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# RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, NO. 97 • 75 CENTS

## State rejects museum

JIM KAIVELAGE  
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*Governor's office says taking on the Hubbard Museum of the American West is not in the state's financial interest*

A late 2010 agreement to turn over the Hubbard Museum of the American West to the state has been rejected by the administration of Gov. Susana Martinez.

"The last-minute agreement made between the previous administration and Ruidoso Downs is not in the best financial interest of the state," said Greg Blair, press secretary in the governor's office. "Governor Martinez will not move forward with the agreement and has instructed the Department of Cultural Affairs

that it will not provide funding or administrative assistance to the museum."

During a Dec. 30, 2010 special meeting, Ruidoso Downs city councilors approved an operating agreement with the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs that would transfer the cultural assets of the museum, its land and building, to the state. The value of the museum and its collections was put at \$8 million to \$10 million.

The state would become responsible for the expenses and maintenance of the Hubbard Museum while the city would continue to operate the facility.

City Attorney H. John Underwood stated during the special meeting that negotiations had taken place since September 2010 and the agreement would take the expenses of running the facility "off the city's back," with the Department of Cultural Affairs funding \$182,000 annual-

ly. Hubbard Museum Director Jim Kofakis said after the media showed they had an agenda the city took a "proactive" stand.

"Let's get the facts very clear," Kofakis said Monday. "The City of Ruidoso Downs pulled that off the table to let the administration have a year to sort out their stuff, give us a year to look at our budget, and we'll readdress it at the 2012 legislature."

Asked when the agreement

was withdrawn by the city, Kofakis said, "A week after it hit the fan. February 3rd, actually."

The agreement, which had been signed by the now former secretary of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs a week before the Martinez administration was put in place, was called a good deal for the state and Ruidoso Downs by city attorney H. John Underwood.

"What we're getting here is the opportunity to turn over sizable assets to the state and we will no longer have the financial obligation for those assets and we will

See REJECT, page 8A

### BAD HAIR DAY



COURTESY DAVID'S TREMBLAY

Looking disheveled from the spring molting of their winter coats, an elk cow and her calf good-naturedly greet photographer David Tremblay, despite a bad hair day.

### Audit raises questions over Downs PD hours

■ Special audit shows 'serious concerns' about time sheets compiled under former police chief

JIM KAIVELAGE  
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Alleged falsified overtime in the Ruidoso Downs Police Department resulted in incorrect billings for a program aimed at nabbing alcohol- or drug-impaired drivers.

A special audit report, made public Monday, stated reviews of time sheets and police dispatch records "raises serious concerns about the accuracy of time sheets presented to the personnel department."

The New Mexico Local DWI Grant program pays an officer's overtime costs for DWI enforcement, as well as other alcohol-related issues. The Village of Ruidoso administers the Lincoln County Grant program and makes reimbursements to area police departments when reimbursement requests are made.

Auditor Dan Austin said he was asked by the city to look into possible fraudulent activity in the Ruidoso Downs Police Department and on Aug. 21, 2010 he was contacted by the New Mexico Office of the State Auditor involving a report by city staff that stated the city had overbilled the Village of Ruidoso for reimbursements. Austin said he recalled the questionable reimbursements for overtime were approximately \$1,600.

Austin's report stated that, after the review was started, a confidential memo from a police

See HOURS, page 9A

### Midtown makeover: Planners like 'congested' initiative

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Textured crosswalks, devices to slow traffic and signs to warn drivers that Ruidoso Midtown is a congested, pedestrian-dominated area received backing from the village Planning and Zoning Commission.

A recommendation to the Village Council to adopt the proposed plan submitted by the Midtown Merchants Association was scheduled to be discussed and possibly approved Tuesday. Commissioners decided to notify the council by consensus recom-

mendation, instead of waiting another few weeks to schedule the item for action and an official vote.

Teri Sodd, owner of Mountain Arts Gallery, presented the proposed changes for the historic shopping core of the village, at the commission meeting last week. The merchants group wants to introduce speed pads from McGary's Bronze Studio to Mountain Annie's Theater on Sudderth Drive. The pads or "tables," are raised about 3 inches to 4 inches high and are wide creating a slow incline and decline, no bumps, she said. The pads are

created out of recycled tires and are not conducive to snow removal machinery. Street Department Director J. R. Baumann proposes instead to create the pads out of asphalt embedded a few inches into the street pavement, Sodd explained.

The first speed table would go in about 500 feet in advance of Midtown "to get their attention," she said. Gateway entrance signs also would welcome drivers with flashing yellow lights to let them know Midtown is a walking district, she said. The blinking lights currently being used would be removed. The new ones would be

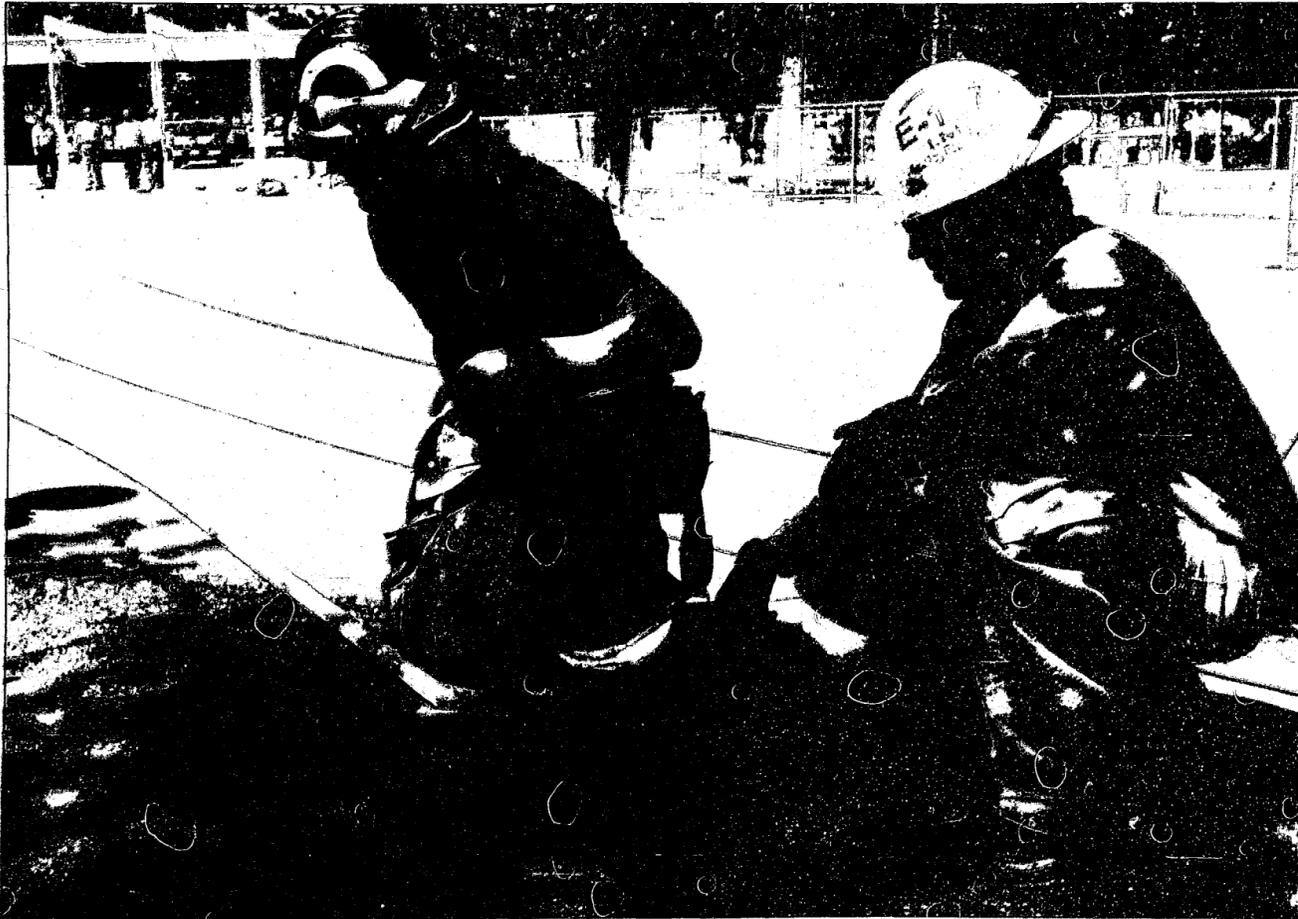
solar-powered.

She already worked with the New Mexico Department of Transportation on the plan, because Sudderth is State Highway 48/37, and the agency sent a letter of approval. The proposal also was given a nod by the village Police Department, she said. That agency's officials estimated emergency response using streets with tables would be slowed by about three seconds per pad.

The proposal also includes reinstalling textured crosswalks

See TRAFFIC, page 8A





HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso firefighter Alan Parker, left, and U.S. Forest Service Engine 137 firefighter Scott Salway test hoses at Ruidoso Fire Station No. 1, Thursday. Ruidoso Fire Department Captain Michael Morrow said the two departments have to test their hoses annually and usually do it themselves, but decided to work together to test the hoses and get in some training together this year. U.S. Forest Services Engines 135 and 137 participated in Thursday's testing and training.

**'Very High' danger**

The wildland fire danger rating on the Mescalero Apache Indian Reservation has increased to "Very High." Current and forecasted dry weather conditions and the continued decline in fuel moisture levels were factors in this decision.

The increased fire danger also puts into effect the reservation's Class IV Fire Restrictions. These include:

- No burning of slash or use of free running (broadcast) fires, at any time.
- Use of charcoal grills is prohibited.
- Gas burning or electrical cooking devices are permitted only within residen-

tial areas and Silver Lake and Eagle Creek Campgrounds.

- Campfires are permissible in designated areas at Silver Lake and Eagle Creek Campgrounds only, except on Red Flag Days.

These restrictions are precautionary measures that will hopefully reduce the number of wildland fire

starts on the reservation. For additional information, regarding fire restrictions and permissible activities, please call the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Forestry at 575-464-4419.

**Downs cleanup**

The annual Great American Cleanup in Ruidoso

Downs has been scheduled for Saturday, April 9. The event will concentrate the cleanup efforts along U.S. Highway 70 and in neighborhoods. Registration and a run-down of safety tips will begin at 8 a.m. in the Ruidoso Downs Senior Center. T-shirts, safety vests and gloves will be provided to

all volunteers. At noon everyone will gather again for lunch and prizes.

Additional details about the cleanup initiative are available at city hall by phoning 378-4422.

Greentree Solid Waste will be open until 12 p.m. on April 9 to take large household items for proper disposal. Call the solid waste authority at 378-4697 for further information.

**Alpine district**

The Alpine Village Water and Sanitation District will meet at 4 p.m., April 4, in the District's building, 114 Alpine Meadows Trail.

The meeting will cover regular business for the district, such as paying bills and reporting on the operations of the water system.

The agenda also may contain discussion regarding committees to address the Conservation and a Drought Contingency Plan, Capacity Assessment, and revising the Bylaws and Regulations.

All residents of the district are welcome to attend.

**Hummer feeding**

As the migration season approaches, a birding enthusiast is worried about the effect of improper feeding on visiting hummingbirds and he offered a few "Feeding Do's & Don'ts."

- Don't use soap to clean feeders. Use vinegar instead. Soap can leave a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3A

**Lucy's Daily Specials**  
Mon - Fri 11-3

<b>Mondays</b> \$4.95 Burgers & \$2.50 Domestic Longnecks	<b>Wednesdays</b> \$5.95 Combo Plates & \$3.00 Pints	<b>Thursdays</b> \$2.00 Tecate & \$1.00 Tacos	<b>Fridays</b> \$6.95 Fish Tacos & \$8.95 Tilapia Plate Along with a \$5.00 Lucy's Margarita's
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**Sat. & Sun.**  
\$5.00 Bloody Mary's & \$6.95 Appetizer Platters

**2408 Sudderth**  
**575-257-8754**  
Open Daily at 11 am  
Closed Tuesdays

**3rd Annual Karaoke Contest**  
March 30th & April 6th. With DJ Pete. Bring your friend along to cheer! 5 guys and 5 ladies will be chosen based on the audience to participate in a state wide contest on April 13th and 14th in Gallup. Winner has a chance at a national contest!

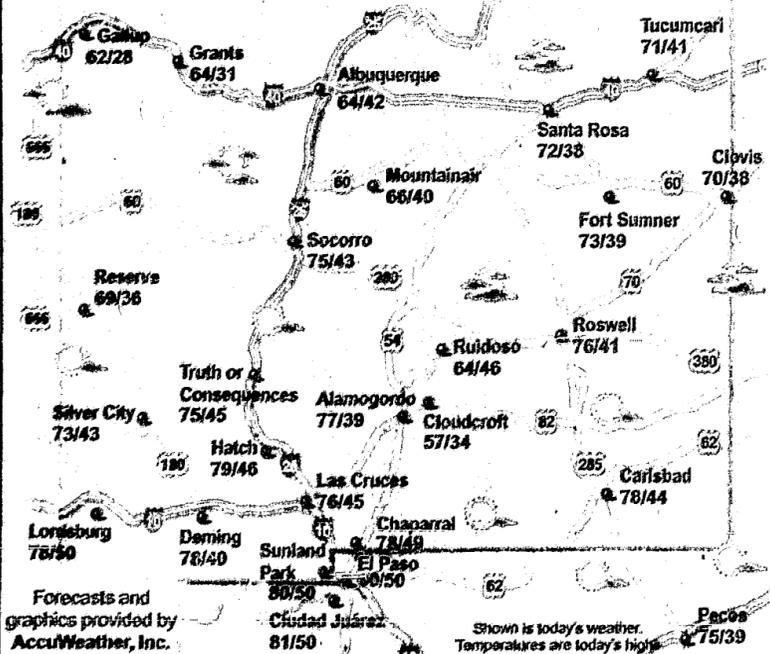
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**AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso**

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 67° Humidity 23% Partly sunny and breezy Wind: WNW 10-20 mph	RealFeel 73° Humidity 19% Plenty of sun Wind: WNW 8-16 mph	RealFeel 73° Humidity 24% Mostly sunny and warm Wind: NW 7-14 mph	RealFeel 72° Humidity 20% Sunny and windy Wind: SW 25-35 mph	RealFeel 58° Humidity 18% Very windy, partly sunny Wind: WSW 40-60 mph	RealFeel 58° Humidity 24% Bright and sunny Wind: WNW 10-20 mph	RealFeel 70° Humidity 21% Abundant sunshine and warmer Wind: WSW 8-16 mph

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

**Regional Cities**



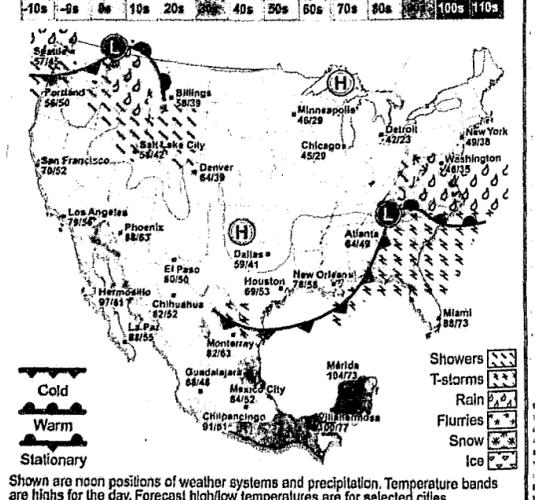
**Almanac**

**Ruidoso**  
Statistics through Monday  
Temperature:  
High/Low: 68°/48°  
Normal high: 61°  
Normal low: 27°  
Record high: 74° (1953)  
Record low: 2° (1994)  
Precipitation:  
Monday: 0.00"  
Month to date: Trace  
Normal month to date: 0.94"  
Year to date: 0.76"  
Normal year to date: 3.42"  
Pollen:  
Grass: Absent  
Trees: Very High  
Weeds: Absent  
Mold: Low  
Predominant: Mulberry  
Source: Eddie L. Gaines, M.D. of the Allergy & Asthma Clinic

**Alamogordo**  
Statistics through Monday  
Temperature:  
High/Low: 81°/49°  
Normal high: 70°  
Normal low: 41°  
Record high: 87° (1967)  
Record low: 23° (1955)  
Precipitation:  
Monday: 0.00"  
Month to date: 0.00"  
Normal month to date: 0.43"  
Year to date: 0.46"  
Normal year to date: 1.73"

**Weather Trivia:**  
Q: How much does the atmosphere weigh?

**National Forecast for March 30, 2011**



National Cities		Regional Cities			
City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu HI/Lo/W	City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu HI/Lo/W
Albany	62/37/c	78/49/s	Albuquerque	64/42/pc	73/45/s
Anchorage	42/30/sn	42/27/sn	Artesia	77/41/s	83/49/s
Atlanta	64/49/r	58/42/r	Chama	53/27/c	60/25/s
Austin	68/45/c	78/49/s	Clayton	60/36/c	74/36/pc
Baltimore	47/38/r	51/39/r	Cloudcroft	57/34/s	63/23/s
Boston	48/35/s	46/34/pc	Farrington	63/32/c	69/36/s
Chicago	45/29/pc	48/31/pc	Hobbs	72/37/s	82/43/s
Dallas	59/41/pc	75/52/pc	Los Alamos	54/34/pc	63/31/s
Denver	64/39/sh	69/37/pc	Portales	74/41/c	78/38/s
Des Moines	52/31/pc	48/34/c	Raton	60/25/c	76/27/pc
Deloit	42/23/pc	42/29/pc	Red River	48/26/c	55/23/pc
El Paso	80/50/s	81/51/s	Ruidoso	64/46/pc	68/45/s
Las Vegas	81/61/s	84/63/s	Santa Fe	64/33/c	72/36/s
Los Angeles	79/56/s	86/58/s	Silver City	73/43/s	77/46/s
Minneapolis	46/29/pc	49/34/pc	Taos	58/24/c	68/28/s
New Orleans	78/58/r	71/56/r			
New York City	49/38/pc	50/40/pc			
Philadelphia	48/37/r	52/39/c			
Phoenix	88/63/s	93/65/s			
Reno	67/37/s	73/42/s			
San Francisco	70/52/s	73/53/s			
San Diego	74/59/pc	73/65/s			
Seattle	57/45/r	57/46/r			
Tucson	82/52/s	89/56/s			
Tulsa, OK	52/35/c	66/44/r			
Wash, DC	46/35/r	49/40/r			
Wichita	48/33/c	67/38/r			
Yuma	94/66/s	96/67/s			

**Mexican Cities**

City	Today HI/Lo/W	Thu HI/Lo/W
Acapulco	90/72/s	90/72/s
Cancun	88/72/s	88/72/pc
Chihuahua	82/52/s	86/54/s
Ciudad Juárez	81/50/s	81/52/s
León	88/48/pc	86/52/pc
México, DF	84/52/s	81/50/pc
Monterrey	82/63/r	84/63/pc
Morelia	87/54/s	90/54/s
Oaxaca	93/57/r	93/55/r
Pto. Venasco	82/57/s	86/55/s
Tijuana	75/64/s	79/55/c

**Sun and Moon**

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset  
6:54 a.m./7:21 p.m.

**Moon Phases**

Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset  
4:38 a.m./4:13 p.m.

**Extremes**

Monday's National High/Low:  
(For the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 92° in Pecos, TX  
Low: -6° in Grand Marais, NY

**Monday's World High/Low:**

High: 112° in Matam, Senegal  
Low: -41° in Irkutsk, Russia



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COURTESY SHARON STEWART

**Vivacious and popular** First Lady "Mamie Eisenhower" came to the Village of Ruidoso Public Library Monday in a Chautauqua portrayed by Kay Sebring-Roberts Kuhlmann. At the request of the librarians, Seth Temple brought his diorama about President Eisenhower made for Mrs. Ensor's 3rd grade class. After the Chautauqua, the attendees enjoyed studying the diorama with all the information on the life and career of President Eisenhower. Seth got the opportunity to meet "Mrs. Ike".

FROM PAGE 2A

residue, especially in the glass part and cause the small birds to die from diarrhea and dehydration. Special brushes are available to help clean the glass parts.

- Don't use red dye, which can harm hummingbirds. The designs of feeders contain plenty of red to catch their attention.

- Don't make up too much solution. It should be changed every few days, not weeks.

- Do boil the water for the feeding solution. Even the best tap water has "stuff" in it. Boiling helps start things off as clean as possible.

- Do use regular sugar at one part sugar to two parts water. No need to use store-bought solutions, because they usually contain red dye. Some birders use one to three parts sugar to water during the summer and reduce the water portion as colder weather approaches to bolster the birds on their migration to warmer climates.

- Do add plants that provide food for them. They can't survive on the sugar/water feeding alone, because it doesn't have a full slate of nutrients.

Do change the mixture every three to four days, especially in hot weather. Sugar and water and 90-degree temperatures can create "grunge" mold and other undesirable growths in a very short time. Think in terms of how clean and pristine the nectar is inside a flower from which a hummer feeds.

**GOP speakers**

New Mexico State Reps. Zach Cook (R-Ruidoso) and Dennis Kintigh (R-Roswell) will be the featured speakers at the regular monthly meeting of the Republican Party of Lincoln County April 11.

Jack Shuster, 1st Vice Chair, said dinner is set for 6 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Cree Meadows Country Club in Ruidoso.

Cook and Kintigh will discuss the 2011 results of the 60-day legislative session and will be available to answer questions from the floor.

Party Chairman John Billingsley will brief members on what is happening in New Mexico's United States Senate race and upcoming events with the Republican Party of Lincoln County, the Republican Party of New Mexico and nationally.

"We pledge to make government more transparent in its actions, careful in its stewardship, and honest in its dealings," Billingsley said, pointing out that the mission of the Republican Party is to effectively communicate conservative principles to the people of New Mexico.

Money raised through memberships helps ensure the best candidates make it to the ballot and receive the support needed to win, Billingsley said. Memberships in the Republican Party of Lincoln County will be available at the meeting.

To help with a head count for the optional \$14-

per-person dinner, contact Barbara Dickinson at 336-7822 by 6 p.m. April 9.

For more information about the local party, call 258-2570 or e-mail office@rplcnm.org, or stop in at Room 313 in the Lincoln Tower at 1096 Mechem Dr.

**Six applicants**

Six applicants out of 36 who applied will be interviewed for the position of Community Development Director as part of "an assessment center" Friday at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

"We will start the process at 8 a.m. and wrap up about 5:30 p.m.," said village Human Resources Director Tania Proctor. "The process includes an interview committee, presentation committee, group exercise, problem solving exercises, and then each candidate will be given a tour of the community."

Those in the running are Steven Brown from Prescott, Ariz., with a Master's degree in Regional Planning and Bachelor's in Urban Design; Arthur Alton, former Community Development Director for the city of Alamogordo; Mark Smith from Castle

Rock, Colo.; Robert Decker, currently Ruidoso engineer and former planning director here, and in Tucson planning; Dennis Cady of Oro Valley, Ariz., with the Tucson Airport Authority; and Theodore Garrod of Kissimmee, Fla., a former zoning and code enforcement director for Osceola County.

Bill Morris, who was deputy village manager and planning director, resigned effective last month.

The possible salary ranges from a minimum of \$61,250 to \$91,874.

**Assistance program**

Beginning March 30, the New Mexico Human Services Department will issue a Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program supplemental benefit to nearly 55,000 customers, who have already received a benefit this year.

The department received final funding amounts from the federal government for the current year, which allows the department to increase LIHEAP benefits already issued as well as increase benefits for those who have not yet applied for the once-a-year-benefit.

"This supplement comes at a time when New Mexico families are noticing an increase in their heating bills due to the bitter cold weather we had in February," said Sidonie Squier, HSD Secretary. "A supplement of \$18 to \$126 will be a welcome relief to thousands of New Mexico families."

Since October, about 55,000 New Mexico families received the once-a-year LIHEAP benefit, which averaged \$121 per household. Participating families will be eligible to receive the additional benefit to help pay heating costs for gas, electric, or bulk fuels, such as propane, firewood or wood pellet.

Families who have already received a LIHEAP benefit this year and have not changed address and are using the same energy company will automatically get the benefit.

Those families who have moved since their LIHEAP benefit was issued have until Aug. 31, 2011, to con-

tact their local Income Support Division office and provide the new address and energy account information.

Any family that has moved out of state is not eligible for the supplement.

Households applying for LIHEAP should bring, fax or e-mail to one of the department's 35 Income Support offices, an application form, completed and signed that includes Social Security numbers for all members applying for help; proof of heating/cooling cost, including account number.

If the bill was more than \$160, only give proof of the highest energy cost in the last 12 months.

Crisis LIHEAP - HSD can help faster if a person's utility service is disconnected or a disconnect notice was received or he/she almost is out of wood, propane or other bulk fuels. Supply a copy of their disconnect notice.

For more information on

LIHEAP, visit the local Income Support Division office, call 1-800-283-4465, or visit the department's LIHEAP website at [www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/liheap.html](http://www.hsd.state.nm.us/isd/liheap.html).

**Earthday Picnic**

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

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

The event is still in its organizational stage and organizers are looking for interested bands, educational booths, volunteers and door prizes.

Contact 973-4119, 937-2725 or email [dearcomground@aim.com](mailto:dearcomground@aim.com) to help with the event or for more information.

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**Advertising Deadlines**

Display advertising  
3 p.m. Monday for Wednesday  
1 p.m. Wednesday for Friday

Classified line advertising  
1:30 p.m. Tuesday for Wednesday  
1:40 p.m. Thursday for Friday

Legal advertising  
3 p.m. Friday for Wednesday  
1 p.m. Tuesday for Friday

**Mail Delivery**

In county (Lincoln, Otero)

3 months	\$20
6 months	\$36
1 year	\$40

Out of county

3 months	\$27
6 months	\$32
1 year	\$47

# OPINION

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager  
Marty Racine, editor

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### OUR OPINION

## A shakedown at Village Hall over the freeze

Mayor, manager aren't playing that game

We live in a time when we expect life to be 100 percent comfort controlled as an air-conditioned shopping mall. And if anything goes "wrong," there must be justice to bear in the form of a financial windfall.

Surely, governments and corporations should be held accountable for true negligence, but with so many lawyers in Congress is it any wonder we have fashioned a litigious society that all but guarantees plenty of case loads for attorneys?

Such a society produces professional victims. Remember the woman who sued

McDonald's because she spilled hot coffee on herself? The clerk didn't spill it. No one told her the coffee wasn't hot.

Some homeowners are trying to shake down the Village of Ruidoso for cracked pipes during the historic February freeze. Have they no shame, especially if they, themselves, didn't properly winterize their structures?

The village isn't playing that game, not Mayor Alborn, who relishes a good scrimmage. We say more power to them. When entities settle out of court to avoid the hassle, the only losers are taxpayers and consumers.

## They skinned the cat and passed a budget

Sen. Bill Sapien was defending his bill to move money from higher education to early education, and the Senate Finance Committee wasn't buying.

"We're all trying to skin the cat for early childhood education," said Sen. Sue Wilson Beffort, a Republican.

"The problem is," added Sen. Jerry Ortiz y Pino, a Democrat, "We're all skinning the same cat."

I can appreciate the power of a phrase, however overused, to communicate, especially in a session as charged and raw as this one.

We heard a lot about "stepping up to the plate," "kicking the can down the road," and balancing the budget on somebody's back. The big question is: Did they step up to the plate? For the most part, yes.

Job No. 1 was the budget. For months, the Legislative Finance Committee pored over numbers. Denied tax increases, they cut for the fourth consecutive year and, in the process, unusual alliances formed and old ones fractured. All they could do was spread the pain, but they did fashion a budget that will pay for government operations without raising taxes or costing jobs.

This budget was possible only if state employees also stepped up to the plate by continuing to contribute more to their retirement accounts so the state could contribute \$110 million less. (The higher payment started two years ago with the assumption that it would be temporary.) Even though the money comes back to them eventually, it still means less take-home pay, and the pension accounts are still under-funded.

The bill, by Rep. Don Bratton, a Hobbs Republican, passed because everybody stepped up to the plate. But they stepped back on an amendment to assure the retirement funds' long-term solvency by making the increase permanent.

"Sooner or later this will have to be made permanent," said Sen. Steven Neville, an Aztec Republican, during a com-

mittee hearing. "It's not politics, it's not economics, it's math."

Republicans would rather be safe than sorry; Democrats prefer betting on a healthier economy and sparing those modest paychecks another hit. Call it politics if you want; it's an honest philosophical difference.

Shoring up the funds was the subject of another bill that inspired so many comments about kicking the can down the road that one lawmaker called for a new metaphor.

This time, conservatives rose to support an Albuquerque liberal, Rep. Mimi Stewart, who co-chaired a task force on the funds' solvency.

Stewart opposed Bratton's bill but introduced one of her own that would set a minimum retirement age and reduce cost-of-living adjustments for state employees of less than five years. It exempted police and firemen. Republicans lined up in support.

"This is one of those hard votes we are sent here to do," said Rep. Dennis Kintigh, a Roswell Republican. "We will make some people unhappy, but we must do it for the people of the state. If we kick it down the road, we make things worse."

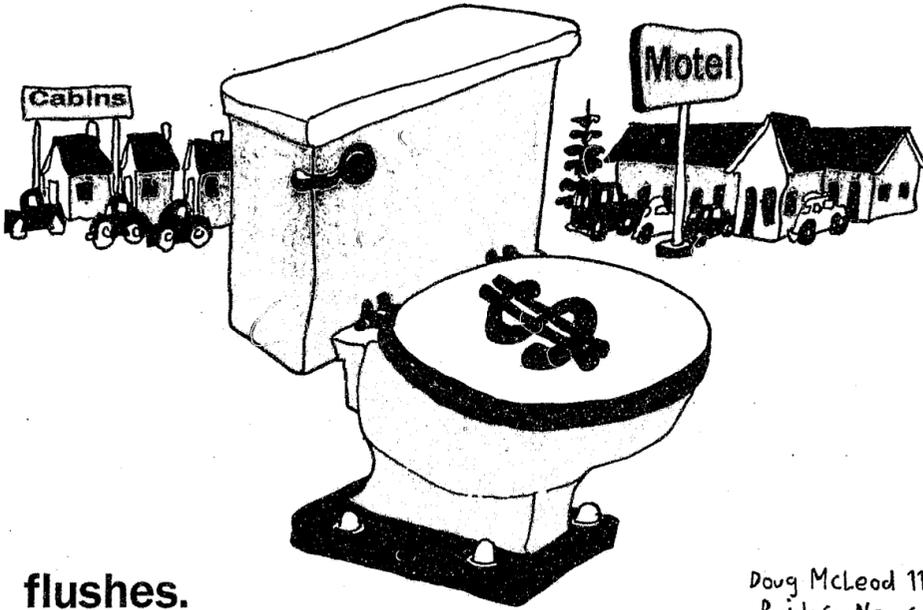
Some Democratic heavyweights opposed the bill. House Majority Floor Leader Ken Martinez, who has hundreds of state prison jobs in his home town of Grants, said, "Everyone is in favor of shoring up the funds, but do we want to do it in this manner? I voted for (Bratton's bill), and I will explain it to my constituents, but I'm not willing to tell people, 'Your retirement isn't as promised.'"

After more such opposition from fellow Dems, Stewart exclaimed, "Do you think I like to do this just for the fun of it? We're in a crisis!"

A handful of Dems joined Republicans to pass Stewart's bill in the House; it died on adjournment.

I wouldn't call any of the big money decisions a win or loss you could post on a political scorecard. I would say they stepped up to the plate.

## Village gross receipt tax may be measured in...



flushes.

Doug McLeod 11  
Ruidoso News

### YOUR OPINION

## Hiring new fire chief should be urgent

To the editor:

IT HAS BEEN three months now since our fire chief [Tom Gavin] was terminated. To my knowledge, there has been no attempt to recruit a new fire chief, despite the fact that this next fire season is expected to be severe.

The summary of the village manager's termination letter to the ex-fire chief, published in great detail in the *Ruidoso News*, has not helped in any way to explain exactly why this outstanding employee was terminated from his job. To the contrary, the fact that there has been no attempt by the village to quickly re-advertise or fill this position to date, following his termination, raises even more suspicion about the nature of his termination.

Our previous fire chief had three college degrees in his career field, including a master's degree with thesis on emphasis in fire science. He had also successfully retired from a 30-year career in the federal fire service, receiving dozens of superior performance awards and several forms of nation level recognition for his many outstanding accomplishments in both structural and wild land fire management.

In addition, he had obtained dozens of advanced certifications and licenses in fire, fire investigation, emergency services and emergency management. By all accounts, he was extremely well qualified for his job.

I mention this fact only because it is these same qualifications, or higher, that we should

now expect our next fire chief to possess. If my memory serves me correctly, the last time this position was advertised regionally, our now ex-chief was selected for his position by a committee of his peers and from dozens of extremely competitive resumes that the village received from across the country.

His competition also included applications that were received from other municipal fire chiefs at that time.

Given the extremely volatile nature of the fire environment in which we live, we should therefore expect nothing less from our competitive search for a new fire chief. In fact, this search should now be one of our most important and urgent priorities for Village government.

In recent weeks, our "Acting or Assistant Fire Chief" has been referred to with a formal/proper position title of "Fire Chief" in both newspapers, on the Village Fire Department Web Page and during several interviews with our village manager and mayor.

Accordingly, it leaves the public with the impression that this employee has recently been hired into the position without further competition. It is entirely possible that a member of our fire department may be the most highly qualified individual to fill this vacant position.

In addition, we certainly appreciate the willingness by the assistant chief to serve in this "Acting" position while it is being filled on a permanent basis.

However, I believe that any attempt to fill the position with-

out properly advertising the vacancy would be an unprecedented method of appointment by village management.

It would also sell the village far short of a fair and competitive hiring process, during which the most qualified candidate for the job should certainly emerge.

An Internet search of other fire chief positions currently being advertised elsewhere in the nation, even in smaller municipalities, indicates that at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in fire science or closely related field is required for such positions, with a master's degree preferred in most instances.

Recent experience related to the recruitment of our new police chief for the Village of Ruidoso would indicate that a similar attempt to advertise the vacant fire chief's position will draw an equally high number of extremely well qualified candidates. Therefore, we should expect nothing less.

If an applicant from our present fire department surfaces as the most highly qualified candidate, at the termination of the competitive recruitment process, he/she should be quickly hired. If that should occur, it will be a tremendous tribute to the talent within our fire department at present.

However, next time we should think twice about rushing to terminate any of the highly qualified employees that we do have working for the Village of Ruidoso.

S. Smith  
Ruidoso

## Great response to Gavilan fire

To the editor:

I WOULD LIKE to express my gratitude to the local fire and police departments for their quick response to the recent fire in Gavilan Canyon near Ruidoso High School [story, photo first

published at ruidosonews.com, March 28].

Just as quickly as the fire began to jump into the trees they were on the scene and had the fire out. We are extremely fortunate to have such a professional

team in the area.

The students and staff of RHS are forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Jason Edmister  
Assistant Principal  
Ruidoso High School

### OUR RIGHT TO KNOW

#### The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

#### Open Meetings

In recognition of the fact that a representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate, it is declared to be public policy of this state that all persons are entitled to the greatest possible information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of those officers and employees who represent them. The formation of public policy or the conduct of business by vote shall not be conducted in closed meetings.

All meetings of any public body except the legislature and the courts shall be public meetings, and all persons so desiring shall be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings ...

NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1

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# Gold and Silver Coins Selling for Highest Prices in Over 30 Years Due to Weak Economy and It's Happening Right Here in Roswell!

By **KEN MCINTOSH**  
STAFF WRITER

ICCA will be placing ads in newspapers, radio and running television spots this week asking people to bring in any old silver and gold coins made before 1965. Those that bring in their coins will be able to speak with collectors one on one and have their coins looked at with an expert set of eyes. With the help of these ICCA members, offers will be made to those that have coins made before 1965. Offers will be made based on silver or gold content and the rarity of the coins. All coins made before 1965 will be examined and purchased including gold coins, silver coins, silver dollars, all types of nickels and pennies. Those that decide to sell their coins will be paid on the spot.

If you are like a lot of people you might have a few old coins or even a coffee can full lying around. If you have ever wondered what they are worth now might be your chance to find out and even sell them if you choose. They could be worth a lot according to the International Coin Collectors Association also known as ICCA. Collectors will pay a fortune for some coins and currency for their collections. If it is rare enough, one coin could be worth over \$100,000 according to Eric Helms, coin collector and ICCA member. One ultra rare dime, an 1894S Barber, sold for a record \$1.9 million to a collector in July of 2007. While that is an extreme example, many rare and valuable coins are stashed away in dresser drawers or lock boxes around the country. The ICCA and its collector members have organized a traveling event in search of all types of coins and currency. Even common coins can be worth a significant amount due to the high price of silver and gold, says Helms. Washington quarters and Roosevelt dimes can be worth many times their face value. Recent silver markets have driven the price up on common coins made of silver. Helms explains that all half dollars, quarters and dimes made before 1965 contain 90% silver and are sought after any time silver prices rise. Right now it's a sellers market he said.

The rarest coins these collectors are looking for include \$20, \$10, \$5 and \$2 1/2 gold coins and any coin made before 1850. These coins always bring big premiums according to the ICCA. Silver dollars are also very sought after nowadays.

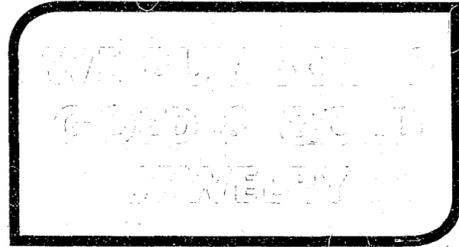
Other types of items the ICCA will be purchasing during this event include U.S. currency, gold bullion, investment gold, silver bars, silver rounds, proof sets, etc. Even foreign coins are sought after and will be purchased.

Also at this event anyone can sell their gold jewelry, dental gold or anything made of gold on the spot. Gold is currently trading at over \$1,100.00 per ounce near an all time high. Bring anything you think might be gold and the collectors will examine, test and price it for free. If you decide to sell, you will be paid on the spot - it has been an unknown fact that coin dealers have always paid more for jewelry and scrap gold than other jewelers and pawn brokers.

So whether you have one coin you think might be valuable or a large collection you recently inherited, you can talk to these collectors for free. If your're lucky you may have a rarity worth thousands. Either way there is nothing to lose and it sounds like fun!

For more information on this event visit the ICCA website at

[WWW.INTERNATIONALCOINCOLLECTORS.COM](http://WWW.INTERNATIONALCOINCOLLECTORS.COM)



### Here's How It Works:

- Gather items of interest from your attic, safe deposit box, garage, basement, etc. There is no limit to the amount of items you can bring
- No appointment necessary
- If interested in selling, we will consult our collector's database to see if a buyer exists. 90% of all items have offers in our database
- The offer is made on the spot on behalf of our collectors making the offer
- If you decide to accept the offer, we will pay you on the spot!
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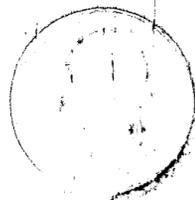
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# EDUCATION

## School board meetings might be broadcast on TV or internet

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Increased community access and involvement may come to meetings of the Ruidoso Municipal School District Board.

One potential change could establish cable TV or internet viewing of meetings.

"A couple of weeks ago Dr. Harris (Bea Etta Harris, superintendent) asked me to look at some alternatives for increasing public access to the proceedings of these meetings," district technology director Mark Hamilton told the education board.

"I looked at what we have, have had over the last several years, and some of the newer technology, and I came up with four reasonable possibilities of doing this within the constraints that we have."

The options were taped or live broadcast of the meetings on local cable television and on demand or live webcasting, Hamilton said.

"On a taped broadcast on Channel 15, Baja Broadband, it was Charter at the time, donated one public access channel to us. We can do two different ways on that. We can do a taped broadcast, meaning you record it here, move it in there, and at some scheduled time we can play it. Or we can do live video which is much more difficult, much more technology intensive. The other way we could do this is do webcasts. We still have to record the thing and you still have to have the same equipment to record it, but there's another step involved, which means convert it to a digital format. And then you publish it on a web server in the district or live stream it on the web server in the district."

Hamilton said there are advantages and disadvantages

to the approaches. "For the taped broadcasts on 15, the advantages are of course it gives more opportunities for people who can't make the 5:30 p.m. (meeting) schedule. A technical obstacle, they just have to have a TV on Baja Broadband. You don't have to have a computer of any specific performance level."

About 60 percent of the homes in the school district have access to Baja Broadband.

With live video, Hamilton saw few technical issues for the viewing public.

"If we did something like that, it would take a lot of additional equipment. And anything you do live, you don't get a chance to fail. If something goes bad and I can't get it back on by the time the meeting starts, the public don't see it."

Hamilton said live feeds are also more labor intensive.

The internet on-demand option is mostly friendly for those who have adequate computer equipment and access.

"The public can watch it just like a YouTube video. We don't need too much more equipment. We already have video production, digital rendering equipment that we can do that with. But it does take some time and expertise to do that. At this point we don't have a class that I think that is doing that so it would fall on the tech department."

But bandwidth constraints would create some limitations.

"Only a certain number of people can watch it at the same time without impacting the network. It actually stops. We could do some things about limiting that during the school day so that it wouldn't impact the schools' use of the network."

"And a live webcast has

all the difficulties of live and all the advantages that the on demand does. The same amount of equipment would be needed for live webcasts as would be needed for a live Channel 15 broadcast."

"The thing that concerns me is the educational impact during the day," education board member Kerry Gladden Eastep said of the webcasting approach. "I think that is something students absolutely do not want to lose."

Hamilton said access to the on-demand web viewing of the education board meeting could be put on a schedule that would avoid running during school hours of 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"Or we can draw the bandwidth so that only five people at a time, or three people at a time, can watch it during those hours."

No internet or cable TV viewing decision was immediately made by the school board but some other changes to the monthly board meeting could be considered in the future.

"One of the things I was looking at would be adding a public comment policy," new board member Curt Temple said of education board meetings. "And they we'd also have to change the agenda for public participation. Another area I'd like to look at and score with the board is putting an invocation in place of the moment of silence. We can see what the board feels about that or talk about that at the next meeting."

And new member Devin Marshall said she would "like to ask that we have an ongoing survey to conduct with staff and faculty on a maybe quarterly basis just to get their opinion on their different issues through the year."

## BUZZY BEES



COURTESY

February Nob Hill Early Childhood Center Headstart Buzzy Bees. Back row, l-r: Kairi Garcia-Rodriguez, Cynthia Navarro, Ayelen Ortega, Alexander Ortiveros-Villa, Jasmine Salas, Alexis Rivas, Xavier Salas; Front row: Jaxon Ortiz, Jaden Aguirri, Eric Leyva, Fernando Segovia, Martez Carrillo-Guerrero, Joel Ortega.



COURTESY

February Nob Hill Early Childhood Center Kindergarten Buzzy Bees. Back row: Sofia Maines, Itzel Gutierrez, Brooke Yarbrough, Ernesto Nevarez, K'hari Garcia, Itzel Parga, Joshua Ethan Jensen, Michelle Willoughby; Middle row: Rylee Holder, Ashley Rivera, Damien McLeod, Desirae Coates, Andrew Harbosky, Timberlynn Blaylock, Ralph Vasquez; Front row: Madison Rice, Drey Lathan, Grace Malone, Trevor Silva, Dylan Scott, Iven Lucero, Glynnith Shendo-Sanchez.

## Martinez signs school grading bill

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Student proficiency testing, to determine if individual schools have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, will begin in the Ruidoso Municipal School District in the coming days. But instead of labeling public schools in the future as meeting or not meeting AYP, as well as rating and issuing designations, New Mexico will move to an A-B-C-D-F grading system for the schools. Gov. Susana Martinez Tuesday signed the new rating system legislation into law.

The Senate sponsor of the measure, Sen. Vernon Asbill (R-Carlsbad), said the system provides clarity.

"This common sense education measure will immediately make it easier for parents and communities to understand the performance of New Mexico's public school," Martinez said. "By assigning a simple letter grade to our schools, we will have a clear idea of which ones are succeeding as well as those that need help. Establishing transparency that allows us to recognize success and reverse failure is a critical step toward an education that truly gives our children the opportunity to succeed in the classroom and the workforce."

With the A-F grading system, parents can easily understand whether their child is in a failing school. Once they learn that, they can become more involved in their children's education and fight for improvements and excellence. Or, they could remove their child from that failing school.

Tuesday's bill signing, at an elementary school east of Albuquerque, was attended by students as well as state and local officials.

### EDUCATION BRIEFS

Youth Leadership Summits for some Native American students have been scheduled for April.

Futures for Children said the 2011 summit for students in elementary school will be held April 1-3

in Albuquerque. A summit for middle school pupils will take place April 14-17 at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu.

This year's theme is "The Rising of Young Leaders, Moving Forward as One." At the summits,

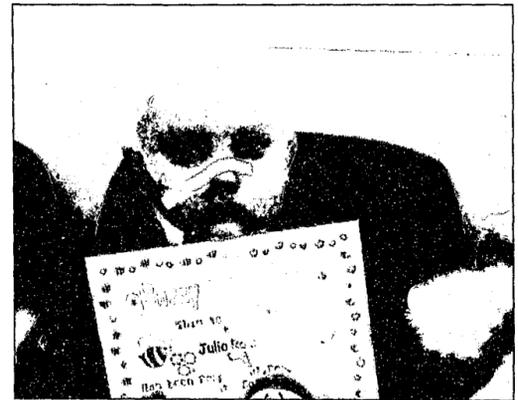
Native American children receive intensive leadership, communication, team building, and community service training. Students also get an opportunity to work with children from different tribes to foster inter-tribal friendships.

A Youth Leadership Summit for high school students has been planned for June. Futures for Children, is based in Albuquerque.

### BEST BUZZY

Special Buzzy Bee of the Year at Nob Hill Early Childhood Center is Julio Romero.

COURTESY PHOTO



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# Village releases position statement on North Fork

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

A position statement released by Ruidoso village officials defends the village's use of North Fork wells on U.S. Forest Service land, explains the loss of water in Eagle Creek from the underground fault system, details its rights to the water and throws some of the blame for any negative impact on the Lincoln County Commission's failure to require water systems in approved subdivisions.

The officials were reacting to repeated criticism by some county commissioners of the village's pumping of the wells to the possible detriment of Eagle Creek and homeowners along the stream with wells. As a result of a lawsuit brought by a group of those owners, a court ruling required an extensive hydrological study and environmental impact assessment before a new special use permit can be issued to the village for use of the four wells. One of the limiting conditions proposed by the USFS is to lower production from the wells to 300 acre feet per annum.

An additional letter outlines some of the scientific data supporting the village's request, submitted after receiving notification of an extended deadline for input.

The statement reads: The Village of Ruidoso in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey funded and participated in a 2007 hydrologic study of

the Eagle Creek Basin above the agency's stream flow gauging station on Eagle Creek below South Fork near Alto.

On Feb. 3, 2011, the U.S. Forest Service published in the Federal Register a "Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement." Comments regarding the scope of the analysis were to be received by March 21, however, comments are welcome throughout the planning process. The draft EIS is expected to be released in October 2011 and the final EIS is expected in June 2012.

The Village presents the following comments and supplemental information regarding the North Fork Eagle Creek Wells Special Use Authorization Project:

- About 75 percent of water delivered to Ruidoso customers, including some located outside the Village in the County, comes from the Eagle Creek drainage and Eagle Creek drainage credits.

- The Forest Service does not have jurisdiction over water rights. Jurisdiction over water rights in New Mexico is the purview of the Office of the State Engineer. Therefore, the

Forest Service has no authority to regulate the Village's operation of the wells, other than through the special use permitting process.

- The Village of Ruidoso originally obtained water rights from the railroad in 1954 and currently owns or leases 99 percent of all groundwater and surface

water rights in the Eagle Creek Basin west of the Alto Dam and Reservoir.

- In 1984, the Village drilled exploratory wells in the Eagle Creek watershed on Forest Service land, referred to as the North

**"The village currently is spending about \$1.2 million to deepen an existing well in the Eagle Creek Basin."**

Fork Well Field. The wells were located outside the then declared boundaries of the Hondo Underground Water Basin.

- The Village receives about a 50 percent return flow credit from Eagle Creek drainage, which is applied to the diversion of Rio Ruidoso water and Rio Ruidoso drainage wells.

- The Village has attempted to transfer water rights out of the North Fork area and has been protested by the same group that filed suit against the Forest Service in 2005 (claiming degradation of the stream and their wells from the pumping of the North Fork wells), which resulted in this EIS process.

- The Village currently is spending about \$1.2 million to deepen an existing well in the Eagle Creek Basin near the Alto Reservoir.

- Eagle Creek crosses the Ruidoso Fault Zone

about two miles east and downstream of Alto Reservoir. The Village recently did a controlled release of water from Alto Reservoir. This established that all flow up to 5 cubic feet per second is lost to the subsurface across the fault zone and recharges the deeper aquifer system. In other words, a flow greater than 5 cfs is required to have surface flow past the fault zone.

- No diminution of riparian vegetation in the Eagle Creek Basin has occurred over the past 50 years. In fact, forest growth dramatically increased and is the primary cause of any decline in stream flow. Restoration of forest density to what it was 50 years ago will dramatically increase stream flow, even in drought years. This will also reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfire which will destroy stream flow for use as a water source. If a wild fire occurs, water supply will have to rely completely on ground water.

- Lincoln County over the last several years has approved numerous subdivisions with hundreds of lots. Instead of mandating water systems for these subdivisions, the County approved utilizing individual private domestic wells that were allowed 3 acre feet per year each. (An acre foot equates to about 325,800 gallons of water). Many of these lots are located in the Eagle Creek Basin. These wells take water from the basin, thus diminishing the water available to senior water

rights holders such as the Village.

The Village also submitted technical comments prepared by our water team and will make all technical information available for the public to view.

We urge our residents to familiarize themselves with the facts of this issue and submit their own comments to the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor, Smokey Bear Ranger District, 901 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345.

## USFS still accepting comments on application for special use permit

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Comments from government entities and from the public continue to be accepted on the proposed issuance by the U.S. Forest Service of a special use permit for the village of Ruidoso to pump 300 acre feet per year from four wells on the North Fork of Eagle Creek.

In a letter to U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM), from Robert G. Trujillo, Lincoln National Forest Supervisor wrote that, under the National Environmental Policy Act, scoping has no mandatory or formal endpoint.

"Regardless of the inappropriate use of the phrase, 'must be received by March 21,' in the Federal Register notice, I can assure you that the Lincoln National Forest will comply with the law by fully considering any responses the Forest Service receives to this Notice of Intent as we develop alternatives and analyses needed to produce a Draft Environmental Impact Statement," he wrote. "Upon completion of that document in the fall of 2011, the public will again have an opportunity to comment during a formal comment period, providing additional input that will help inform my decision."

Trujillo reminded the congressman that the project is covered under a stipulated agreement that obligates the Forest Service to complete the analysis and disclosure under the NEPA.

The Forest Service entered into the agreement to resolve litigation initiated in federal District Court by property and water rights owners downstream from the municipal water wells, he noted. The stipulation included a deadline for a decision by the Forest Service. Although the LNF will be unable to meet the stipulated deadline, because of delays beyond its control in meeting other components of the agreement, the service remains obligated to consider all responses received regarding the notice of intent, he wrote.

# RUIDOSO HEARS!

Dr. Frederick Christensen



Dr. Christensen provides an adult and pediatric hearing evaluation and hearing aid services. He is a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the National Hearing Aid Society. He has been practicing in Ruidoso since 1984. He is currently the owner and operator of Livingston Audiology.

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# Fort taps former museum director

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A former director of the Hubbard Museum of the American West has been tapped by the Fort Stanton Museum.

Jay Smith will work under a temporary contract, serving as an executive consultant to Fort Stanton, Inc.

"Jay has worked for us on a voluntary basis for quite some time," said Clinton Smith, president of Fort Stanton, Inc. "But we really would like to find a way to keep him working at the fort for the foreseeable future as he has skills and abilities in the museum field that we need to take the museum and the site forward into the future. He is an excellent liaison to the state and he loves the fort,

so this seemed like a good match."

Jay Smith is currently under contract with Fort Stanton, Inc. through August.

"I am delighted to have an opportunity to work exclusively on Fort Stanton projects this spring through summer," Jay Smith said. "Fort Stanton is a special place with a unique opportunity to tell an important story about our local, state and national history. I believe it has an exciting future ahead but first it needs a plan for development and for operations. I hope that I can make a solid contribution toward building those plans and ensuring a bright future for the fort."

Jay Smith had been the director of the Hubbard Museum of the American



SMITH

West for nearly five years. He resigned in July 2010 to "pursue new opportunities that will allow me to fulfill personal and professional goals," Jay Smith said last year. Racetrack owner R.D. Hubbard gave the museum and an endowment to the City of Ruidoso Downs in August 2005. In recent years there have been rumblings over the city's need

to provide some funding for the museum. Jay Smith had pleaded with city officials in 2009 and 2010 to avoid more funding cuts for the facility.

Jay Smith could have a longer tenure with Fort Stanton, Inc.

"We want to extend the contract this fall, so we are hoping to find additional private support as well as expanding our revenues this season," Clinton Smith said.

Fort Stanton, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization with a mission to assist in the development of operations of the Fort Stanton State Monument. Clinton Smith said the organization accepts tax-deductible donations to assist with the historic location's operations and special projects.

# TRAFFIC

FROM PAGE 1A

like the type used at Wingfield Park to cross Wingfield Street and Center Street.

The texture looks like brick, but it's smooth, Sodd said.

The crosswalks would be created at Eagle Drive, Center Street, Grindstone, Chase and County Club Drive intersections with Sud-dert.

The kicker is that the group would like everything done at one time and by Memorial Day.

"We can do it with what we have, the asphalt," she said. "And we can use the paint for curbs in the village (for the diagonal stripes on the speed tables)."

Village Engineer Bob Decker, former Ruidoso planning director, said the

material and labor already are in the village budget. The only additional cost would be the DOT signs.

"J. R. said it would take about two days," Sodd said.

"Obviously something needs to be done and we've talked about this for how many years," said Commission Chairman Beth Hood. "We can't prevent people from stepping off the curb or into the street from between cars."

Sodd said the speed tables back away from the curb to allow drainage and to share the road with bicycles.

Once the speed tables, signs and crosswalks are in place, attention can be turned by the association to enhancements such as benches and garbage disposal cans with signs that also alert people about the village ordinance against skateboarding or rollerblading on Midtown sidewalks, Sodd said.

# REJECT

FROM PAGE 1A

receive funding of \$182,000 per year," Underwood said on Dec. 30.

Robert Donaldson, executive director of the Hubbard Foundation, had said the Hubbards believed the agreement was a great step forward for the city and the museum.

Donaldson said to get the new partnership off to a good start, the Hubbard Foundation would contribute \$100,000 annually or the operation of the museum for the next three years.

Underwood said he was

told by then-Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Stewart Ashman that there would be no problem including the \$182,000 in funding within his current budget and was very hopeful that the next secretary would feel strongly enough about receiving approximately \$8 million to \$10 million in museum assets to justify the annual payment.

But City Councilor Gary Williams responded that, with a new secretary, there would be uncertainty.

The Martinez administration's rejection of the agreement was called a "cut-and-dry" matter of budgeting by Blair.

"As we are making cuts

to every corner of the state's budget in order to eliminate a deficit that was sitting in the neighborhood of hundreds of millions of dollars, it just doesn't make sense to take on a new financial obligation like this one."

The legislature earlier this year declined to provide funding to the Department of Cultural Affairs to make the \$182,000 payment.

"We didn't do a very good job PR wise, and shame on us," Kofakis said. "It was perceived as something it wasn't. It was not a Hubbard-Richardson deal in the dark of night. And we'd been working on it for six or seven months. And Cultur-

al Affairs still likes the museum."

Kofakis said he has not heard from the department's secretary designate Veronica Gonzales, but from "all her underlings that did survive."

Interviewed Monday, Underwood said he should have opened dialogue with the new administration as soon as Martinez took office. He said he hoped to set up a meeting with Martinez, her staff and the secretary of Cultural Affairs in May.

"And again, make a proposition with the state and discuss with the state the potential take over of the museum by the state. Whether or not it would be

the same terms, conditions, I don't know. But I do feel there's a great possibility for discussion between the state and the city on the museum."

Underwood said a transfer of the museum property and collections is important for the city and the future of the Hubbard Museum.

"Because the financial picture changes drastically within the next three to four years," Underwood said. "We will have used up all of our (\$1.5 million) endowment from the Hubbard Foundation. And it's still costing us a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year. So we will look at all alternatives, but the best and the first seems to be

with the State of New Mexico."

Both the state and the city will need to improve their financial situations; for the transfer of the museum to go forward, said Kofakis.

"I've cut and cut and cut to the point where, for the first time, it's a true, realistic budget. And that's no disrespect to prior directors, but it is real."

Kofakis called the budget trimming "a lot."

The museum was gifted to the city in August 2005, along with \$1.5 million, by R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard. Efforts to have the state acquire the museum before Ruidoso Downs was given the facility failed.

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**Austin: "The City of Ruidoso Downs has no formal time keeping system in place."**

# HOURS

FROM PAGE 1A

officer to the city's personnel department claimed the officer had been instructed by supervisors to falsify time sheets in order to report DWI grant overtime. The memo noted the officer refused to falsify the records.

"The City of Ruidoso Downs has no formal time keeping system in place," Austin said as he read his special report to city officials Monday. "Officers manually maintain their time which is entered onto a time sheet which is subsequently signed as accurate by the officer and reviewed and approved by the supervisor of the department. The control system relies on the supervising official to have knowledge to the employees schedule and the time he was actually on the job."

"The City of Ruidoso Downs does maintain a dispatch system to communicate with officers while they are on duty. Officers are required to call the dispatch employee to report they are on or off duty as well as reporting various situations that occur during a work day."

It was an examination of time sheets and call records that raised questions.

The audit noted three police officers were selected to compare call sheets with the hours the officers reported on their time-sheets. The review covered Dec. 27, 2009 through Aug. 21, 2010.

Austin cautioned, however, that the call sheets he reviewed may not be an accurate reflection of time worked.

The report noted tests of the documents suggested four issues: Numerous instances of time discrepancies between the call sheets and time sheets; instances where officers were reported off and call reports noted the officers were on duty; instances where an officer called in sick on call sheets but were reported as worked on the time sheet and not reported as sick time; current policy requires an officer to be paid overtime after working 80 hours in a time period; overtime was incorrectly calculated resulting in possible overpayment.

"The results of the tests notes that the current system of supervisor review does not result in accurate time worked and relies on the integrity of the supervisor," Austin said. "I would

encourage the City of Ruidoso Downs to implement some form of time card or computer-based timekeeping system to more accurately reflect time worked by all employees.

"I would encourage the city to review and clarify its policy concerning the payment of overtime to police and fire employees."

Reading from a letter from State Auditor Hector Balderas, City Attorney H. John Underwood said fixes are needed.

"It is ultimately the responsibility of the governing body of the agency to take corrective action on all findings and comments," Underwood read. "Your agency and the independent auditor must notify the state auditor's office upon the discovery of any violation of a criminal statute in connection with financial affairs of your agency."

"In addition, the state auditor will report any violations of criminal statute in connection with the financial affairs to the proper prosecuting officer and furnish that office with that information."

Underwood said the special report openly addressed the issues that occurred in the police department. "I

don't think it's proper that we go any further than that in breaking the anonymity of various individuals involved. The report is the report. And any report with specific names, in my opinion, is improper."

The special audit report letter, which included 12 pages of daily call sheets and time sheets data from Dec. 27, 2009 to Aug. 8, 2010, was considered incomplete by City Councilor Dean Holman.

"In my opinion, this summary is greatly downplayed," Holman said. "I don't think it's complete. And the other thing I would like to bring out, and should not be a reflection on the other officers. I think only two of our officers where in a very bad situation and probably had a difficult time of knowing just what to do. I think they probably were stressed wondering what some of the implications might be that might cause them some problems later."

Councilor Gary Williams asked Holman for his issues with the report.

"You know this as well as I do," Holman responded. "There have been more serious infractions and they have not been mentioned here. Lots more serious."

Austin said he only looked at timesheets.

"If there's other issues, it wasn't disclosed to me, other than the timesheets," Austin said. "That's all I was really engaged to do. If there's other criminal activities or whatever you're referring to, that wasn't a part of my engagement."

Austin recommended Holman contact the district attorney if there is something more serious.

The city attorney told Holman that if there are other issues beyond the scope of the special audit they can be looked at.

"If the council wishes to discuss in executive session then I suggest that we do that," Underwood said. "And if we feel like it's appropriate, then to report that onto the district attorney. Also, if it's this council's desire, to forward this special audit onto the district attorney, in addition to being the auditor's obligation, I think that's an option."

Williams asked newly hired police chief Doug Babcock about the system to keep track of hours.

"What they do is when the officer starts his tour of duty, they'll radio in and it will be recorded on the radio," Babcock said. "And they'll also be entered into

the CAD program, which is the computer aided dispatch, which is the computer program that keeps track of all the calls that happen during that shift. And it will show when they come to work, keeps track of whatever they do during the day, and when they go off duty they radio back in and they're signed in on the CAD as being off duty."

Babcock said that, under his administration, overtime would have a proper accounting.

Councilor Tommy Hood questioned if a computerized time sheet system was needed.

"It's an option," Babcock replied. "But if dispatch does what they're supposed to do, log people in and log people out, and our officers do the same, they system will work. But everybody has to do their job and do it correctly for it to work."

Austin said his examination of time sheets and call sheets showed officers sometimes forget to call in.

"Someone needs to be reviewing the call sheets as an internal control to monitor those things and periodically check those time sheets," Austin recommended. "When we had a special (closed council) session I know the previous chief admitted no one was really looking at those issues at all."

Babcock said those controls would include the dispatch employees "up to my desk."

As the fiscal agent for the Lincoln County DWI Grant program, Ruidoso, has agreements with Capitán, Carrizozo, Lincoln County, the Ruidoso Police Department and the Ruidoso Downs Department of Public Safety to reimburse the law enforcement agencies for overtime worked by officers for DWI enforcement activities. The overtime cost reimbursement amount for the Ruidoso Downs Department of Public Safety between July 1, 2010 and May 31, 2011, is up to \$4,000.

To receive the reimbursement, departments submit monthly claims to the Ruidoso with information about the enforcement activities, the names of officers involved and their hourly wages, and the number of hours worked.

The DWI overtime program is largely financed through a state excise tax on alcoholic beverages, said Tim Korte with the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration. Some funding is also available through the federal government.

First in the Ruidoso News

## Lawn & garden values

### Bright colors for your shady garden

Your shade garden is full of lush shades of green, but finding brighter colors can be a challenge.

Luckily, shade does have its firecrackers, and one of them is a little-known perennial called Indian pink. In June, this south-eastern wildflower sizzles with trumpet-shaped, fire-engine red flowers that open to yellow throats. And unlike other shade plants, which can be aggressive, Indian pink is very well behaved and doesn't naturalize or reseed excessively. Here's how to add this beauty to your shade garden:

**Common name:** Indian

**pink, Maryland pinkroot, woodland pinkroot**  
**Botanical name:** Spigelia marilandica  
**Plant type:** Perennial  
**Zones:** 5 to 9  
**Height:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Family:** Loganiaceae

**Growing conditions**  
 • Sun: Part to full shade  
 • Soil: Average, well-drained, humus-rich  
 • Moisture: Average to moist  
**Care**  
 • Mulch: Mulch to preserve moisture in the soil.  
 • Pruning: None  
 • Fertilizer: None



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# Navy troops 'invade' Fort Stanton State Monument

### FROM REPORTS

Troops from a U.S. Navy attachment stationed at White Sands Missile Range staged a friendly invasion of Fort Stanton State Monument the week-end of March 11, and left behind a cleaner environment when they departed.

The volunteers dedicated their weekend to cleaning and repainting the Nurses' Quarters, a building on the fort's quad that dates to the early 1940s. Once cleaning and repairs there are completed, the facility will be used to host volunteers at the site.

Representatives from the Navy began organizing their volunteer efforts to assist the fort last fall, but were temporarily halted by the winter season.

Navy officials collaborated with Ranger Bill Rogge of the Lincoln State Monument, and members of the volunteer group Fort Stanton, Inc., who operate the museum and gift shop, to designate tasks at the fort.

The volunteers took advantage of recent warming temperatures to begin their work.

The Navy volunteers were so pleased with their experience at Fort Stanton that they committed to continuing to work on other projects at the site, situated between the village of Capitan and the settlement of Hondo off U.S. 380.

Their hard work was rewarded by a Friday supper and Saturday lunch sponsored by Fort Stanton, Inc.



COURTESY JOE ARCURE

Troop members from Navy Headquarters performing volunteer work at Fort Stanton State Monument are from left GM1 Jason Sloan; FC2 Todd Payton; GM1 Martin Castro; FC2 Richard Rohler; FC2 Jacquelyn Gregory; Lt. Shawn Mitchell; FC1 Rogelio Ramirez; FC2 Dominique Sanchez; FC1 Omar Gonzalez; and GM2 Matthew Lozowy.

Established in 1855 as a U.S. Military Fort, the site was built to protect settlers along the Rio Bonito. Kit Carson, John "Black Jack" Pershing, Billy the Kid, Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry regiments all lived there.

Over the years, the fort served as a federal hospital exclusively for the treatment of tuberculosis by the U.S. Marine Hospital during the late 1890s, as a site

for the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression, as an internment camp for German seaman during World War II, and as a State Hospital.

Fort Stanton was placed on the State Register of Historic Places in 1969, and on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The site became a New Mexico State Monument in August 2007.

Fort Stanton State Monument features an

exhibition of the site in the 1855 Administration Building and schedules tours. Admission to Fort Stanton State Monument Museum is free, but donations are accepted.

To schedule guided tours, call 575-354-0341.

Located seven miles southeast of Capitan, the fort is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 1 through Nov. 30; and weekends only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec.

1 through March 31.

Many volunteers dedicate time and effort to supporting the preservation of the fort. Fort officials hope through relationships and networks, such as the one created with the Navy, the fort will be ensured a future as a great place to visit and enjoy.

"If you or local organizations are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities at Fort Stanton State Monument,

please contact me," said Bennie Long, at 575-653-4468, or by e-mail at [bennie.long@state.nm.us](mailto:bennie.long@state.nm.us).

To learn more about becoming a member of Fort Stanton, Inc. or becoming a financial supporter of the site, contact Clinton Smith, 575-258-5702, or e-mail [pccsm58@windstream.net](mailto:pccsm58@windstream.net).

Learn more about Fort Stanton State Monument at [www.fortstanton.com](http://www.fortstanton.com) or call 575-653-4372, and visit [www.nmmonuments.org](http://www.nmmonuments.org).

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# SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2011

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PAGE 1B

## side line

### Results

#### Baseball

Thursday, March 24  
Capitan 12, Lordsburg 7  
Friday, March 25  
Lubbock Christian 23, RHS 11  
NMMI 5, Capitan 4  
Saturday, March 26  
RHS 9, Lubbock Christian 8  
Lubbock Christian 19, RHS 0  
Dexter 15, Capitan 5  
Monday, March 28  
Capitan 16, Dora 0

#### Softball

Thursday, March 24  
Dexter 21, Ruidoso 11  
Loving 15, Capitan 0  
Friday, March 25  
Hope Christian 14, Ruidoso 11  
Carlsbad 11, Capitan 7  
Saturday, March 26  
Ruidoso 24, Capitan 11

### Sports On Tap

#### Baseball

Saturday, April 2  
Portales at Ruidoso, doubleheader, 1 p.m.  
Valley Christian at Capitan, doubleheader, 1 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 5  
Gateway at Capitan, 3 p.m.

#### Softball

Thursday, March 31  
Mesilla Valley at Ruidoso, doubleheader, 4 p.m.  
Friday, April 1  
Dexter at Capitan, 3 p.m.  
Saturday, April 2  
W. Las Vegas at Ruidoso, doubleheader, 11 a.m.  
Tuesday, April 5  
Capitan at Estancia, 3 p.m.

### On Deck

#### Ruidoso Junior Golf

The Ruidoso Junior golf Association in partners with the Ruidoso Golf Teams will be hosting the third and fourth of six scrambles at The Links at Sierra Blanca on Saturday, April 2, with a 1 p.m. shotgun start and Sunday, the following day, at Rainmakers Golf Club at 1 p.m. To sign up and for more info call Melissa at Cree Meadows at 257-5815.

## Warriors salvage 1 of 3

### Lubbock Eagles prey on RHS hardballers but hometown nine win big one in dramatic fashion

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

The Ruidoso Warriors baseball team played three games over the weekend losing the single game Friday, 23-11, and splitting Saturday's doubleheader, with RHS taking the first one in a melodramatic ending, 9-8, and dropping the second one, 19-0.

The Ruidoso team is now 4-7 overall but their record doesn't tell the complete story.

Two of those losses came against an accomplished Lubbock squad, one narrow 3-2 defeat came at the hands of a capable Eunice team, another loss was inflicted upon them by the able 9-2 (as of this report) Hope Christian Huskies and yet another lacing was delivered by the always tough Artesia Bulldogs.

It's possible their rough baseball schedule is in fact a planned adversity for

**"The district struggle is on our immediate horizon. Doing well in district, is and was, our team goal."**

Gilbert Alvarado  
RHS Head Baseball Coach

what lies ahead.

Playing quality teams can sometimes build character in accepting squads whereby they rise to the occasion like Ruidoso did Saturday when they shocked visiting Lubbock with four decisive runs in one swing of the bat by Ryan Yaksich.

We will know this Saturday whether an exacting non-district schedule was a character builder when the 0-4 Portales Rams come to town for a double-dip starting at 1 p.m.

As of this report the Rams have lost twice each to Goddard and Clovis. Lefthander, Julian



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Warrior catcher Ryan Yaksich sets up to receive a pitch while umpire Ray Merritt is ready to make the call in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader which RHS won. Yaksich hit an 0-2 pitch over the left field fence with three on in the seventh inning to help his team to a dramatic 9-8 victory.

Lopez, started last Friday's single game against Lubbock Christian with Ryan Yaksich as his battery mate.

The normally reliable

Lopez was blitzed for 10 runs in the first two innings before junior David Kacena was brought in with one out in the second inning.

Ruidoso showed a flash of brilliance when they answered with 10 runs in

See RHS, page 2B

## A fighter's requiem

Some might say that his life ended on a deserted beach, others on a Manhattan street, or on the mat as the towel was thrown in. I take the contrarian's view that his redemption was just starting. "Grab his hands," the Neanderthal with the twenty-inch pythons said.

A sea of polyester pants and satin shirts descended on the exit door, the music of Donna Summer was blaring from the overhead speakers and pools of crimson blood were streaked across the dance floor with more on the periphery where several men brandishing bloody noses, one with what I saw looked in need of immediate surgery, the bridge completely shattered and flattened characteristic of an Aunt Jemima pancake.

An even bigger Goliath of a man grabbed Paddy in a bear-hug from behind and three in total took the five-foot six-inch teen to the ground.

Snaking and slithering the men were unable to contain him as Paddy got back on his feet.

A flurry of well orchestrated shots were fired. Jabs, followed by hooks and upper-cuts floored the three doomed bouncers as the dance hall vacated.

Paddy Cecardi was the son of an Italian businessman with links to organized crime.

His father cursed his Irish Catholic wife and the baby she bore. The father named the boy "Paddy" which was a negative connotation to the drunken Irish he grew up with and came to loathe in Manhattan's Lower East Side; "Paddy's"

being the intoxicated Irish men frequently taken away in the police wagons commonly referred to as "Paddy-Wagons."

I first met Paddy Cecardi at a high school dance. I was on a date and unbeknownst to me she had not remembered to tell Paddy that she was breaking up with him.

The diminutive boy, not a

pound over one-hundred thirty, was unassuming in his school uniform of gray slacks, white-collared shirt, and gray sport coat.

We had words but he made it clear he did not want to fight. I assumed that it was because of our mutual friends that he had walked away.

Months later we were working out together at Fox Gym, Staten Island's oldest boxing gym. He spent hours hitting the heavy bag, his punches landing like sledge hammers. Before his sparring sessions he spent more time on his knees saying "Hail Mary" and "Our Father," than the match lasted before quickly KOing his opponent.

He won the Golden Gloves and in his early twenties turned professional. For the first year I saw several of his matches in Atlantic City and he was impressive with knockouts in the early rounds.

As his star rose the hangers-on, the low-life enablers looking for a meal ticket came his way. As a cop I was on the other side of the fence and soon the free tickets he had given me to see

him fight ended.

He rambled at ringside, reminiscent of a Charlie Sheen drug debacle. He was tired and spent from nights of partying, his reflexes slowed and he spent the remainder of his career on his back.

With occasional glimpses of his former self he attempted several comebacks but by 29 his career was over.

It is unclear what demons filled his mind; he consorted with a nefarious crew of small time hoods; no-one knows or will admit why he was on that otherwise deserted Staten Island beach that winter night, and it is unknown why he pummeled a man to death with his fists.

I ran into him years later. His face was severely scarred, he had perennial black eyes, and his nose had pan-caked just like the guy during the disco fight years earlier.

He was humbled by his three-year stint for manslaughter. He had stopped drugging, was married with a little girl

See REQUIEM, page 2B

## Training races set for May at Ruidoso Downs

TY WYANT  
Ruidoso Downs Track Publicist

Training races for 2-year olds are being scheduled at Ruidoso Downs to support horsemen preparing prospects for the summer season at Ruidoso Downs that begins with trials to the Grade 1, \$500,000 Ruidoso Futurity

on May 27.

The 330-yard training races will be held on Monday, May 9 and additional training races will be provided on May 10 and 11, if needed.

The May 9 training races will be 18 days before the Ruidoso Futurity trials. Each race will be limited to six horses.

The training races will begin at 8:30 a.m. each day. On training-race mornings, plans call for the track to open at 6 a.m. and then close at 8:00 a.m. for renovation.

The papers of horses participating in the training races must be in the racing office by May 2 and the training races will be

drawn on May 5.

The training races follow a weekend with the full-card simulcast wagering on the Kentucky Oaks program from Churchill Downs on May 6 and the simulcast of the Kentucky Derby card from Churchill Downs on May 7.

Wagering and special promotions will be offered

in Billy's Race Book and Sport's Bar.

The 60-day summer season at Ruidoso Downs is capped by the Grade 1, \$2,400,000 (est.) All American Futurity on Labor Day, the world's richest quarter horse race.

The All American Triple Crown is comprised of the Ruidoso Futurity on

June 12, the Grade 1, \$700,000 Rainbow

Futurity on July 24 and then the All American Futurity.

If a horse wins all three futurities then that horse's connections earn the \$4,000,000 All American Triple Crown Bonus, the richest in quarter horse racing.

# NMSU baseball team wins eight straight; softballers beat Spartans

SUN-NEWS REPORT  
Las Cruces Sun-News

**LAS CRUCES** — The New Mexico State baseball team picked up another series sweep after defeating Binghamton in a Saturday double header, 13-5 in Game 1 and 7-3 in Game 2 at Presley Askew Field.

The Aggies improved to 19-5 with their eighth straight win after posting 20 runs on 24 hits on

Saturday. NMSU tallied five doubles and 15 walks on the day, while starting pitchers Ryan Beck and Riley Bevill each earned a win.

Beck threw a complete game, marking seven strikeouts in seven innings and Bevill got his first win as an Aggie, working 6 1/3 effective innings.

"Our guys had good at-bats today and we worked their pitchers the way we know how to," head coach

Rocky Ward said.

"It was a good day for the Aggies. We played good, solid defense and swung the bat well."

## Aggie softball

**LAS CRUCES** — Aided by a one-hitter in game one and 18 runs in game two, the New Mexico State softball team swept a double-header from San Jose State with a pair of five-inning victories, 9-0 and 18-9, to sweep the series

from the Spartans at the NMSU Softball Complex Saturday afternoon.

NMSU (22-10, 3-0 WAC) won Game 1 behind the stellar pitching of sophomore Alex Newman who improved to 13-2 with the win.

Newman faced 18 Spartan batters, allowing just one run and two walks.

The Aggies hit four home runs in the game including two from fresh-

man Valerie Swedberg.

In game two, NMSU fell behind 7-1 in the second inning but scored 11 in the third and six runs in the fourth for a come-from-behind 18-9 win.

The Aggies posted 27 runs and 22 hits including six homers on the day. Beside the pair from Swedberg in game one, senior Ashley Maroda and sophomore Teresa Conrad notched a round tripper in each game — one a grand

slam from Maroda in game two.

The 3-0 sweep gives NMSU its first opening weekend series win since joining the WAC in 2005.

The Aggies also have posted the best start in program history at 32 games into the season with a 22-10 record. NMSU won 27 games last season. The all-time record for Aggie wins in a season is 40 posted by the 1996 squad against 25 losses.

## RHS

FROM PAGE 1B

the bottom of the second, which got Lopez off the hook for the loss. Four of those runs came from a bases-loaded inside the park home run by J.B. Lewis.

Another key hit in the second inning came from an RBI double by Lopez. The remaining runs came from five walks, a hit batsman and an error.

Sophomore Ryan Francis relieved Kacena in the top of the fourth. In addition to the two runs Lubbock scored in the third the visiting Eagles went on to score five runs in the fourth and six in the fifth. Ruidoso was only able to put one more run across the dish and that came in the bottom of the fourth.

Righthander, Brendan Flack, stepped on the rubber for Ruidoso in the first-of-two Saturday. Yaksich set up behind the plate.

The Eagles broke out on

top in the first inning with one run but the Warriors answered with one of their own to knot the score at 1-1 at the end of one.

Flack was on his game and shut out the Eagles in the second and third innings. The Warriors pushed another run across in the bottom of the third to take a one-run lead.

Flack served up another goose egg to Lubbock in the fourth and RHS scored two in the bottom of that inning to take a 4-1 advantage. Lubbock replied with a lone run in the fifth and sixth innings but the hometown boys came back with one of their own in the sixth to claim a 5-3 lead.

With one on from a walk in the seventh and one out, Lewis was brought in to relieve Flack. The Eagles scored five big runs in that last apparent inning and took a daunting 8-5 lead. But the Warriors weren't finished.

Garrett Thompson singled to open the inning, Kacena doubled to the left field corner and Sanchez

walked to load the bases with no outs. The next Ruidoso batter went down on strikes.

Enter Yaksich. The count on the Ruidoso catcher went to 0-2. The next pitch was a fastball which Yaksich slammed over the left field fence to win the game for the Warriors. They had them all the way.

"It was an inside strike he threw at me," the happy sophomore said. "That's finally what I needed to do. I was glad to help my team."

Two other four-baggers were hit by Ruidoso in the game — both by Kayle Frierson. In all, the Warriors collected seven hits in the contest, but they were crucial. Exceptional defensive plays were turned in by Kacena and Lewis in the contest.

For a team that was so dramatically beaten in the first game the Eagles showed grit in the second contest of the day. Other teams may have only showed up physically for the next game.

Lubbock scored seven runs in the first inning, two in the second, five in the third and five more in the fourth. Ruidoso couldn't break the ice and put zeroes on the scoreboard in all five of their innings.

Lewis started with Yaksich behind the plate and was relieved by Francis in the first inning. Kacena relieved Francis in the top of the third, who was in turn relieved by Thompson in the fourth.

Lubbock returned the favor for the Yaksich grand slam in the first game by serving up one of their own in the fourth inning off Francis.

In fairness to Francis, five errors were committed by the Warriors. Earlier in the game, Flack at short, made a stellar defensive diving catch on a ground ball to hold the advancing first base runner to second.

Eight of the next 12 games on the regular season schedule will see the Warriors play district rivals Lovington and Portales four times each,



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Brendan Flack gave a strong effort in Game 1 Saturday.

including this Saturday's doubleheader against the visiting Rams.

"These are the games that really matter," Ruidoso head coach Gilbert Alvarado said. "The district

struggle is on our immediate horizon. Doing well in district, is and was, our team goal.

"Ruidoso has never won a district baseball championship."

## REQUIEM

FROM PAGE 1B

and he had built a burgeoning construction business. I asked Paddy how he got into construction.

"Billy, my father was Italian-Venetian to be exact. He came from a family of plasterers.

That's how I built my for-

tune after I got out of prison," Paddy said.

He told me he had a lot to live for and a lot to be sorry for.

He told me he had not missed daily mass in over two years and every Friday he made a pilgrimage to St. Patrick's Cathedral in Midtown Manhattan.

Several years ago I read that Paddy had been

run over by a dump truck at a Manhattan construction site.

Out of all my memories of him; boxing, the disco fight, the manslaughter conviction, the memory that is indelibly etched in my memory is the memory of an unassuming, Catholic school student standing in front of me with his gray blazer and gray slacks.

### Military Appreciation Weekend (MAW)

Millie Woods, President  
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Ruidoso, NM 88355  
loftyheights@windstream.net  
www.ruidosomaw.org

Millie Woods, President of Military Appreciation Weekend (MAW), B. G. Jack Fox, US Army, NM National Guard, ret. MAW Director of Military Affairs, and VOR Mayor Ray Alborn

Requests the honor of your presence as a very important witness to this Covenant Signing. Because you are important to MAW, the VOR and to this community, I am deviating from proper etiquette and military protocol and making this an open invitation. Your presence will be evidence of your support of the troops and the Ruidoso and Greater Lincoln County area.

The Community Covenant Ceremony between Ruidoso and Greater Lincoln County and the surrounding military installations, including New Mexico National Guard, is being held Saturday, April 30, 6:00 PM in conjunction with the MAW 2011 Awards Banquet, Ruidoso Middle School, 123 Warrior, Ruidoso, NM.

Please RSVP by Friday April 01, 2011  
Banquet Tickets \$12.00  
For more information, please call (575) 336-2828  
Military Dress: ACU  
Civilian Dress: Coat and Tie

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Ruidoso's game again

Ryan Yal Later, he c

Ad

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MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso's Ray Merritt is the field umpire in the Warriors' second game against Lubbock Christian Saturday.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Kayle Frierson is set to round first after hitting his second home run in the first game of a twinbill Saturday as Ruidoso head coach Gilbert Alvarado (behind) and the Lubbock pitcher watch the ball go over the left field fence.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Brendan Flack gets hit in the first game Saturday, which the Warriors went on to win in dramatic fashion with a last-inning grand slam by Ryan Yaksich.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Julian Lopez started Friday's game against Lubbock Christian.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ryan Yaksich fouls one straight back in Saturday's first game. Later, he crushed a grand slam to win that game 9-8.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Senior Jesse Scarafiotti gets the bat on the ball as Ruidoso head coach Gilbert Alvarado looks on.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Forrest Sanchez just misses a hit down the first base line in Ruidoso's second game of the doubleheader Saturday.

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MITCHELL

Is a handsome retriever/boxer mix, about 1 year old. He does very well with other dogs, is housebroken and walks well on a leash. Mitchell has medium length golden fur and a very sweet disposition. He weighs about 45 pounds, is neutered and current on his vaccinations.

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GRETEL

Is a cute, petite cat about 10 months old. She is short haired and has grey tabby markings. Gretel is very affectionate and loves playing with other cats. Gretel only weighs about 6-7 pounds, is spayed and current on her vaccinations.

SPONSORED BY  
JUANITA MOTE



NIGEL

Is a great little Mini Pin mix, about 1 year old. He is solid black and weighs about 11 pounds. Nigel is very playful, walks well on a leash and is also very friendly.

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JANET & KEN LANE  
IN MEMORY OF TODD



MALCOLM

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

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ROMAN

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

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SPEEDY

Is a wonderful kitten, about 4-5 months old. He came into the shelter with 3 other kittens, whom have all been adopted. Speedy has been here since November and desperately needs a home. He does very well with children and other cats/kittens. Speedy is extremely affectionate and well socialized.

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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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MARGE

Is a big, beautiful cat with lots of personality. She expects to be treated like royalty and will let you know it! Marge has unique torbie markings, is 3 years old, spayed and current on her vaccinations.

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RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso forester, v in 2009 to Conserva opment o the Nat Conserva may be th al budget Lincoln ger Tom county c their met month th emergenc South C Resource Developn March learned budget v reduced. "This the comi funding fi dinator, be elimi

NM  
nat

Jane cial cow/ San Jon elected R ident for State Be in Denve Frost grassroot for beef ducers o national gram, a opment s serve on executiv Fros number in local industry

Kitty To passed Dougl before i Univers was vol the coll Georghi and Gr Kitty m on Aug lived in settling Broad comm only o station operat report Throu Assoc Hong repres in 19f 1n 19 Farni Las C Walt l establ KWI Kitty Board City f Deml Chap Amer Presl choif were gran Kitty Bob surv Robt Tobe godt Funi Chu Mou don fund

# LINCOLN COUNTY

## When the cows came home

My father bought the ranch I live on in 1969. Prior to that he had ranched in Torrance County and west of Belen.

He raised mostly Herefords or Hereford-cross cattle. This ranch, however, was more rugged and the Herefords did not fare well, so he went to Arizona and bought some pure bred Brahmas.

They came complete with the humps on their back and were long of ear. We, the McKinley family, learned a complete new way of ranching.

Comparing ranching with Herefords to ranching with Brahmas can be compared to leaving a concert of classical music and going next door to a Hip Hop Bar. Not much in common.

Prior to having Brahmas, when driving cattle there wasn't much need for a point man and was a great demand for cowboys on the drag end.

Herefords, God bless them, see no need in getting in a hurry and when the day gets hot and the trail gets long, they just basically quit going anywhere.

Brahmas on the other hand have only two speeds of travel, a slow trot or a fast trot and heat seems not to enter into either equation.

Hereford cows will walk off from their calves, which again goes back to a lot of cowboys in the drags.

This is my own opinion and can in no way be backed up by facts. But, it is my firm belief that somewhere back in the beginning of time, Brahmas were bred to jack rabbits (well just look at them before you argue) because even small Brahma calves can keep up with their mothers.

When you get to the back of the pasture before daylight, you learn not to holler unless you want to find yourself about a half mile behind the herd when it gets enough light to see.

Putting Herefords in the corral means you have to do a lot of shouting and hollering because they have a tendency to get to the gate and stand in the gate.

Putting Brahmas in the corral means

you better have someone at the front of the herd who is fast at getting off his horse and shutting the gate or else the Brahmas will double back and take you and the gate you are holding back to whence they came.

We all got much quicker on the alley gates. Brahmas are fairly easy to cut but they only have patience for one time in the alley.

If, God forbid, you should miss something and need to reload the alley? Things get much more exciting the second time around!

That brings me to the story of Sugar Sack. For some reason known only to my father and God, the decision was made to name a Brahma calf and take her to the County Fair.

Daddy picked out a nice lass, gave her the name Sugar Sack and the taming process commenced.

My father is very good at making plans and very bad about making plans at the spur of the moment. This taming process started about two weeks out from the fair.

Turns out Sugar Sack was easy to corral but didn't like being in a pen, which accounted for the loss of several gates which were nothing to brag about and a chute which needed replacing anyway.

A halter was put on Sugar Sack and she was then taught to lead. Since my brother Marc was a track star, a high trot around the corrals wasn't above his running abilities.

What can only be termed as a collective gasp was heard around the fair grounds when Marc unloaded Sugar Sack.

Marc didn't come home with any ribbons that year, partly due to the fact there is no class for Brahma calves and partly because the judges never left the top of fence!

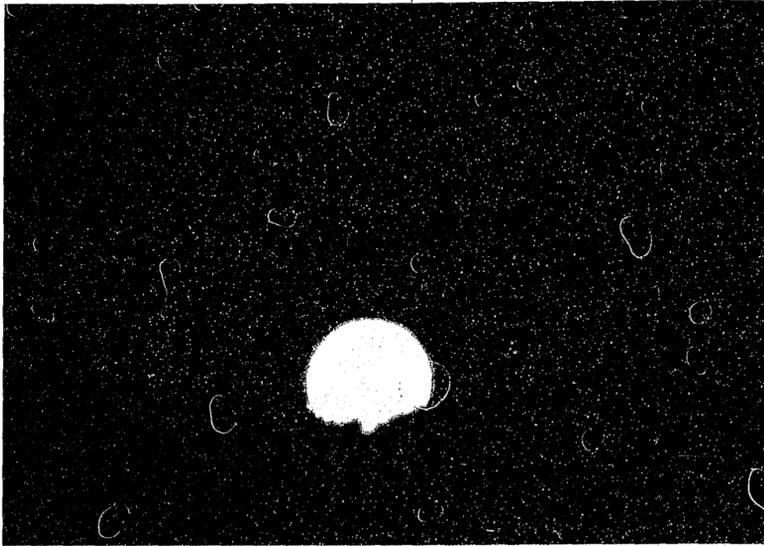
In fact, truth be told, the other contestants kept a close eye on Marc and Sugar Sack and never looked at the judges.

Welda McKinley Grider is a Lincoln County native, ranch and business owner.



Welda McKinley Grider

## PORCH VIEW



COURTESY BRAD COOPER

Last week's Super Moon was captured by photographer Brad Cooper from his porch at home as it rose over the Patos Mountains near White Oaks.

## Capitan earns A+ audit

JULIE CARTER  
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

Thad Porch Associates, an Albuquerque auditing firm represented by Thad Porch, gave the Village of Capitan a top grade for the 2009-2010 Audit at the March 15 Village council meeting.

The Village of Capitan was given an "unqualified" opinion. "That's the best opinion you can get," Porch said.

According to the New Mexico State Auditor's website, "Unqualified opinion" means that the auditor was able to audit the financial statements (entity's books, records, etc.) without problem. The auditor feels confident that every-

thing in the financial statements is a true reflection of the entity's operations.

"We've been doing your audit for a number of years. This year's audit is different than last year's because it's a single audit of financial, governmental and compliance. This was a 'no findings' audit which is unusual for an entity of this size," Porch said.

"I'd like to point something out," Porch said, "Looking at the current assets, current liabilities and then the future liabilities, Capitan is very healthy financially."

Porch said it was "perfect audit." No bad news, no findings and was in to the state auditor on time, he said.

The trustees unanimously accepted the 2010 audit. The audit can be seen in its entirety on the State Auditor's website at www.saonm.org.

In other business, the village trustees approved:

- a resolution lowering the 2011 per diem rate to 50 cents a mile, down from 55 cents;

- assigning the road name "Horizon Drive" to a little road off of Deer Trail with just one house on it;

- uniform Film Registration requiring movie companies to register with Village when making a film in the town;

- resolution for New Mexico Department of Transportation for the 2011-12 COOP Project.

## Ag women seeking 'Diamond in the Rough' nominations

"Innovation and Collaboration" will be the theme of the ninth Women in Agriculture Leadership Conference (WALC), to be held in Albuquerque, April 27-29.

The 2011 WALC will be held in conjunction with the American National CattleWomen (ANCW) Region VI Meeting with participants from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Hawaii, and Nevada.

More than 200 women from across the Southwest's agricultural industry are expected to come together to discuss current issues, network, and honor outstanding women in the group.

The "Diamond in the Rough" award was created to recognize an outstanding woman in New Mexico agriculture and highlight her efforts and contributions.

Initiated by the WALC and its various sponsors, the award (previously called the Corazon Award) has been given at each of the previous conferences during a special awards ceremony.

Nominations are currently being accepted for those women that, through their actions, strive to make New Mexico's agricultural industry a prosperous, viable component of the Land of Enchant-

ment. This conference, held every two years in different locations around the state, draws women from all types of agriculture.

"Today's agricultural women are integral parts of their families' agricultural operations and agri-business, in addition to their traditional roles," said Shacey Sullivan, Farm Credit of New Mexico, Conference Co-Chair.

Nomination forms for the award as well as registration information on the conference can be found at www.nmagriculture.org or www.nmfarmbureau.org; and must be received by April 1, 2011 to be considered.

## CARRIZOZO SCHOOLS HONOR ROLL

### Third 9-weeks

Shayna Zamora

Caleb Ventura

### A Honor Roll

### 12th Grade

### 8th Grade

Deline Arteché  
Kristie Gallacher  
Gracie Hooten  
Lashae Luera  
Garrison Ventura  
Janae Willingham

Joel Ferguson  
Kylie Gaines  
Jordan Hill  
Chelsea LaMay  
Cory Meehan  
Troy Niederstadt  
Jenna Schartz  
Lauren Smith  
Wade Sultemeier  
Marshal Wilson  
Stephanie Zamora

Gene Gore  
  
9th Grade  
Devon Arteché  
Nicholas Chavez  
Jace Hill  
Dalton Vega  
Erica Vega

7th Grade  
Cirsten Barela  
Emily Comstock  
Christian Najar  
Lexi Zamora

### B Honor Roll

### 5th Grade

8th Grade  
Jacie Thornton

Cody Carter  
Xavier Zamora  
6th Grade:  
Marcus Campbell  
Alex Randolph  
Taylor Thornton  
Hannah Ventura  
Mikhail Zamora-Barela

9th Grade  
Sarah Ferguson  
Shayna Gallacher  
Mason Huston  
Johnathan Smith

10th Grade  
Brittany Simmons  
Victoria Ventura

7th Grade  
Micah Hamilton

## COUNTY BRIEFS

### Smokey Playground

Playground in Capitan.

There will be a community playground spruce-up on April 2, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Smokey Bear

### Tried by True Sale

The Carrizozo Woman's Club will have their annual

Tried But True Sale of gently-used items of all kinds at the Clubhouse on Friday, April 15, from noon to 6 p.m., and on Saturday, April 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This year the Woman's Club is inviting public participation by renting tables and other spaces for your individual sale.

There are 20 table spaces for rent at \$15 each. Vendors can set up for the sale on Friday, April 15 from 9 a.m. until noon when the sale opens to the

public.

Take this great opportunity to sell all those things you no longer need. Clean out the closets and put some jingle in your pocket.

Over the years, the Carrizozo Woman's Club has had some terrific valuations at the Tried But True Sale, including furniture and antiques, tools, artwork, books, luggage, clothing, jewelry and collectibles.

The Clubhouse is located at 11th and D Avenue in Carrizozo. For more

information call Sharon Hefker at 648-2219.

### Carrizozo Clean-up

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

### Appliance roundup

There is still time for the free disposal hot water heaters, pipes, dishwashers or washing machines that

were damaged during the sub-zero temperatures.

The roundup runs until April 27. Call Karen at 575-378-4697, Ext. 13 for information.

### Warm Winter help

The Town of Carrizozo and Carrizozo Works, Inc., have a contract to provide weatherization services to 60 Carrizozo homes and businesses.

Applications are still being taken. Call 575-648-8500 for information.

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# RC&D coordinator may fall to federal budget cuts

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Ruidoso's former village forester, who left that post in 2009 to become Resource Conservation and Development coordinator with the Natural Resource Conservation Services, may be the victim of federal budget cuts.

Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart alerted county commissioners at their meeting earlier this month that he attended an emergency meeting of the South Central Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council on March 17, where he learned that the NRCS budget was significantly reduced.

"This will mean that in the coming month or so, funding for the RC&D coordinator, Rick Delaco, will be eliminated," Stewart

said. This far, the RC&D Council intends to meet its current obligations and do all it can to remain in business. This is a developing story.

Commissioner Jackie Powell said no final decision has been made, but agency officials are trying to eliminate 375 salaries for coordinators nationwide.

"The position is important here," she said. "We're not sure how to continue, whether to outsource it instead of being another government position. This is America and small counties, we find ways to move forward. I never thought government was the answer. Maybe this is a new beginning."

The local RC&D Council fought each year to keep the position and the NRCS stepped up and kept them, but the agency may not be

able to continue that support, she said.

Stewart said councilors are "extremely positive and going forward with their projects." They may be able to use Title III federal funding as an alternative.

"We've assisted with \$7,500 a year for the secretary and (a portion of the salary) for hiring a rural community forester (with Otero County), who is doing a lot of field work," Stewart said.

The budget for the RC&D comes through a percentage administration fee for each project, and therefore, varies from year

to year.

"We need to continue looking to diversify our economy to have all sorts of things going on," Powell said. "Idaho does things in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and with other states."

Many projects focus on creating and maintaining trails, getting people out hiking and on biking, because most people were born in cities, she said. Trails are important for tourism. Public/private partnership and cooperative projects would be per-

fect for this area, she said.

Stewart said the RC & D employs three people. Delaco's position was the only one totally funded with federal dollars.

Commissioner Tom Battin suggested asking if local BLM officials would be interested in sharing Delaco's position with the RC&D Council.

Stewart said April 19 kicks off county budget requests and a budget hearing is set for May 3, giving time for some possibilities to be put together for county funding presentations.

Announcing an emer-

gency meeting of the SCMRCD at 10 a.m., Thursday, at the Lincoln County Hondo Senior Center on U.S. 380 west of the US 380/U.S. 70 intersection, Delaco last week wrote, "I cannot emphasize enough how important the next few meetings will be as SCMRCD adjusts to life without a coordinator."

"I am confident the transition will be a soft close-out, but having said that, there are a lot of challenges to be discussed and resolved. I am proud and delighted that the Board has decided to stay strong and move forward."

# NM woman elected to national Beef Council

Jane Frost, a commercial cow/calf producer from San Jon, N.M., has been elected Region VI vice president for the Federation of State Beef Councils based in Denver.

Frost will serve as a grassroots representative for beef councils and producers on initiatives of the national beef checkoff program, a beef market development fund. She will also serve on NCBA's national executive committee.

Frost has served in a number of leadership roles in local and state cattle industry organizations, in-

cluding the Quay County Cattle Growers, the Wagon Wheel Cowbelles, the New Mexico Beef Council and the New Mexico Cattle Growers.

At the national level, she has been a member of NCBA's executive committee; chairman of Beef Industry Council's retail and beef marketing committee; a member of the advertising and research committees under the National Live Stock and Meat Board; and a member of the checkoff's New Product and Culinary Initiatives Committee.

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Kathryn  
"Kitty"  
Stroud Tobey

Kitty Tobey was born in Douglas, Georgia on December 14, 1925 and she passed away on March 15, 2011, 86 years of age. She graduated from Douglas High School in 1942. She spent a year at South Georgia College before enrolling at Georgia State Woman's College (now Valdosta State University) in Valdosta, Georgia. Kitty was a member of the Glee Club and was voted as one of Ten Outstanding Seniors. She was also co-editor for the college yearbook. Upon graduation in 1946, Kitty moved to Atlanta, Georgia and trained to become a laboratory technician at Emory University and Grady Hospital.

Kitty met her husband, Robert W. Tobey, in January 1946 and they married on August 31, 1946. The couple left Georgia for good later that year and lived in Austin, Corpus Christi and Brownfield, Texas before moving and settling in Deming, NM in 1953 where they established the Luna County Broadcasting Company and KOTS radio. The radio station began commercially broadcasting on March 10, 1954 and at the time there was only one house and the radio station south of Florida Street. The radio station's telephone number was 911. Kitty was active in the day to day operation of the station selling advertising, writing commercials and news reports, preparing the daily log and performing accounting functions. Through their association with the Associated Press and the National Association of Broadcasters, the couple traveled to Russia, China, Japan, Hong Kong, Greece, Italy, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, Iran, England and Mexico representing United States broadcasters. The Tobey's sold the radio station in 1989 ending 35 years of broadcasting in Luna County.

In 1956, the Tobey's entered into a partnership with Jim and Ruth Gober of Farmington, NM. At the time, the Gobers moved from Austin, TX to live in Las Cruces, NM and operated KOBE-AM radio. The station was later sold to Walt Rubens. In 1959, the partnership of Tobey, Gober and Merriman established KWYK-AM radio in Farmington and later KNDN-AM and KWYK-FM radio. The partnership has been in existence for 55 years.

Kitty was very active within the Deming community. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Deming Public Library for 28 years, the Deming City Parks and Recreation Committee for 18 years and was a member of the Deming Book Review Club for 38 years. She was a Charter Member of the Chapter AT, P.E.O. Sisterhood and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was an active member of the First United Presbyterian Church and served as Deacon, Elder, Clerk of the Session and choir member. She later joined the United Methodist Church. Her hobbies were needlepoint, playing bridge, giving book reports and being a grandmother.

Kitty is survived by her brother Thomas Stroud and her three children Emily, Bob Jr. and his wife Lorraine and Terry and his wife Josie. She is also survived by her grandchildren Sandra Hunt, Stephanie, Sheana, Rachel, Robert III, and John Terry Tobey; nieces and nephews, David and Tommy Tobey, Deborah Morlon, Beth Knittel, Tommy, Fred, and Brad Stroud, and grandson, Kerwin Gober.

Funeral arrangements have been scheduled at the First United Methodist Church in Deming, NM on Saturday, March 26th at 1pm, burial to follow at Mountain View Cemetery. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Lillian, Kitty and Emily Tobey PEO Scholarship fund, c/o Carol Krum, 3012 Wedge Rd. SE, Deming, NM, 88030.

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# Robbery thwarted, two teens arrested

HAROLD OAKES  
hoakes@ruidosonews.com

A security guard, fending off a knife-wielding, would-be robber at a Ruidoso convenience store Tuesday morning, thwarting a robbery.

Ruidoso Police arrested Alvino Saenz, Jr., 18, and Kyle Chee, 16, both of Mesalero, shortly after the Diamond Shamrock store clerk called 911 to report he attempted robbery at the store in the 1900 block of Sudderth Drive at 5:43 a.m.

"They had just entered the store through the front door, and at least one of them had a bandana over his face, when the (security guard) came out of the bathroom," Ruidoso Detective Sergeant Wade Proctor said. "The 18-year old (Saenz) pulled out his pocket knife and approached the man. He had to grab (Saenz's) wrist and turn the knife away. A scuffle ensued and (Saenz) broke away."

The security guard, who asked not to be identified, said that he was just protecting himself.

"I was in the bathroom, washing my hands when I heard the clerk say 'Oh, no,'" he said. "I came out and the man rushed at me getting a knife out of his pocket. He kept lunging at me and I grabbed his wrist and twisted it around to keep him from stabbing me."

The guard said he then managed to slam Saenz into the wall and grabbed a bottle of octane boost from the shelf.

"I hit him with the bottle and that dazed him," he said. "That's when they took off. I followed them to see which way they went."

"The kids took off and the officers caught up with them a short time later," Proctor said.

Officers Steve Corbin and Jon Lund responded to the call.

"We were advised that they ran in the direction of Wingfield Street," Corbin said. Ruidoso Police dispatch gave the officers a description of the two men. "I located two men in the 200 block of Wingfield that matched the description and detained them."

Corbin said the Diamond Shamrock store clerk positively identified Saenz and Chee as the men who had attempted to rob the store.

"The quick response by Corbin and Lund was the key to apprehending these two," Proctor said.

Corbin is charging Chee, a minor, with attempted robbery, conspiracy to commit attempted robbery, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting, evading or obstructing an officer.

Corbin charged Saenz with attempted robbery, aggravated battery, conspiracy to commit aggra-

vated robbery, resisting, evading or obstructing an officer and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Ruidoso Police Chief Joe Magill commended Corbin and Lund for their apprehension of the two men.

"They did an excellent job," Magill said. "Instead of just routinely driving over there and checking around, they performed tactical procedures that lead to the apprehension of these two subjects. I'm proud of them."

A would-be robber struck this same store in the early morning hours of Jan. 17, 2010, dropping from the roof of the building, threatening the clerk with a large machete type knife and cutting her hand when the alarm sounded, scaring him off.

He left empty handed also.

# Car crashes through wall, lands on roof backwards

HAROLD OAKES  
hoakes@ruidosonews.com

Ruidoso Police are trying to figure out how a Ford Bronco crashed through a wall at the end of Hollis Street and ended up on the roof of the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble building, backwards, Saturday morning. They also want to know who was driving.

A Ruidoso News delivery driver notified police at about 5:30 a.m. that the vehicle was sitting with the back wheels on the roof and the front wheels in street on Park Avenue, across from the Ruidoso News.

Ruidoso Police Sergeant Dale Harrison said there was no one in the vehicle and they were unable to locate the owner of the vehicle. The owner reportedly called police later Saturday morning to report someone had broken into his home, stolen the keys



HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Workers with Stout Mechanical clean up the broken concrete blocks on top of the Ruidoso Dance Ensemble building Saturday morning. They also had to replace a section of a gas line. A vehicle backed through the wall and landed with the back wheels on the roof of the building.

and taken the vehicle.

The vehicle destroyed a section of concrete-block wall and chain link fence and broke a natural gas pipeline that feeds the building. This interrupted business at The Wild Herb Market, located just north of where the vehicle landed

on the roof.

Tire marks on the roof indicate that the driver attempted to drive off the roof.

Anyone with information about this accident is asked to call the Ruidoso Police Department at 575-258-7365.

## CARRIZOZO MAGISTRATE COURT CASES

### March 9

Ervin Gutierrez, 31, appeared in court, waived the right to an attorney, and pleaded no contest to an amended charge of disorderly conduct under a plea and disposition agreement.

Under the agreement, the State amended the charge from battery and Judge Martha Proctor deferred Gutierrez's sentence for 182 days.

Proctor ordered Gutierrez to pay a \$100 bench warrant fee and \$67 in court costs and placed him on 182 days of unsupervised parole.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Johnny Parker filed the charge against Gutierrez for a fight that took place in the bar at Tinnie's Silver Dollar April 18, 2009. Gutierrez reportedly got into an argument with three men at the bar and was knocked unconscious

by one of the men.

### March 11

Robert Morales, 20, appeared in court and pleaded no contest to a charge of open container under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney John Bernitz.

Under the agreement, the State dismissed a

charge of driving on a suspended or revoked license and Judge Martha Proctor sentenced Morales to pay a \$25 fine and \$86 in court costs.

Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff Pat Montes charged Morales with driving on a revoked or suspended license and open container Jan. 22, 2011 after reportedly observing Morales turn into the Allsup's in Carrizozo without giving a turn signal.

# Community United Methodist Church of Ruidoso

"Community United Methodist Church in Ruidoso undertook an ambitious outreach to the community and youth of Ruidoso about five years ago.

Three years ago, a new building was completed, at a cost of almost \$1 million, that was intended to be a safe place for the youth to gather and participate in a variety of activities.

Some of the options that are available are dances, homework/tutoring assistance, chess club, pre-game meals, and a computer lab, just to name a few.

The "Warehouse", as it has come to be known in the community, has been the result of enormous generosity of the church and many others in and around Ruidoso.

One gentleman has been so generous as to donate his RV with the intent of donating the full proceeds to the retirement of the mortgage for the Warehouse.

Currently, the mortgage sits at about \$100,000. Take the opportunity to look over the advertisement and consider benefiting the youth by enjoying the comfort of this beautiful RV on the open road!"

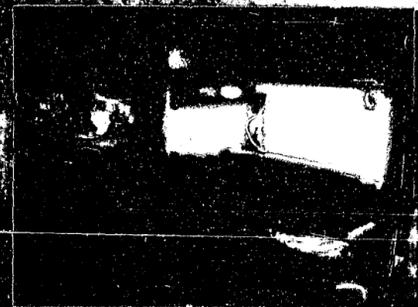
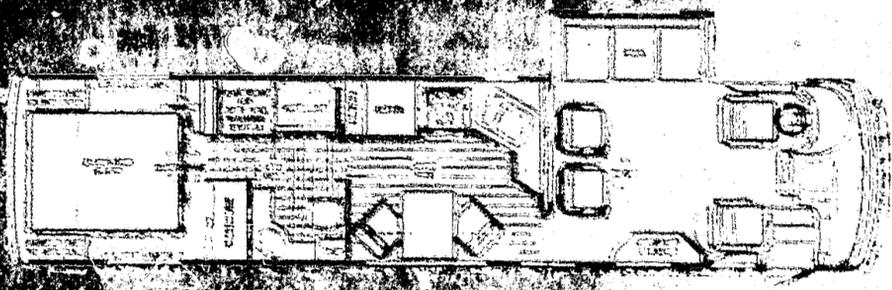
## MOTORHOME FOR SALE

The proceeds from the sale of the motorhome below will be donated to help pay off the loan on the Community Youth Center, a project of the church for Ruidoso youth. Please circulate or post this information. Owner must sell due to health problems of son from a broken hip and two heart attacks.



1995 Holiday Rambler Imperial w/ Slide  
39 ft. Class A  
Price \$35,000 odd  
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Description: 1995 Holiday Rambler Imperial 39' with living room slide-out to extend living quarters. This is a diesel pusher on a Spartan chassis. Quality workmanship and woodwork. 2 radiators and 600-40's cooling in living room. Fun television, dining set, refrigerator as shown on floor plan. Unit also has a 300-hp Cummins engine Allison 5 speed transmission, 1500 Amp Dual Diesel generator inverter, 100 gallon water tank, 40 amp and 12v charging system, combination weather cover and in operation, XM 100 satellite system. The refrigerator and hot water heater run on either electricity or propane. Unit has two 7.5 cu ft. air conditioned air conditioners, and 40 BTU furnace. The unit has most options available in this model year. The motorhome has all the bells and whistles. It has pass-through storage compartments, awnings on every window including slide awning on outside living area and an external TV hook-up for outside viewing. More detailed information and photos can be emailed.



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WEDNESDAY

Fire in section at about Lincoln spewed fire after morning

RUIDOSO

March

10:35  
Snodgrass a theft of  
Snodgrass victim's his 1999 motorcy  
Canyon, throttle man re motorcy the road someone him.  
When the motor

March

4:35

**GRASS FIRE DISRUPTS SCHOOL TRAFFIC**



HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Fire fighters hose down a burned area along Gavilan Canyon Road near the Warrior Drive intersection Monday afternoon. The police shut down Gavilan Canyon from Warrior to Meander Drive at about 3:15 p.m., disrupting traffic to and from Ruidoso High and Ruidoso Middle Schools. Lincoln County Emergency manager Travis Atwell said a malfunctioning catalytic converter, which spewed hot metal into the grass, started the fire. The fire burned just over an acre of grass. A grass fire along Highway 70, near Greentree Solid Waste Authority, burned a quarter-acre early Monday morning. With no rain in the forecast, fire danger remains high.

**Fire and smoke damage home**

HAROLD OAKES  
hoakes@ruidosonews.com

Fire and smoke caused extensive damage to a log home on Homestead Loop Saturday, but the home remains standing.

Thirteen fire fighters, two engines, two water tenders and an attack truck from the Bonito Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire at about 9:30

p.m. and remained on scene until about Midnight.

Kathryn Minter from the Bonito Volunteer Fire Department said that one Lincoln County Deputy Sheriff suffered from smoke inhalation but there were no other injuries reported. The home owners were not home at the time of the fire.

Minter said the damage was extensive.

According to Minter, the State Fire Marshall determined that the fire started from electrical wiring in the floor space.

Lincoln County Sheriff's deputies, medics from Lincoln County EMS and fire fighters and equipment from the Village of Ruidoso also responded.

Sierra Blanca Disaster Relief also responded to support the fire fighters.

**Phone causes two-car crash**

HAROLD OAKES  
hoakes@ruidosonews.com

Retrieving a cell phone reportedly led to a crash on Mechem Drive in North Ruidoso, Thursday evening.

The Ruidoso Police Department accident report shows that 16-year old Kiana DeYoung, of Capitan was driving north on

Mechem on Swiss Chalet Hill at about 8:25 p.m. when she reportedly reached into the passenger side floorboard to retrieve her cell phone.

This caused DeYoung to veer into the southbound lanes of Mechem Drive.

A 62-year old woman driving south on Mechem reportedly swerved left, into the northbound lane to

avoid a head-on collision.

The cars struck on the passenger sides, causing severe damage to both vehicles.

According to the accident report, DeYoung was not injured and the woman in the other car was transported to Lincoln County Medical Center for treatment. Police cited DeYoung for careless driving.

**RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS**

**March 14**

10:35 a.m. - Officer Josh Snodgrass took a report of a theft of a motor vehicle.

Snodgrass reported the victim said he was riding his 1992 white, Yamaha motorcycle on Gavilan Canyon Road when the throttle cable broke. The man reportedly left the motorcycle on the side of the road and went to call someone to pick it up for him.

When they arrived to get the motorcycle, it was gone.

**March 17**

4:35 p.m. - Animal Con-

trol officers Robert Simpson and Chris Eisenberg responded to the 400 block of Spring Drive in Ruidoso Downs for a report of a dog versus horse incident, with injuries.

The owner of the dog agreed to have the dog quarantined for 10 days to insure the dog did not transmit rabies to the horse when it bit the horse on the leg and rear. The horse owner did not wish to pursue charges against the dog owner.

5:16 p.m. - Officer Chris Bryant responded to the 100 block of Horton Circle for a report of criminal damage to property.

The homeowner reported that someone had thrown large rocks through the kitchen and bedroom windows.

**March 18**

6:10 p.m. - Officer Chris Bryant responded to the 200 block of Paradise Canyon for a report of a domestic disturbance.

Bryant reports that a girlfriend and boyfriend were drinking shots of whiskey and beer and she got upset with him after he had called his ex-wife to talk to his son. They began to argue.

A Ruidoso Village Water

Department employee called the police when he reportedly saw the woman chasing the man around the yard, throwing clothes at him and yelling for him to get out of her house.

The man then reportedly ran across the road and she threw rocks at him. Reportedly she did not hit him with any of the rocks.

The man then allegedly ran down to the river and she followed. The woman gave up the chase and walked back toward the house. She reportedly slipped and fell while climbing the hill back to the house and fell, scraping her elbow and back.

Bryant reports the woman went to her mother's house for the night.

**March 20**

9:32 p.m. - Officer Tillman Freeman responded to the 200 block of Coyote Lane for a report of criminal damage to property.

Freeman reported that his investigation and interviews with witnesses revealed that Yadira Sotelo, 23, of Fabens, Texas, damaged her boyfriend's truck, after the couple returned from a bar and got into an argument.

Sotelo reportedly threw things out of the truck,

kicked the windshield from inside, cracking the windshield and breaking the rear view mirror, kicked the shift lever and dented the door.

Freeman reported that he found a footprint on the inside of the windshield that matched the shoes Sotelo was wearing and listened to a voicemail on the boyfriend's phone where Sotelo allegedly said "look at your truck in the morning."

Freeman arrested Sotelo on a charge of criminal damage to property over \$1,000. The damage to the truck was estimated to be \$1,200.



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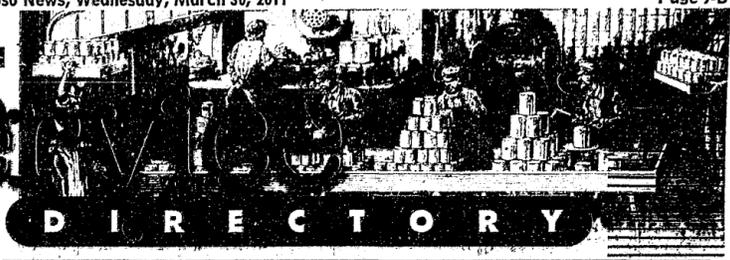
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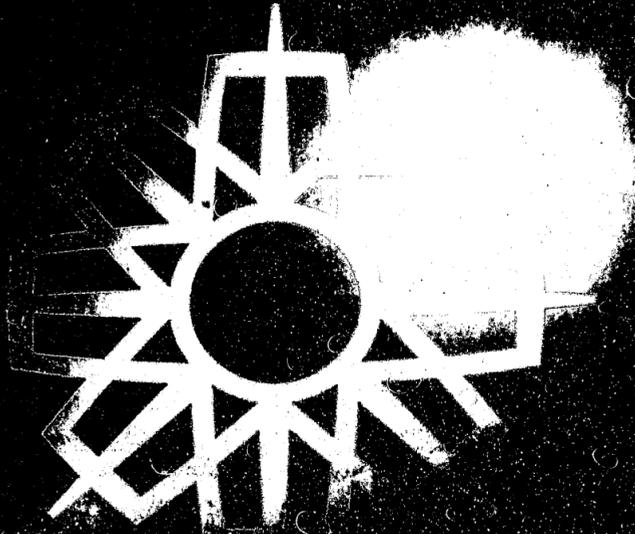
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