonds are paid off at the end of the term.

"Property of a county is exempt from taxation under the New Mexico Constitution," Woolf noted. The exemption applies only for the period the county owns the property.

"No notice, consent or approval by any commission or public officer shall be required as a prerequisite to the same or issuance of any bonds."

The county must give notice to the county assessor and the largest municipality located within the county, although no approval is required from them.

"The only provision of the county IRB Act requiring prior approval of an affected local government entities applies to a county's acquisition of electrical generation facilities," Woolf wrote.

"The local school board of a school district in which the project is located must approve the acquisition and be included in the negotiations to determine the amount of an annual in-lieu of taxes payment to be made to the school district by the person proposing the project, for the period that the county owns and leases the project."

TROPHY TROUT



POLLY CHAVEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

There was a lot of excitement at the Nat Chavez household in Carrizozo last week when Nat caught a very large trout at the Carrizozo Lake adjacent to the Valle del Sol Municipal Golf Course. According to Chavez, the fish was 17 inches long. Susie Wolfe at the Carrizozo Market weighed the trout for Chavez. It tipped the scales at just under three pounds.

The pain of time change

When I was young, a lost hour here and there was nothing that caused any notice.

I could lose several hours without it making me tired and now one measly hour that I lost while I was asleep can mess up whatever little time clock I have.

Now that I am not young, the constant time change is bothersome. At my age twice a year is the same as constant.

Twice a year, I pull off the side of the road and read the owner's manual on how to change the clock in my vehicle.

Twice a year, I wander through the house trying to remember which clocks I changed and which still need changing.

Twice a year, I am reminded this is a perfectly good time to change the batteries in the smoke detectors.

By the time I remember to buy some nine volts "when I go to town," I've forgotten why I bought

them, put them up only to find the stash I bought the last time I had this idea.

At least twice a year, I am wakened in the middle of the night by a smoke detector screaming because I forgot to change batteries.

My burning question is: If smoke detectors are so important

(and they are) and if the batteries must be changed bi-annually, then why are they put right up next to the ceiling?

I don't know about you but I don't keep a 6-foot ladder in the house for these occasions.

At 2 a.m. it seems easier to just shoot the hummer than change the batteries. I've never actually shot one, but I did beat one to death one time. It is still attractively displayed in our living room, hanging by the wires.

I like watches but seldom notice them as can be attested by all my acquaintances, but for weeks I don't know if I've changed the time or not.

Computers seem to be tied into the belly button of the universe so that time changes on them automatically.

My problem is my satellite service for my internet is out of somewhere, but not here. So the time is still wrong.

My father will "keep time" for about four months.

He'll say things like, "I'll meet you at six - which is five the regular time."

So you are never sure if you are meeting at five or six. Which doesn't matter since he never wears a watch and never changed the time in his vehicle either. Hey it's correct five months out of the year, right?

I went from trying to stay awake long enough for the news to not being prepared for mayhem and murder.

I am not hungry at the right time and I am either not sleepy or awake at the right time.

In theory, I am the boss and can go to lunch whenever I please, however it does not promote good will to walk into an office of hungry employees sucking on a toothpick.

COUNTY BRIEFS

Krispy Kreme/See's

Capitan PTA is holding their spring fundraiser through March 28. They are selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts and See's candy. To place an order or for more information, contact Kari at 354-0133 or Gayla 336-8435.

Corona Teen Night

New at the Corona Public Library - Friday night Teen Night.

The Corona Public Library is open to the Corona-area general public from 6-7 p.m.

The 7-9 p.m. hours are reserved for teens only. Play computer games, gossip, giggle, make stuff, listen to music, eat snacks and more.

'Zozo movie night

On the last Friday of the month, March through October, the Carrizozo Heritage Museum presents a series of films shot in New Mexico.

On Friday, March 25, *The Book of Eli* (2010) with Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman will be shown. A mysterious wanderer in a post-apocalyptic landscape fights to protect a sacred text. The movie was partially filmed in Carrizozo.

Admission is free and the movie starts at 7 p.m., with soda and popcorn available.

Gallery 408

"Portraits - An installation by Joan Malkerson" will be showing at Malkerson Modern Art Gallery from March 26 until April 16, with an opening reception 5-7 p.m., March at 415 Twelfth St., Carrizozo.

"Portraits" is a body of work inspired by the stories of Jeanne d'Arc written by Mark Twain, Bernard Shaw, and Jean Anouilh.

This installation includes eight portraits: First Intuition, Betrayal, Coronation, Servant Leader, The Trial, Living with an Icon, Voices and Transforma-

tion. These portraits describe aspects of the human condition which were present in the 15th century and are still present today in our culture. This one-person show incorporates a variety of materials and mediums.

For more information, call 575-648-2598 or check the website www.carrizozoart.com

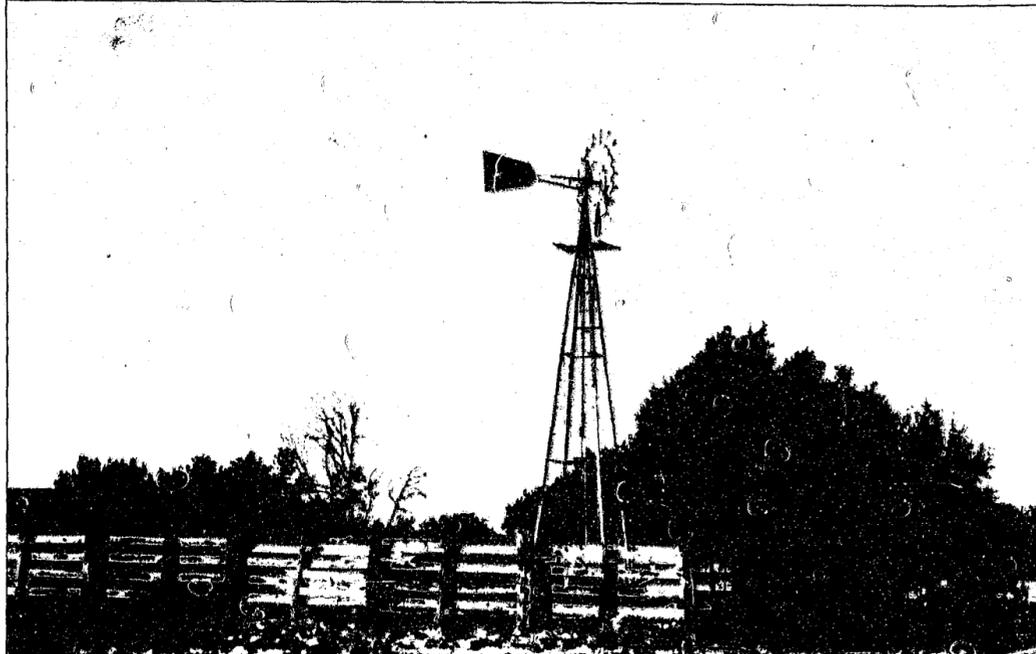
Carrizozo clean-up

Carrizozo clean-up day is set for May 14. As in the past volunteers are needed to help pick up and haul off. More details later.

THE HAPPY PLACE TO SHOP!

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JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

POLICE & COURTS

Scott found not guilty

HAROLD OAKES
hoakes@ruidosonews.com

After four days of testimony in the trial of Jacob Scott, it took a jury less than 30 minutes to return verdicts of not guilty on all charges.

"I believe the quick verdict in this case, 20 minutes on second degree kidnapping and second degree trafficking, should be a strong message to the DA's office not to bring these type weak charges to a jury trial," Public Defender Todd Holmes said after the trial ended in District Court Monday afternoon.

Holmes took over the case just before the trial began. Prior to that, Scott had represented himself.

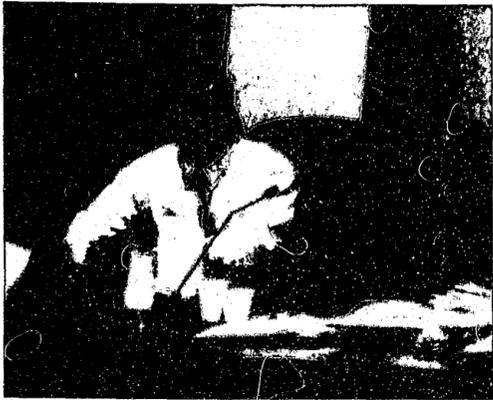
"They (the jury) could not have reviewed all the evidence in 20 minutes," Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman said.

Scott, 34, had been in jail since Jan. 27, 2010 on \$100,000 bond, charged with kidnapping, trafficking in cocaine, aggravated assault, receiving stolen property and conspiracy to commit aggravated battery.

Scott had been charged with trading cocaine for a stolen pistol, then kidnapping and beating Julius Sutton for giving him a stolen gun. Sutton pleaded no contest to charges stemming from the theft of two firearms from a Ruidoso home in December 2009.

Scott took the stand in his own defense, denying all the charges and telling the jury he had very little contact with Sutton.

Scott did admit that Sutton had shown him a pistol and offered to sell it to him, but said he had



Jacob Scott and Todd Holmes celebrate a District Court jury finding Scott not guilty of all charges at the end of a four-day trial that ended Monday afternoon.

thrown Sutton out of his house, physically throwing Sutton off the porch.

District Judge Karen Parsons had issued a directed verdict dismissing a charge of felon in possession of a firearm, Friday before the defense started presenting its case. Parsons found there was not enough evidence that Scott had a felony conviction within the past 10 years.

The trial went a full day beyond the scheduled Friday completion, causing scheduling problems. The trial was to be moved into the County Commission Chambers and scheduled to resume at 8:30 a.m., but problems with microphones and computers made that impossible.

Division II District Court Judge James Counts had a trial scheduled for the District Courtroom Monday morning.

Zimmerman expressed her displeasure at having a trial moved to accommodate a judge from Alamogordo.

"I am just trying to be

accommodating," Parsons said.

On Friday, Parsons had admonished the attorneys for not scheduling enough time for the trial, which was scheduled for three days.

The trial then moved to Magistrate Court, where it resumes at 9:40 a.m.

To accommodate the larger jury, 14 jurors instead of the usual seven in Magistrate Court cases, the jury was seated in the spectator area.

Magistrate Court was available because Judge Martha Proctor had rescheduled her cases so she could fill in for a Magistrate Court judge in Alamogordo who became ill Sunday.

The jury of eight men and four women returned the verdict back across the street in District Court just after 5 p.m. and Parsons signed a release order.

Lincoln County Detention Center released Scott Monday evening, making him a free man for the first time in 13 and a half months.

RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

Feb. 21

8:27 a.m. - Officer Josh Snodgrass responded to Innsbrook Village for a report of damage to a laundry room and a burglary.

Snodgrass reports that the window in the laundry room was broken and the reporting party suspected someone had taken the maid's keys to burglarize residences and rentals.

Five televisions and a Wii game were reportedly stolen from on of the homes. A door knob was also reportedly missing from a storage room.

Snodgrass reported receiving three additional reports of burglaries in the area Feb. 21. In each case, there were televisions and electronics reported stolen.

4:13 p.m. - Officer Larry Smith reported making contact with a man he suspected to have a warrant for his arrest.

Smith reports the man gave the name "Benjamin Franco" and a date of birth.

While Smith was checking on the name, the man reportedly got into a vehicle and left.

Smith reports "Benja-

min Franco" with the date of birth given came back as not on file.

Officers stopped the vehicle "Franco" had gotten into at Mechem and Porr Drive. Smith reports he asked the man to step out

of the vehicle because he suspected he was concealing his identity.

Smith reported he placed "Franco" in investigative detention and

See BRIEFS page 6B

Virginia Shanta Klinekole



Prayer service and wake for Virginia Shanta Klinekole, 86, of Three Rivers will be Wednesday, March 16, at 5:30 PM at the Virginia Klinekole residence at Three Rivers where the funeral mass will be on Thursday, March 17, at 10:00 AM. Burial will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery at Three Rivers.

Mrs. Klinekole passed away Sunday, March 13, 2011, in Alamogordo. She was born June 13, 1924 at Three Rivers and lived there all of her life. She was the Tularosa Public School Educational Liaison for the Mesquero Apache Tribe for 19 years, served on the Mesquero Apache Tribal Council from 1959 until 1986 and had served as the Chair Person.

She is survived by her children, Bruce W. Klinekole II, Gregg A. Klinekole, Gina R. Klinekole and Ruth "Wonzie" Klinekole Tiger; 7 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Frances Louise Barton



Funeral Services are scheduled for 11:00 A.M., Wednesday, March 16, 2011, at LaGrone Funeral Chapel for Frances L. Barton, age 83 of Roswell, who passed away March 12, 2011, at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dr. Alan Stoddard of the First Baptist Church of Ruidoso, will officiate.

Frances was born April 28, 1927 in McCloud, Oklahoma to Elbert R. and Berta F. Carnal Rogers. Both parents preceded her in death, as well as her husband, Bobbie N. Barton.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Ruidoso, and had been employed as a Clerk for Winns, before her retirement.

Survivors include 2 sons; Gary L. Barton and his wife Vickie of Biloxi, MS, and Darrell R. Barton and his wife Sandra of Albuquerque, NM, one daughter; Janelle I. Doughty of Ruidoso, NM.

Also surviving are 3 sisters; Joyce Storm of Enterprise, AL, Tressa Hudson of Ball Ground, GA, and Karen Lamkin also of Ball Ground, GA. 6 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren, also survive.

Friends may pay respects online at lagronefuneralchapel.com

Arrangements are under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel.

Vega has some history on both sides of the law

ASHLEY MEEKS
Las Cruces Sun-News

LAS CRUCES - One of the key figures arrested in Thursday's sweep is no stranger to Doña Ana County, or to problems with the law stretching back 16 years over several counties.

Columbus Police Chief Angelo Vega, 40, the former Mesilla marshal and former superintendent of

the J. Paul Taylor Juvenile Justice Center, has been charged with conspiring to take part in a gun-smuggling ring that stretched from Chaparral and Las Cruces to Columbus and Mexico, but it was far from his first brush with the law.

Vega began his career in law enforcement as a deputy with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, where, in 1996, he was indicted by a grand

jury on two counts of extortion, a third-degree felony, and two counts of intimidation of a witness, a fourth-degree felony. The charges stemmed from a 1995 incident in Lincoln County when Vega allegedly threatened a woman who had been wrongfully arrested a day earlier, telling her that she would be prosecuted unless she agreed to

See VEGA, page 6B

We would like to celebrate the life of Frances Erolene (Eroll), more commonly known as "Erol". Services will be held Saturday, March 19 at 2:00 at the United Methodist Church in Ruidoso. She was born in Texas on March 25, 1921 and passed from this earth on March 12, 2011.

Erol was preceded in death by her husband, Elmer Pirelli, her mother Johnnie Mae Howell, her father Roy Howell, her daughter Jocelyn Rebecca and grand daughter Jasmine. She is survived by her son, Sam Pirelli, daughter Alicia Annala and grandchildren - Debbie, Sammi, Sydney, Frankie, Denise, Diana and Sunny. She also had nine great grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

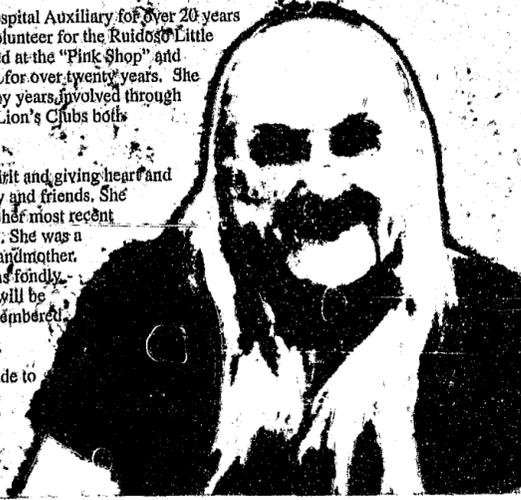
She grew up in "West Texas" as she would put it, and graduated from Pecos High School in Pecos, Texas. She spent her early adulthood in Lubbock and then moved to Ruidoso over 60 years ago.

She worked many places as she watched and participated in the growth of Ruidoso from a "not-so-sleepy" little village to the town it is today. She truly loved Ruidoso and the people in it.

She was a member of the Hospital Auxiliary for over 20 years and spent many years as a volunteer for the Ruidoso Little Theater. She also volunteered at the "Pink Shop" and Humane Society Thrift Shop for over twenty years. She was a Lioness and spent many years involved through her husband in the Ruidoso Lion's Clubs both "Evening" and "Noon".

She had a beautiful warm spirit and giving heart and took great pride in her family and friends. She loved all animals, especially her most recent dogs, "Charlie" and "Molly". She was a devoted wife to her mother and grandmother. "Grandma MeMe" as she was fondly called by her grandchildren will be truly missed and always remembered.

She would ask that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Lincoln County Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary or Lincoln County Humane Society.



Sandra Darlene Vieau

August 28, 1950 - March 9, 2011

Sandra Darlene Vieau joined her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, the 9th of March 2011 after a graceful, fearless life with a brain tumor. Born in Lubbock, Texas on the 28th of August 1950, Sandy was the treasured daughter of Anna Belle (the late Harvey) Sears of Ruidoso, NM and the precious daughter-in-law of (the late) Angeline Vieau of Chicago. Cherished by Robert E. Vieau, her husband of 27 years, Sandy was also the loving, dedicated mother to her daughter Kimberly D. Ganahl and adored "Nana" of Mason, Connor, and Maddie Ganahl. The youngest of three children, Sandy is survived by her loving siblings Larry (Barbara) and Linda, her nieces Sherry, Bridget, and Suzanne, her nephew Bryce, and her devoted brother-in-law Richard Vieau. Extraordinarily kind and generous, Sandy enjoyed close, life-long relationships with a wide range of friends.

Sandy attended Monterey High School in Lubbock, Texas and graduated in 1968. She worked for both Texas Instruments in Austin and Compaq Computer Corporation in Houston. She was very active in numerous volunteer organizations including the American Heart Association in Northwest Houston, American Cancer Society in Montgomery (Texas), and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Sandy's dedication and commitment to these and other organizations will always be remembered. Sandy's family is deeply grateful for the compassion and the medical expertise provided by Dr. Robert Grossman, Dr. Pamela New, and the staff of Methodist Hospital (Houston) during the past 20 years, the affection and support of Sandy's caregiver Vickie Cruz, and the comfort and care provided by Odyssey Hospice of Montgomery County.

A memorial service to celebrate Sandy's life will be held at the Lone Star Cowboy Church on Tuesday, the 15th of March 2011 at 12:00 Noon. Immediately following the service, all are invited to greet the family during a reception at Walden Yacht Club. The church is located at 21627 Eva Street, Montgomery, Texas 77356 and the Yacht Club is located at 13101 Melville Drive, Montgomery, Texas 77356. In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial donations in Sandy's name be made to the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org; 800-227-2345; American Cancer Society, 6301 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77057) or the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (Houston Livestock Show, Attention Candace Slight, PO Box 20070, Houston, TX 77002-0070).



BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 5B

asked if he had anything illegal or dangerous on him. "Franco" reportedly said he had marijuana in his right cargo pocket.

Smith reportedly retrieved the marijuana and placed "Franco" under arrest for possession of marijuana and concealing identity.

During the booking process, Smith reported that "Franco" said he used the names "Brandon Lugo" and "Jesse Owens" as past aliases.

Smith had "Franco" transported to Lincoln County Detention Center and continued to try to

determine his true identity.

Feb. 23

8:20 a.m. - Officer Tyrel Tyson responded to Lawrence Brothers IGA for a report of shoplifting. In route to the call he reported being advised that the male suspect had fled on foot.

The manager reportedly told Tyson he observed a man pick up a bottle of liquor in the liquor department, then wander around the store before exiting without the bottle in his hands. Employees had been alerted to stop the man from exiting.

Tyson reports the man had the bottle of liquor in his pants. When told the police were being called, the man allegedly ran from

the store.

A Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff contacted officer Eric Ament a short time later to inform him that he had a tip that the man they were looking for was James Guill, 38.

Tyson located Guill walking in the 500 block of Sudderth later in the day and approached him. Guill reportedly admitted having the bottle of liquor in his pants, but said he was not going to steal it; he was going out the door to get a shopping cart when the employees accosted him. Guill reportedly ran away because he is on probation.

Tyson issued Guill a non-traffic citation for petit larceny.

10:31 a.m. - Detective Art Nelson reported locat-

ing a Smith & Wesson 9 mm pistol, stolen from Seattle, Wash., in 1992, on the pawn list.

Nelson seized the pistol and reported the recovery to the Seattle Police Department.

11:30 a.m. - A victim came to the Ruidoso Police Department to report a lost watch.

Officer Tyrel Tyson reports the woman described the watch as a small, petite woman's watch with a link chain band. The body and band are both silver.

The woman said she was unsure of the brand of the watch, but that it is over 50 years old and has a lot of sentimental value.

She said she was willing to offer a reward to get it back.

Feb. 26

7:54 p.m. - Officer Tillman Freeman responded to the Ruidoso Bowling Center for a report of stolen bicycles.

Freeman reports three teens' bicycles were stolen while they were in the Bowling Center.

Freeman reported that the father of one of the teens called in the following day to say one of the bicycles was found in a street at Recreation Village.

8:07 p.m. - Officer Larry Smith reported that while on patrol in the 400 block of Mechem Drive he observed a man hiding between cars at Western Auto.

Smith reported he attempted to contact the man, later identified as Jon J. Clark, 56, and Clark ran from him.

Smith reported following Clark down Terrace Drive where Clark reportedly jumped the guardrail and backtracked toward the Thriftyway parking lot. Smith reports Clark ran across the parking lot and jumped the wall.

Smith reported that he went to the wall, saw Clark on the ground at the bottom of the wall and aimed his Taser at Clark and told him to stop.

Smith reported it was unnecessary to use the Taser on Clark, who reportedly said he had broken his leg in the 10-foot jump over the wall.

EMS arrived and transported Clark to Lincoln County Medical Center for treatment of what Smith reported were two broken legs.

Smith reported that Sergeant Joel Martin told him Clark had been siphoning gasoline from the vehicles at Western Auto.

Smith reportedly found a gas can and two siphon hoses inserted into vehicles parked at Western Auto.

Smith filed charges against Clark for two counts of larceny of less than \$250 and resisting, evading or obstructing an officer.

Feb. 28

11:01 a.m. - Officers responded to a report of possible shots fired in the 300 block of C Street.

Officer Josh Snodgrass reports that as the officers investigated, officer David Gallegos notified him that there was a man trying to hide in the area of First Street.

Snodgrass and Gallegos pursued the man throughout the area and apprehended him in the area of Great Wall of China.

Gallegos reportedly found a box with eight orange pills, identified by a pharmacist as being prescription amphetamines, in the man's pocket.

Snodgrass reports that when he was transporting the man back to the 300 block of C Street to continue the investigation, the man said "I tried to use a firework to blow the lock off a door so I had somewhere to stay."

The man refused to tell the officer's his name, but did say he was 16 years old. Sergeant Wade Proctor reportedly recalled a report of a 16-year old runaway from Saturday and based on that, the officers determined they had John McNulty in custody.

Snodgrass reported they found the home McNulty had allegedly tried to enter and there were burn marks around the handle of the door and the area smelled of sulphur.

McNulty allegedly said he had found the fireworks and the pills in an unlocked car.

Deputy District Attorney Reed Thompson approved charges of attempted burglary, possession of burglary tools, Larceny of less than \$250, auto burglary, possession of amphetamines, dangerous use of explosives, resisting, evading or obstructing an officer and concealing identity.

Snodgrass reported that McNulty was transported to the Dona Ana County Juvenile Detention Facility in Las Cruces.

VEGA

FROM PAGE 5B

work as an undercover narcotics officer and sign a written apology in which she agreed that her arrest was appropriate. Vega made the threats even though he knew at the time that paperwork was being prepared to dismiss charges against the woman, according to the grand jury record.

He eventually reached a plea agreement with then-Attorney General Tom Udall in which he pleaded guilty to one count of false imprisonment, a misdemeanor.

In 1998 he was appointed police chief by Carrizozo Mayor Manny Hernandez. After being arrested in 2001 on stalking and harassment charges, which were later dropped, Vega departed in early 2005 to accept a job with the New Mexico Juvenile Justice Division.

It was in 2006 that then-state Sen. Lee Rawson publicly voiced concerns about Vega's criminal background, even bringing his concerns to then-Gov. Bill Richardson.

"I think this is a personal attack toward me, and it's very unfortunate," Vega said at the time.

After resigning for "personal reasons" in June 2006, as director of the J.

Paul Taylor Juvenile Justice Center, the state's southern New Mexico juvenile jail west of Las Cruces, Vega moved up to the top law enforcement position in Mesilla, as the town's Marshal, on March 12, 2007.

"People can ridicule me for what has happened in my career, but it has made me a stronger and more caring person," Vega said at the time of his hiring in Mesilla. He added: "It just amazes me how people get stuck on something that happened during the line of duty as a police officer."

Several months after a dispute with former mayor Michael Cadena, Vega was removed from office March 11, 2008, just a day short of what would have been one year in office. He was reinstated that June, but resigned the following February to take a position as the village chief of police in Columbus. Trustees approved his hire unanimously.

Most recently, Columbus Mayor Eddie Espinoza, also charged in the alleged gun-smuggling ring, had placed Vega on administrative leave from Nov. 22 until early January, according to the Deming Headlight. The reason for that suspension was not immediately available.

Ashley Meeks can be reached at ameeks@lcsun-news.com or 575-541-5462.

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Public/Special Notices 114

RUIDOSO LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

Is accepting bids to operate the Concession Stand at Gavilan Field for the 2011 season. Bids accepted until March 25th. Contact Brian Mosher at 937-8749

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Ruidoso News online at www.ruidosonews.com

Legal Notices 152

2926 2T (3)16, 23

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF LINCOLN STATE OF NEW MEXICO

No. PB 11-04

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOROTHY S. FELLOWS, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS BY PUBLICATION

Leland L. Fellows, Jr. a/k/a Lewis Fellows and Cynthia Thold have been appointed the Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Dorothy S. Fellows, deceased. All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within two months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or the claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented either to the Personal Representative of Leland L. Fellows, Jr. at P.O. Box 3260, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190, or filed with the Twelfth Judicial District Court of Lincoln County, P.O. Box 725, Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301-0725.

Health Care 232

The Mesalero Care Center is looking for Full-Time RN's/LPN's with long-term care experience preferred. The Mesalero Care Center is also looking for part time/PRN Certified Nursing Assistants.

The Care Center has an excellent benefits package to offer. Please apply in person and direct applications to

Veronica Sanchez, RN, ADON.

454 Lipan Ave. Mesalero, NM 575-464-4802

Sales/Agents 252

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THE DAILY TIMES

Part of Texas-New Mexico Newspaper Partnership which publishes the Farmington Daily Times and six other daily newspapers, is seeking a

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Your application/resume will be reviewed in the HR Dept. If you meet the listed qualifications, your application/resume will be forwarded to the appropriate department for further consideration. Due to the large number of applications and resumes received, only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.

Elderly Care 265

Provided

Women with CNA experience, desires part time work in home care for elderly. Will cook, clean and assist with personal care. Call 575-308-9327

Elderly Care 270

Needed experienced caregiver for elderly female living in Carrizozo. Must be willing to work 24hr shifts & weekends. Duties includes light house work, preparing meals, shopping & going to doctors appts. Will need resume with references. Call 575-849-2500

Public/Special Notices 114

ENMU-Ruidoso

ENMU-Ruidoso invites letters of interest for a vacancy on the Branch College Board. The term of service begins upon appointment by the Board and continues until the February 2013 election. To serve, members must be twenty-one years of age, a qualified voter, and a resident of the college taxing district. Interested parties should cite their qualifications for service on a policy-making board. Letters will be accepted in the President's Office until April 1, 2011.

Additional information available at www.ruidoso.enmu.edu/about%20us/collegeboard.html
Inquiries: (575-257-3006)
AA/EOE

Public/Special Notices 114

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Law/Enforcement/Security 239

Telecommunications (Dispatcher) Officer, Salary \$13.25 Hourly.

Applications will be accepted until 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 23, 2011.

Complete job description and applications at the Village of Ruidoso, 313 Cree Meadows Dr. Ruidoso, NM 88345.

Phone 258-4343 or 1-877-700-4343.
Fax 258-5848.
Website www.ruidoso-nm.gov
"Drugfree Workplace" EEOE.

Management 241

Supervisory

Office position for honest, outgoing, dependable and self-motivated individual. Must be someone with some experience in general office duties. Applications may be obtained at 107 S. Broadway Dr. during normal working hours. 575-258-2816

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The Ruidoso News, a division of MediaNews Group, is seeking a qualified Retail Inside Sales Representative. The successful individual will be responsible for calling on prospective customers in designated market areas to qualify leads and obtain orders for services and products. Will need to design and develop ad campaigns and promotions within an assigned territory by utilizing and presenting demographic information and sales based system and weekly accounts by cold calling on assigned area. Will also solicit and sell into specialty products and theme pages. Needs to have access to a motor vehicle, provide proof and maintain a valid driver license and current liability insurance.

The qualified applicant must possess a High School degree or the equivalent with college degree preferred. Knowledge of and experience in the advertising industry is ideal, with a minimum of two years inside sales experience. Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, as well as strong customer service skills. Must have the ability to learn advertising computer based system and other systems in a timely manner. Bilingual abilities in English and Spanish are a big plus. Must be able to operate and have access to a motor vehicle, provide proof and maintain a valid driver license and current liability insurance.

We are an equal opportunity employer. We recognize and appreciate the benefits of diversity in the workplace. Those who share this belief or reflect a diverse background are encouraged to apply in addition to a competitive salary, we offer excellent benefits including medical, dental, vision, flexible spending account, 401K, life insurance and an opportunity for outstanding growth potential.

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Attn: Rena Walsh
www.ruidosonews.com
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

We do not accept or review unsolicited applications or resumes. We only accept applications when we have a vacancy for a specific position that is posted. Your application / resume will be reviewed in the HR Dept. If you meet the listed qualifications for the posted position specified, your application/resume will be forwarded to the appropriate department for further consideration. Due to the large number of applications and resumes received, only those chosen for further consideration will be contacted.

Legal Notices 152

2925 4T (3)2, 9, 16 (3) 23

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF LINCOLN TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, fka, THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A., as SUCCESSOR TO JP MORGAN CHASE BANK N.A., AS TRUSTEE,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ELIZABETH J. KEMP,

Defendant.

CV 10-74

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE ON FORECLOSURE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above entitled court, having appointed me or designee as Special Master in this matter with the power to sell, has ordered me to sell the real property (the "Property") situated in Lincoln County, New Mexico, commonly known as Highway 380, Lincoln, New Mexico 88338, and more particularly described as follows:

A TRACT OF LAND IN THE SW 1/4 SE 1/4 OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 9 SOUTH, RANGE 16 EAST, COUNTY OF LINCOLN, NEW MEXICO, DESCRIBED BY AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AND POINT FROM WHICH THE SECTION 16 BEARS S 65° 51' 16" E A DISTANCE OF 162.00 FEET; THENCE N 55° 23' 57" W ALONG THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF HIGHWAY 380, A DISTANCE OF 100.00 FEET; THENCE S 2° 00' 00" E A DISTANCE OF 200.00 FEET; THENCE S 2° 00' 00" E A DISTANCE OF 162.00 FEET; THENCE N 55° 23' 57" W, A DISTANCE OF 162.13 FEET; THENCE N 55° 23' 57" W, A DISTANCE OF 112.00 FEET; THENCE N 55° 02' 16" E, A DISTANCE OF 64.00 FEET TO THE SHUTOFF VALVE.

The sale is to begin at 12:15 p.m. on April 1, 2011, outside the front entrance to the Twelfth Judicial District Courthouse, City of Carrizozo, County of Lincoln, State of New Mexico, at which time I will sell to the highest and best bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America, the Property to pay expenses of sale, and to satisfy the judgment granted to the Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, fka, The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as Successor to the JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A., as Trustee.

The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, fka, The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A., as Successor to the JP Morgan Chase Bank N.A., as Trustee, is aware of the judgment on August 31, 2010 in the principal sum of \$33,619.33, plus outstanding interest of \$2,214.26 and accruing daily thereafter at a rate of 7.99% per day, plus

Legal Notices 152

2925 4T (3)2, 9, 16, 23

ALTO LAKES WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE

The Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District adopted Ordinance 2011-01 after a public hearing on February 24, 2011. The Ordinance 2011-01 amends the previously adopted Ordinance(s) and will affect all properties located within the Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District boundaries as well as external water customers. Amendments include: imposition of a water utility expansion fee, and the reduction of the water meter new connection amount equal to the new water utility expansion fee.

The original copy of Ordinance 2011-01 has been filed with the Lincoln County Clerk. Copies of the ordinance are available from the County Clerk's office during business hours. The effective date of the amendments is March 24, 2011.

Gory Parker, Secretary
Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District

2926 1T (3)9, 16

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF LINCOLN STATE OF NEW MEXICO

The Petition for Change of Name of Caroline Manzanares

No. CV11-43

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the provisions of Sections 40-8 through 40-9, N.M.S.A., 1978, Caroline Manzanares will apply to the Honorable Twelfth Judicial District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico at 8:15 o'clock a.m. on April 11, 2011, during a regular term of the court. If as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard for an order for a change of name from Caroline Manzanares to Morgan Taylor Bryan.

1/ Jan Perry
District Court Clerk

1/ Mickie Vega
Deputy Court Clerk

jobs 200-232

General Help Wanted 230

General

SUMMER JOBS Looking for hard working, energetic people to work in positions available. Bussers, wait staff, cooks & kitchen help. Please call 575-378-4446

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Otero Federal Credit Union, an equal opportunity employer, has an immediate opening for a Loan Officer for our Ruidoso Branch.

The credit union is searching for a dynamic, highly motivated lending professional who will report directly to the AVP Ruidoso Branch Manager. The ideal candidate will have strong organizational and communication skills, including outstanding presentation, verbal and written abilities with the skills to effectively represent the credit union in the community and industry and be able to work well with people. Must be trained and experienced in loan interviewing and credit granting. Must have an understanding of Regulations B and Z and be able to read and analyze a credit bureau report. Additionally, applicant must pass background screening (credit and criminal history) and be bondable.

Send a cover letter and resume to: HR Department, Otero Federal Credit Union, P.O. Box 2800, Alamogordo, NM 88311 by 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 21, 2011.
EOE/M,F,H,D,V

Legal Notices 152

2925 4T (3)2, 9, 16, 23

ALTO LAKES WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDER ADOPTING AN ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District, Lincoln County, New Mexico will meet and hold a public hearing to consider for adoption the following ordinance at a regular meeting held on March 24, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District located at 214 Lake Shore Drive, Alto Lakes, New Mexico. All interested persons are invited to attend and participate in the public hearing portion of the meeting.

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance of the Alto Lakes Water and Sanitation District amending the Ordinance providing for a revised calculation method for peak credit and replaces the requirement for a customer's Stop Waste Valve with a Shore Shutoff Valve.

Following the Public Hearing, the District Board may choose to adopt or table the proposed Ordinance. If the Board does table the proposed Ordinance, it may do so indefinitely, in which case if it is brought back in the future the board will republish the Ordinance or the Board may table to a specific future date, and if so the Board may again consider the Ordinance for adoption without such republishing.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance are available at the District office located at 214 Lake Shore Drive, Alto, NM during business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Gory Parker, Secretary
Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District

Legal Notices 152

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Gory Parker, Secretary
Alto Lakes Water & Sanitation District

Public/Special Notices 114

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No Phone Calls

Trade/Industrial 257

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Applications will be accepted until 4:00pm on Monday, April 4, 2011.

Complete job description and applications at the Village of Ruidoso, 313 Cree Meadows Dr. Ruidoso, NM 88345.
Phone 258-4343 or 1-877-700-4343. Fax 258-5848.
Website www.ruidoso-nm.gov
"Drugfree Workplace" EEOE.

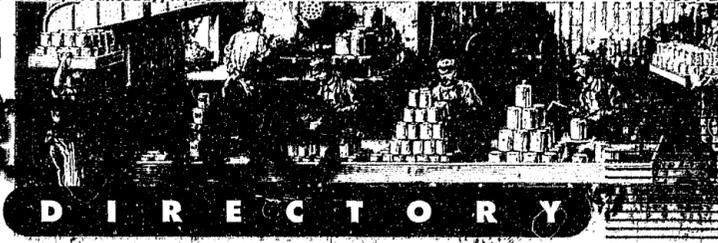
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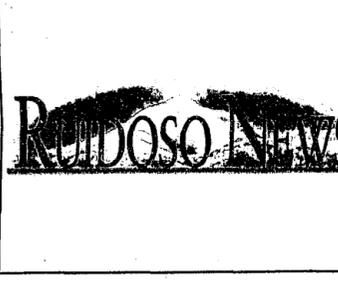
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- 575-378-4315 or 937-6945 HUD welcome.
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 - Furn., 2 bd, 2 ba, all appl., golf, pool. \$800/mo. + util, dep. No pets. 257-9326
 - Unfurn. Apts. - General 328
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- Furn. Apts. - General 314**
- 1 bedroom, 1 bath, All utilities included. NOB Hill. \$925/mo. Furn. Condo. 257-2511
 - 2br, 1 1/2 bath townhome, nicely furnished, minimum 1 month to extended stay. All bills paid. \$1950/mo Call Sandy at 258-4759 or 937-4656

Furnished Houses 350

- Condo for rent. Furnished or unfurnished, newly remodeled washer and dryer. \$695/mo. Great location! 575-937-2526.
- Unfurn. Home - General 352**
- 113 Lower Terrace Duplex for rent 1bd/1ba. \$500. + util. Call John Cornelius 937-0918 or James Paxton owner/broker 9057 C21
 - Br house. \$450/mo Bills paid. Central location. 575-937-9160 90505@hotmail.com
 - 2br 1 bth \$800+ utilities FirePlace, garage 575-430-7009
 - 307 Marble 3/2/2 with view of sblanca. Fenced yard, very private. Long term only. 925/mo + 800 deposit. roser owner/agent 808-1297
 - 3 bd, 2 ba, fp, w/d & lg deck \$875/mo + dep. 237 E. Dr. Ponderosa Heights. 937-0361
 - 3br 2ba, fireplace, laundry room, and dining room. \$700 plus bills, \$500 deposit. 111 Spring Road 575-623-7377 575-626-3932
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