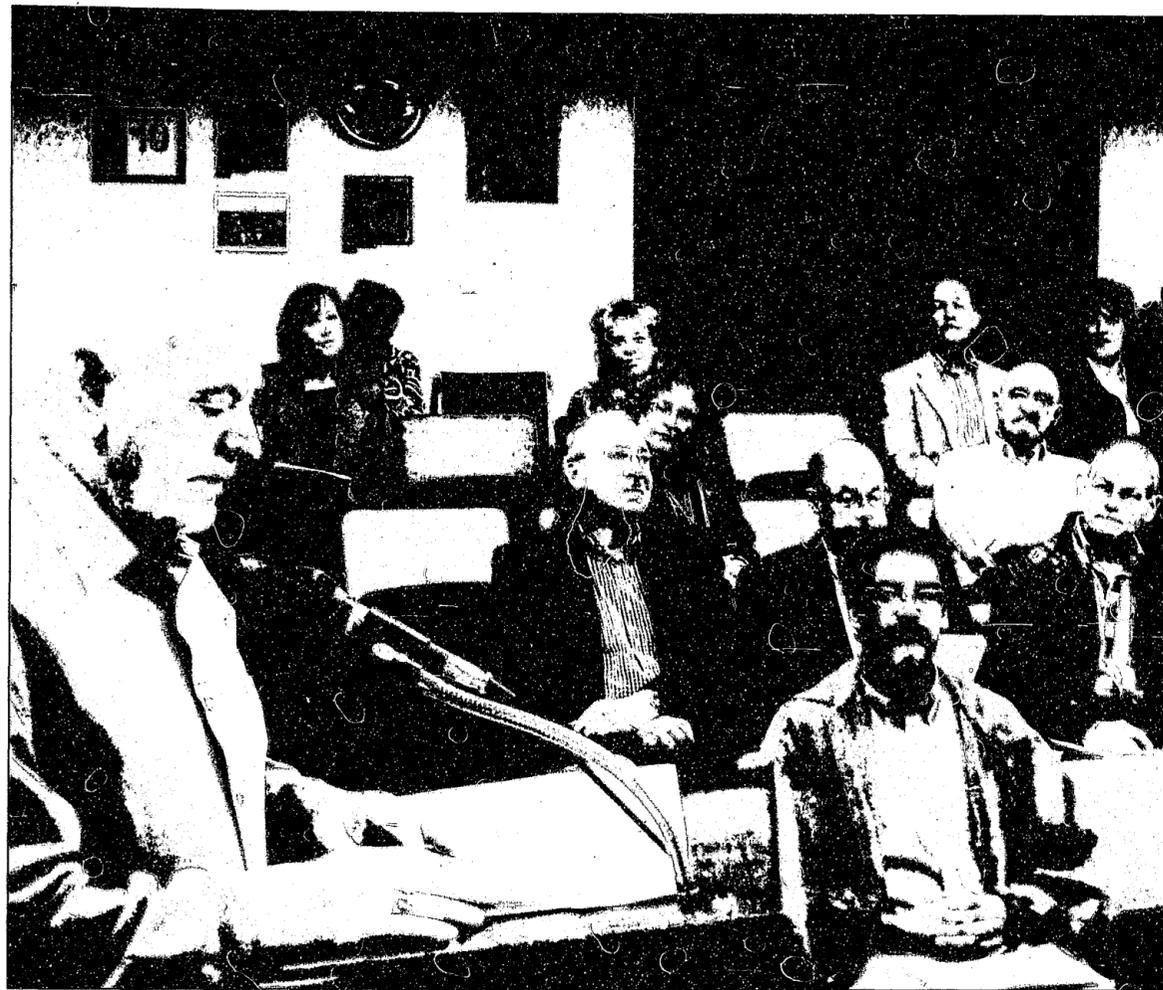




**FIRE DANGER
MODERATE**

RUIDOSO

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, NO. 95 • 75 CENTS



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn, backed by a show of force from Village officials, appeals to the County Commission Monday on behalf of drilling on Eagle Creek.

See WELLS, page 9A

War of wells

Ruidoso makes case to county for the need to pump from North Fork wells; four commissioners remain opposed to the idea

DIANNE STALLINGS
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After listening to the mayor of Ruidoso and the village's lead water consultant speak about the need of the municipality to pump more than a proposed 300 acre feet from its North Fork wells, Lincoln County commissioners tabled action during their morning session Monday on a letter in support of that limitation to "digest" the information.

The wait wasn't worth the time of Ruidoso officials, who showed up in force, including the village manager, project managers and councilors. Most stayed over lunch and sat through a few minor items before commissioners came back to the issue of a letter slated for submission to the U.S. Forest Service. The letter was critical of the village and supportive of slashing the number of gallons it can pump from the wells situated

Fire season talk of the town

JIM KALVELAGE
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The Lincoln National Forest may soon impose fire restrictions because of ongoing dry weather. Forest officials said they are monitoring conditions to help determine the need to consider restrictions.

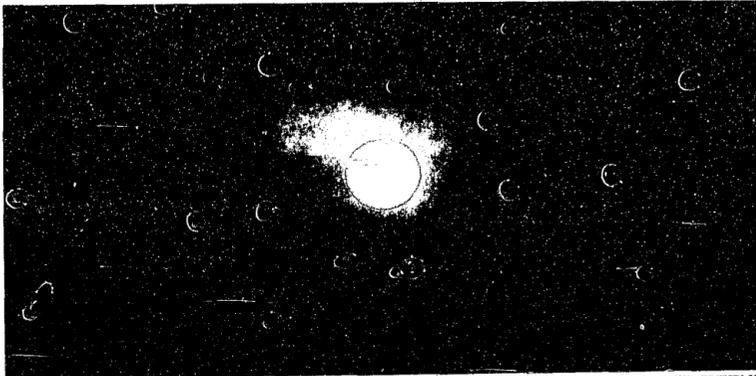
"We are potentially looking at an earlier-than-normal fire season," Robert Trujillo, Lincoln National Forest Supervisor said Tuesday.

"Weather predictions are indicating limited precipitation and above normal temperatures for the coming months, which could bring an early fire season.

"We are reviewing the conditions on the ground along with the weather predictions on a daily basis to ensure that we make the most informed decision as possible in regard to restrictions or closures. If conditions continue in the current trend of hot and dry, we will possibly be in restrictions within a couple of weeks."

National forest restrictions typically begin with limits on campfires, char-

Village imposes, and forest officials consider, restrictions; county burning ban in effect



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

The setting sun after an extremely windy Monday cast a spooky, almost orange glow through the dust stirred up by gusts of more than 50 mph. Writes photographer David Tremblay: "I happened to look toward the mountain just before sundown and I realized this sunset wasn't going to be normal. The wind has been horrendous, and the sun was completely obscured and then it wasn't!"

coal grills and smoking on the forest. The most severe response can bring a closure of the national forest.

Fire danger signs for the national forest are currently posted at "moderate," but that is likely to change soon.

Forest information offi-

cer Joe Garcia said conditions this spring are similar to the 2009 fire season with no end in sight to the dry conditions. People recreating on the forest were reminded to be safe when using fire.

Forest officials said they have been proactive in

efforts to mitigate the activity of a possible wildfire.

"We have been developing and conducting prescribed burns on the Smokey Bear, Sacramento and Guadalupe Ranger districts," said Don Nunley, the national forest's acting fire management officer.

"These prescribed burns play a vital role in removing excess fuels and will reduce the risk of damage to people, property and ecosystems."

A La Niña pattern set up in late 2010, resulting in very sparse rain and snow during the fall and winter. The pattern has held into the 2011 spring season. A red flag warning was issued Tuesday for a large part of New Mexico, including the Sacramento and Capitan mountains, as well as Lincoln, Otero and Chaves counties.

Ruidoso put Level II fire restrictions in place beginning last Friday. Charcoal briquettes and commercial fire pits are forbidden on both public and private property in the village. Outdoor smoking is also prohibited. Lighting up is only allowed indoors or within closed vehicles. Campfires and fireworks are never allowed in the village.

Assistant Fire Chief Harlan Vincent said without exception citations will be issued for violating the Level II restrictions.

See FIRE, page 8A

Business Retention Tax may hit \$840,000

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Based on the first month of collection for a new business retention gross receipts tax that took effect Jan. 1, Lincoln County's manager projected the county will see about \$840,000 by the end of the calendar year.

Voters last September approved a 3/16th of one cent GRT for five years in the hope of keeping Ruidoso Downs Race Track & Casino by giving the owner up to \$750,000 to offset his tax debt. The move was aimed at giving him more equal footing with Indian gaming.

"On March 16, we received our GRT distribution for January 2011, the first month of the business retention GRT collection," County Manager Tom Stewart told commissioners at their meeting Monday.

See BRT, page 8A

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STREAKERS AND
FEATHERED BANGS.**

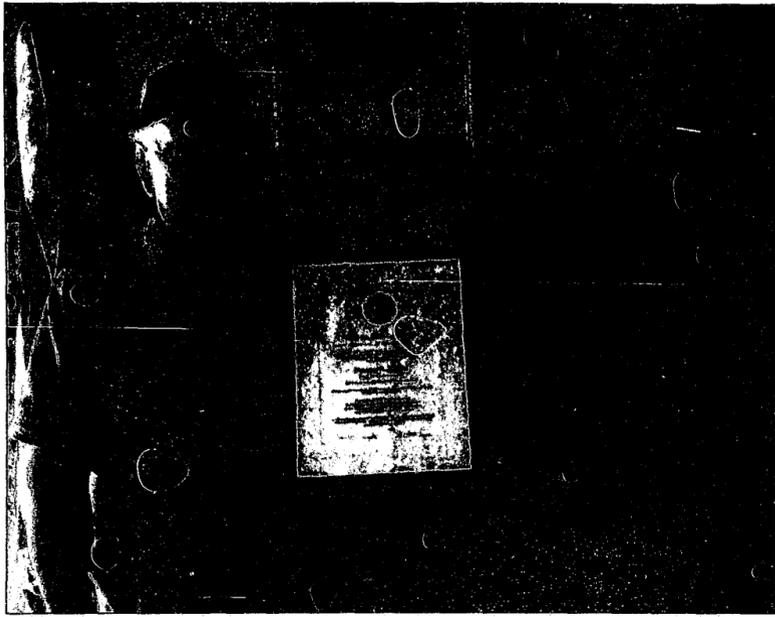


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MEDICAL CENTER**





DANA TERLECKY/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

American Legion Post 79 acting commander Robert Lazcko, right, presents past Post Commander Gene Kurtz a certificate of appreciation Saturday during the American Legion Post 79 monthly meeting. World War II veteran Kurtz served as Post Commander for five years, a term that included rebuilding the Post Building in Ruidoso Downs after the roof collapsed during the flood of 2008.

GOP women meet

Speakers at the Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County March meeting will be State Representative Dennis Kintigh and announced U.S. Senate candidate Greg Sowards.

The meeting will be held at the Ruidoso Senior Center, Monday, March 28, at 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch.

LCMC Board

The next meeting of the Lincoln County Medical Center Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, March 28, at 6 p.m. in the hospital Conference Room.

Free tax help

Free tax preparation is offered to all middle to low income individuals and families of all ages.

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

Come to the Ruidoso Senior Center on Thursdays and Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. till noon through April 16.

Center opens

The Greentree Solid Waste Authority [GSWA] has opened its new Loma Grande Collection Center for residents in the Highway 37 - Nogal Mesa area.

The site takes the place of all solid waste dumpsters which have now been removed from along Highway 37 at the insistence in 2007

of the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT).

The exact location of the compactor is next to the intersection of Highway 37 and the Wolf Springs Loop county road.

A sign with three-step compactor operating instructions sign are posted on the compactor compartment door as well as other instructions posted on the site fence.

The site is a one-way drive-in, drive-out procedure directing residents to drive onto the site pad, stop, toss trash sacks into the compactor compartment and then to drive off and out of the site.

The compactor is to be used for household trash and garbage from inside the house only.

Nogal Mesa residents with additional questions may call the Solid Waste Office at 378-4697 or 1-877-548-8772.

Additional information is also available on the Authority website at www.greentreeswa.org.

Sonic booms

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

Sonic booms could occur Wednesday, March 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, March 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Friday, March 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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

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



COURTESY JULIA PRICE

Stage 1 of a Soup Garden is underway at Smokey's Community Garden in Ruidoso. The New Mexico Alliance for Children is partnering with the USDA Forest Service to design a large vegetable garden space incorporating raised beds, cold frames, and in-ground planting at the Smokey Bear Ranger Station. All produce will be donated to the Lincoln County Food Bank on a weekly basis through the summer. The first planting will include all of the ingredients for making vegetable soup - several varieties of potatoes, onions, carrots, tomatoes, corn, beans, squash, peas, cabbage, herbs, and an assortment of greens. NMAC is developing the educational components for the Forest Service garden: A Garden Apprenticeship Program, with area middle and high school students helping to design and nurture the garden; and participation by 150 preschoolers; teaching low-income families how to manage small-plot gardens using available yard space and extend the growing season to increase community food security year-round. Summer classes are open to area youth, teaching gardening, water conservation and composting basics.

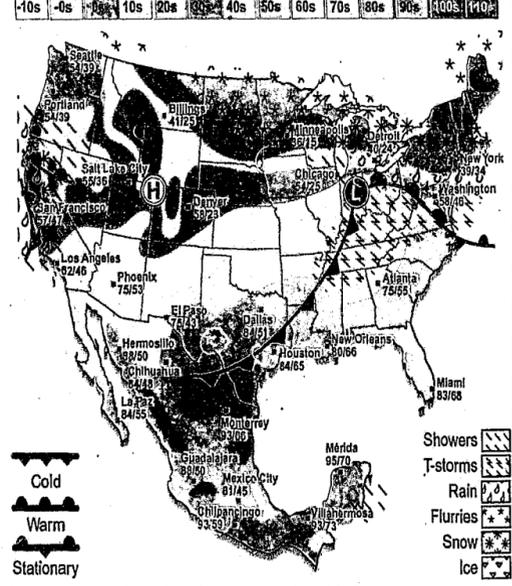
AccuWeather® 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

AccuWeather.com

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 65° Humidity 63° 46° 18% Windy with a full day of sunshine Wind: W 10-20 mph	RealFeel 67° Humidity 65° 41° 12% Sunny and windy Wind: SW 15-25 mph	RealFeel 61° Humidity 62° 41° 19% Mostly sunny and windy Wind: WSW 25-35 mph	RealFeel 65° Humidity 63° 43° 20% Windy with plenty of sunshine Wind: SW 12-25 mph	RealFeel 52° Humidity 55° 39° 28% Sunny, windy and cooler Wind: WSW 20-30 mph	RealFeel 66° Humidity 61° 39° 18% Bright sunshine Wind: WNW 8-16 mph	RealFeel 67° Humidity 63° 41° 24% Bright and sunny Wind: S 6-12 mph

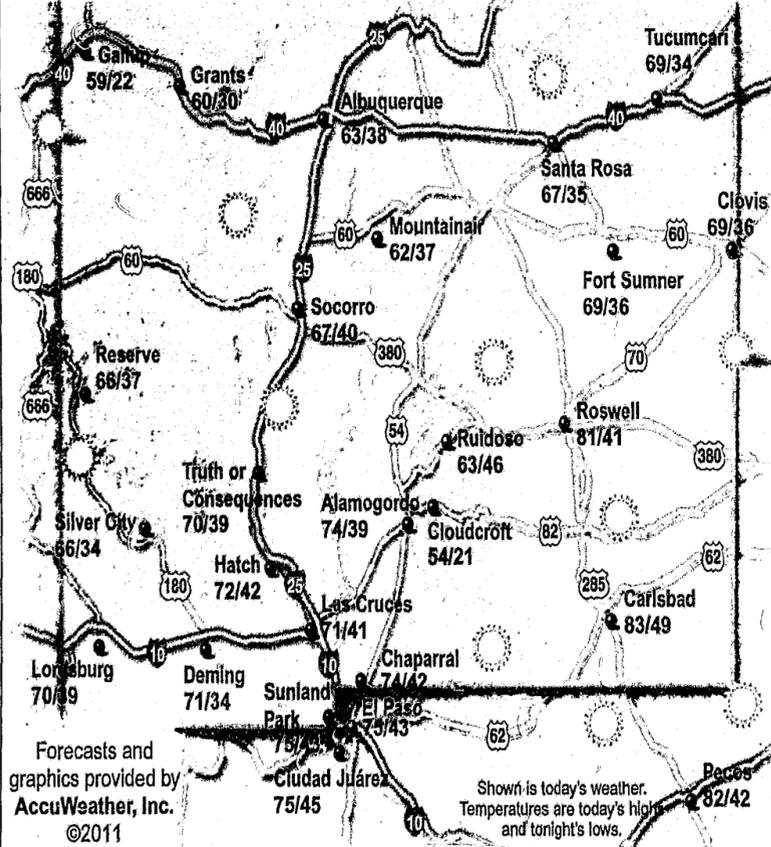
RealFeel Temperature® is AccuWeather's exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine, precipitation and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highs for the day.

National Forecast for March 23, 2011



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

Regional Cities



Sun and Moon
Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 7:03 a.m./7:16 p.m.
Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset none/9:36 a.m.

Moon Phases
Last New First Full
Mar 26 Apr 3 Apr 11 Apr 17

Extremes
Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 96° in Pecos, TX
Low: 0° in Clayton Lake, ME
Monday's World High/Low:
High: 109° in Matam, Senegal
Low: -65° in Summit Station, Greenland

Almanac

Ruidoso
Statistics through Monday
Temperature:
High/low 66°/48°
Normal high 59°
Normal low 26°
Record high 74° (1997)
Record low 7° (19°0)
Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.73"
Year to date 0.76"
Normal year to date 3.21"
Pollen:
Grass Absent
Trees Moderate
Weeds Absent
Mold Low
Predominant Ash Tree
Source: Eddie L. Gaines, MD, of the Allergy & Asthma Clinic

Alamogordo
Statistics through Monday
Temperature:
High/low 81°/48°
Normal high 69°
Normal low 40°
Record high 85° (1997)
Record low 18° (2010)
Precipitation:
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.36"
Year to date 0.46"
Normal year to date 1.66"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: Has it ever been above freezing at the South Pole?
A: Not since records have been kept.

National Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Abilene	82/48/s	80/57/s
Anchorage	39/28/sn	38/28/sf
Atlanta	75/55/c	73/43/s
Austin	84/58/pc	83/60/s
Baltimore	57/44/f	52/32/pc
Boston	40/32/sn	39/30/sf
Chicago	54/25/c	37/23/pc
Dallas	84/51/pc	82/62/s
Denver	58/23/s	63/29/pc
Des Moines	50/26/c	43/30/pc
Detroit	40/24/r	34/16/pc
El Paso	75/43/s	78/49/s
Las Vegas	67/47/pc	63/49/s
Los Angeles	62/46/r	62/50/pc
Minneapolis	36/15/sn	31/20/pc
New Orleans	80/66/s	78/58/s
New York City	39/34/sn	44/28/c
Philadelphia	40/38/r	43/31/c
Phoenix	75/53/s	73/52/s
Reno	46/32/sn	47/33/sn
San Francisco	57/47/r	58/48/f
San Diego	62/53/pc	61/54/pc
Seattle	54/39/pc	55/40/c
Tucson	76/47/s	75/45/s
Tulsa, OK	76/40/s	67/50/s
Wash., DC	58/46/f	53/31/pc
Wichita	67/33/s	59/44/s
Yuma	76/53/s	75/52/s

Regional Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Albuquerque	63/38/s	66/39/s
Artesia	81/49/s	88/53/s
Chama	53/19/s	54/26/s
Clayton	61/28/s	72/35/s
Cloudcroft	54/21/s	56/22/s
Farmington	59/30/s	60/34/s
Hobbs	81/38/s	84/40/s
Los Alamos	57/26/s	61/28/s
Portales	69/36/s	75/41/s
Raton	60/21/s	66/26/s
Red River	54/21/s	55/22/s
Ruidoso	63/46/s	65/41/s
Senia Fe	62/29/s	66/30/s
Silver City	66/34/s	68/37/s
Taos	58/25/s	59/25/s

Mexican Cities

City	Today	Thu.
Acapulco	90/70/s	90/70/s
Cancun	84/68/pc	84/66/pc
Chihuahua	84/48/s	88/50/s
Ciudad Juárez	75/45/s	79/48/s
Leon	90/54/s	90/54/s
México, DF	81/45/s	82/48/s
Monterrey	83/66/s	91/66/pc
Morelia	90/54/s	88/55/s
Oaxaca	91/54/s	91/55/f
Pto. Penasco	75/50/s	73/54/s
Tijuana	64/50/pc	64/50/pc

County to seek maximum for 'sole-provider'

DIANNE STALLINGS
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The maximum amount of money allowed for the Lincoln County Medical Center under the supplemental Sole Community Provider program will be requested by the county.

Al Santos, administrator of the county-owned hospital in Ruidoso, explained to county commissioners Tuesday that the request submitted earlier was based on previous years. But since then, he's received more information and found that additional money is available.

"We are recommending increasing the Sole Community Provider base to \$3,508,260, which is based on a recommendation from New Mexico Human Services Department to factor in an increase of between 2.5 percent and 5 percent on the maximum allowed per hospital based on an anticipated Market Basket Index increase for 2011," Santos wrote in a March 15 memorandum to County Manager Tom Stewart.

"Using this base, would result in an approximate quarterly payment from the mill levy funds in the amount of \$249,963. The money is then matched with the federal portion of Medicaid and returned to the hospital in quarterly payments."

Mill levy funds are derived from a special property tax of up to 3 mills dedicated to the county hospital and approved by voters for a seven-year period. One mill equates to \$1 for each \$1,000 of taxable property value.

The previous SCP request from the hospital was for \$564,000 from the county mill levy to produce a federal match of \$2,098,130; and for the Supplemental SCP, \$170,877 from the county mill levy for a \$632,877 federal match. By increasing the county's combined match by \$400,000 to access an additional \$1.41 million available to the county, the revised federal match would hit \$4,141,137, he said.

"I believe it is to our

advantage to go for 100 percent to boost \$2.7 million to \$4.1 million," he said. The program is especially good because there are no strings attached as with Medicaid, only that the dollars be used for health care services for residents of Lincoln County.

Santos said the money will be used to reduce costs, such as outpatient laboratory fees, to level the playing field with the hospital in Alamogordo. "It's an opportunity to provide additional commercial services for our residents using a model that works," he said. "The money we contribute allows a margin to reinvest in ourselves as leverage for Phase I (of a master plan construction program), and to go into Phase II without additional taxation. This is strictly a one-year situation. We don't know about future funding."

Santos handed out charts to commissioners comparing fees for the 20 most often used lab procedures. The new infusion will reduce the cost of healthcare in the county by \$1 million, he contended.

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo said she liked the new lab approach, because it will be a service for everyone, not just low income or those without insurance.

Santos said even more money may be left over at the end of the fiscal year. The SCP program had \$5 million to distribute at the end of last year. "Keep that in the back of your minds," he said. The money can be used for construction or to purchase healthcare-related equipment, he clarified.

Commissioner Mark Doth told Santos, "I'm curious why some (other hospitals) were at 100 percent and we were at 60 percent (in the initial requests for funding)."

Santos said he and his board did not know the amount of money available and extrapolated from last year, but apparently, some other hospitals received more exact information. "That's why the deadline was extended," he said, to allow those hospitals ask-

"That's just not true. That's a gross exaggeration," hospital administrator Al Santos replied to Commissioner Kathryn Minter, who said the LCMC board appears to be little more than a rubber-stamp.



ing for less to increase their requests.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter questioned why Bernalillo County was not on the list in the SCP program.

Santos replied that county has more than one hospital, as does the city of Albuquerque. The SCP program aims to help one-hospital counties. Minter wondered why Doña Ana County was listed when it has two hospitals. Santos said he would check.

The LCMC provided \$6 million in uncompensated care last year, the administrator said. That figure represents bad debts or charity, which could sweep in indigent care, but not the same type covered by the county's Indigent Healthcare Fund. That fund, financed by a voter-approved gross receipts tax, provides reimbursement for non-hospital healthcare providers who treat income-qualified residents.

As the only commissioner to vote against the motion for the higher SCP contribution, Minter asked Santos and other commissioners to schedule a special meeting to go over hospital finances, various sources of income and programs that help offset uncompensated medical

care for those without insurance or who cannot pay.

"Mr. (Gary) Mitchell, (LCMC Community Board president), gave me the (hospital) audit and it's almost like the race track, it's difficult to follow," she said.

She tried to analyze the financial information, but it is very confusing, Minter said. It involves quasi-private and government entities, a non-profit, and savings accounts for LCMC and for Presbyterian Healthcare Services, the company that leases and manages the county-owned hospital in Ruidoso.

"I hope at another time, we can discuss the whole situation, the interrelationship, the whole purpose in Lincoln County," she said. "I would like to see a more regional approach like the Alamogordo regional hospital. I'm told by people in Carrizozo and Corona they go elsewhere for their care. With the flood and freeze, we found out 80 percent of Ruidoso water accounts have billing addresses from out of the area and 70 percent of Alto's do too.

"Remember, this is not free money; it's all tax money."

She prefers all the funding be private, Minter said.

She'd also like to see a freeze or reduction in county taxes, Minter added.

"You say the money will be used to offset costs, but you tax the people to do that," she said. "I prefer lower taxes and let me pay for the laboratory work myself. As a nation, I would like to see us go in a different way."

Doth said Minter's questions were legitimate. He spoke with Santos on his own time and understands what Santos hopes to accomplish by moving a laboratory operation outside of the hospital.

Trying to explain in more detail, Santos the new arrangement should reduce the cost of laboratory work for outpatients. The hospital used TriCore Reference Laboratories, a for-profit company, on contract to handle the lab work. Because the lab is within the hospital, the reimbursement is higher, but so are the costs, which Santos said are nearly 50 percent higher than outpatient lab work at many other hospitals. "That's a disadvantage to our patients," he said.

He plans to establish an out-patient lab across the street from the hospital so that a lower rate can be charged for the work. But that also means lower revenue for the hospital. LCMC couldn't absorb that \$1 million revenue drop this year, but will be in a position to do so next year, he said. "Our margin is less than 3 percent this year," Santos said. The lab is being moved at TriCore's expense.

Santos said LCMC fares well in overall cost comparisons by the New Mexico Hospital Association with hospitals in Alamogordo and Roswell; coming out 35

percent to 40 percent lower.

"Seventy-five percent of OB patients in (Otero County) come to us," he said, and that sparked the interest of one obstetrician about opening an office in Lincoln County.

Santos warned that as with most hospitals in the country, LCMC experienced losses during the first two months of the year, either because people refrained from medical procedures tied to the poor economy or the hospital is realizing fewer dollars because of reimbursement reductions from Medicare and Medicaid.

Sedillo said she read the contract between the county and Presbyterian Healthcare Services, and it says the county can recommend appointments to the hospital community board.

"I think we should start doing that," Minter said. "As a new commissioner, I think we're shirking our responsibility, if we have no input on (who serves) on the board. I think this is one of our biggest responsibilities."

She has attended hospital board meetings and only one man asked any questions, Minter claimed. The rest appeared to rubber-stamp administration's proposed action.

"That's just not true," Santos responded. "That's a gross exaggeration."

Commissioner Tom Battin, who previously served on the hospital board, said that, at one time, the hospital was on the verge of closing and the contract with Presbyterian, "made it viable and successful."

He offered the motion to approve the increased supplemental and regular SCP amounts, which was seconded by Doth and passed 4-1.

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		6 months	\$26
		1 year	\$40
Classified line advertising	1:30 p.m. Tuesday for Wednesday	Out of county	
	1:30 p.m. Thursday for Friday	3 months	\$27
Legal advertising	3 p.m. Friday for Wednesday	6 months	\$32
	3 p.m. Tuesday for Friday	1 year	\$47

OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager

Marty Racine, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday

OUR OPINION

Capitan should keep subdivision ordinance

Minimal zoning would allow a two-tiered system

The Capitan Board of Trustees last week tabled a motion to decrease the minimum 3-acre lot size for development in the village.

The action was supported by a vast majority of citizens attending the meeting, as well as the Planning Commission.

We, too, support maintaining the 3-acre minimum.

The issue arose on behalf of developer Lionel Burns, who plans a subdivision east of town and a nearby business park on about 20 acres of land recently annexed into the village limits. Burns feels the 3-acre overall minimum shouldn't apply to the business park.

Another solution floated at the trustee meeting was to

grant a variance to the subdivision ordinance that mandates the 3-acre minimum.

"I think this is a ridiculous ordinance," said Mayor Sam Hammons, as if his view alone could revise the books.

This is what happens when a community resists even the barest of zoning codes. Capitan needn't stack on levels of commercial and residential zoning designations as seen in Ruidoso; it only needs to differentiate between commercial and residential uses of land. If commercial properties can be placed in higher-density locations, so be it.

But to scrap the entire residential ordinance to accommodate that is short-sighted.

In praise of the Rail Runner

Let's eavesdrop on a legislative Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting earlier this month.

Rep. Rick Little asked how much it would cost to mothball the New Mexico Rail Runner. "I'm from a county that's way down south, and it doesn't benefit them one bit. Other counties feel the same way."

Chris Blewett, of the Rio Metro Regional Transportation District, tried to put the commuter train in perspective. Central New Mexico has one road, I-25, connecting Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Belen and four pueblos.

"It's not just for today's conditions but for the future, when you can't even drive into Santa Fe, he said. Adding a lane would have cost more. As it is, any accident on I-25 bottles it up for hours. This corridor has 60 percent of the state's jobs and half the state's population," he said.

Rep. Jane Ponder-Culbertson spoke up. She represents Sandoval, the state's second-fastest growing county.

"If you look at the nation's transportation system - New York, Chicago, Washington - none of them pay for themselves," she said. "My area was one of the areas that voted to tax itself (to pay for the Rail Runner). There's not a parking lot that isn't full between Belen and Santa Fe."

She could have added that parking lots in Albuquerque, Bernalillo, Los Lunas and Belen have had to expand two and three times.

"I got tremendous heat for supporting the Rail Runner, but I participated in the Nation's Ridesharing concept," she said. "You see it quite differently. We're in a tight crunch, but I wish we could expand. I look at it as an economic builder because people can buy a home farther out. In the long run, it will cut down on highway improvements."

Rep. Anna Crook, of Clovis, said, "Most of the people on this committee are in the rural areas and feel the same way as Rep. Little. We feel the same way

about the Spaceport."

Not everybody. Rep. Patricia Lundstrom asked a Department of Transportation staffer to show them the locations of the Big I, the Santa Teresa border crossing, the new road network in Eunice, the Spaceport, the Manuelito Visitor Center, and the Glen Rio Visitor Center.

"From a 30,000-foot point of view, all the major infrastructure projects don't pay for themselves," she said. "They're all over the state. It's not about use, it's about economic development."

"I come from Gallup. I have always supported these infrastructure projects because they help the state. I've never been to Eunice, but when the group said they were bringing in an enrichment plant, I was all for it because I knew it would help the state, including Gallup, New Mexico. Twenty years from now, when it's all said and done, we'll be proud of the Rail Runner."

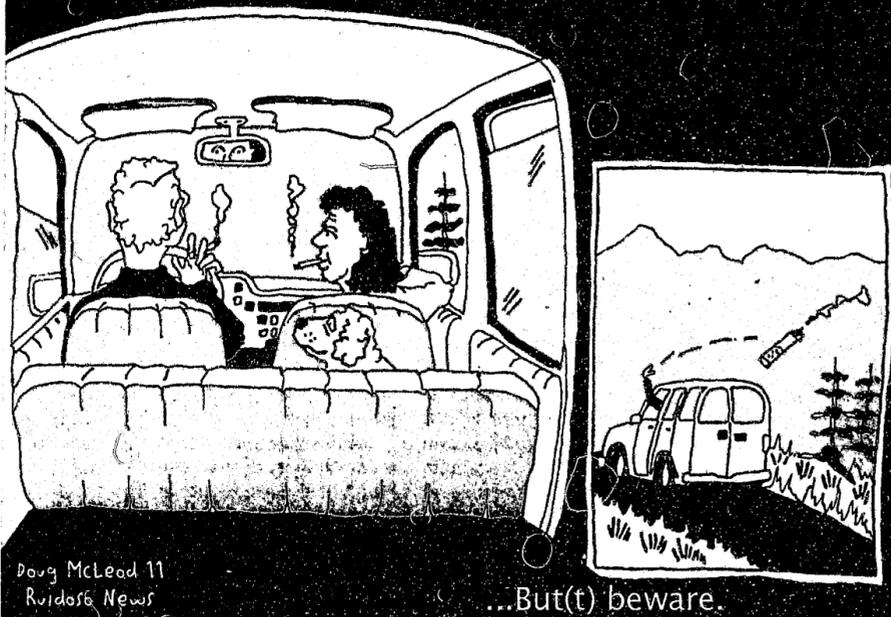
Rep. Bobby Gonzalez, of Taos, chimed in.

"In the 1960s we debated building a bridge across the Rio Grande gorge," he said. "Where would we be today without that bridge? The Rail Runner doesn't go to Taos, but I support it 100 percent. It's hard to explain to my constituents, but the Rail Runner is one step. It would be nice to see the Rail Runner extended to different parts of the state. Wherever it goes, I'll support it. China and every other country is getting ahead of us in infrastructure."

Gonzales pointed out that most of the state's gross receipts tax revenues come from Albuquerque, and most of the water comes from northern New Mexico. Extend that argument a bit farther. Most of our electricity comes from Farmington, most of our oil and gas come from southeastern and northeastern New Mexico. If each region refuses to support the rest, where are we?

Two weeks later, when Lundstrom proposed studying a Rail Runner extension to Gallup, the committee supported her unanimously.

Fire Restrictions: Smoking allowed within closed vehicles...



Doug McLeod 11
Ruidoso News

GUEST COMMENTARY

2011 session among the most difficult

PETE CAMPOS
New Mexico State Senator

This year's legislative session will long be remembered as one of the most difficult in many years, as the slow-growing economy forced legislators to cut spending for the third year in a row.

The \$5.4 billion budget approved by the legislature and sent to the governor represents our collective statement of policy priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

In many ways, it mirrors our priorities of the last several sessions: educating New Mexico's children, providing health care to those who need it but cannot afford it and protecting us all from criminals and others who would do us harm.

The bad news is that the spending proposal for the fiscal year that begins July 1 is down three percent from the current year's spending plan, which itself is down four percent from last year's spending plan, which was down five percent from the previous year.

Just like virtually every New Mexican, the state continues to tighten its belt. The legislature has spent the last several years grappling with this difficult budget situation.

The good news is that we have managed our way through this financial crisis about as well as we could have hoped, delicately balancing the budget during these tough economic times. Our spending cuts have been incremental and carefully designed to do the least amount of harm to those who can least afford it.

We are cognizant of our duty to look after the health, safety and overall well-being of New Mexicans. Over the last several years, we have freed up millions of dollars by cutting stalled construction projects, sweeping cash from various state accounts, requiring state employees and teachers to pay more into their retirement plans and delaying



scheduled expenses. We have also wisely used federal stimulus funds to supplement critical state programs.

The result is a thoughtful, well-reasoned approach to the budget that meets the minimum needs of the state for another year while keeping our reserves at five percent of appropriations - a prudent level.

As a last resort, we have had to cut state spending further for the next fiscal year, but we did so fully expecting to be able to restore spending to provide needed and basic services as the economy continues to improve.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I know as well as anyone the very real impacts of these cuts. Each dollar that we cut from education reduces a child's chance of succeeding. Each dollar we cut from social services makes it more difficult for less fortunate New Mexicans to get the mental and physical health care, food or housing they desperately need. Each dollar we cut from senior citizen programs diminishes the quality of life enjoyed by elderly New Mexicans.

Each dollar we cut from public safety programs increases the chances that any one of us will be the victim of a crime. And I know very well that each dollar we cut from state employees' and teachers' take-home pay hurts not only each of those employees and their families, but also the grocery stores, restaurants, shops and business-

es at which those employees spend their money.

For those who have been and will continue to be hurt by these spending cuts, I urge you to have faith in the process that will soon help us resume higher spending levels.

We strive to be fiscally responsible, which includes investing in the education of our children and the health and safety of all New Mexicans, as well as protecting the investments we've already made in infrastructure around New Mexico.

For a variety of reasons - some practical and some that are simply a recognition of today's political reality - this is not a time to raise revenue by boosting taxes. It is a time to carefully follow each tax dollar that is raised to ensure that it is spent wisely and to reexamine the tax credits, deductions and exemptions that are granted to ensure that they continue to serve a worthy purpose or that they generate more money than they cost the state.

We will work in the interim to make state government more efficient and save even more money so those savings can be redirected into critical state programs.

And we will continue to support policies that engender certainty in the budgetary process and our taxation policies so that everyone who lives and works in New Mexico can enjoy as much stability as possible.

As the economy improves, we will work to restore spending on the programs that do the most good for New Mexicans who are most in need.

Until then, we can all be confident in knowing that by continuing to do our part, we'll get through these tough times.

PETE CAMPOS, a Democrat from Las Vegas, represents District 8 in the New Mexico Senate, including the counties of Santa Fe, Mora, Torrance, San Miguel and Guadalupe.

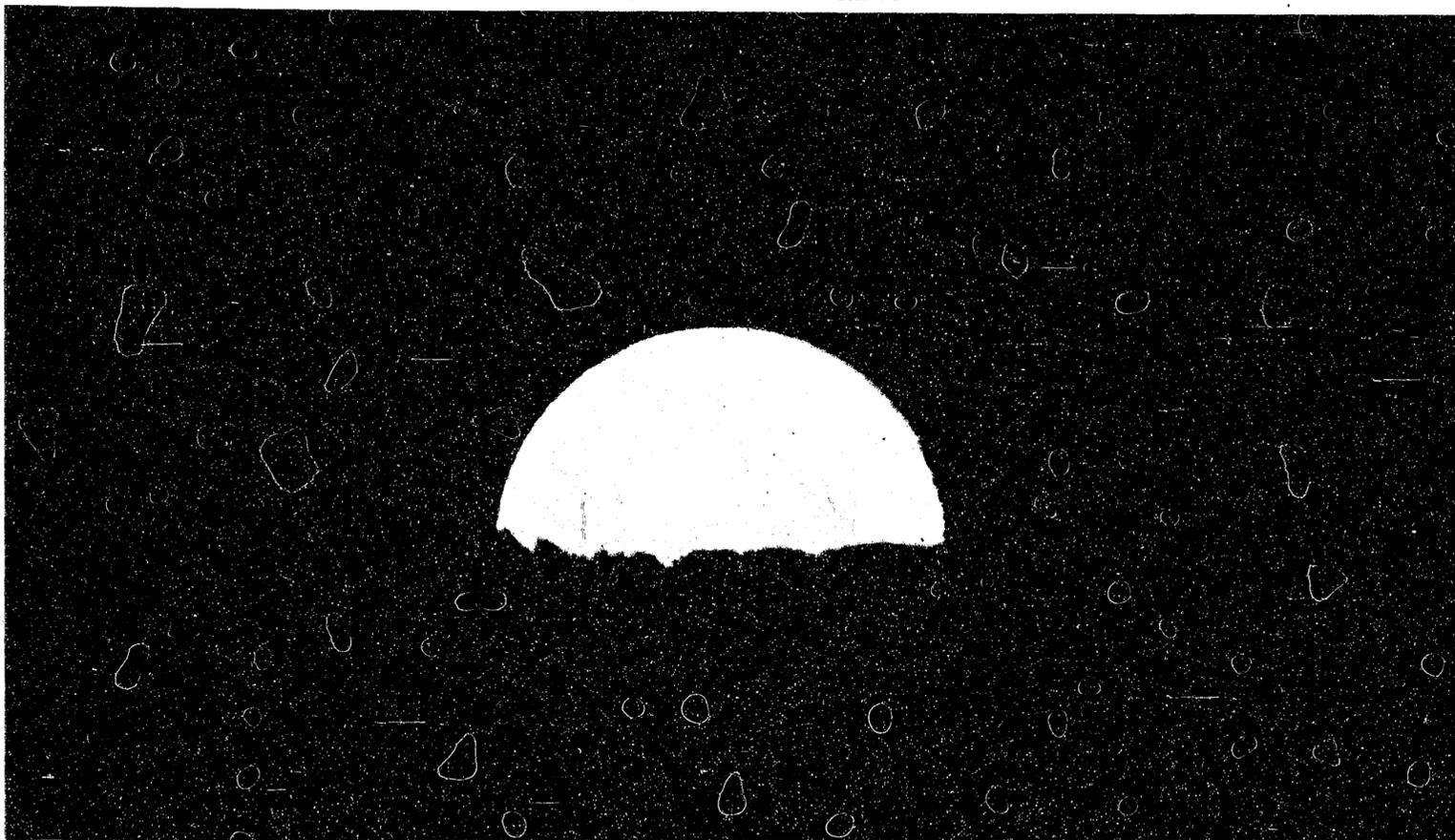
LETTERS POLICY

The Ruidoso News encourages letters to the editor, especially about local topics and issues. Each letter must be signed and must include the writer's daytime telephone number and mail address. The phone number and mailing address will not be printed; the hometown will be. The telephone number will be used to verify authorship. No letter will be printed without the writer's name.

Letters should be no more than 300 words in length, of public interest, and free of libel; editing will be for length, grammar or spelling. Shorter letters are preferred and generally receive greater readership. The Ruidoso News reserves the right to reject any letter. Longer by-lined "Guest Commentary" articles will be considered; call the editor at 257-257-4001.

Letters may be delivered to the Ruidoso News office at 104 Park Avenue, mailed to P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88355; faxed to 257-7053; or sent by e-mail to letters@ruidosonews.com. Emailed letters are preferred.

'SUPERMOON'



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

At 6:53 a.m., Sunday, Lincoln County photographer David Tremblay, like thousands of others, snapped images of the "supermoon." Setting behind Sierra Blanca Peak in the Sacramento Mountains, the moon appeared 14 percent wider and 30 percent brighter at a distance of 221,567 miles away from Earth, the closest since March of 1993. The moon's distance varies each month between about 222,000 miles and 252,000 miles because of its elliptical orbit around the Earth.

County issues contract for new emergency phone system

DIANNE STALLINGS
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A contract for a new telephone system to alert Lincoln County residents in emergencies was approved after another company simply disappeared, the county manager said Monday.

A countywide test of the new system is planned in April.

County Manager Tom Stewart said before February, the county was using a Reverse 9-1-1 service from SurfSimple Mapstorm.

It was used about once a month to ensure capability, "but when we went to use it to potentially assist the village of Ruidoso, we found that the system would not operate," he told commissioners.

When staff tried to contact the company, they learned the phone was disconnected.

Because the county already paid for three years of service with a Homeland Security grant, the attorney wrote a letter to three addresses Stewart found for the firm, notifying the owners they were in breach of contract. The county has received no response, he said.

Stewart subsequently notified Homeland Security officials of the default and also contacted other county managers signed up for the service to ensure they knew it likely was not working.

With an elevated fire danger because of strong winds and dry vegetation, the county was in imminent need of a Reverse 9-1-1 system, an automatic phone system that can alert thousands of households about emergencies within minutes, Stewart said.

He and County Emergency Services Director Travis Atwell expedited selection of a replacement firm and a Web-based program.

Five firms were contacted and CodeRED was selected for a three-year service at \$5,250 the first year and \$10,000 per year thereafter, with the first three months free.

Stewart successfully demonstrated the service for commissioners, calling in a message that within one minute rang on each commissioner's cell phone.

Not only can land lines receive the messages, cell phones can be signed up by Website for the notification list, he said. The service provides unlimited text and

e-mail notices, and 30,000 voice minutes per year, the manager said.

The system became operational the morning of March 9 with 25,293 Geographical Information System located phones in the data base, he said.

Atwell, Emergency Services Coordinator Joe Kenmore, Undersheriff Robert Shepperd and lead dispatcher Mickie Howard were trained on the system and have immediate access from any Internet connection.

A link to enable citizens to sign up for the program and receive cell phone message, text or e-mail alerts associated with their correct rural address will be placed on the county Website, Stewart said. He plans to give the system a

little time to settle in and then at the April 19 commission meeting, a call will be generated as a test of the system.

"The subcontractor will provide this complimentary call out to test the speed of our phone system," he said.

RPD may get cell tower

DIANNE STALLINGS
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A new cell phone tower may be erected on property that is home to the Ruidoso Police Department.

After surveying the Ruidoso area, Verizon Wireless determined the most logical location for a new tower was at the police station on Mechem Drive, according to a report from village manager Debi Lee.

"Chief Magill will take a look at that," Lee said.

The cellular phone company has planned, diagrammed and is in the process of wanting to place the tower on the northwest corner of the building. The tower would be 140 feet tall, or about 60 feet higher

than the current police communications tower. Lee said Verizon would install the police radio elements on the top of their tower and then place their equipment below that.

The company said that, because of the different radio frequencies, there would be no interference with emergency radios. The higher elevation for the police radios would increase the range of the emergency communications.

"There should be an agreement," Lee said. "And I'll make sure there's lots of sunshine on that issue."

After the tower is installed, Verizon would make monthly rental payments to the village.



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EDUCATION

New school calendar offers a winter change

JIM KALVELAGE
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The 2011-12 school year in the Ruidoso district, approved by the education board, will have a bit of a shake-up.

"This calendar is different," Superintendent Bea Etta Harris told the education board.

One big change will be realized by students who take part in the winter ski program.

Instructional time during the January through March timeline has sometimes been reduced with the ski program and days off because of winter weather.

"For several years now we've had four ski afternoons on Wednesday afternoons. And the committee, their concern was, that the Wednesday afternoons have been somewhat sacred. A lot of people in this community learned to ski because of those Wednesday afternoon."

"So I agreed to get with Mr. Kief Johnson (district activities director) and go visit with Ski Apache people and see if we could work out something that would be acceptable to the community that we wouldn't be giving up. We set a date and we went up there and we were pleasantly surprised that they are more than willing to offer the same discount to parents."

"You know parents get a discount Wednesday afternoons, and it's a significant discount. They were willing to offer that to us on Sunday afternoons. They don't want to do it on the big Presidents' Day weekend because they have a lot of people. We thought we left with four Sunday afternoons and they communicated with each other they'll give us five Sunday afternoons. So they'll give the same discount to students and the same discount to parents, five Sunday afternoons. The good thing about that is that teachers won't be taking off of school to go with their own children. And parents won't have to leave work to go with their children. If we don't like this, we'll think about it next

year. But this year we'll try it and see how it works for the community."

The first full day of classes will begin on Aug. 16. The school year will end on May 25.

Harris said students will see a 178-day schedule.

"Everyone knows we have 180 school days in New Mexico, with students. What happened in the legislature is they thought about saying 180 days, 6-hours a day, every day, every school, because some schools went to school longer in the day to give time for (teacher) professional development. But the way it works out is, the law says, students have to go, in K-5, 990 hours.

"So you can build the hours in the day to get there. Grades 7-12 have to have 1,080 hours. This sort of bind it puts the district in is that students have to go a certain number of hours. Teachers have to go 183 days. So we worked this out where teachers have 183 days, and students are going 990 or 1,080 hours plus about 21 hours extra for the three snow days. And we'll add in another 14 hours for two professional development days during the year."

Oct. 7 and Oct. 10, on each side of a weekend, will be part of the fall recess, creating a four-day reprieve from classes for students.

"But for teachers, they'll be working on the 7th (professional development). And the other day is in February, before Presidents' Day on the 17th. Again, students will have a four-day weekend but teachers will have staff development on that day."

Harris said the math adds up to the state required number of hours for students.

The calendar committee struggled with the Christmas holiday, which will begin midweek, on Dec. 21, Harris told the board.

"It's because Christmas falls on Sunday. If we went right up to the 23rd, to give us two full weeks, people aren't comfortable with working right up to the 23rd. And if we backed up to the 19th, people didn't

want to come back on the 2nd. So the committee as a whole said we would rather do Wednesday to Tuesday. So that's why Christmas is different this year than in the last two years. And that is really dependent on the calendar every year."

While teachers will report back on Jan. 4, for an in-service day, students will resume instruction on Jan. 5.

Spring break would include March 19-23. Easter recess is scheduled for April 6-9.

"It's different than before but I like it," said board member Curt Temple. "A teacher that I know says she'll lose kids for a couple of days because there's a three-day holiday and the kids will take off another day. So the teachers are standing there with half the kids still gone because there's a major holiday or they're traveling or something. It just seems to even that out more where that's not going to happen. I mean maybe at Christmas she may have some of it, but throughout the whole year it looks pretty good really."

Harris said the schedule committee recognized that a four-day week is almost as good as a five-day week and thus they made an effort to not do three-day weeks.

Board member Kerry Gladden Eastep said she had served on the calendar committee in the past.

"I will say that until you sit down and start looking at all of this, it's the 20 science fairs that are here that we're hosting, the parent conferences and the trimesters and semesters. It is hard and I know we struggled with that January through March. I applaud you and coach Johnson on kind of getting out of the box."

Harris said typically the committee would make a calendar recommendation to the board.

"But they want to remain anonymous. It's hard to get teachers to serve on this committee because they sometimes get a little flak for it. But I think this year teachers got a lot of input."



COURTESY

Sierra Blanca Motors is rewarding a student with good attendance with this car.

Attendance = free car

LENA BARRERA
Ruidoso High School Journalism

Sierra Blanca Motors, a trusted local dealership since 1965, has offered the students of Ruidoso High School and Choices a chance to win a 1999 Oldsmobile Bravada.

The Oldsmobile is black with a tan leather interior, five passenger, all-wheel drive with 91,500 miles on it and in great condition.

"It's something they definitely won't be embarrassed to drive in." All the students have to do is show up for school.

Each week a student is in school every day without any tardies, their name is entered into the drawing. How easy is that?

Not only do you have a great incentive to get to class on time, you also get the chance to win a sweet car.

And who doesn't want a free car? Since we have 10

weeks of school left, this means there are still 10 more chances to have your name entered into the drawing, including all the previous weeks of perfect attendance.

On the last day of the school year, one name will be pulled from the drawing and one lucky student will be driving this beauty home.

Don't have a license yet? No worries, you can still win the car as long as your parents sign for it. This drawing is in efforts to increase student attendance, which is an increasing problem these days.

"Anytime we can improve that [attendance] in schools, everyone is going to benefit."

Students, who miss 10 or more days in a class, are confronted with the possibility of not receiving credit for the class.

When asked how this idea came about, Joe

Gomez replied, "Well it was actually Mrs. Staski who came to me with the idea, sometime back in August, and I thought it was a good idea. Sierra Blanca Motors prides itself on our special attention to offering an unparalleled customer service which has resulted in literally thousands of repeat customers over the years and now it's also reaching out to support students."

"She asked if we'd be interested in doing this, and I said, heck anything for the kids."

Support from the community is always great encouragement for kids to continue in their education and grow to be the leaders of their generation.

As a reporter on this story, I got the chance to check out the car first-hand and even get a ride. I must say that I'm keeping my fingers crossed and hoping my name is pulled.

TEEN SPOTLITE

Teen Spotlite features area teens that have made a difference in their community. Francesca Gavin is the next teen in the Spotlite.

Gavin is the daughter of Tom and Antonietta Gavin and is currently in her senior year at Ruidoso High School. Gavin is involved in a variety of activities at her school and in her community.

At Ruidoso High School, Gavin is a dedicated student as evidenced by her membership on the High Honor Roll, National Honor Society, and National Society of High School Scholars.

She is currently the Senior Class President, a member of the Student Council, and in the Art Club. Other accomplishments at RHS are being elected Homecoming Queen, being named to the All-District and All-State Varsity Soccer Teams, receiving the Rotarian Youth Leadership Award, and completing her Advanced Placement Art Portfolio.

Gavin is also involved in the community. She has volunteered at several area organizations including the Mescalero Nursing Home, the Humane Society and Santa's Helpers.

She has also found time to coach Little League Soccer and help out as a counselor at church camp during the summer.

Gavin lists three people as being influences in her life. These people include a parent, a teacher, and a fellow student.

Gavin says of her mom, "She is the best, and I would not be where I am right now without her." The teacher listed is Karen



Autry Kimbrel who Gavin says is a great influence to many students at the high school.

Gavin also speaks of a fellow student, Emily Davis, because she is so positive and has a great attitude in spite of many challenges in her life. Future plans include attending West Texas A&M on a Merit Scholarship and pursuing a degree to work later as a physician's assistant or in pediatrics. Gavin is a shining example of an outstanding teen in Lincoln County.

Sponsored by Lincoln County DWI Prevention

MESA students bring home awards

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Ruidoso Middle School MESA (math, engineering, science achievement) students recently brought home a number of awards from the New Mexico State University Innoventure Competition in Las Cruces.

The Innoventure Competition is a middle and high school competition focused on encouraging teamwork, solving problems, and learning more about science, engineering and entrepreneurship. The competition is put on by the Arrowhead Business Center. Students work in teams to develop an innovative idea based on a particular theme, taking an

idea from concept, to prototype, to commercial marketability.

This year's theme challenged students to develop an innovative product using math, science, engineering, and technology skills to help a community in one of the following areas: waste management, agriculture, building materials, energy, transportation or water.

The middle school team, made up of Andres Aguirre, Cristian Castro, Alex Gomez and Adrian Reyes, won best prototype and best business plan awards in addition to placing second overall in the middle school category. This year's contest was the second year the team participated.

The Innoventure Competition is designed to mimic real-life processes in the world of technological advances and inventions. For this year's competition, the Ruidoso Middle School students designed and built a unique home appliance which uses bacteria to produce electricity.

Prototypes were scored for innovation and functionality. Each middle school team was required to describe their invention process, their prototype design, and demonstrate their product before a panel of judges.

The judging panel consisted of one business expert, one technical expert, and one community member.

Read us on the Web
www.ruidosonews.com

Ticket to ride: County transit fares rise

JIM KALVELAGE
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Fares to ride Lincoln County Transit will increase April 1.

Those who call and request same day service within Ruidoso - Ruidoso Downs will be charged \$5 per ride.

If a ride is scheduled before 3 p.m. of the preceding day, Monday through Friday, the fare will be \$2 per ride within Ruidoso - Ruidoso Downs, and \$4 per ride that goes beyond the two municipalities.

The door-to-door public transportation program, started in late 2008 by Ruidoso Downs, is funded through federal transportation grants, some local governments, and to a lesser degree from fares.

In taking the fare increase to the Ruidoso Downs City Council last week, Lincoln County Transit manager Patty DeSoto said elevated gas prices and a growing number of calls for same day service, prompted the requested rate increases.

"When we get a call 24 hours in advance we can schedule the people that are riding and going in the same direction in the same bus and it's a much more efficient use of our service," DeSoto said. "People have become accustomed to calling in the same day and wanting a ride and wanting it now. It's inconvenient for us because we're more scattered."

"We're less prepared for that. If we have it in advance, knowing where these people are and where they're going, it's much easier to meet their needs."

Those seeking same day service will pay substantially more under the fare structure approved by city councilors.

"I don't mind providing that service, but I think there should be a cost to it," DeSoto said of same day service. "I'm considering a \$5 charge (for same day service) or a \$3 discount if you call in advance. Considerations will be made for those who have appointments. People that are going to Walmart generally have an idea of when they're going to be done shopping, so you can estimate your returns. Whereas if you're in call in or

something like that, and you have a (college) class that exceeded your time period, taking a test like in finals week, we would consider that still a \$2 return as long as you have estimated your return."

Same-day service beyond Ruidoso - Ruidoso Downs would not be provided.

"With the increasing cost of gas, we would also like to ask the council to consider an increase in the cost for the rides in our service areas. Currently it is a dollar to ride within Ruidoso - Ruidoso Downs and \$2 for Capitan and Carrizozo. We would like you to consider \$2 to ride for Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs. That's the (Ski Run Road) Shell gas station boundary on the north side and the Hale Cemetery (far east edge of Ruidoso Downs) on the south side. And that would be a \$2 ride within that area. It would be \$4 into Capitan and Carrizozo, Alto, anything past the Shell station and the Hale Cemetery. I think that's a very reasonable request with the cost of gas nearly \$4 a gallon. With this increase in cost it also reduces our local match 50 cents on the dollar. Operating costs are reduced by our revenues and matched 50 percent."

Questioned by City Councilor Gary Williams, DeSoto clarified that a same-day rider would have a \$5 fare per ride. Calling 24 hours in advance would trim \$3 from the fare.

"What's your percentage of same-day riders?" Williams asked.

"I'd say it's about 30 percent," DeSoto said. "A lot of people are calling in trying to squeeze it in and when we squeeze it in it sometimes makes us late for our people who have made appointments. And they get first consideration."

DeSoto said many of Lincoln County Transit patrons are "subscription riders" who travel to work or appointments.

City Councilor Rene Olivo said he saw nothing wrong with the fare increases.

"Looking at L.A., they're more than we are, and they're a fixed route."

Olivo wondered if Lincoln County Transit would consider fixed routes.

"Yes, I'm in the process of doing the timing on that, to do a map on that, to show that to the council," DeSoto responded. "At that time, on demand services would be strictly put to what they call para-transit for those who have a disability. You qualify for that. That would be the only on-demand services."

Mayor Tom Armstrong said fixed routes could be more efficient.

"They say one person on-demand. Well, some of the questions that she's answered were the reason that happened," Armstrong

said. We're just trying to accommodate everything. Maybe by the next council meeting maybe we can look at this and get fixed routes approved."

City Councilor Dean Holman said it seems like DeSoto was looking at ways to balance things to ensure Lincoln County Transit works.

"And trying to factor in if you raise the rates, will some of the passengers drop off? I see what you're trying to do but I think even with the rates being raised, when people really look at what it cost to own a

vehicle, for those of us that have them, sometime when you sit down and start figuring out what that automobile and that transportation is costing you, it's frightening. When you figure the cost of the initial vehicle, the maintenance, the tires, the battery, oil changes, insurance, and then the gasoline, when people sit down and really figure, they're coming out real well."

DeSoto agreed.

"Public transportation, it really gets in your blood," DeSoto said. "You care for these people. A lot of people

"With our increasing elderly population in Lincoln County, I see that just continuing to grow."

are really starting to use the service. And with our increasing elderly population in Lincoln County, I see that just continuing to grow."

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Alto man among four named to commission

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

An Alto man, with a career in wildlife management, was one of four New Mexicans appointed Monday to the New Mexico State Game Commission.

Bill Montoya is a former director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. He had worked for the department for 28 years, overseeing conservation and game management before taking over the director's post in 1988. Montoya held the position until 1994.

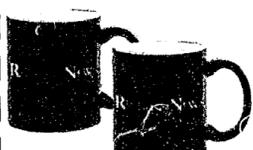
He is also the former president of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and holds a degree in wildlife management from New Mexico State University.

Another former director of the New Mexico

Department of Game and Fish, Jerry Maracchini of Rio Rancho, was also appointed to the commission by Gov. Susana Martinez. He had been the department's director from 1994 to 2000. Maracchini has a degree in wildlife science from New Mexico State University.

Robert Hoffman of Las Cruces, who is active in a number of sportsmen groups in New Mexico, and Scott Bidegain of Tucumcari, a board director with the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, were also named by Martinez to the game and fish commission.

The four appointees will replace commissioners Sandy Buffett of Santa Fe, Gary Fonay of Hobbs, Kent Salazar of Albuquerque, and M.H. "Dutch" Salmon of Silver City.

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FIRE

FROM PAGE 1A

Lincoln County has also put restrictions in place after federal fire officials said the fire danger ranged from high to very high.

"This combined with increasing wind speeds today (Tuesday), and then a very brief lull in the winds Wednesday, followed by an immediate resumption of the winds on Thursday, requires temporary restrictions on open burning," Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart said. "Therefore, in accordance with our county ordinance, the county manager and emergency services director have determined that critical fire conditions will exist over the next several days."

The county's open burning prohibition was to remain in place at least through Thursday.

And New Mexico's State Forestry Division also warned the potential for destructive wildfire was increasing as warm and windy weather continued to dry out vegetation. Because of current drought conditions, the agency recommended that residents establish defensible space to protect homes and property in wildland urban interface regions such as the Ruidoso area.

"Creating defensible space is a homeowner's best defense against wildfire, especially now that we're starting to see the number of fires increase," said Tony Delfin, New Mexico's acting state forester. "As the population continues to grow and builds homes in the areas



Among strategies to tackle dangerous fire conditions in mountain areas is the use of prescribed burns.

that border grass or forest settings, it is vital for individuals and communities to create defensible space and work toward being 'Fire-wise.'"

Defensible space is the area around a structure where combustible vegetation that can spread fire has been cleared, reduced or replaced. The space acts as a barrier between a structure and an advancing wildfire.

Defensible space can be anything from well maintained landscaping in a backyard to the significant removal of trees and flammable shrubs from around structures.

The threat of wildfires became reality in the Ruidoso area for several years during the early 2000s. The first devastating wildland fire at that time was the Cree Fire in May 2000.

The following year the Musket Ball Fire, which broke out on April Fool's Day, 2001, was followed several months later by the

Trap and Skeet and the Homestead fires, which both started on the same weekend.

All the fires threatened residential areas in and around Ruidoso. The most destructive blaze, the Alto area's Kokopelli Fire, ignited in March 2002. It destroyed 28 homes. Each of the fires was human caused.

Later in 2002 Ruidoso put in place a suite of ordinance mandating fuels reduction on all properties within the village as well as a fire hazard rating standard for new construction with regard to building materials and site development. A municipal forestry department was created in 2003 and Ruidoso was recognized as a Firewise Communities USA location that year.

The recent very low relative humidity readings and frequent windy conditions, sometimes resulting in red flag warnings, have been noted by the National

Interagency Fire Center. On March 16, the agency's fire response coordination center placed their Southwest Area in fire preparedness level two in response to high to very high fire dangers and an increase in wildland fire activity.

The heightened fire concerns come as the 2nd annual Wildland Urban Interface Summit, Wednesday and Thursday in Ruidoso, has the theme "Fire is at your back door. Are you ready?" The event, at the Ruidoso Convention Center, is sponsored by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Forestry, New Mexico State Land Office and the New Mexico Association of Counties.

"The summit will provide an opportunity for New Mexico's community members, fire specialists and local government leaders to discuss statewide efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire," said Paul Guit-

ierrez, executive director of the counties' association. "Workshop sessions will include topics designed for community involvement, incident response and local leadership."

New Mexico State Forestry and the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management offer the following guidelines for establishing effective defensible space.

- Create a "lean, clean and green" firebreak area by removing flammable vegetation and growth within 30 feet of each structure. Single trees and shrubs may be retained if they are well spaced, pruned and placed so they avoid the spread of fire. Maintain an irrigation system for any vegetation near structures.

- Remove any dead vegetation as well as large amounts of pine needles, leaves and other debris from around structures and from rooftops and gutters.

- Keep grass and weeds mowed.

- Prune lower tree limbs to at least six feet and up to 15 feet (or the lower one-third of branches on smaller trees), which will keep them from acting as a ladder for a fire that is moving along the ground. Property with steeper slopes can present a higher fire risk and should be pruned higher.

- Remove vegetation and debris around propane tanks.

- Relocate woodpiles and other flammable materials away from structures.

- Keep grass and weeds from growing up around and under raised decks or porches and remove any combustible materials as well.

BRT

FROM PAGE 1A

"The county received a small distribution of \$20.24, for penalty and interest for the BRGRT, which is not held by the state. We have received this grand sum of \$20.24 into a budget line designated for BRGRT. According to the state, they are holding \$60,209.50 in BRGRT county receipts for January, a slow month for business. I did some stubby pencil analysis and I would be willing to bet that our average BRGRT is going to be around \$70,000 a month, about \$840,000 for the year."

If the racetrack and casino claim the allowed \$750,000 cap, that would leave the county about \$90,000. Stewart said.

Commissioner Jackie Powell said whatever money is left after racetrack/casino owner R. D. Hubbard takes his cut, should be targeted for roads, water and general infrastructure. Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo agreed, saying, "The benefit from the tax should go to county services, because we're all paying the tax."

Stewart said he planned on incorporating excess revenue from the tax into next fiscal year's budget that begins July 1.

"The issue the state is wrestling with is trying to decide when the tax should be distributed, possibly every six months," Stewart said. The distribution also could occur in September, marking one year since the election, and after the race track submits its first claim against the revenue.

Among Council

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FROM PA

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Among the Village of Ruidoso contingent to the county commission meeting Monday were, left to right, Councillor Jim Stoddard, Village Manager Debi Lee and Sue Alborn, wife of the mayor.

WELLS

FROM PAGE 1A

on USFS land.

A motion by Commissioner Jackie Powell, who drafted the letter that was modified by the county attorney before being reviewed at the regular commission meeting last week, passed, 4-1. Commissioner Tom Battin cast the only nay vote, urging that a commission representative instead meet with village officials to draft a letter together. He contended damaging Ruidoso, the major population and commerce center, also damages the county.

After the vote, Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn said, "I'm disappointed, but not surprised. I think it was completely expected. I do have a concern that a letter was written and distributed to the media as representative of the county

when no action had occurred. That's hard to understand when (the letter was written by one commissioner) and hadn't been accepted by the others yet."

However, Alborn said in the end, the village accomplished one of its major objectives, being assured that more time is available to submit additional scientific data backing its position and a chance to educate village residents about the potential impact of denying Ruidoso the use of its water rights.

The draft letter was part of the commission's agenda packet.

Powell, who consistently criticizes the village's pumping on the North Fork of Eagle Creek, as well as most attempts to transfer water rights from other areas of the county for village use, remained adamant, when offering the motion to approve the letter. Ruidoso must adjust demand to fall within the

limits of its water supply, she said.

And Commissioners Kathryn Minter and Mark Doth didn't budge from their previous positions in favor of the letter as written, which also opposed augmentation of Eagle Creek flow by pumping from the wells.

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo pinned her vote on a written deadline of 5 p.m. Monday to submit comments on the proposed special use permit for the wells and limiting conditions.

Although David Warnack, the new Smokey Bear District Ranger on the Lincoln National Forest, assured commissioners that the 30-day comment period published in the Federal Register was an error, Sedillo said without something in writing to that effect, she couldn't sanction a delay in the vote and the letter should be delivered by the deadline.

Warnack said his staff was drafting a letter to respond to a request by U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, a Republican from New Mexico, for an extension of the comment deadline.

"They never should have listed March 21 as the closing date," he said. "There is no arbitrary 30-day limit for scoping. The last day comments will be accepted will be the date of the final decision and that's a long way off. The scoping period defines the environmental impact statement (scope). When the notice of comment comes out that's when a 45-day comment period will begin, and comments sent then establish appeal rights after a decision is made. We're not there yet. We're still in information gathering."

Warnack said he would send a copy of the Pearce letter to the commission, but Sedillo said she still was uncomfortable.

Warnack replied, "I assure you that it is so. You can take my word or not."

Alvin Jones, the lead member of the village water team, said if the village loses the use of all but 300 acre feet of its substantial water rights on Eagle Creek, some as old as the 1880s, the cost of replacing them could hit \$18 million. An acre foot equates to about 325,800 gallons of water.

The village also earns flow credit for water it sends back into the Rio Ruidoso from Eagle Creek, which adds to the flow in that river. Considering the water rights structure and wet water production, 75 percent of village water can be attributed to the water rights and production on Eagle Creek, he said.

Jones said the ability to pump the wells was of great importance not just to Ruidoso, but the county as well. The decision of the county to comment surprised him, as did the nature of the comments.

References to a court stipulation that assurance is require the wells have no impact on the surface flow of Eagle Creek is untrue, he said. "I've been back and forth over that ruling and the USFS is in error. It's not there."

Since the wells began pumping in the 1980s, no changes have been noted to the flora or fauna of the surrounding environment, he said. With no baseline study, the USFS admits it cannot attribute any degradation to the well use, Jones said.

The village spent \$1 million for a U.S. Geological Survey hydrological study of the wellfield after other reports by parties with particular interests came back with differing views. The USGS was selected to give an objective report and bares out the complexity of the wellfield, Jones said.

However, he said a separation exists between the cone of depression created when the wells are pumped and the flow of the creek. That why the village recommended augmentation be permitted, because shutting down the wellfield would not immediately restore the stream flow.

Jones asked commissioners to consider the gravity of the situation and allow more input from the village before they send a letter.

Mayor Ray Alborn, the only other village representative allowed to speak, told commissioners water

from North Fork serves customers in Ruidoso and many who live outside the village in the unincorporated area of the county.

The village drilled the wells in the 1980s and used them based on a special use permit and purchased senior water rights until the mid-1990s, when the permit expired. The pumping continued under annual agreements. But in 2005, several home owners on Eagle Creek sued the Forest Service, contending the village's pumping at North Fork impaired their wells and interfered with stream flow.

A recent USGS study concluded because of the geological faulting system, an interrelationship does exist.

Alborn told commissioners, "If the village loses the ability to use the wells on the North Fork, we have to go downstream, which will have an impact on the wells at Alto and Kokopelli."

With a national drop in home sales of 9.6 percent, Alborn said, "I can only imagine what having no water would do."

He said village officials hoped the county would support the village's needs and request an extension with it to give time to file comments and add more technical details.

However, he said the letter in the agenda packet, "did us a big favor by notifying residents of the village what is going on. We want all the information to be available to everybody, so they can see both sides of the issue."

Sedillo pointed out that if the commission subsequently changes its point of view, additional comments could be submitted.

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garden

Cutting Back Rosemary: How To Trim Rosemary Bushes

While pruning a rosemary plant is not needed to keep a rosemary healthy, but there are several reasons why a gardener might want to prune a rosemary bush. It may be that they want to shape the rosemary, or reduce the size of the rosemary shrub or to create a more bushy and productive plant. Whatever your reasons for wanting to prune your rosemary, there are a few things you need to know about how to prune a rosemary bush.

When To Prune Rosemary

Rosemary pruning can be done anytime during the spring or summer up until 4 to 6 weeks before the first frost. Pruning rosemary after this time or in the fall and winter can cause the rosemary shrub to focus on growing

new, tender growth rather than hardening off and protecting the growth that it has. If a rosemary bush does not harden itself off, it will be more susceptible to winter damage which can kill it.

Tips For How To Prune A Rosemary Bush

Before you prune your rosemary bush, make sure that your pruning shears are sharp and clean. Blunt or dirty pruning shears can result in ragged cuts that can leave the rosemary plant vulnerable to bacteria and pests.

The next step in how to trim rosemary bushes is to decide why you want to trim the plant.

If you are trimming the rosemary to shape it, say as a hedge or a topiary, draw a mental picture of what you would like the plant to look like and trim away the branches that do not fall into that outline. If your shaping needs to remove more than 1/3 of any branch, you will need to

prune the rosemary back in stages. You can prune back branches by 1/4 but you will need to give them a season to recover before pruning again. If you are looking to reduce the size, you can prune back the overall plant by 1/3 at a time. Then wait 2-3 months and you can prune back by 1/3 again.

If you are doing rosemary pruning simply to create a bushier plant, you can remove the end 1-2 inches of the branches. This will force the branch to split and will create a bushier plant. This technique is particularly helpful if you are growing rosemary for cooking as this creates more foliage in a more compact space.

The steps for how to prune a rosemary bush are simple but important. Knowing how to trim rosemary bushes properly will help you keep your rosemary happy and manageable.

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Super-Couponing Tips

Jill Cataldo saves hundreds on groceries by making the most of the common coupon. You can, too. Here's how.

Guide to Online Coupons
 By Jill Cataldo
 CTW Features
Question: "I'm new to couponing! I can't wait to get started saving. I have been saving my coupons from the newspaper. Can you share some of the best sites for printable and electronic coupons?"
Answer: Absolutely! Keep in mind that some coupon sites require users to download and install a plug-in in order to allow the printing of coupons. The plug-in is necessary if you'd like to print out coupons on your printer and it's also the means by which the website keeps track of print limits for each coupon. Most coupons made available on the Internet limit users to just two printed copies but the number can vary. Get in the habit of revisiting coupon links that interest you and try for more copies until you receive the message that the print limit has been reached.

It's a common misconception among new coupon shoppers that they can avoid getting a newspaper and just print the same coupons online. This isn't the case. Online sites offer different coupons. So keep your newspaper, subscription. In fact, many Super-Couponers get multiple copies every week!

The following four sites are my favorite Internet sources for coupons. They are free and do not require registration or logging in. All of them are reputable and offer coupons from many major manufacturers. Simply click and print!

Coupons.com: One of the oldest printable coupon websites. Coupons.com offers a wide variety of coupons for groceries and personal care products.

SmartSource.com: The online counterpart to the popular SmartSource coupon insert that appears in many newspapers.

RedPlum.com: Just like SmartSource, you may also receive a RedPlum coupon insert in your newspaper or mailbox each week. Check out both to take advantage of the most savings.

CouponNetwork.com: Catalina Marketing's CouponNetwork is the newest player in the realm of online printable sites. It's aiming to fill niches in printable coupon categories that have previously not been served or are currently underserved by other sites.

Individual manufacturers' websites often offer printable coupons, too. Some require users to register before printing coupons (Kelloggs.com, Pillsbury.com). Only input the amount of personal information that you're comfortable with sharing.

Electronic coupons, or e-coupons, continue to surge in popularity. These can be loaded to your store's loyalty card via the store's website. Then, when your card is scanned at the checkout, the coupons you loaded come off automatically at the register. The three largest websites for electronic coupons are:

CellFire.com: Cellfire allows shoppers to add electronic coupons to their store's loyalty card via the web or a cell phone.

ShortCuts.com: Users who sign up for this free service can automatically receive an e-mail after a trip to the store detailing how much you saved and what coupons remain on your card.

PG&E.com: Procter & Gamble's electronic coupon site, which offers e-coupons for many popular P&G brands.

To find out if your store participates in these e-coupon websites, visit the site and check store listings. Note that if you store participates in all three electronic coupon sites, you can load coupons from all of them to the same loyalty card.

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PAGE 1B

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache
Ski Apache closed Monday, March 21, for the season.

Results

Baseball
Saturday, March 19
Artesia 18, Ruidoso 5

Softball
Saturday, March 19
Dexter 13, Ruidoso 11

Sports On Tap

Baseball
Thursday, March 24
Capitan versus Lordsburg at NMMI tournament
Friday, March 25
Lubbock Christian at Ruidoso, 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 26
Lubbock Christian at Ruidoso, 11 a.m., doubleheader

Softball
Thursday, March 24
Ruidoso at Dexter tournament, three days
Capitan at Dexter tournament

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.

Osos meet the mayor

Ruidoso Osos Operations Manager Tim Waters sits down with Mayor Ray Alborn to talk baseball

MIKE CURRAN
mccurran@ruidosonews.com

The May 10 home opener for the newly organized Ruidoso Osos of the Pecos League of Professional Baseball Clubs grows closer. Time to meet Mayor Ray Alborn.

And Wednesday, at 10 a.m., that's exactly what the Operations Manager Tim Waters did.

In the relaxed atmosphere of the Mayor's office, in the company of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Supervisor Debbie Jo Almager, Waters and Alborn discussed preliminary details of the upcoming inaugural season of the Ruidoso Osos.

Mayor Alborn, a former Division 1 college football coach (Rice University) is more than aware of the sponsorship needs of a

sports team and offered knowledgeable insights into Ruidoso businesses interfacing and advertising with the new team.

As of now, there is room for four sponsors on the batting helmets of the Osos, as well as additional advertising space on the jerseys of the team.

Outfield billboard ads are also available.

The Osos plan to replace the current scoreboard with a more legible version complete with the Osos bear logo, which could then be utilized by RHS, Little League and visiting baseball tournaments.

"I have my work cut out for me," Waters said.

"I need to shake the bushes and obtain as much sponsorship as I can for



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See OSOS, page 2B

Mayor Ray Alborn, right, meets with Ruidoso Osos Operations Manager Tim Waters Wednesday.

Warrior hardball nine bulldogged in five

Artesia downs Ruidoso 18-5 in Saturday baseball

MIKE CURRAN
mccurran@ruidosonews.com

The Artesia Bulldogs rolled into town Saturday with an arsenal of firepower, including bats and pitching. The first inning saw the visitors claim a 3-2 lead and continue their offensive assault throughout the remaining four innings as they scored seven unanswered runs in the second inning, another run in the third and six more in the fourth. In the top of the fifth the Bulldogs put another runner across the dish. The Warriors

attempted a comeback in the bottom of the fifth but could only come up with three runs.

Senior right-hander, Brendan Flack got the mound assignment for the Warriors and Ryan Yaksich set up as his battery-mate behind the dish.

Flack, normally sharp on the rubber, saw his adversaries' first-pitch hit him with success and it looked to some as if it could have been a planned aggression. Although most of the hits were not clubbed



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

See RHS, page 2B

Brendan Flack had an off day against Artesia Saturday.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso's David Kacena takes a high one.

Memories are made of this, too

Sometimes, out of the blue, you are hit with snippets of your life; good things long since forgotten remind you of how truly special you really are; great memories emerge from the wonders of childhood long since past; this is not that story.

We just finished playing a softball game. It was the 68th Police Precinct against Brooklyn South. My comrades at the 68th Precinct put the same zest

that they performed police work with into baseball; donut lovin' police officer Johnny Mack, his chronically too-small

baseball pants exposed his plumber's crack for all the world to see as he sauntered around the bases the same way he ran after perpetrators on his foot post. He was tagged out and we lost the game.

Within minutes we were in the Grotto, a subterranean hole of a bar in South Beach where made men and wannabes had exclusive domain, except after "Softball Sundays" where legions of middle aged softball play-

ers sporting guts the size of Fortune 500 corporations flocked to the bar for its unusually delicious bar pizzas.

I looked around the room. You could tell by the size of their girth how long the cops were on the job.

My waist was 32 inches which meant rookie. Waist size 34 meant you were in your late twenties, 36 waist was reserved for thirty-something ten year veterans and by eighteen years 38-42 waists were the traditional. Over twenty years was 44 waist up to size 52. It didn't get prettier then that.

I bellied up to the bar to get another pitcher of beer and the odor of marijuana permeated my nostrils. It was coming off the guy sitting two seats down. I looked closer and he was a tall blond haired man who resembled a California beach

boy/surfer, wearing gray postal service shorts and a tee shirt.

An uneasy feeling came over me. The self esteem that flourished during my two years of being a cop left me; the sickening feeling of being ex-communicated to that lonely, desolate field returned with a vengeance; the screaming, the demeaning put-downs were again working on my psyche; I wondered whether I had had Irritable Bowel Syndrome back then when I asked to go to the bathroom and the "Vulture man" told me "You wait, I'm not finished talking to you," still pointing his finger at me.

I had to see the guy on the stool-to face the music; to hear how great his damn life was

going, to hear about his perfectionist father-the "Vulture man" of my nightmares, the one I now blame for my baseball induced, Babe Ruth league, PTSD.

The movie, "Mr. Woodcock," was my life story with Coach Cleidakis. He humiliated me even while at bat taking the bat out of my hand and egging me on while he gave me his rendition of Hitting 101. Finishing a dismal sixth that year he blamed me and several other players while Joey Marren and some others were the "untouchables."

I spent that sultry summer picking splinters out of my butt

See DEMENT, page 2B

Rodeo Woes: Professor seeks ways to prevent head injuries

KRISTINA MEDLEY
For the Las Cruces Sun-News

LAS CRUCES - A New Mexico State University professor and athletic training program director is working to help prevent common head injuries for NMSU rodeo athletes, especially those involved in rodeo events where the competitors can be thrown from animals.

Mikaela Boham, NMSU Athletic Training Education Program director and professor for the Department of Human Performance, Dance and Recreation, said she grew up around rodeo, and her interest in the sport increased while working in the athletic training program.

Real-time concussion analyses, which examine the impact the concussion has on the athlete, have been conducted in football and other sports in which the athletes engage in high impact activity. However, very few such analyses currently exist for rodeo sports, Boham said.

Athletes involved in

rough stock events, including bull riding, saddle bronc and bareback, often take falls and experience concussions. She wants to analyze how the brain trauma of a concussion affects the athlete's cognitive skills.

"One of the reasons I like working with this population is because they are so grateful, and they have been an ignored population for such a long time," she said. "Finding some way to make an impact on this type of population is its own reward."

Kim O'Connell-Brock, assistant director of the athletic training program, is also working with Boham on the project.

The research includes figuring out how many of the approximately 135 college rodeo teams nationwide provide regular health care services to their athletes.

"Rodeo athletes are an extremely underserved population as far as medical care," Boham said. "Most other athletics teams on campus have athletic trainers and other direct

access to medical care. We want to document how many rodeo programs actually have these services."

NMSU is one of the few rodeo teams to contract services with a certified athletic trainer to care for its participants at no cost to the athletes.

In the future, Boham hopes to use the research to come up with a helmet design for rodeo athletes. Boham said there are very few helmets on the market, and most are not approved for bull riding.

Also, rodeo athletes in the rough stock events are not required to wear a helmet if they are 18 or older.

"These guys get tossed around a lot, and the animals are so powerful," she said, "So, we want to eventually come up with some equipment that will help prevent injury and extend the rider's career."

Boham said the next step will be to collect baseline concussion analysis data from rough stock competitors on the NMSU rodeo team.

She will use a concussion software system to

monitor the athletes.

Boham said the study works best with college students, and she is grateful to have the opportunity to work with them. Rodeo athletes can compete up to five years in the college circuit.

Many college athletes are also in the same age group as professional rodeo athletes, and college athletes can ride on the professional circuit at the same time, Boham said.

"It's a good way to establish what's going on with college athletes and apply it to the professional level as well," she said. "It's difficult to get data on the pros because they are so mobile."

Boham said because rodeo athletes often compete for money, they sometimes compete with injuries and travel long distances, making them more at risk.

The research also benefits the athletes, because they can track their medical information online, Boham said.

"We want to make the sport safer and focus on



COURTESY

This is Mikaela Boham, human performance professor and athletics trainer, stations herself next to the NMSU rodeo practice arena in order to collect data transmitted by remote sensors worn by rodeo athletes during practice bronco rides.

getting the athletes quality medical coverage," she said. "Hopefully this research will shine light on

a sport that has been overlooked in the past and needs that medical recognition."

OSOS

FROM PAGE 1B

this venture.

"Needless to say, it is vitally important for the growth of the Ruidoso team."

Lodging was also a consequential topic in Wednesday's meeting. The Ruidoso Osos will be responsible for the lodging of the visiting teams as well as the cleaning of the visitor's uniforms.

Tentatively, the six teams in the Pecos League will be comprised of 22 players 22- through 27-years-of-age.

Four of the players will be permitted to be over 27. On the roster will be 12 "active" players and 10 "taxi players." As of now the Osos have six players signed and are looking for more before the May 10 opener.

The taxi players are in need of housing and it is to this end the Ruidoso Osos are looking for local host

families to accommodate these athletes.

"These players have a dream and will be focused on the game," Waters said. "We're here to win," he reiterated.

The current seating capacity at the White Mountain Sports Complex baseball field is listed at 300.

General admission tickets will be priced at \$6 and season passes will be available for \$200. Osos games will have a 4 p.m. start.

When asked what a

breakeven attendance would be Waters replied, "To be honest, that hasn't been discussed yet. We are hoping to average 150 fans at each home game."

"We anticipate 300-400 spectators at our home opener (which will be the inaugural game for the Pecos League as a whole)."

KEDU will broadcast that game live.

"This is not a wannabe men's baseball league," Waters said. "This is professional baseball in Ruidoso and that is entic-

ing to potential players trying out for the team. The climate and scenery here are an attractive element in the scheme of things."

The fledgling core of Osos players are expected to congregate here on May 7-8.

Final cuts, tryouts and signings will take place the day before the May 10 opener.

At this time no alcohol will be allowed on the premise.

"Time will be made for kids in the community to

mingle with the players and chat and get autographs," Waters said. "We want our players to mix with the community."

Wednesday's meeting was summed up by Debbie Jo Almager when she said, "What we're trying to present is a home run of family fun for the Ruidoso area."

For residents who wish to host players or for those who wish to view the current Ruidoso Osos schedule go to www.ruidososoos.com.

RHS

FROM PAGE 1B

with authority, many fell in as "Texas Leaguers" and produced runs.

The Warriors overall 3-5 record can be deceiving. This team plays a tough schedule, purposely. Besides the loss to the Bulldogs, a strong Eunice team also narrowly downed Ruidoso on March 12, 3-2.

The name of the game at this point in time is to win D4-3A, which includes Portales and Lovington. Hopefully, the exacting schedule Ruidoso plays will prove beneficial when the Warriors travel to Portales

April 16 for a two-game set.

"This is a good team, they hit well when they want to," Ruidoso head coach Gilbert Alvarado said. "They get the bat on the ball. Flack had an off day Saturday, we made errors and left runners stranded. We had runners in every inning but didn't get them across the plate."

The Warriors firepower is a proven fact as the March 15, 18-8, victory over Socorro attests, and the March 19, 18-5, defeat

of Roswell showed.

"We get runners on base but sometimes can't move them over," Alvarado said. "Base hits and batting averages don't win games - RBIs and runs scored do. Most players can get a hit with no one on."

"The biggest thing in this game is consistency. We have flashes of brilliance but haven't put the whole puzzle together yet."

The Warriors will have another chance to fine-tune their game this weekend as

a good Lubbock Christian team comes to town for a 3 p.m. game Friday and a doubleheader Saturday starting at 11 a.m. Last season the Lubbock team was 11-0 in their district.

This will be the last series before the Warriors begin D4-3A district action in April.

"Hopefully, after 11 games the boys will be ready for district. They will have to make sure they compete in every game from here on out."

DEMENT

FROM PAGE 1B

from being on the bench.

I played first base when his son was pitching and when he was not pitching he took first base and I was relegated to right field.

On one occasion the coach came out to right field and took my glove from me and I had to follow him into the dugout after dropping a routine fly ball.

That never happened again after my father had "a talking to him" at the end of the game but the damage was already done.

"So Greg, how are you doing?" I said as the guy swiveled his stool towards my direction as I sat next to him.

"Do I know you?" he

asked.

"We played on Chase Manhattan in Babe Ruth league," I said.

"Wow, that's going way back. I remember you. You had some great hits but sometimes you struck out" he said.

"Your father hated me."

"He hated me, too. No one was ever good enough. I led the league in home runs and in complete games but my father always reminded me I was the leader in strikeouts when I hit, and lost games when I pitched."

"Did you play college baseball?"

"No. I never went to college. I played one more year after you left the team. It was horrible. Three kids quit mid-season because of my dad."

"Wasn't everyone in your family professionals?"

I said.

"Dad was an engineer, my older brother is a doctor, my sister is an architect, and I hear my little brother is going to be a Vet."

"How is your dad doing?" I said.

"I left home after high school. I was the black sheep of the family. My father played one sibling against the other."

"I became a postal worker and I just smoke my pot and go home to my wife, my one year old and my dog."

"My older brother told me last year my dad has cancer. I don't intend to see him."

I did a lot of thinking that night.

Meeting with Greg was cathartic. The demons of my youth were finally gone.

www.ruidosonews.com



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso's Brandi Guevera wins against Capitan March 15.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Freshman Amanda Bryant fouls one off against Capitan.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Maribel Villegas tracks the ball with her head.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Natalie Barnwell watches a high ball go by in the March 15 doubleheader at Ruidoso.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Sidni Hughes fires a strike for the Lady Tigers in Capitan's first game of a twinbill against Ruidoso March 15.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan's Sidni Hughes (right) pulls into third safely as Ruidoso's Marissa Gonzales keeps the action on the field in front of her.



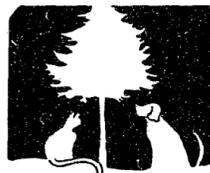
MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Destri Vincent goes for a low strike in the March 15 doubleheader. Ruidoso won the first game, 12-11, while Capitan took the second contest, 27-4.

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JONAH

is a great dog, about 8 months old. He weigh 40 pounds, loves playing with other dogs, is quite athletic, and a real sweetheart! Jonah is a boxer mix with very handsome markings. He is already neutered and current on all his vaccinations, now all he needs is a permanent, loving home.

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RUIDOSO NEWS



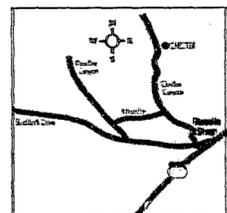
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If you are looking for an affectionate, loving, easy going cat...look no further! Nesbitt is a wonderful cat, about 9 years old. He is very spry and outgoing. We would really like to find a caring, compassionate home for Nesbitt soon, so please consider rescuing this guy who happens to be "in his prime."Nesbit qualifies for our senior animal discount. His adoption fee is \$25.00.

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PAT BREEDING



LESLIE

is sweet, timid Cur mix. She will likely bond very quickly with someone and make a very loyal companion. Leslie is young, under a year, and weighs just over 40 pounds.

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DWAYNE

is a unique looking dog, we think he is a corgi/heeler mix, and also has wire hair. He weighs about 33 pounds and is an adult.

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MARY BETH FOWLER



TALLY

is a pretty solid gray cat, about 8 months old. She is long haired and has bright yellow eyes. Tally is very friendly and outgoing. She loves to be brushed and pet.

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DIXIE

is a tall, slender cat with short black fur. She is a young adult, probably around 1-2 years old. Dixie is friendly and does great with other cats and kittens.

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TINKER

is a very spunky girl about 6 months old. She loves to play and romp with anything and everyone. All she needs now is the perfect home.

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JOANIE HOLT

LINCOLN COUNTY

Valle del Sol Golf management locked out

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

An email sent to Valle del Sol Golf Course pass holders and customers on Saturday, March 19, from the course's managing company made claims of a business takeover by owners and representatives of New Mexico Ranch Sales.

The email came from Quality Golf Management owners Dan Garner and Alina Acebo in which they accused New Mexico Ranch Sales of illegally breaking into the Valle del Sol Golf Course clubhouse changing the locks there as well as on the maintenance building and pump houses.

"We had to go back and change the locks to our own business," the email said.

Garner said by phone on Monday, "We are seeking legal action as we believe New Mexico Ranch Sales has also committed a criminal act by breaking into and stealing our property."

New Mexico Ranch Sales representative Dan Dattola said, "Gardner did not live up to the lease we had with him for the golf course. They haven't paid the power bill, the water bill, the gas bill, or the fertilizer bill. All the utilities were shut off."

"They had a bunch of equipment over there that the company had to come and get. We were concerned that there could be additional damage to the inside of the building so we decided to change the locks on the building."

As of March 21, New Mexico Ranch Sales' locks remained on the clubhouse and exterior buildings and had not been changed back by Quality Golf as indicated by Garner.

"We wanted these people to be successful," said Dattola. "We handed them a business, all set up and ready. We showed them that the income and expense barely met each other but also said, 'We aren't in the golf course business.'"

"They told us that was where they'd shine, in promoting and making the business successful. But when it got to the point that bills weren't being



DAN GARNER OF QUALITY GOLF MANAGEMENT

paid and the creditors were calling us, we decided we had to step in."

New Mexico Ranch Sales owns the golf course business that occupies land owned by the Town of Carrizozo. They have a 10-year lease with the Town for the golf course. Originally New Mexico Ranch Sales operated the course until, with permission from the Town of Carrizozo, they assigned the lease to Quality Golf Management on April 1, 2010.

Dattola said there was no "break-in" at the clubhouse. "We had access to a set of keys. We were concerned about the possibility of broken pipes. There has been no one around all winter. We have \$900,000 invested in the golf course and buildings; we don't want to lose that."

The Town of Carrizozo verified that on Jan. 11, the water had been shut off to the course for non-payment of an outstanding water bill of \$2,361.92.

According to Dattola, the electricity account to the course was in his name personally, and due to Quality Golf Management's lack of payment, the power was shut off. He has

since paid what he said was a \$7,000 bill to Otero Electric to have the power reinstated so he could turn pumps on and water the course.

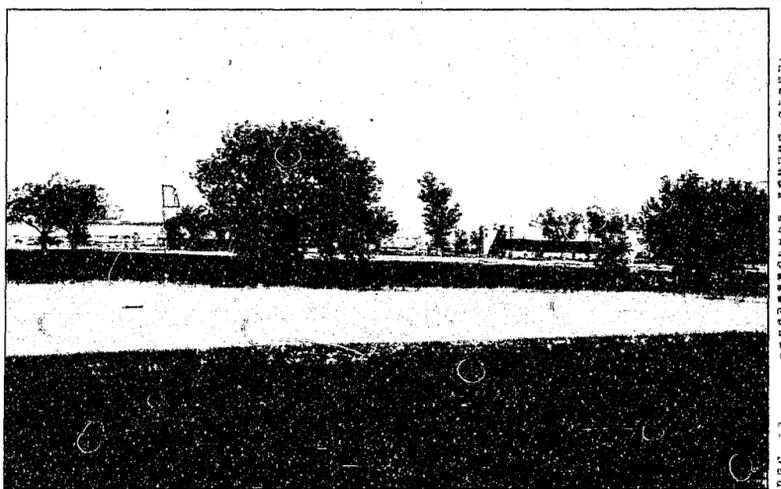
Last week the pond was filled and the sprinklers ran on part of the course for the first time since the course shut down for winter.

Garner blames New Mexico Ranch Sales for his financial hardships at the course.

"We were promised a social membership fee on every lot sold at Valle del Sol, that we did not get. There is \$25,000 we feel we had coming and didn't receive, according a newspaper article quoting Leon Ivie [New Mexico Land and Ranches] as to the number of lots sold," Garner said.

Dattola said the social membership fees are offered to the land purchasers. "But we can't make them take them," he said, "Some people don't golf, aren't interested in having a golf membership." He pointed out the lease agreement says Quality Golf would "receive a prorated amount of any Social Membership fees collected."

On Feb. 28, a judgment



FILE PHOTOS

Valle del Sol Golf Course in Carrizozo opened for business in 2007.

for \$8,430.24 against Quality Golf Management, Dan Garner and Alina Acebo was issued by Carrizozo Magistrate Judge Martha Proctor.

The complaint was filed by Golf Enviro Systems, Inc., for non-payment of fertilizer delivered to the golf course last fall.

New Mexico Ranch Sales and the Town of Carrizozo were originally named as defendants but later dismissed from the suit.

A subsequent civil complaint has been filed in Carrizozo Magistrate Court against Dan Garner by Thomas Ward for \$9,940 worth of hand tools.

Garner said in the March 21 phone conversation with Ruidoso News that Quality Golf Management had every intention of opening the course.

A notice posted on the Valle del Sol Golf Course website announces an April 1 opening for the golf course and the grill.

Even with looming costs of unpaid utilities, equip-

ment in the clubhouse and on the course, greens care and watering, Garner insisted it could be done.

Garner's email alleged that the Carrizozo town attorney, JulieAnne Leonard, had "made it clear that we are not in default of the lease with the city."

While their lease assignment is not from the Town of Carrizozo, but from New Mexico Ranch Sales, Leonard did have this to say, "For the record, in my conversations with Quality Golf Management, LLC owners Dan Garner, and Alina Acebo, I did not absolve them of any wrongdoing. At this time, the Town has no statement regarding the lease of the golf course."

In the closing of his email, Garner asked for the support of the members and customers by "not supporting New Mexico Ranch Sales and patronizing Valle del Sol during their illegal possession of our business."

"It's been a struggle," he said by phone from Arizona where he said he is opening

another course.

"We were given bogus financial numbers at the onset of this lease at Valle del Sol. We are seeking legal counsel to reclaim our business."

"However, we are ready to show up and open the doors. Opening up in two weeks is not a big deal. The staff is ready to be in place. We will try to come back, try to get it open."

Alan Morel, legal representation for New Mexico Ranch Sales and Dattola said, "What I can tell you at this time is Quality Golf Management is in default. No question about it."

A civil suit against Quality Golf Management for default on the lease is in the works, Dattola said.

"In the meantime, we are working on getting wells checked so we can water the course. We'll have to re-equip the clubhouse and get the equipment back in place for the outside."

"It'll take some time, but we will get the course open as soon as possible."

Capitan Chamber closes the door

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

The Capitan Chamber of Commerce has officially disbanded.

The final vote to close the doors and shut down the Chamber came in a special meeting held March 18.

According to sources, the membership of the chamber, at one time more than 100, had dwindled to 37.

The Capitan Chamber of Commerce participates in and hosts a number of annual events in Capitan that will be at risk unless another group takes them over.

The biggest and most notable of those is the Capitan Fourth of July Smokey Bear Parade.

"Lack of support," was the only reason given for closing down the chamber.

Chamber President Lee

Arnone expressed his gratitude to the people of Capitan and his sorrow for the situation.

"I am so thankful to the many that worked hard and helped the Chamber. I'm sorry for the people of Capitan that is losing their Chamber of Commerce. It really is a shame."

Recent membership applications and checks were returned as part of the official closing of the entity.

Carrizozo hires new police chief

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

A three-month search for a new chief of police for Carrizozo is officially over.

Mayor Mike Petty recommended his selection for the position at the March 21 Town of Carrizozo meeting of the Board of Trustees.

John Parker was unanimously accepted by the Carrizozo trustees and will

begin the job on March 29. Parker was not present at the meeting.

Mayor Petty said Parker has 30 years of experience in enforcement, with a Bachelor and Master's degree in Criminal Justice. "He has served as a chief of police twice in Alaska and one time in Utah," Petty stated.

Parker is currently listed at the interim chief of police in Dillingham, Alas-

ka. Petty said that Parker is eligible for certification by waiver, and has one year to secure it.

Parker will be the seventh chief of police to serve Carrizozo in the past six years.

The position has been vacant since the resignation of Rachel Weiser in early January.

The department currently has only one part-time officer.

COUNTY BRIEFS

First Friday

The Capitan Public Library presents "Astronomy for the Novice" at the April 1, First Friday event at the library.

Join in for a trip through the universe with astron-

omer Eric Ehrich, of Loma Grande Observatories.

Ehrich is a Nogal resident with his own observatory. Come enjoy the fun at the library on April 1, (no joke), 101 E. 2nd St, in Capitan at 7 p.m.

Refreshments will be

served following the event. For more information, call 354-3055.

Spring Dance

A Spring Fling Dance, a fundraiser for and sponsored by the Rockin' H 4-H

will be held, Thursday, March 24, at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, 7 p.m. until midnight.

Cost is \$5/person and all kinds of music will be played.

Pass the word and come celebrate spring.

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LITERACY LEARNING



COURTESY

The Village of Corona Public Library (VOCPL) and the Corona Public School elementary students recently participated in writing projects for World Literacy Day, March 3. Students wrote and illustrated books and made posters from research projects then invited friends and family to the school to see their work. The Village of Corona Public Library supported the students' Literacy Day projects by presenting each student author with a pencil, a bookmark, and a book bag. VOCPL is now hosting a display of the students' projects in the library, titled "Corona's Future Authors." The books and posters will be on display in the library through the month of April. The VOCPL staff invites the community, parents and friends to visit the library, see the display and read the books and posters. VOCPL is located on Main Street in Corona, directly behind the Village Hall. Call the Library at 575-849-5513 for more information and operating hours. Top photo: Kindergarten - third graders show off their Literacy Day projects at the Corona Public Library. Second photo through 4th photo are grades four, five and six, respectively.

Margarita "Maggie" C. Rankin
 Visitation for Margarita "Maggie" C. Rankin, 94 of Ruidoso, was from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at LaGrone Funeral Chapel on Monday March 21, 2011. A Prayer Vigil followed by a Rosary was held at 6:00 PM on Monday at St. Eleanor's Catholic Church, where a Funeral Mass was held at 10:00 AM on Tuesday March 22, 2011 with Rev. Al Galvan as Celebrant. Burial will follow mass at Forest Lawn Cemetery with Shawn Rankin, Michael Rankin, Keegan Denny, James Chad Green, Vincent Rankin, Bruce Rankin, Alfonso Rankin and Dianna Sedillo as Pallbearers. Maggie was born on April 24, 1916 in Mesilla Park, NM to Jose and Dolores A. (Armendarez) Carreon and passed away on March 18, 2011 at her home in Ruidoso. Maggie moved to Ruidoso in 1963 from Magdalena, NM. Maggie had the biggest heart and her home was always open to everyone. She loved to cook and there was always food on the table for anyone who visited. She was loved by all. She was a very godly person and her greatest joy was taking care of her family. She was a longtime member of St. Eleanor's Catholic Church. Maggie is survived by her sons, Edward Rankin, Jim Rankin, Bill Rankin, Robert Rankin, Jack Rankin, a daughter, Jodie McPherson and a sister, Andrea Orrantia. She is also survived by 21 Grandchildren, 39 Great Grandchildren and 11 Great-Great Grandchildren. Also surviving her, are numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends who will greatly miss her.
 Condolences may be made at www.lagroneRuidoso.com

Fourth Grade Foresters



COURTESY

The Carrizozo Soil & Water Conservation board presented each of the Carrizozo fourth grades with two trees to plant. Steve Harkey, secretary/treasurer of Carrizozo Soil & Water Conservation Board and Barbie Roper, program director, (far left) passed the trees and laminated certificates to the students declaring them "Fourth Grade Foresters." The tree event was in honor of Arbor Day.

Carrizozo and Capitan FFA teams on the move

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

FFA judging teams from Carrizozo and Capitan FFA Chapters competed at two invitational Career Development events last week. Teams traveled to Las Cruces on March 12 and to Portales ENMU on March 15-16.

No county teams competed at the Quemado CDE on March 19. Teams will travel next to Roswell CDE on March 26, finishing the calendar of CDEs for the spring. The New Mexico State contest is next on the list and is scheduled for March 29-April 1 in Las Cruces.

Results from the two events attended are:

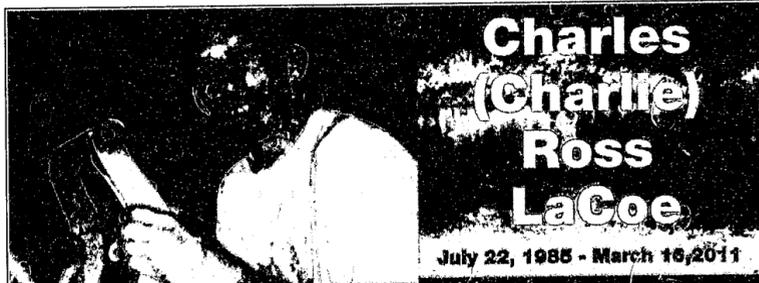
Las Cruces - March 12

- Ag Mechanics (38 teams)**
 7. Capitan: Walker Bymoan, Sam Edington, Justin Owen, Layne Southard;
 25. Carrizozo: Wade Sultemeier, Casey Vega, Don Myers;
 Individual: 12. Layne Southard;
- Entomology (15 teams)**
 15. Carrizozo: Miccah Hamilton
- Horse (37 teams)**
 10. Carrizozo #1: Cirsten Barela, Sarah Ferguson, Tiffany Vega, Marshal Wilson; 24. Carrizozo #2: Shayna Gallacher, Arturo Najera; 32. Capitan: Lane Carter;

- Individual: 16. Arturo Najera;
- Horticulture Produce (27 teams)**
 15. Carrizozo #1: Jade Roper, Jacie Thornton, Tiffany Vega; 17. Carrizozo #2: Tyrrell Barela, Emily Comstock, Dillion Najera, Joshua Ventura;
- Livestock (22 teams)**
 7. Carrizozo: Kristie Gallacher, Shayna Gallacher, Arturo Najera, Marshal Wilson;
 12. Capitan: Lane Carter, Forrest Sweat, Kirsten Wilson;
 Individual: 15. Arturo Najera; 16. Marshal Wilson;

- Meats (20 teams)**
 4. Carrizozo #1: Cirsten Barela, Sarah Ferguson, Shayna Gallacher, Mason Huston; 20. Carrizozo #2: Jacie Thornton;
 Individual: 10. Shayna Gallacher; 16. Mason Huston; 20. Sarah Ferguson;
- Wildlife (43 teams)**
 11. Capitan #1: Walker Bymoan, Layne Southard, Kaydn Traylor, J'Nae Wood;
 32. Capitan #2: Sam Edington, Justin Owen;
 Wool (19 teams)
 2. Capitan: Forrest Sweat, Kirsten Wilson, J'Nae Wood;
 Individual: 3. J'Nae Wood; 4. Kirsten Wilson;

- Portales March 15-16**
- Ag Mechanics (29 teams)**
 8. Capitan: Walker Bymoan, Sam Edington, Justin Owen, Layne Southard;
- Entomology (31 teams)**
 26. Carrizozo: Wade Sultemeier;
- Horse (43 teams)**
 15. Capitan: Lane Carter, Kaleb Cleckler, Bryanna Parker, Kaydn Traylor;
 20. Carrizozo #1: Cirsten Barela, Sarah Ferguson, Shayna Gallacher, Tiffany Vega;
 37. Carrizozo #2: Marshal Wilson
 Individual: 5. Marshal Wilson
- Livestock (19 teams)**
 10. Capitan: Lane Carter, Kaleb Cleckler, Forrest Sweat, Kirsten Wilson;
 Individuals: 15. Kirsten Wilson
- Meats (20 teams)**
 19. Carrizozo: Jacie Thornton;
- Wildlife (42 Teams)**
 8. Capitan #1: Walker Bymoan, Layne Southard, Kaydn Traylor, J'Nae Wood;
 35. Capitan #2: Wade Stearns;
- Wool (22 teams)**
 4. Bryanna Parker, Forrest Sweat, Kirsten Wilson, J'Nae Wood;
 Individual: 6. Kirsten Wilson; 12. J'Nae Wood; 19. Forrest Sweat;



Charles Ross LaCoe was born July 22, 1985 to Mary R. Becker in Tampa, Florida. Charles left this world in a tragic accident March 16, 2011. Charlie was a life time resident of the Ruidoso area, and attended every school in Ruidoso. After school Charlie worked off and on with his father, for All American Moving in Ruidoso Downs. He traveled and made many moves for other people over a 10 year period. Charlie's true passion was being a Lineman in Texas. He loved the danger as well as the challenge. Charlie met Lyndsey Kollar and they were married which brought about 2 children; Seth Ray LaCoe and Lyria LaCoe both of Midland, Texas. His children and his wife were everything to him. Charles is survived by his wife Lyndsey, and 2 children Seth Ray & Lyria LaCoe; all of Midland, Texas, his mother Mary Pennington of Lovington, N.M., his father and step mother Ted and Monique LaCoe both of Ruidoso, one sister Ronda LaCoe of Winterhaven, Florida, one brother Ted LaCoe Jr. of Albuquerque, N.M., 2 step sisters Angelica and Gabby Brouard. Charles has many family members and friends and we will all miss him. Funeral Services will be held Saturday March 26, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in the First Baptist Church Sanctuary, Hwy 70 West in Ruidoso Downs, N.M. A pot luck dinner will be held following the services, at the church. In lieu of flowers, donations will be accepted for Charlie's wife & children.

RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

March 7

1:51 p.m. - An employee of PNM came to the Ruidoso Police Department to report harassment.

Corporal Mike Weaver reported the man was reading electric meters at a house in the 100 block of Lower Terrace when two men approached him and asked what he was doing. One of the men reportedly started to strike the man, but the other pulled him away. One of the assailants was described as a slim, Hispanic, approximately 17-years old.

Weaver reported talking to the resident of the home, who said there was no one at home at that time.

2:23 p.m. - Officer Larry Smith responded to Lawrence Brothers IGA for a report of a shoplifting of alcohol.

Smith reports reviewing the surveillance tape and observing two men put bottles of alcohol in their jackets. At the front of the store, Smith reports observing an employee push the shoulder of one of the men, dislodging two bottles of alcohol, which fell to the floor and broke. The two men fled.

Smith reported being able to identify the two men as Andrew Salas, 22, of Ruidoso Downs, and Luis McCallister, 22, of Ruidoso.

Corporal Aaron Frost located Salas in the 700 block of Sudderth and stopped him. Smith reported that Salas admitted trying to shoplift the alcohol. Smith also reported finding a glass pipe on Salas.

Smith arrested Salas for shoplifting and possession

of drug paraphernalia.

Smith also obtained an arrest warrant for McCallister for shoplifting.

March 8

1:42 p.m. - Officer Tillman Freeman responded to the 200 block of Crown Drive for a report of an auto burglary.

The victim reported locking her car the previous evening and finding it unlocked the next morning. The victim reported a Dora comforter, 20 CDs, a brown purse, a silver cosmetics bag, a blue MP3 player and prescription Effexor and Hydrocodone medicine missing.

Freeman reported the vehicle was undamaged and there was no sign of forced entry.

3:55 p.m. Corporal Aaron Frost and officer Larry Smith responded to a 911 call in the 100 block of Meander Drive.

Frost reports that when he arrived, John C. Lopez, 40, was sitting on the front step and appeared to be intoxicated.

Frost reported that Lopez's girlfriend wanted him out of the house because he had been drinking. Smith reportedly escorted Lopez to the door to talk to the woman. Lopez reportedly became loud and vulgar.

When Frost and Smith tried to get Lopez to stop the vulgar language because of the children, Lopez reportedly poked his finger in Frost's face. Frost reportedly deflected the finger and told Lopez to calm down. Lopez then reportedly cursed Smith and resist-

ed the officers as they tried to move him away from the door and find him a place to stay for the night.

Frost arrested Lopez on a charge of resisting, evading or obstructing an officer. Lopez's bond was set at \$1,000, which he could not post. He was transported to Lincoln County Detention Center.

7:51 p.m. - Officer Larry Smith responded to the 100 block of Roswell Street for a report of a violent domestic.

Smith reported that when he arrived, Tasha Russell, 31, approached his vehicle, slurring her words and reportedly told him that she had been fixing dinner for her father and son and drinking wine. She allegedly said she got mad because they did not want to eat what she prepared.

Smith reported Russell's father said he didn't want to eat the same thing for dinner four days in a row. The father reportedly said Russell choked him while he was sitting in his chair, tried to find his medication to dispose of it and accosted him in the laundry room, tearing his shirt.

The son reportedly said Russell sprayed him in the face with compressed air, but did not hurt him.

Smith arrested Russell on a charge of battery on a household member. He reported her blood alcohol tested at .12. Her bond was set at \$2,000, which she posted and was released to a friend.

March 9

8:46 p.m. - Officer Chris Bryant responded to the 200 block of Main Road for

a report of a larceny.

The victims reported going to dinner and returning to find their door locked, but when they entered their room, it was in disarray and camera equipment and computers were missing.

Bryant reported there was no sign of forced entry.

The victims reportedly said the value of the cameras and computers taken was \$50,000.

March 10

5:43 p.m. - Animal Control officers Chris Eisenberg and Robert Simpson responded to Kirkman and Heath for a report of dogs running loose.

Eisenberg reported securing the black and white Pit Bull and black Scottish Terrier and transporting them to the Humane Society.

Eisenberg reports he had dealt with the Pit Bull previously and knew the owner. After securing the dogs, Eisenberg located the owner and cited Orlando Enos, 24, for dog running loose.

March 11

7:50 a.m. - Officer Eric Ament responded to the 100 block of Davis for a report of a stolen trailer.

The victim reported a 13-foot tandem trailer had been stolen from his driveway overnight.

The victim reported finding a knife that did not belong to him in the driveway.

8:29 a.m. - Officer Tyrel Tyson responded to a report of a burglary at Ruidoso Car Wash.

The coin machines on three vacuums were reportedly broken and the coins stolen.

The victim reported the cost of repairs and stolen coins estimated to be less than \$150. The coin boxes had been recently emptied.

March 12

12:12 a.m. - Officer James Urban responded to the 600 block of Sudderth Drive to assist officer Steve Corbin with a traffic stop.

Urban reports making contact with a passenger in

the car and observing that he had a beer in his hand. The passenger admitted being 20-years old.

Urban cited Jose Cruz Tellez Morales, of Las Cruces, for being a minor in possession of alcohol and open container.

The beer was reportedly half full.

1:45 a.m. Sergeant Dale Harrison and officer James Urban responded to a report of a domestic incident in the 100 block of Roswell Street.

Harrison reports finding a male sitting on the couch and when Urban asked him to go outside to talk to Harrison, discovering two glass pipes he had been sitting on.

Harrison reports the man said he had lost his wallet and identified himself as "Brian Lopez." The man provided a date of birth. Harrison said dispatch advised there was no "Brian Lopez" with that date of birth.

Harrison reportedly then asked for the man's social security number. Dispatch then advised that the social security number belongs to Brandon T. McMaster, 21, and the birthday matched McMaster.

Harrison reported that when McMaster heard the radio response he admitted that was his name.

Harrison arrested McMaster on a warrant and for concealing his identity.

At the direction of Adult Parole and Probation, Corbin arrested Christian Bustillos, 22.

McMaster and Bustillos were held on no bond warrants and transported to Lincoln County Detention Center.

3:56 a.m. - Sergeant Dale Harrison and officer James Urban responded to the 200 block of Lower Terrace for a report of a domestic disturbance.

Harrison reports the argument was verbal only.

However, in speaking with Denny Lee Ward, 44, Urban found that he was on probation and had been drinking, "in my own residence," according to Ward.

Harrison called Magistrate Judge Lorena LaMay. LaMay ordered Ward arrested for a probation

violation and held on a no bond warrant.

11:28 p.m. - Sergeant Dale Harrison responded to the 100 block of High Street in reference to a call from a woman reporting her boyfriend was threatening suicide.

Harrison reports an NCIC check on the boyfriend showed that he was listed as a "missing, endangered person" from Georgia.

Harrison reported calling official in Georgia, who asked that the man be held until 8 a.m. Harrison reportedly told them the man was an adult, not in any danger and there was no warrant, so he could not be held.

Harrison reported the listing from Georgia possibly resulted from a civil issue between the man and an ex-girlfriend.

March 13

12:18 a.m. - Sergeant Dale Harrison reported finding mail strewn in the roadway in the 100 and 200 blocks of Sunny Slope.

Harrison reported some of the mail was open, some unopened.

While talking to residents in the area, returning their mail and telling them to watch for signs of fraud, Harrison reported finding damage to one home in the area. There was a small hole in the garage door and two of the walkway lights were damaged.

March 14

11:24 a.m. - Officer Tillman Freeman responded to the 300 block of Resort Drive for a report of criminal damage to property.

Freeman reported the owner said someone had removed a door vent.

The home owner reportedly said it would cost about \$10 to replace the vent and he just wanted extra police patrols in the area.

March 15

7:36 a.m. - Corporal Aaron Frost responded to the 100 block of Raymond Buckner for a report of criminal damage to property.

Frost reports a wooden bear, valued at \$100, was missing and a window, valued at \$75 was broken. Nothing was reportedly taken from the home.

4:38 p.m. - Officer Larry Smith responded to the Police Department to take a report of criminal damage to property.

A woman reported someone had damaged her car, scratching the hood, roof and passenger side door and breaking the windshield, while it was parked in the 200 block of Upper Terrace.

She reported there were kids playing around the car, but wasn't sure if they caused the damage.

March 16

1:44 p.m. - Officer Tyrel Tyson took a report of identity theft.

Tyson reports the victim said she had received a call from her CPA, who said that her income taxes were listed as already filed.

The victim said she found out that a tax refund check for \$2,982 had been deposited in a Salt Lake City, Utah bank.

Compiled by Harold Oakes



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New officer not new

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Ruidoso's newest police officer is a 20-year veteran of police work.

Curtis Rodgers started his training at the Ruidoso Police Department Monday, coming to Ruidoso from the Lovington, New Mexico Police Department.

"I heard a lot of good things about this department," Rodgers said. "I have a good friend that works here and we have kept in contact over the years. The scenery is beautiful and it seems like a great group of people to work with up here."

Rodgers was an officer with the Lovington PD for

over 15 years and spent five years with the Portales Police Department prior to that.

"We like to hire the best and Curtis rose to the top during the application process," Ruidoso Police Lieutenant Ray Merritt said. "Curtis was one of many applicants. We heard nothing but great things about him."

The application process includes an extensive background check.

Merritt said Rodgers knowledge of New Mexico state laws is a big advantage.

"He is just going to have to pick up on some of our local laws, but they are going to be very similar to

the laws he is used to working with," Merritt said.

"Another reason he is a good hire for us is because we don't have to spend a lot of money training him or sending him to a waiver academy," Merritt said. "He is ready to go after about a month of field training."

Merritt said hiring Rodgers brings the Police Department close to full strength.

"We still have two positions that need to be filled and we are currently in the process of getting our request approved to fill one of those positions," Merritt said. "The other one has been frozen by the Village for budgetary reasons."

RUIDOSO DOWNS POLICE BRIEFS

March 9

1:47 a.m. Officer Carolee Jones responded to 205 North Central for a report of a 911 hang-up.

Jones reported that a woman met her on the porch and said her husband and sister-in-law had been arguing. Jones reports the argument was apparently just verbal and all three persons appeared to be intoxicated.

At 2:11 a.m. Jones responded to a second 911 hand-up from this address.

This time, she arrested Arvis Coho, 33, on a charge of assault on a household member.

2:49 p.m. - Officer Darrell Chavez responded to the Police Department to take an information report.

A woman reported that she had left her 9-year old son at the school bus stop that morning and was on her way to work, when she received a call from a woman saying that she was with her son.

The woman reportedly said she turned around and went back to find out why her son did not get on the bus. She allegedly said that the bus driver would not pick him up because he was suspended from the bus.

The woman said she wanted it documented that her son was endangered by being left by the bus.

March 10

9:38 a.m. - Corporal Joseph Bailey took a report at the Police Department of stolen copper wire.

The man making the report said his grandson had been at the F&F Construction yard on Highway 70 that morning and saw a white Chevrolet pickup there. The man reportedly asked the men in the truck what they were doing there and they left.

The man making the report said that when he arrived at the yard, he discovered there was 2,000 pounds of copper wire missing.

4:28 p.m. - Officer Darrell Chavez took a report of damage to a motor vehicle.

The victim reported someone had "keyed" his Camaro RS.

5:49 p.m. - Officer Darrell Chavez reported that he was at Walmart and saw Joshua Slaten, 19, walking through the store. Chavez arrested Slaten on a Municipal Court warrant.

March 13

10:16 p.m. - Officer Carolee Jones reports that she was asked to come inside the restaurant when she went through the drive-through at McDonald's Restaurant.

Inside, the manager

asked her to explain to a man sitting in the restaurant that he would have to leave because the restaurant was closing.

Jones reports talking to the man, who said he was trying to catch a bus to Carrizozo.

The man reportedly identified himself as a Korean War, Marine veteran.

Jones, officer April Payan and Ruidoso Police officers Corporal Lawrence Chavez and Larry Smith attempted to find the man a ride to Carrizozo.

When they could not find him a ride, they arranged for the man to wait out the night at Denny's Restaurant.

Jones reports she checked on the man throughout the night and called the Veterans Department Homeless Veteran Hotline. The Hotline operator reportedly told Jones someone from the VA would contact the man.

At about 7 a.m., Jones reports she returned to Denny's and tried to get the man to give her his cell phone number so the VA could call him. He refused to give her the number.

Jones reportedly told the man he would have to leave Denny's by 8 a.m.

Jones reports he apparently complied without any problem.

DISTRICT COURT CASES

Assault deal

Christopher Ogletree, 24, appeared in court Jan. 31 for a change of plea and sentencing.

Ogletree pleaded no contest to a charge of aggravated assault under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman and defense attorney Octavio L. Sanchez.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed charges of 1st degree kidnapping and Judge Karen Parsons sentenced Ogletree to 18 months probation, with the sentence deferred.

A Grand Jury indicted Ogletree on charges of kidnapping and criminal sexual penetration from a June 27, 2009 incident.

The criminal sexual penetration charge was dismissed in January 2010.

Sent to prison

Daniel Perea Rodriguez, 31, appeared in court Jan. 31 for a probation revocation hearing.

Judge Karen Parsons revoked Rodriguez's probation and ordered him to serve the remainder of his 10-year prison sentence.

Rodriguez had been con-

victed of abuse of a child and two counts criminal sexual penetration in 2004.

Adult Parole and Probation officer Angela Minter filed a parole violation on Rodriguez for having contact with minors and failing to attend sex offender counseling. Minter reported that Alamogordo police reported seeing Rodriguez leave a house and get in a car with a 17-year old girl.

DWI deal

Ronny Joe Trull, 46, appeared in court Feb. 4 and pleaded no contest to driving while intoxicated (1st offense) under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Assistant District Attorney John Bernitz and defense attorney J. Robert Beauvais.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed charges of driver must be licensed and careless driving and Judge Karen Parsons sentenced Trull to one day in jail, time served, six months probation and 24-hours of community service. Parsons also ordered Trull to pay \$231 in mandatory fines.

New Mexico State Police officer Don Gwynn arrested Trull Feb. 10, 2010 after reportedly observing Trull

driving on Mechem Drive in Ruidoso with chains on his vehicle, going 10 miles an hour over the speed limit, swerving and throwing sparks from the chains.

Guilty on appeal

District Court Judge Karen Parsons found Jacobo Sanchez guilty of purchase or use of a license, certificate or permit, hunting or fishing, while under suspension or revocation Feb. 11.

Sanchez had waived the right to an attorney and pled not guilty to the charge in Magistrate Court Sept. 3, 2010. Judge Martha Proctor found Sanchez guilty and sentenced him to a 182 day suspended jail term, a \$250 fine and \$73 in court costs.

Sanchez appealed this finding, stating that under New Mexico law, the District Attorney must prosecute all game and fish laws and New Mexico Game and Fish Conservation officer Josh Waldrip prosecuted his case.

In District Court, Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman prosecuted Sanchez.

Parsons suspended a six month jail sentence for Sanchez.

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Hummer H2 '03 lthr, 30k mi, pwr, w/ty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Murano '06 auto, ac, pwr, ac, cd, s/k #2887 \$49,888 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale BMW 750Li '08 s/k #F2887 \$49,888 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Chevy Aveo '06 auto, 4dr, ac, low miles, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Dodge Charger '09 RT hemi, v8, 2k mi, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Honda Accord '08 s/k #F2876 \$19,998 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Mini Cooper '07 Hatchback \$19,477 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Oldsmobile Alero '04 auto, pwr, ac, cd, s/k #5283, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
Hummer H3 '08 lthr, 30k mi, pwr, w/ty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Toyota Land Cruiser '05 auto, ac, pwr, ac, cd, s/k #2891, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale BMW 750Li '08 s/k #F2887 \$49,888 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Chevy Cavalier '04 auto, 4dr, ac, 4cyl, s/k #4217R, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Dodge Neon '02 4dr, 4cyl, gas saver, ac, s/k #5121, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Honda Accord '08 SE auto, pr, 51k mi, w/ty 1-888-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Mini Cooper '07 Hatchback \$19,477 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Oldsmobile Alero '03 auto, pwr, ac, s/k #5283, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
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Hyundai Tucson '06 auto, pwr, ac, cd, s/k #291, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Yankee Chevy 1500 Cargo Van 2007 92k miles, AWD, ex- tra side door, cus- tom in-built storage, pinstraps, all elec, etc. call, \$20,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale BMW 750Li '08 s/k #F2887 \$49,888 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Chevy Camaro '95 Spd, pwr, s/k #5266, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Dodge Neon '05 auto, ac, s/k #5121, we fi- nance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Ford Focus '02 waga- on Spd, ac, 4cyl, s/k #3821R, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Mini Cooper '07 Hatchback \$19,477 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Oldsmobile Alero '03 auto, pwr, ac, s/k #5283, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
Infiniti 35 '03 lthr, s/r, new tires, w/ty, \$19,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Cadillac CTS '09 30k mi, ac, s/k #5266, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale BMW 750Li '08 s/k #F2887 \$49,888 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Chevy Cobalt '05 Spd, pwr, s/k #5266, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Dodge Neon '05 auto, ac, s/k #5121, we fi- nance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Ford Focus '05 Spd, ac, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Mini Cooper '10 Club- man, \$19,998 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Oldsmobile Alero '03 auto, pwr, ac, s/k #5283, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
Isuzu Ascender '06 20k mi, 3rd row, \$19,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Cadillac Deville '99 auto, ac, s/k #5266, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale BMW 750Li '08 s/k #F2887 \$49,888 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Chevy Malibu auto, 4dr, ac, runs good, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Dodge Neon '05 auto, ac, s/k #5121, we fi- nance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Ford Focus '05 Spd, ac, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Mini Cooper '10 Club- man, \$19,998 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Oldsmobile Alero '03 auto, pwr, ac, s/k #5283, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
Jeep Commander '07 pwr, ac, alloy, \$19,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Cadillac DTS '07 Nicel! we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale BMW 750Li '08 s/k #F2887 \$49,888 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Chevy Malibu '06 au- to, cd, pwr, s/k #5266, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Dodge Neon '05 auto, ac, s/k #5121, we fi- nance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Ford Focus '05 Spd, ac, we finance, Call Now! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Mini Cooper '10 Club- man, \$19,998 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Oldsmobile Alero '03 auto, pwr, ac, s/k #5283, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Auto For Sale Subaru Legacy '96 Spd, pwr, ac, s/k #4904, we finance, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
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