



FIRE DANGER HIGH

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011 • OUR 64TH YEAR, NO. 98 • 75 CENTS

Fire worries heat up

DIANNE STALLINGS
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By any rating – ‘high’ or ‘very high’ – agencies calibrate wildfire threat

With more days of dry weather and high winds ahead, Ruidoso village officials worry about a catastrophic wildfire, and they want to ensure that visitors realize the danger is rated at “Very High,” and restrictions apply.

They also pointed out that fire danger ratings that differ between communities and agencies confuse visitors as well as some local residents.

“I’m really worried about the weather and fire danger and

(Assistant Fire Chief) Harlan (Vincent) is losing a lot of sleep,” Village Manager Debi Lee told Ruidoso councilors Tuesday. “We have imposed fire restrictions and gave the power (to selected firefighters) to enforce it. I think it is a really important issue.”

Vincent said he and some of his firefighters were at the police station Monday to be sworn in for the authorization to issue cita-

tions, when a fire ignited along Gavilan Canyon and they had to leave. The cause has not been determined, but Vincent suspects a cigarette tossed from a vehicle.

“A woman called this morning, who was confused by the different fire danger levels posted by the U.S. Forest Service (for the Lincoln National Forest) and the Village of Ruidoso,” he said. The City of Ruidoso Downs, Lincoln

County and Mescalero also post their own levels and enact their separate restrictions.

Vincent explained that the Forest Service focuses on forest land and levels of moisture in the timber and vegetation. When that level changes, they wait five days before switching.

“We deal with an interface (of forest and homes) and when it peaks, we go to fire restrictions. If

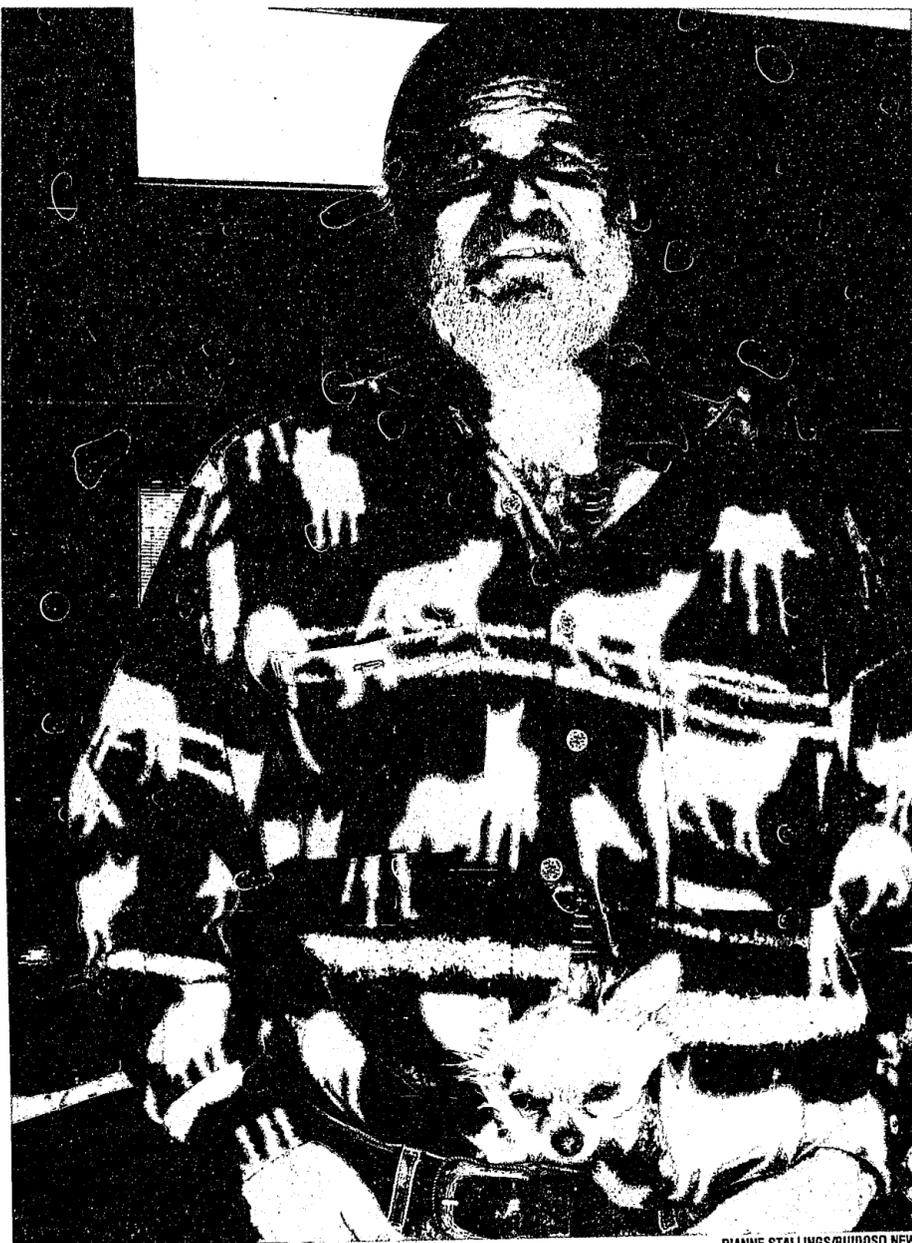
(the moisture rating) goes down and stays, then we remove them,” he said. “The forest service takes care of a forest, not an interface” with homes and a higher possibility of loss of civilian life.

“We have to be more aggressive than anyone else, because we have more interface.”

Under the Level II Restrictions, no charcoal briquettes or commercial fire pits to be used on any public or private property; UL/FM approved gas grills are permitted; no outside smoking on public or private property is

See **THREAT**, page 8A

HEY, THERE'S A DOG IN YOUR SHIRT



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

Marvin Rose stands at the entrance to Rose Furniture, 1000 Sudderth Dr., with his companion, Mini Pearl, a 14-month-old, long-haired Chihuahua ensconced in her usual place - inside his shirt. “I can talk to people for 15 minutes, even walk outside to check something and back in, and suddenly they’ll notice her and say, ‘You’ve got a dog in there,’” Rose chuckled. He and his wife, Sue, adopted Mini Pearl seven months ago, and she joined a menagerie of other canine friends in their home. They named her after another pet, a Great Dane-Labrador mix named Pearl. Rose and Mini Pearl are gearing up for a fifth anniversary celebration sale during the month of April, but he isn’t worried she might get in the way while he’s moving furniture, Rose said. She simply will back deeper into his shirt and around the side to avoid being nudged.

Nunley: Wastewater recycling vital to Ruidoso’s future

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While securing water rights and pumping wells constitute an important part of Ruidoso’s water supply, wastewater recycling may mean the difference between the mountain community thriving and stagnating in the future, says a former mayor.

L. Ray Nunley called for a summit on wastewater recycling, inviting representatives of communities that already are using recycling techniques such as injecting it back into the aquifer, to reuse water two or three times. He consulted Mayor Ray Alborn before broaching the subject, he clarified.

“I’m not here to tell anyone how to do it or to tell councilors



Nunley: “If you gained 300 acre-feet a year, that would help.”

how to do their job,” he said during an interview Friday. “I had

See **VITAL**, page 8A

Property taxes stabilize

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Although 2011 is a reappraisal year when most property owners expect to see their values for taxing purposes increase, Lincoln County Assessor Paul Baca said that shouldn’t be the case this year.

“I opted not to change our values, because I was afraid a lot would go over (the market value, because of the housing decline),” Baca said Wednesday. “Next year, we are going to try to find those that are real low. But the way the market is today, I don’t think we should do that to the taxpayers, and I told the state that.”

“There are some that are low. We know that, but we have no

method now to determine what those are. Next year (with some coding work) we’ll increase the low ones, but the listings now are close to our values.”

The meager 2.54 percent increase in taxable value overall countywide to \$1,041,959,869 this year to \$1,068,397,984 primarily reflects new construction and improvements to property. Owners who completed additions or renovations may see their values increase.

His office continues to change the values of homes that sell, because a bill aimed at establishing equity in values failed to pass the State Legislature in the January through March session, he said.

See **TAXES**, page 8A

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HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

Hector Moreno, left, and **Terra Wallace** pull trash from the Rio Ruidoso Tuesday afternoon during a river clean-up Starbucks employees performed. Wallace said Starbucks does a community event each month and this month the employees decided to clean the river. They started behind the Chamber of Commerce and worked their way to the Upper Canyon.

Alpine Village

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. Agendas are available at least 24 hours before the meeting. All regular monthly meetings are conducted the first Monday of the month.

Boy Scout camp

More than 250 Boy Scouts and volunteer leaders, including some from Ruidoso, will set up camp on the campus of New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell beginning Friday and continuing through the weekend. Institute cadets will

serve as program guides for the Boy Scouts as they test their physical, mental and leadership skills while participating in activities that include a confidence course, rifle shooting, swimming, map and compass reading, bowling, use of ropes and knots, observation and memory ability, measuring, and group problem solving.

"Stretching the body, stretching the mind, and testing the values are what scouting is all about," said Scout Executive Guy Eichsteadt. "While the outdoor adventure is what attracts boys into scouting, it is the building of strong character, teaching practical life-time skills, and living the scout values that is the core purpose of the scouting program."

Scouts from Artesia, Carlsbad, Clovis, Hobbs, Lovington, Portales, Roswell and Ruidoso will take part in the Council Camporall at NMMI. The Conquistador Council encompasses the region.

Child screening

Children up to 5 years of age are invited to a screen-

ing for development, vision, hearing, dental, immunizations and nutrition. In addition, registration for Head Start and kindergarten will also be provided.

The Child Find screenings in Lincoln County and a part of Otero County are coordinated through Region IX Education Cooperative which assists families, communities and schools in the Capitan, Carrizozo, Cloudcroft, Corona, Hondo, Ruidoso and Tularosa districts.

The first screenings, and registrations for Head Start or kindergarten, will be at the Ruidoso Convention Center on April 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Other scheduled locations include: Tularosa Elementary School, April 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Corona Schools, April 12, from 9 to 11 a.m.; the Cummins Gymnasium at the Capitan schools' campus, April 14, from 9 a.m. to noon; Carrizozo High School, April 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Cloudcroft Elementary, April 28, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; and the Hondo Valley School District's Multi-Purpose Room, April 29, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Documents a parent must bring are the child's immunization records. To register for Head Start, additionally a birth certificate, the last 12 months of income, and Medicaid or insurance cards are required.

To register for kindergarten, a birth certificate and immunization records are necessary.

For more information contact the Region IX Education Cooperative at 575-257-2368 or the elementary school in your area.

Fort hours

The Fort Stanton Museum will extend its hours beginning April 1.

The hours of operations, from April 1 through Nov. 30, are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays. Sunday hours are 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The facility is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

From Dec. 1 through March 31, the fort is only open on the weekends. Saturdays are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays are 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Incorrect hours were

submitted in a story about Navy volunteers sprucing up facilities at the Fort Stanton property. The story ran March 30 in the *Ruidoso News*.

"We had great response from visitors during our winter schedule," said Clinton Smith, president of Fort Stanton, Inc. "Nearly 1,000 visited the museum during the weekend hours we held. We are looking forward to a very productive year for our organization and we hope to increase visitation from the nearly 10,000 we saw from April through November last year."

There is no fee to visit the museum but donations are accepted.

Real faux painting

Have you ever wanted to have professional looking faux-painted walls but just couldn't afford to have it done? It's not as hard to do as you think. If you've ever thought of doing this yourself, set aside April 1, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on your calendar. That's when the Eastern New Mexico University will bring in Linda Coffman to teach her popular class Faux Painting class. This one-time, two-and-a-half hour class is all you need to get started.

Coffman's approach reveals secrets of the pros. She has been in the wallpapering and faux-painting business for over 18 years. Her work is featured in businesses, hotels, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and fine homes throughout the Minnesota area and now in Arizona. Over a thousand are now using her techniques to create their own professional looking faux-painted walls.

By taking this class, students will be able to mimic the expensive walls you've seen in models. She teaches you how to make and use glaze, how to choose colors that work, how to have edges be perfect, and how to have false texture. The styles she teaches are the suede and leather looks, old world looks, marble and stone-like looks. Please see photos at her website:

twistonwalls.com.

For more information or to register, call Eastern New Mexico University at 575-257-3012.

Free swim clinic

A free swim clinic for high school students could open the door to a summer job.

The High School Swim Clinic will provide an opportunity to learn proper swim strokes for scuba diving or lifeguard training.

Ruidoso's public swimming pool will soon be hiring.

The class will be offered at the Ruidoso Athletic Club beginning Saturday, April 2, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Other dates and times for the class are April 4 and April 6 (7:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.), and April 9, (11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

For more information contact Jim Capper, the coach and water safety instructor, at 575-257-8738, or the Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Department at 575-257-5030.

Students under 18 must have a release form signed by a parent before class begins. The forms are available at the Ruidoso Athletic Club, 415 Wingfield St., in Ruidoso.

Huff n Puff speaker

Dr. Neal Fellers, consultant in pulmonary medicine and critical care, will be the guest speaker at the April 5 meeting of Huff n Puff, a Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease support group.

The meeting will run from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alamogordo Senior Center. C.O.P.D. and lung disease will be discussed. A therapist from Gerald Champion Regional Medical Center will attend, as will local home care representatives.

Family, caregivers and guests always are welcome.

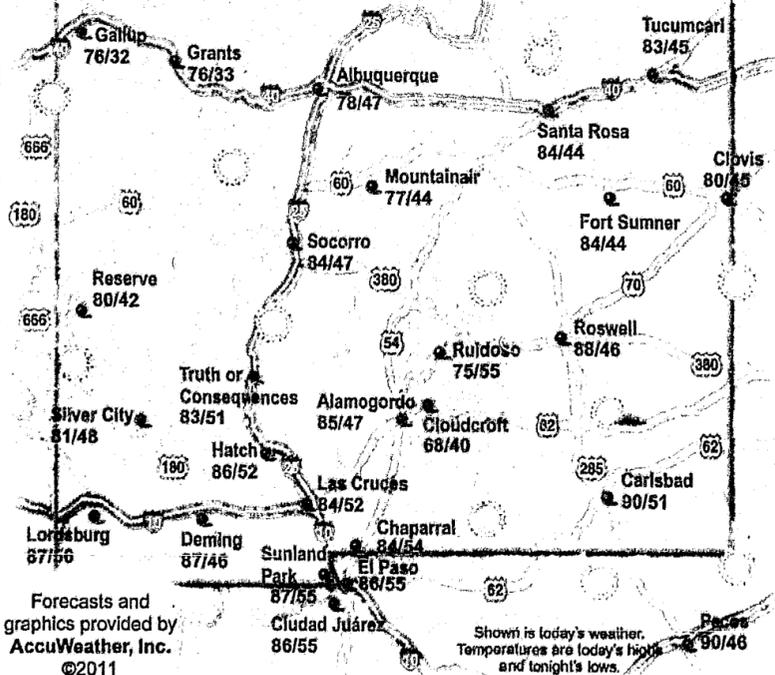
For more information on meetings and schedules, call the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Department at 575-443-2745 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday or call Jan Lundstrom at 575-443-2499.

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
RealFeel: 81° Humidity: 19% Plenty of sunshine Wind: NW 6-12 mph	RealFeel: 78° Humidity: 13% Windy with plenty of sunshine Wind: W 12-25 mph	RealFeel: 65° Humidity: 22% Very windy, sunshine, not as warm Wind: WSW 30-50 mph	RealFeel: 54° Humidity: 24% Mostly sunny, windy and cooler Wind: WNW 25-35 mph	RealFeel: 58° Humidity: 25% Mostly sunny Wind: S 8-16 mph	RealFeel: 68° Humidity: 26% Mostly sunny, windy and warmer Wind: SW 15-25 mph	RealFeel: 61° Humidity: 35% Partly sunny, windy and cooler Wind: SW 15-25 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



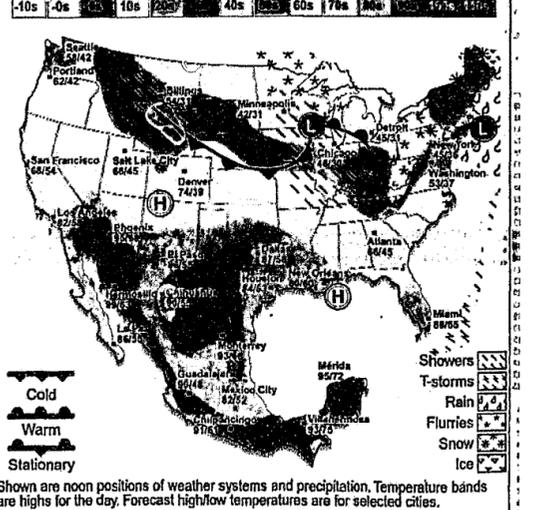
Almanac

Ruidoso
Statistics through Wednesday
Temperature:
High/Low 61°/28°
Normal high 61°
Normal low 27°
Record high 72° (1988)
Record low -8° (1975)
Precipitation:
Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 1.00"
Year to date 0.76"
Normal year to date 3.48"
Pollen:
Grass Absent
Trees Very High
Weeds Absent
Mold Low
Predominant Mulberry
Source: Eddie L. Galinas, MD of the Allergy & Asthma Clinic

Alamogordo
Statistics through Wednesday
Temperature:
High/Low 74°/38°
Normal high 71°
Normal low 42°
Record high 85° (2010)
Record low 18° (1987)
Precipitation:
Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.45"
Year to date 0.46"
Normal year to date 1.75"

Weather Trivia™:
Q: What name is given to the lines that connect points of equal pressure?

National Forecast for April 1, 2011



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Albany	84/54/s	82/64/s
Anchorage	36/28/sn	39/31/sn
Atlanta	86/46/pc	71/48/s
Austin	88/58/s	82/67/pc
Baltimore	50/38/sh	53/34/pc
Boston	44/33/r	46/33/pc
Chicago	46/30/sn	50/33/pc
Dallas	87/58/s	82/66/s
Denver	74/39/c	78/46/c
Des Moines	52/32/pc	55/38/pc
Detroit	48/31/pc	43/30/sh
El Paso	86/55/s	90/59/s
Las Vegas	88/67/s	88/63/pc
Los Angeles	82/58/s	72/54/pc
Minneapolis	42/31/c	48/32/pc
New Orleans	80/60/s	81/65/s
New York City	45/38/r	51/35/pc
Philadelphia	50/38/sn	53/36/pc
Phoenix	90/68/s	94/67/pc
Reno	75/46/pc	65/35/sh
San Francisco	68/54/pc	62/46/c
San Diego	72/59/s	63/57/pc
Seattle	58/42/pc	47/38/sh
Tucson	93/60/s	93/61/s
Tulsa, OK	78/44/s	70/58/s
Wash., DC	63/37/sh	57/39/pc
Wichita	70/40/s	67/55/s
Yuma	100/68/s	95/65/pc

Regional Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Albuquerque	78/47/s	81/52/pc
Artesia	88/52/s	95/61/s
Chama	87/33/s	86/40/pc
Clayton	76/40/s	84/50/s
Cloudcroft	88/40/s	89/36/s
Farmington	74/40/s	80/47/pc
Hobbs	88/48/s	92/48/s
Los Alamos	71/41/s	71/41/s
Portales	83/43/s	88/50/s
Raton	78/31/s	83/39/pc
Red River	63/34/s	62/35/s
Ruidoso	76/55/s	78/51/s
Santa Fe	78/37/s	79/42/s
Silver City	81/48/s	82/47/s
Tiwa	71/30/s	73/40/s

Mexican Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Acapulco	80/70/s	80/70/s
Cancun	88/72/pc	88/73/pc
Ciudad Juarez	80/58/s	81/58/s
Ciudad Juarez	86/55/s	90/59/s
Lesh	88/50/pc	80/50/s
Mexico, DF	82/52/pc	82/52/s
Montreay	93/66/pc	93/66/pc
Morelia	87/54/pc	89/53/s
Oaxaca	93/54/pc	93/57/pc
Pto. Penasco	90/59/s	82/55/s
Tijuana	76/55/s	70/54/pc

Sun and Moon

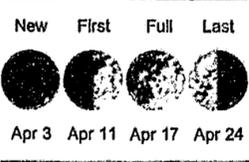
Friday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:52 a.m./7:23 p.m.
Friday: Moonrise/Moonset 5:35 a.m./6:01 p.m.

Extremes

Wednesday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)
High: 92° in Palm Springs, CA
Low: -1° in Embarrass, MN

Wednesday's World High/Low:
High: 112° in Podor, Senegal
Low: -40° in Summit Station, Greenland

Moon Phases





KINTIGH VISITS

Speaking at the March meeting of the Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County, Representative Dennis Kintigh, NM House D-57, reported on the proceedings and outcome of the 2011 NM Legislature. Greg Sowards, of Doña Ana County, who is an announced candidate for the US Senate, spoke to the audience about the importance of sending ethical "Game Changers" to Washington, DC. The FRWLC meets the 4th Monday each month at the Ruidoso Senior Center at 11:30am. Info. 430-7258.

COURTESY HARVEY TWITE

Lincoln County eligible for disaster relief due to February freeze

Lincoln County and the Mescalero Apache Reservation are among the entities eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funds with the signing of a disaster declaration for New Mexico by President Barack Obama.

In February, parts of New Mexico suffered record-breaking cold weather that disrupted natural gas and water services. Gov. Susana Martinez sought a disaster declaration allowing the FEMA to assist communities recovering from the damage.

The request, which was approved Friday, was supported by the affected area's Congressional Delegation in a letter to the President.

Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart said county government suffered no damages requiring reimbursement, but Ruidoso was hit by a major water crisis as a result of the sustained freeze.

Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn said FEMA evaluated the village's loss from the freeze at \$1.7 million and officials from the federal agency are expected back in town next Thursday to begin the paperwork.

"We're really appreciative of Gov. Martinez and her staff writing to the President to get this in motion and to get it done," he said Tuesday. "It's a big boost."

No match is required from the village and the money can be used for village infrastructure immediate repair and over time, as well as for expenses such as the meals at the Emergency Operation Center during the water supply crisis, and for help from PNM, the Public Service Company of New Mexico, the mayor said.

As a result of the declaration, the counties of Lincoln, Otero, Rio Arriba, Sierra, Socorro and Taos and the Tribal jurisdictions

of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Santa Ana Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, and the portions of Santa Clara Pueblo that lie entirely within Rio Arriba County can seek FEMA assistance.

Bernalillo, Doña Ana and Sandoval counties are under review and the declaration can be amended to include them.

Communities can seek funds to defray the cost of debris removal, emergency protective measures, road systems and bridges, water control facilities, public buildings and contents, public utilities and parks. FEMA typically covers

costs that are not covered by insurance.

The New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will be asked to brief eligible counties and communities about the benefits triggered by a disaster declaration.

That department will receive the initial application from communities that will have 30 days from their designation date to apply.

If approved, FEMA will pay 75 percent of the costs. The state will cover the rest.

-Dianne Stallings

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OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager
Marty Racine, editor

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OUR OPINION

The future's dynamic centerpiece

Exciting times for Midtown, Rio Ruidoso

At a time when money is tight and tourism prospects are iffy, Ruidoso citizens and officials are turning their attention to the village's geographical heart — Midtown and the Rio Ruidoso coursing below it.

A lot of things are merely in the discussion phase, but at least we're having public information sessions aimed at gathering ideas for how best to utilize and beautify the core of the village.

These are long-term goals, and highly welcomed given the competitive environment among Rocky Mountain communities for amenities that attract both tourism and permanent residents.

We can only hope that, in the course of a community dialogue, wise decisions are enacted, that implementation is practical and that funding is available in a timely fashion.

The future of both Midtown and the river is based on a pedestrian-friendly environment that takes us out of our automobiles and brings us up close to the village's charming

layout and natural beauty. By necessity, some discussions will touch on such arcane topics as signage, speed pads and sidewalks. Other sessions bring forth more exotic notions like walking bridges, concert stages, public art, a sculpture park and exercise stations.

The positive from all this is an inclusive effort from various aspects of the community, from village councilors, planners and officials to the revitalized Midtown Merchants Association and the Billy the Kid Scenic Byways Committee, which served as the fiscal agent for one significant grant awarded in 2008.

A Midtown linked with the proposed Ruidoso River Trail, perhaps even up to the fire lookout tower high above the valley, will transform Ruidoso into a dynamic centerpiece of mountain enjoyment.

We trust that property owners and the village, itself, hoping to turn the area into an "entertainment district," understand the critical need for such a transformation.

The GOP race and a litany of bong jokes

Gary Johnson a tough sell as president

We prefer when New Mexico makes the travel or food channels for its Hatch green chile; we're not keen on making the late shows as the butt of bong jokes.

Thus we feel some trepidation upon learning former Gov. Gary Johnson, who advocates legalizing marijuana, may run for president in 2012.

The Republican, with a lot of Libertarian in him, was on Thursday's straw poll at Saint Anselm (N.H.) College. It's the first coming-out for some who seek a feel of their political strength.

Should Johnson make a presidential run, that would mean this state would have produced a presidential candidate for two elections in a row. In 2008 then-Gov. Bill Richardson, a Democrat, made a run but bowed out well before the Obama-Clinton primary home stretch.

Two in a row? OK, that's a plus for this state. It's gets our name out there. New Mexico has always had somewhat of an identity problem — as in, "So, do y'all get to Mexico City much?"

But, Johnson has always been a tad off the spectrum in the political world.

Although he won two terms as governor (1995-2003) he's most known as "Governor No" for having vetoed 742 bills in eight years.

We're not sure just how serious Johnson is about gaining the presidency; perhaps he just wants some face time on the primary dais in order to get his marijuana

message out? However, Johnson had been seen on the Saint Anselm College campus several times.

We do know that he's one for calculated moves. After all, it wasn't until he'd secured his second term as governor that he made public his position of marijuana legalization.

Johnson is most popular for his stances of anti-tax and anti-bureaucracy.

His vetoes set a national record for a governor, but upon leaving office the size of government had shrunk considerably and New Mexico had a large budget surplus.

The legalization of marijuana — mostly as a government money-maker — is only beginning to reach the whisper stage among politicians. It's still considered political suicide to come out in favor. And those whispers may get no louder, ever, at least in this generation. Many pundits agree on that.

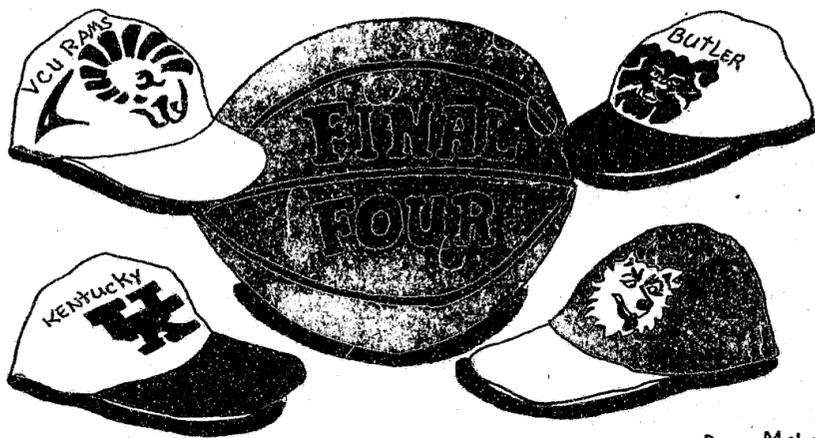
Thus it's with mixed feelings we watch our former and popular governor, a real fiscal hawk, test his wings for the highest office in the United States.

Twice in a row a New Mexico politician runs for the presidency? Sounds great.

But, on what platform this time? Ex-New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, the fiscal hawk, aka "Governor No?" Or, Ex-New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson, who would forever be known as the first proponent to legalize mind-alternating smokes?

Las Cruces Sun-News

APRIL Madness



Doug McLeod 11
Ruidoso News

YOUR OPINION

Taking another bite out of crime

To the editor:

ON BEHALF OF THE Lincoln County Crimestoppers, we want to thank all of those who participated in our fundraising event of Donkey Basketball.

It was a great evening full of family entertainment and laughter. We want to extend our greatest appreciation to the schools, business professionals, teachers,

government officials, firemen, police officers who rode: Mayor Ray Alborn, Cindy Hobbs, Chief Joe McGill, Chief Harlan Vincent and Debbie Pritchett.

We could not have put on this event without our volunteers as well as the businesses who sponsored the event: WPS, LaGrone Funeral Chapel, Village Buttery, Ruidoso Flower Shop, City Bank,

Herrera Plumbing, GSV Title Services Inc., The Agency, Pinnacle Real Estate and Development, Farm Bureau Insurance and Investments, Mortgage Pro, Brunell's, and Western Auto.

Thank you for taking another bite out of crime.

Rutalee Jernigan
Corresponding Secretary
Lincoln Co. Crimestoppers

They wouldn't lie to us, would they?

To the editor:

CHRISTIE WHITMAN of the EPA told us that the air was safe to breathe following 9/11. With thousands of first responders sick and dying, we now know differently.

With the Japan fallout now reaching Chernobyl status in severity we are hearing that the radiation levels hitting the West Coast of the United States are "minor," and are "not of concern." The EPA is now stating that many of their radiation meters are not working correctly.

"Slight radiation" has been found in milk from cows in Washington state and authorities said it is not of concern because the cows apparently ate

grass with "slight" levels of iodine 131. Hmmm. Radioactive iodine 131 has also been discovered in rainwater in Massachusetts.

Radioactive iodine 131 can severely disrupt thyroid functions, especially in children. Potassium iodide (KI) is a universally used preventative. Of course, KI is not warranted until authorities tell the public that a general radiation problem exists. They would not lie to us, would they?

Levels of Cesium, which produce dangerous gamma radiation, have also been observed over the United States. Would you expect the EPA to tell the public to take prophylactic measures such as eating an iodine-

rich diet just in case? Iodine can be ingested through eating miso soup, a staple in Japan. As a matter of fact, following the Nagasaki, Japan, atomic blast in 1945 one hospital fed its patients a steady diet of miso soup and brown rice, and radiation damage from exposure was scant. Kelp also has iodine, which is beneficial to the thyroid.

Alpha lipoic acid, a great antioxidant, has shown a history of fighting damage from radiation exposure, as are Bentonite clay baths.

The question is whether the EPA that lied about the air after 9/11 is telling the truth this time.

Bill Dement
Alto

Tending to the Garden of Who Knows

When she was bouncing up and down, yelling, waving her arms, feverishly trying to coax cheers from Hobbs Eagles fans back in the sixties, the vivacious 17 year old's dreams for the future pretty much mirrored those of her girlfriends.

Marry a great guy, have wonderful kids, be a supportive mom, live a comfortable, quiet, normal life in a nice home. It took her 45 years or so, but Diane Denish finally achieved the "quiet life" part of that American Dream.

Along the way she became a New Mexico icon and came within one OOOO EAGLES!! of becoming governor. That's not to say Susana Martinez beat Denish by a nose in that horse race. Susana early won by two lengths, the sucker punch Denish took to the tummy occurred much earlier when Gov. Bill Richardson was scratched by the Obama administration as Commerce Secretary, the state of New Mexico waiting all the way to the nation's capital.

Had Richardson left for Washington, Lt. Governor Denish would have settled into the governor's office had enough time to take a broom, polishing cloth and room deodorant to the New Mexico hallways of government, and, arguably, an

odds-on favorite for reelection running as an incumbent.

The schoolgirl had learned early on one's fate is often tied to the fate of others. The admittedly not particularly athletic Denish recalls she made the varsity cheerleading squad only when the girl who beat her out found herself, as we said back then, in a family way.

So the political prodigy who parlayed a stint as cheerleader for Hobbs to cheerleader for New Mexico is now suddenly sidelined and, as she told this columnist, "tending to the garden of in-between." That

includes the Family Garden, Friendship Garden, and the Exploratory Garden. Exploratory Garden?

OK, Mrs. Denish, let's clear something up. Your fellow Democrat Jeff Bingaman is giving up his Senate seat. Interested? Does your Future Garden perhaps include a stand of Political Plums? Will she or won't she? Firmly planted in the Garden of Who Knows, Denish says only that she has statewide name recognition and an open mind. That's not a "no."

Just for fun, I asked the almost-governor to take a Dave Lettermanesque approach to the subject and give me some tongue-in-cheek reasons why she might consider a run for the Senate. Here they are:

6. It's been tough getting used to sleeping more than four hours a night.

5. Herb thinks I've been hanging around the house w-a-a-y too much lately.

4. I miss getting advice from all the political coach potatoes who know how to run a campaign (if all the people who said they were going to vote for me actually voted for me, the curtains in the Mansion would have a bluish tint.)

3. I can't wait to raise \$15 million. I could either run for the Senate or buy a small country.

2. Have you ever been scrambling 45 minutes late between events and changed clothes at a Dairy Queen in Eunice? Such fun and, you know, on a serious note, I miss the teamwork and campaign support effort.

And the number one reason Diane Denish, the former cheerleader from Hobbs High School who went on to run the state Democratic Party, New Mexico First, the New Mexico Community Foundation, was appointed by three different governors to prestigious positions, served as Lt. Governor — the number one reason this woman might consider a run for the U.S. Senate? Oh, we all know the standard answers. To do good for humanity, to restore sanity to government, right? No, in this spoofy mood...

1. I understand the concept of vacuuming, just not how it applies to me.

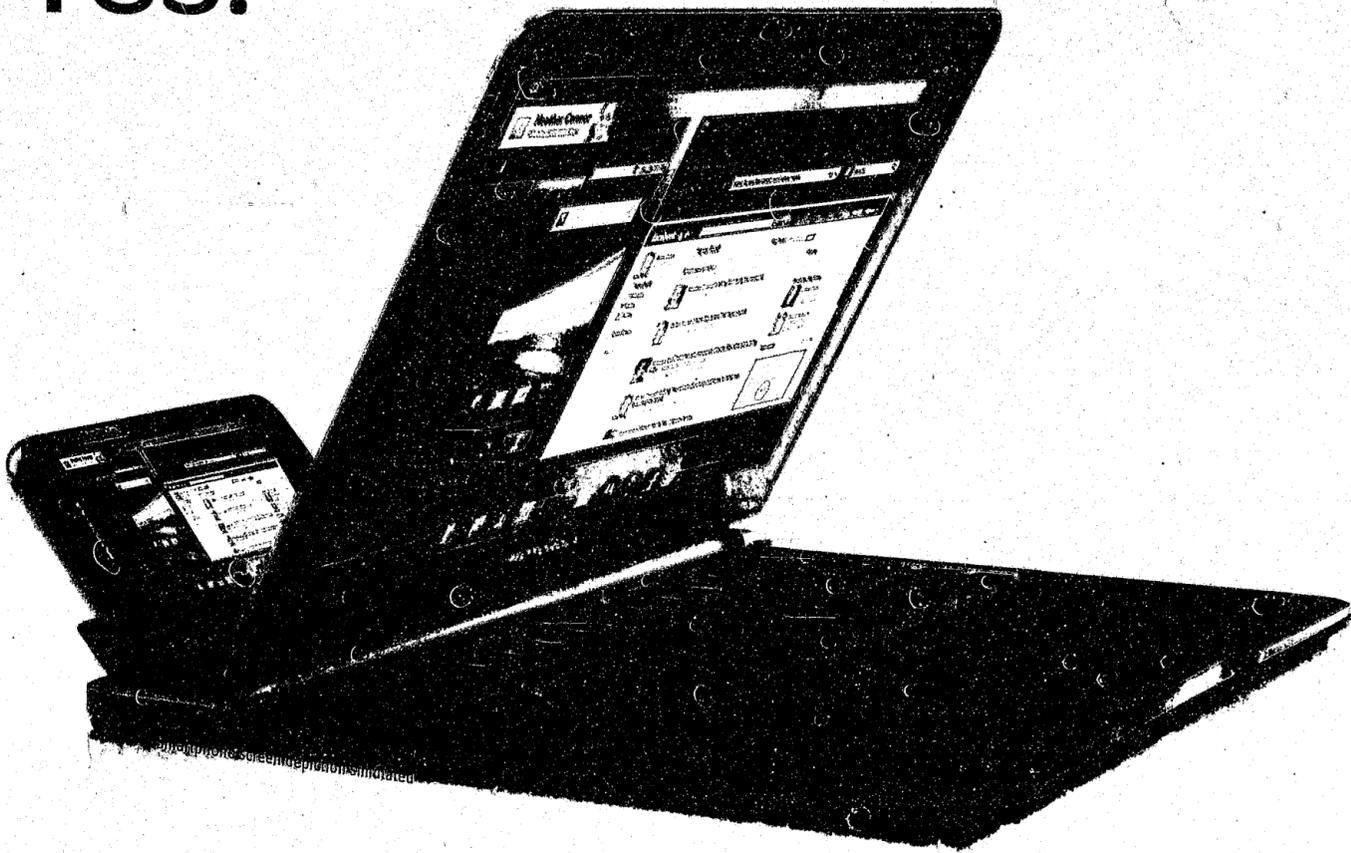
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BUSINESS

Airport seeks airline service

JIM KALVELAGE

jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

An effort at returning scheduled commuter air service to Ruidoso's airport is underway.

Sierra Blanca Regional Airport Manager Justin King said Monday that four New Mexico communities, Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Ruidoso and Taos, are involved in the initiative.

"It's been mainly discussions between the airport managers of the municipalities," King said. "We're putting together a plan and a proposal to take to New Mexico Airlines. New Mexico Airlines has been briefly involved as far as the different steps that we've gone through in developing this proposal and they're on board so far. So our next step is to seek permission from our independent councils and commissions to continue further."

An initial presentation was made before the Ruidoso Village Council on Tuesday.

Los Alamos is keen on the idea initially raised last year by Los Alamos Airport Manager Peter Soderquist, said Dave Jones, regional manager for New Mexico Airlines.

"More or less the city council in Los Alamos said 'Let's continue with exploring to see if we can make this happen with the communities of Taos, Los Alamos, Las Cruces and Ruidoso. I would say about six months ago I had been approached by the airport

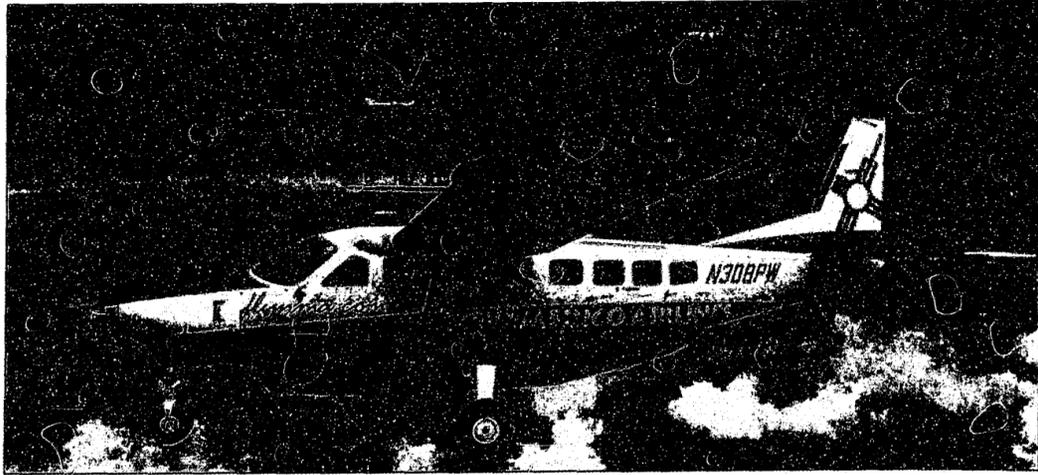
manager in Ruidoso about getting service back into Ruidoso. At that time I had already been talking with Peter so I just more or less said, 'Justin if you can contact Peter, he's kind of working a deal.' I think this is going to work."

New Mexico Airlines, which began operations in 2007, had briefly served Sierra Blanca Regional. The airline flies nine passenger aircraft. Its present destinations are Albuquerque, Alamogordo, Carlsbad and Hobbs.

"What we're looking at is a dollar amount of subsidy, if required, from each airport," said King. "And then separate routes. Our route would be Albuquerque to Ruidoso twice a day and then Ruidoso to Albuquerque twice a day, seven days a week."

Jones said the communities would essentially lease an aircraft from New Mexico Airlines and the airline would operate the plane.

"There are two different methods that we're looking at," King said. "The subsidy for Sierra Blanca Regional is going to work out to be about \$7,000 a month. That's one of the proposals we've got. And we're looking at actually taking fuel sales to accommodate that subsidy so it really wouldn't cost the Village of Ruidoso to have air service in here at all. Those are the details that we're working out so the village doesn't have to pay a subsidy to get airline service in as long as we can work the airline ser-



COURTESY PHOTO

New Mexico Airlines may resume scheduled flights to Ruidoso later this year.

vice through the purchases of fuel."

The airline has estimated they would purchase 200 gallons of jet fuel each day at Sierra Blanca Regional, providing a fuel sales profit that could cover the subsidy.

Federal and state grants could also be tried.

King said he believes passengers could be flying into and out of Ruidoso's airport to and from the Albuquerque International Sunport by autumn. A one-way fare might be as low as \$87.

King said New Mexico Airlines' previous schedule that included Ruidoso was begun during the winter.

"They really didn't give it a chance to take hold in the summer. The whole idea behind this would be an annual contract with them so they have to bring us service for an entire year and then we could re-an-

alyze that contract at the end of the year and see how it works for them, how it works for us, and see if we need to make any changes at that point in time."

Greg Kahlstorf, CEO of parent company Pacific Air Holdings, said the 2008 flights that served Sierra Blanca Regional, were actually successful.

"There was nothing about the service, nothing about the patronage that was a problem," Kahlstorf said. "You may recall that Roswell was pushing hard to get regional jet service there. Our concern was that if people fly directly from Dallas into Roswell and then drive to Ruidoso, we would certainly have an issue."

"At the time, Ruidoso was part of program to create a financial incentive to have that regional jet service come into Roswell," he said. "We really couldn't

see how we could serve any city knowing that our business would be adversely impacted through the utilization of service to Roswell. So Ruidoso decided to remain involved in the Roswell air partnership because they felt it was important to have that traffic draw from Roswell using the automobile. I had to point out that, 'OK, but you're robbing Peter to pay Paul. If you're creating an incentive for people to bypass our airline and fly directly to Roswell, that's great for Roswell but it doesn't do a whole lot for your air service.' So we chose to invest elsewhere. When you're flying into someplace on your own dime and local leaders are funneling money toward a competitor, we chose to focus on other cities that weren't doing that."

Service between Midland/Odessa and Ruidoso was terminated.

The previous New Mexico Airlines service to Sierra Blanca Regional was without any type of local subsidy.

During the middle part of the 2000s another airline, Rio Grande Air, flew into and out of Sierra Blanca Regional. Mesa Airlines had also served the local airport in the past.

King said he has been asked repeatedly about flights into and out of Ruidoso's airport.

"I can tell you we get five to six phone calls per week from people that would like to have scheduled air service at Ruidoso. So I would say that it's a pretty important matter for a lot of people in Lincoln County."

King said the plans are preliminary and negotiations are continuing. Once a proposal is completed the plans will be brought to the village council.

Interim rate increase denied

JIM KALVELAGE

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An interim rate increase for PNM was turned down Thursday by the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission.

The utility, with a rate increase case before the commission, sought the interim billing increase while the initial 2010 filed rate case continued before state regulators.

"They cannot start those (interim) rates on May 15 like they want to," Commissioner Ben Hall said

Thursday. "They cannot implement those rates until after the regular rate hearing."

The Phase 1 interim rates sought an annualized revenue increase of \$45 million for PNM through bills rendered on and after May 15. The hike was proposed to be applied on an equi-proportional basis to the electric utility's base rates that are applicable only to PNM customers in northern New Mexico. But it would apply to all PNM customers of a stipulation was approved.

The interim rate increase was part of an agreement reached in February on the underlying rate case by PNM staff, the New Mexico Attorney General's office, the City of Alamogordo, and several other interests. But the commission must concur.

The utility had argued that irreparable financial injury would occur without approval of the interim rate increase.

PNM said on the other hand, customers would not be harmed "because the interim rates would be subject to refund should the commission ultimately enter a final order in this case which authorizes rate relief in an amount less than \$45 million per year."

Chamber hosts utility rate increase workshop

JIM KALVELAGE

jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Information about PNM's requested rate increase, renewable energy and energy efficiency will be topics Tuesday morning during a breakfast meeting and training session, hosted by the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The April 5 breakfast presentation, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., will feature Ron Darnell, PNM vice president for regulatory affairs. He is scheduled to provide updates about the electric utility's rate case.

In February, PNM, with

a service area that includes Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs and Alamogordo in south central New Mexico, cut in half a rate increase initially filed with state regulators in 2010. The requested rates would rise by about 11 percent, the utility said. But opposition to the hike continues by a large number of individuals, businesses and organizations who have contacted the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. Even AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) has started a media ad blitz urging people to contact the PRC to voice opposition to

the rate increase.

As the rate case before the PRC has dragged out, PNM last month asked for \$45 million in interim rate relief that could take effect on bills after May 15. A number of organizations, including Prosperity Works, Commercial Energy User Coalition, Western Resource Advocates, Coalition for Clean Affordable Energy and New Energy Economy have filed arguments against interim relief.

Following the updates from Darnell, the utility will conduct a two-hour workshop on energy efficiency for the hospitality, property management and business community. The 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. session will provide an overview by energy efficiency experts on the ins and outs of how PNM customers can take advantage of the utility's energy efficiency rebates and reduce electric use. Contractors from the Ruidoso area trained in the rebates will be available.

The events will be held at the Innsbrook Village Country Club Resort, 103 Innsbrook Drive, in Ruidoso.

The public is invited to attend both events, but should RSVP to Amy Miller at 505-241-2721.

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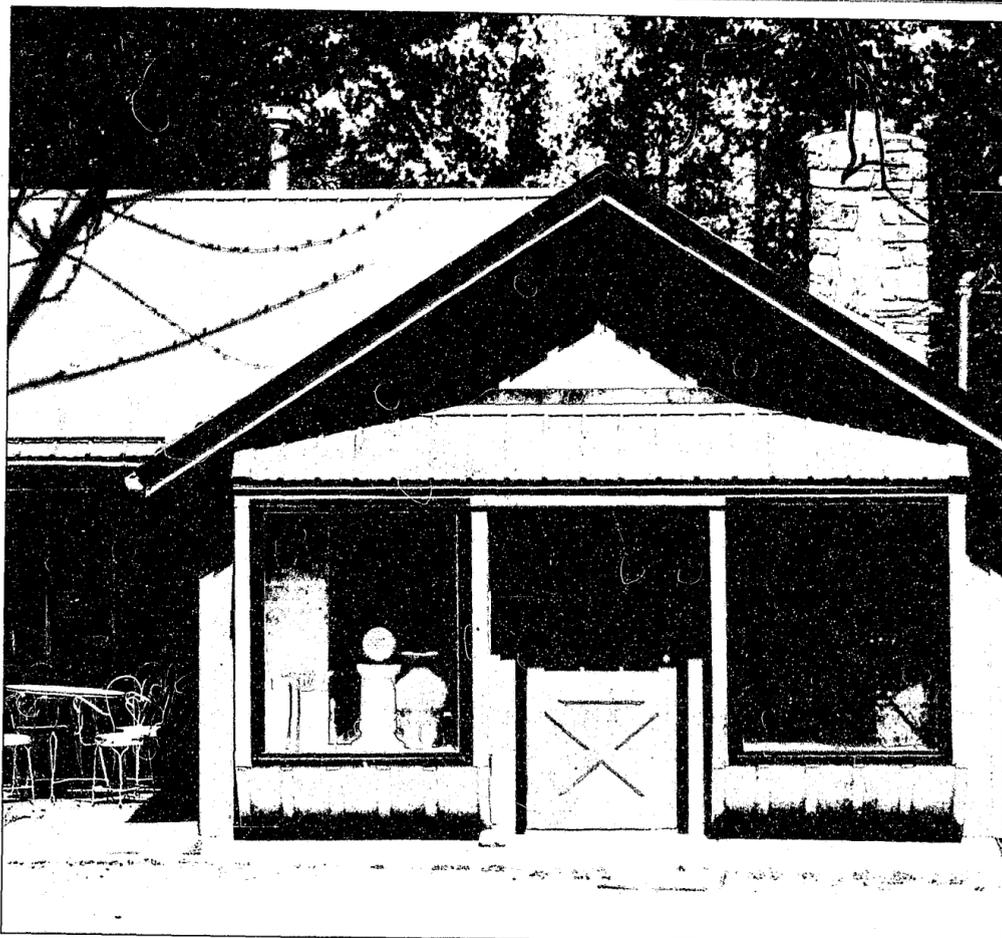
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DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

"Extraordinary" colors on some shops may not fit into a "semblance of requirements" in Midtown, says one village councilor.

Councilor suggests Midtown guidelines

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

The timing may be right to consider some design standards for buildings in Midtown, the historic tourist shopping core of Ruidoso, says one village councilor.

After driving through Midtown and seeing a few buildings painted "extraordinary colors," Councilor Gloria Sayers said that, while she knows color preferences are personal, a historical district review board, a citizen board or the planning and zoning commission may need to look at color and design, "for some semblance of requirements."

Sayers was speaking to members of the Commission earlier this month during the public input time of their meeting.

"I know we like the mountain rustic look, because that's what we are," she said. But with merchants in Midtown trying to become more organized with traffic patterns, crosswalks and signage, "It seems like the right time to start creating that," Sayers said.

Commissioner Larry Wimbrow said the board has briefly discussed form-based planning, where appearance outweighs use. To begin movement in that

direction, a Midtown committee will be needed to determine the basis of what residents and business owners want the area to look like, he said, adding, "I'm not sure where we are on that."

Village Engineer Bob Decker, former planning director, said some preliminary information was assembled, such as height limitations and preferred building material.

"I know (Village Manager) Debi Lee brought it up," Wimbrow said.

Sayers said, "One is not contingent on the other. We don't need form-based zoning. We could use this independently."

Decker said some people expressed apprehension about requiring certain designs, colors or styles for fear the demands could "get out of hand like Santa Fe."

"That's why we haven't moved forward," he said.

Village Building Official Shawn Fort said a "very basic minimal architectural section" already exists in village code.

Commissioner John Cornelius, a builder, said he deals with two or three "of those architectural things and it's hard."

"Taste is very subjective, especially (because the membership of the boards that make the decision) are

ever-changing," he said. "You go in one day and they say you can't do that anymore. I'd rather see a set standard than volunteer groups."

"I think it needs to be, if I want to build, can I look in a book and know what I have to do and not guess who serves on the committee that week."

Sayers said, "I know it's hard, but I see more and more (unnerving designs and colors) popping up and if we had tackled this a year ago, it wouldn't have happened."

Decker said eventually, the owners of the affected buildings will have to re-paint and if rules are in effect, could fall under new guidelines then.

Chairman Beth Hood said Midtown is her major focus and would benefit from some architectural guidelines and signage clarification.

Decker said that, while he applauds what the revitalized Midtown Merchants Association is proposing on Sudderth Drive, "What's been missing is someone stepping up and saying what they want to see."

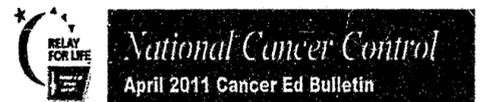
Wimbrow, who owns a business in Midtown and whose wife serves on the association committee, said most of the current members have owned businesses for more than two decades, "so they've seen a lot of changes and have some history."

Under official action, commissioners:

- approved a variance of 2.3 feet to a required 15-foot setback for Robert Donaldson to enclose a front porch at his Hull Drive home. Remington Homes is the agent.

- approved a conditional residential use in a commercial zone for Ray Nuñez to build his home with his paving business off U.S. 70 in the Camelot area. The agent is Eagle Land and Surveying.

Wimbrow said the tract appears to contain enough land to build a house and still accommodate the business equipment there. Decker said the area is "a hodgepodge" of uses. Cornelius said it makes sense to have the house and business in one location to save money in the current economy.



Cancer is a group of diseases characterized by the uncontrollable growth of cells, often causing death.

The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2010, more than 443,000 deaths were related to tobacco alone. Of those, 49,000 were related to second hand smoke. That is equal to 1 in every 5 deaths in the United States

Cancer develops when cells in a part of the body begin to grow out of control. Although there are many kinds of cancer, they all start because of out-of-control growth of abnormal cells.

Cancer usually forms as a tumor, but not all tumors are cancerous. Benign tumors do not spread to other parts of the body.

Prevention Tip: Pass on tobacco and alcohol. Eat less fat and more fruits and vegetables. Exercise and stay out of the sun

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- 13⁹⁹ 750 ML Jose Cuervo Especial Sabor Jerez Spiced Rum or Smirnoff Vodka 88°
- 17⁹⁹ 750 ML Jagermeister, Catty Sake Scotch or Absolut Vodka 90° Intense Vodka
- 14⁹⁹ 1.75 Liter Canadian Mist, Forty Times or Black Velvet Canadian
- 11⁹⁹ 750 ML Finlandia Vodka (Regular or Whipped Cream), Jim Beam Bourbon or Beaulieu Rum
- 8⁹⁹ 750 ML Catty Red, Ed Hardy, Canadian Whisky, Pomegranate Wine of New Mexico
- 9⁹⁹ 750 ML Kendall Jackson Avaria Chardonnay, J. Loeb Seven Oak Cabernet or Sonoma Pin Vineyards Indian Market White
- 10⁹⁹ Yellow Tail
- 11⁹⁹ Franzia Wine 6 Liter Box of 7 Deadly Wine or Red Hot Strong Cabernet or Merlot
- 8⁹⁹ 750 ML Absolut Vodka

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THREAT

FROM PAGE 1A

lowed unless areas are specifically permitted by the Fire Marshal; smoking allowed within closed vehicles or in-doors only; and campfires and fireworks are never allowed in either the village or the city of Ruidoso Downs. Citations will be issued, no warnings.

The village currently is posted as very high fire danger, the U.S. Forest Service as high danger and the neighboring Mescalero reservation at very high danger.

Councilor Angel Shaw said she just received notice that Ruidoso Downs revoked fire restrictions Monday.

Following Ruidoso's sim-

ilar action March 18, the city moved into Level 2 fire restrictions.

"With the latest winds, dryness, and the lack of winter, we're pretty dry right now," firefighter Kenny Ellard told city councilors Monday evening.

"As a matter of fact I just got off a fire in Ruidoso, mutual aid, where about an acre was involved."

Historically dry

Ellard said the area is currently in drier conditions than the maximum average recorded from 1990 through 2010.

"We've been in very high fire danger since Monday of last week," he said. "In the past years we've tried keeping them even between the two so there's less confusion. The restrictions are the same."

Asked about the long-term weather forecast, Ellard said the rest of the week will bring above normal temperatures. In a weekly weather briefing, National Weather Service officials said Saturday afternoon into Sunday would be another "wind-maker" period.

"But we've had two or three weeks of wind. We responded to a fire at about 12:40 this (Monday) morning that was moving through the grass and piñon juniper pretty fast," Ellard said. That small fire was on the far east edge of the city.

Worried about tourists

Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn said at his council's meeting Tuesday that he received two calls from people worried that tourists aren't aware of the danger

and the restrictions that prohibit outdoor smoking or fire of any kind.

"We're in high fire danger and they come in to spend a weekend and are not aware of the restrictions. I hope those who are renting houses to them tell the people," he said

The same holds true with hotels, motels and cabins, said Councilor Angel Shaw. They should have the restrictions and fire danger posted and talk to overnight or weekend guests when they check in, she said. Businesses in Midtown also should alert them.

Vincent said when the village's fire danger level changes or restrictions are enacted, his department sends out a mass email and facsimile alert. He noticed a flyer at Walgreens was posted Monday.

Councilor Gloria Sayers said she was in the check-out line at Walmart and the people behind her were talking about grilling chicken that night.

"I told them we have fire restrictions now and they could only use a gas grill," she said. "They were surprised and disappointed."

Vincent said stores are supposed to post the notice in the section stocked with charcoal and other outdoor fire apparatus. Most block off those sections, but "they can't stop them from buying."

A tasty solution

Vincent said that, as a public relations approach, if firefighters come across someone grilling, instead of stopping the cooking midway, they stand by and allow them to finish.

"They appreciate that

and sometimes invite the men to eat with them," he said. "It prevents leaving a bad taste."

Vincent said a team specializing in setting up evacuation routes will be in Ruidoso for two weeks helping the fire department/emergency management put together the best evacuation routes.

He also plans to apply for a grant to purchase a program that can predict where traffic bottlenecks could occur and other complications, as well as speed of a fire, depending on conditions.

Lee said Vincent and the fire department labored hard to ensure all emergency sirens in town are working, except the one at Village Hall.

Staff writer Jim Kalvelage contributed to this report.

VITAL

FROM PAGE 1A

ay say as mayor, but we need to be thinking about what we need to do for the future rather than what happened in the past. I'm talking water reuse. If you gained 300 acre feet to 400 acre feet a year from that, it would help supplement the area's needs."

An acre foot equates to about 325,800 gallons.

"We should at least look

at it real hard as a group, the city of Ruidoso Downs, the village, Lincoln County and the village of Capitan, because they're having water trouble too," Nunley said.

"I know how difficult dealing with water is. I went through two village administrations, one as a councilor and one as a mayor, and I served 10 years as a county commissioner. You have to look for answers all the time."

Many communities in New Mexico, Arizona and

California use "gray water," which is wastewater treated to near potable standards, he said. "San Diego injects wastewater into the ground to refill its aquifer (the underground water flow and storage) and then uses it. We have talked about that possibility with our water team."

In Singapore, nearly 5 million residents reuse treated wastewater as a drinking source, treasuring self-reliance over dependence on another country, according to an article in

USA Today. About 884 million people still lack access to safe drinking water, according to the World Health Organization.

"Bring some of these people in to explain how they developed their plans," Nunley said. "Alamogordo, closer to home in Otero County, uses gray water on parks and golf courses. We have too much ground and too few people to do it by ourselves. We need to work together."

The summit could be conducted in any convenient location, Nunley said.

"Everyone needs to be able to voice their opinions," the former mayor said. "Good ideas will come from that."

As for criticism over the years that the village operated outside the boundaries of New Mexico water law, Nunley said when he served on the council and as mayor, he tried to improve the perception of state officials about the village.

"Over the eight years I was there, we made many trips to the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer trying to build a good repu-

tation with them and they worked well with us," he said. "At one time, we talked about a wellfield on Bureau of Land Management property at the airport and they agreed in principle and to continue discussion. They asked for us to put some of the production at the airport into Government Springs, which flows into the Snowy River Cave (calcite underground river system). We agreed to do that and to pump only at certain times."

But the agreement never materialized into action, Nunley said.

A new \$36 million wastewater treatment plant is set to begin full operation within the next month, he said. The ultraviolet treatment produces almost drinkable quality water.

"With another filter or two to take out the pharmaceuticals, it would be good water," Nunley said. "That doesn't mean we would not put some water back into the river to maintain our effluent credit, but we would be using the water over and over, if we

injected it back into the ground. Roger Peery (a village consultant) proposed that at one point. Fill the aquifer, then pump it and mix it with other water. That's what San Diego does."

As for small "pocket treatment plants" to treat wastewater and reuse it on golf courses, the village was advised by at least one "expert" that to build satellite plants would be more costly than one large treatment plant. But pocket plants could be a subject to cover at a summit, he said.

"If we don't start thinking 25 year to 30 years down the road, one of these days, we'll run out of water," Nunley said. "We have a great water team and when we get everyone together, good ideas will come to the top."

He volunteered to help in any capacity to put together a summit.

"We have good people in office, but they need our help and we need their help," Nunley said. "All of our actions affect each other."

First in the *Ruidoso News*



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TAXES

FROM PAGE 1A

Although the portion of the Ruidoso School District inside the village's municipal limits only posted a 1.35 percent increase, Ruidoso sported the biggest numbers, a jump from \$452.271 million in 2010 to \$458.374 million in 2011 property values, a \$6.1 million change.

That dollar increase was only outdone by construction outside Capitan, that jumped \$7.4 million or 2.27 percent from \$325.95 million in 2010 to \$333.35 million in 2011, according to Baca's figures.

The greatest percentage change occurred in the Capitan-Ruidoso overlap, a new school district with parcels inside the village limits of Ruidoso, but within the Capital School District, which showed a jump of 14.13 percent, but the fewest dollars from \$641,074 last year to \$731,673 this year.

The other changes in property values per school district were:

- a 9.97 percent inside the Corona municipal limits, from \$2,568,668 to \$2,824,837.
- a 9.89 percent for the district outside of the town of Carrizozo with an increase to \$36,335,341 from \$33,066,264 in 2010.

- a 9.64 percent in the Hondo School District, increasing to \$32,469,670 from \$29,615,324.

- a 8.41 percent for Carrizozo inside the municipal limits, from \$12,996,867 increasing to \$14,089,494.

- a 6.30 percent increase inside the Capitan municipal limits from \$19,671,407 to \$20,909,843.

- a 3.50 percent increase for outside Ruidoso/Ruidoso Downs from \$88,507,061 to \$91.6 million.

- a 2.07 percent increase for outside the village of Corona from \$29,616,067 to \$30,277,718.

- a 0.91 percent increase in the city of Ruidoso Downs from \$47,052,164 to \$47,480,324.

Baca urged property owners to determine if they are eligible for a family tax exemption of \$2,000 to be deducted from the taxable value of their property, or for a veteran's \$4,000 exemption from the taxable value.

"Many people still are not aware they can claim those," he said.

During the county commission meeting last month, Baca reported on the failed bill aimed at ending tax lightning, the practice of bringing homes up to market value for taxing purposes when they are sold.

"So tax lightning still is in place," he said of the rule.

To ensure equity, the bill proposed sliding all properties back to their 2004 assessed values and moving them forward with the annual 3 percent cap increases, whether they were sold or remained in the hands of one owner.

The cap was initiated in 2003 to protect long-time homeowners against sudden increases in values, in part spurred by the practice of flipping homes for quick resale.

Court cases continue to uphold the illegality of penalizing a new buyer with a different assessment approach, Baca said. In the latest, the 3rd District Court in Doña Ana County ruled it was unconstitutional to apply tax lightning and directed the assessor there to return the value on the protester's house back to the pre-sale amount and refund the difference.

Two similar rulings have occurred in Bernalillo County, he said.

Commissioner Tom Battin asked if the ruling had statewide implications and County Attorney Alan Morel said the last ruling only is a precedent in that judicial district until it is appealed. Then the resulting ruling can be used as a rule.

Baca said that, since 2004, Lincoln County has seen property values double or more.

Former fire chief Gavin sues council, village manager

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Claiming violation of New Mexico's Whistleblower Protection Act and the state's Inspection of Public Records Act, former Ruidoso fire chief Tom Gavin is suing the Village Council and Village Manager Debi Lee, individually and in her official capacity.

The suit, filed Tuesday in 12th Judicial District Court on behalf of Gavin by Ruidoso attorney J. Robert Beauvais, asks for damages to be proven at jury trial, statutory damages, the cost of the suit and attorney fees, and punitive damages. Detailed in five counts, Gavin, who was fired Jan. 5, contends he was wrongfully terminated and was denied due process, and that his 1st Amendment rights to free speech were violated.

"The court should find the decision to terminate Gavin was arbitrary, capricious or not supported by law and should reverse the decision," the suit states. "Gavin should be reinstated with no loss of pay or seniority to his employ-

ment."

Village officials did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

According to the lawsuit, Gavin was hired Feb. 6, 2008 for the classified position of fire chief, and obtained permanent status and protected property interest in his employment on Feb. 6, 2009. He received exemplary performance evaluations, including from Lee, through 2010.

The suit contends two incidents led to his dismissal.

The first occurred in July 2010, when Gavin was asked to perform a fire inspection of a private restaurant and he cited 15 violations, giving the business owner the standard 30 days to correct.

The tenant occupying the restaurant complained to the (village officials and Lee), the suit states. "Upon information and belief, political pressure was brought to bear on the (village) by one or more elected (village) council members to reverse Gavin's corrective notice. Lee took the position the (village) was subject to a lawsuit by the

tenant and the owner," the suit states.

In violation of public policy and written procedures for fire inspections, when Gavin was out of town, the assistant fire chief was directed to conduct another inspection, the suit states. He found the same violations, but extended the correction period to one year. Gavin complained about the potential danger, but Lee refused to reinstate the 30 day time period, the suit states. As a private citizen, Gavin reported "a serious health and safety concern" to the State Fire Marshal.

The second incident centered on remodeling of the Ruidoso Convention Center. The suit contends plans intentionally were not sent to Gavin for his review, because village officials suspected the remodel would not comply with existing fire codes. During a conference of fire officials from around the state, Gavin noticed some fire code violations there involving the sprinkler system and exit signs. He contacted the deputy village manager, but was rebuffed, according to the suit. He

again contacted the State Fire Marshal as a private individual.

"As a result, the village was required to remediate the violations, although publicly, (village officials) denied that any violations occurred," the suit states.

Gavin subsequently reported his inadvertent error involving the use of public money. He was given a three-day suspension, although the suit contends Lee violated the same policy and publicly stated such mistakes were not uncommon. Similar conduct by other employees were not punished in the same manner, according to the suit.

The suit states that at a Nov. 29 meeting Gavin thought was to discuss his performance as fire chief, Lee instead gave him an ultimatum to resign or be terminated. Gavin refused to resign his employment, but agreed to step down as chief as long as any transfer was, "without prejudice and will no loss of seniority and compensation."

When Lee pressed her demands for a resignation, Gavin retained Beauvais,

who restated Gavin's previous offer, the suit states.

At a predetermination hearing Dec. 27, Gavin could not bring an attorney and was not allowed to call witnesses, cross examine village witnesses or dispute the evidence against him, according to the suit. On Jan. 6, 2011, he was terminated by Lee, justified with a 86 "findings" against him.

A post termination hearing was requested by letter to Lee along with a request to produce documents that supported the manager's findings and other paperwork that Gavin "knew would controvert the state basis for his termination."

Despite repeated requests for the information, to date, "and without justification and in violation of (the Inspection of Public Records Act)," Gavin has been denied access to the records, states the suit.

Ruidoso asserts many of the records are privileged and will not be provided, according to the suit.

On March 7, Beauvais again demanded a date for the post-termination hearing, but to date, one has not been scheduled.

The suit contends Gavin has been retaliated against as a result of his exercise of free speech and in violation of the Whistleblowers Protection Act; that he has been denied a post-termination hearing within a reasonable time; and was denied reasonable access to public records.

The suit states he is entitled to damages to be proven at trial but to include lost wages and benefits and future lost wages and benefits through retirement at age 62; that the Whistleblower violation entitles him to twice the statutory damages; that statutory damages of \$100 a day should be imposed for each day records are not produced and that the village should be compelled to produce them.

As for due process, Beauvais in the suit also stated that Ruidoso's Personnel Policy does not contain a procedure to appeal an adverse employment decision or termination, and the suit contends the village did not have just cause to terminate Gavin under its policies and procedures.

Governor signs legislation aimed at natives' high suicide rates

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Legislation that will attempt to address high suicide rates in New Mexico's Native American communities was signed into law Thursday by Gov. Susana Martinez. The measure was spurred by teen suicides on the Mescalero Apache Reservation and in the northwestern New Mexico community of Thoreau, on the Navajo Reservation.

"Sadly, Native American youth suffer from a disproportionately high suicide rate and this is a problem that must not go unaddressed," Martinez said. "I am confident that this bill will increase and improve collaboration, data collection and resource-acquisition efforts so that we can better support Native American young people and stop the scourge of suicide."

The bill calls for a collaboration between the state's Indian Affairs Department and Human Services Department to establish culturally-based programs designed to increase suicide awareness and prevention in New Mexico's Native American Communities.

"This bill gives me hope because if one searches the New Mexico Legislature's website for bills on suicide prevention, there have been 20 bills proposed before 2011. Of those, five were passed, but the bills that passed were not written to provide services or programs to schools or communities except for SJM (Senate Joint Memorial) 61 in 2005," said Jeremiah Simmons, who works in the suicide prevention field in Mescalero.

Simmons, who runs the Honor You Life program, said data collected from the program indicated that youth over 14 years of age go to their friends first in times of crisis. He said youth-led, peer-to-peer suicide prevention programming is vital especially in communities that lack mental and behavioral health resources or where stigma prevents at-risk individuals from using

such resources.

"For youth in rural Indian communities, friends are all they have. This approach is supported by knowledge indicating that protective factors such as connectedness to family and friends for Native American youth can be more beneficial to them compared to exposing them to an evidence-based program - which I have major methodological issues with considering that most of those programs were never tested in rural and Indian communities and the subsequent cultural adaptations of those programs to fit an area reduces the fidelity of the program itself."

Simmons is an advocate for moving from evidence-based to practice-based programming.

"This new bill proposes that that we utilize culturally-based initiatives," Simmons said.

But \$450,000 for a statewide clearinghouse for Native American suicide prevention and three suicide prevention initiatives for Indian communities was removed, and the state will implement the measures "subject to available funding."

"I am hopeful that passage of this bill is not just a rote form to placate the political machines that got them election considering that no actual funding has been set aside for the effort," Simmons said. "Without the actual funding to provide services and fund prevention initiatives, we know that at-risk youth and their families are left helpless and desperate for help each day services are not provided."

The New Mexico Indian Affairs Department reported that the causes of youth suicide in Indian Country are multi-factorial. Unrecognized and untreated mental illness was considered a major cause of youth suicides. Additional factors such as isolation, poverty, loss of cultural and individual identity, historical trauma, substance abuse, and self-esteem issues were also associated with the increased risk for Native

American youth to take their own lives.

"As a result of the youth suicide crises in the communities of Mescalero and Thoreau, partnerships between tribes, the State of New Mexico, and the Indian Health Service have been developed in several communities in order to respond to youth suicide clusters," the department wrote in response to the legislation.

According to the New Mexico Department of Health, suicide is a public health problem across the state. Suicide was the ninth-leading cause of death, accounting for 372 deaths during 2009. The suicide rate in New Mexico has consistently topped the national average. In 2009, the age-adjusted suicide rate in New Mexico was 17.4 per 100,000 population compared to the 2007 U.S. rate of 11.3 per 100,000. In New Mexico, suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults.

New Mexico's American Indian rates are even more elevated. Native American high school students reported higher rates of seriously considering suicide in the previous 12 months (20.0 percent) compared to Hispanic youth (13.6 percent), according to the New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey assembled in 2009. They also had a higher rate of self-reported suicide attempts in the previous 12 months (14.7 percent) than Hispanic (7.6 percent) and White (7.3 percent) high school students.

Only 36 percent of youth at risk for suicide receive treatment for their problems, according to the Department of Health. The department called for Native American suicide prevention initiatives targeted toward youth and young adults, especially males.

One year ago Coloradas Mangas, then a 15-year-old sophomore at Ruidoso High School, testified on Capitol Hill about suicide on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. Appearing before the

U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Mangas said more help was needed on the reservation. The committee hearing was titled "The Preventable Epidemic: Youth Suicides and the

Urgent Need for Mental Health Care Resources in Indian Country."

The Honor You Life program at Mescalero is nearing the end of its three-year grant period.

"What we have learned is simple but important: Follow-up saves lives," Simmons said. "Continuous outreach in many venues where youth convene is essential."

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HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

The costs and facts of elder care

Thousands of families each year are faced with the difficult and emotionally stressful decision making process of arranging appropriate housing for a loved one who can no longer take care of themselves independently. Americans' average life spans are increasing and the age group of 85 and older is the fastest growing segment of the population. With this in mind, finding care and housing continues to be at the forefront of senior concerns.

In today's tough economic times, financial burdens can be felt far and wide; however, it is perhaps the hardest hit when our seniors who have retired and/or planned their futures are faced with health issues that can easily deplete their savings. The best possible solution to avoid any unplanned financial hardships due to change in increased need of care is planning.

People with chronic conditions or dementias that require medical attention may consider a nursing home. According to the Center for Disease Control, it is estimated that 1.5 million people live in nursing homes. A nursing home is a facility which provides residents with a room, meals, person care, nursing

care and medical services for residents requiring short-term or long term care.

Medicare usually pays for short stays at nursing homes but will not pay for long-term care.

Medicare considers long-term care to be "custodial care", which is non-skilled personal care, helping with normal activities like bathing, dressing, eating, transferring and toileting.

The only time Medicare coverage can be used for a skilled nursing facility is when a person has a medical condition that requires skilled care after a hospitalization and that is only for a short period of time.

This skilled health care can be provided to Medicare beneficiaries after a qualifying hospital stay for at least 3 days.

If long term or permanent placement in a nursing home is needed, it would have to be paid for by alternate means.

About half of all nursing home residents pay expenses out of their own savings, or family members pay. According to a MetLife Mature Market Institute study, the national average rates for a private room can cost over \$78,000 annually.

Some private insurance policies cover long term care in nursing homes, but

not usually for extended periods of time.

Also, managed care plans will not help pay for care unless the nursing home has a contract with the plan.

This can be misleading and it is a good idea when purchasing a plan, to make sure to ask if they have agreements with local nursing homes and to what extent the coverage is.

Assisted living facilities are services for those who are not able to live independently, but do not require the level of care that they would get in a nursing home.

Assisted living facilities provide room and board and typically include at least two meals per day, housekeeping services and some personal care assistance. Other services can be added on for additional costs.

More than 900,000 Americans live in assisted living residences in the United States.

The national average base rate was calculated to be over \$37,000. Medicare does not cover these expenses either.

Locally, this cost is closer to \$60,000 a year.

Medicare supplemental insurance is a type of private insurance, designed to help pay for gaps in

Medicare coverage, like deductibles. These supplemental plans may help pay for nursing home care, but only when that care is provided by Medicare and this would only apply for short term.

For persons who become long term residents of nursing homes or assisted living facilities, once they have exhausted all of their financial resources, they may qualify for Medicaid.

Medicaid is a state and federal program for people over the age of 65, blind or disabled, who meet the financial guidelines.

Medicaid will only pay for certain facilities that are certified by the government.

Because approximately 7 million Americans each year receive some type of long term care, obtaining long term care insurance can be an option.

For those who can afford it, paying into these plans over the span of several years, sometimes thousand of dollars can insure that a wide range of services can be provided in the residential setting, community or group homes and nursing homes.

In considering this type of insurance, it is wise to contact the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC),

and get their free publication called, "A Shopper's Guide to Long Term Care Insurance". If you are low income, it probably does not make sense to pay into long term care insurance, as you may end up qualifying for Medicaid.

Other types of care are adult day care facilities and home health services. The desire for families to remain at home or "age in place" has created a diverse and dynamic home care services industry.

Many are Medicare certified and must comply with federal regulations. For short care periods, after illness or hospitalization, Medicare and most insurances cover costs.

This can include skilled nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapist, speech therapists, medical social workers and home health aides.

The only full service Medicare certified home health agency in Lincoln County is Ruidoso Home Care & Hospice. For more information, please call 575-258-0028.

Seniors also have the option to hire private caregivers to assist them with daily tasks.

The average fee for private pay homemakers in New Mexico is \$16 an hour and home health aides run

between \$8 - \$38 per hour.

The national average cost for Adult Day Care services is \$67 daily. There currently are no adult day care services in Lincoln County.

It is important is to review and fully understand what benefits and services are covered by Medicare or other existing health care plans and insurances.

It is of equal importance to make sure that legal documents are in order, power of attorneys or health care advocates are appointed and family assets are protected.

The Eldercare Locator can assist in finding the closest Area Agency on Aging (AAA) office and/or long-term care ombudsman's office.

A long-term care ombudsman represents people who live in nursing homes. He or she investigates problems and complaints and is a trusted source of information.

Some internet links with more information are: <http://assets.aarp.org> <http://www.metlife.com> or <http://www.nmaging.state.nm.us/longterm.html>

Article courtesy of the Lincoln County Health Council.

Influenza activity in New Mexico declining

SANTA FE - New Mexico Department of Health's tracking of influenza shows a continuing decline from the peak in mid-February. Department of Health Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Catherine Torres states, "Our rates of influenza-like illness seen in clinics across the state have declined from a peak of 6 percent seen in mid-February to 3.9 percent reported last week."

She has indicated that there are three types of influenza circulating this year in New Mexico and the United States which

include H3N2, H1N1, and B. Dr. Torres also said that the surveillance system has seen no increase along the border in the last few weeks.

The influenza season this year has been dominated by H3N2 with type B and H1N1 occurring throughout the season at lower levels than H3N2.

"Following the 2009-10 H1N1 pandemic, we are seeing H1N1 becoming another seasonal influenza strain," says Dr. Mack Sewell, State Epidemiologist with the Department of Health. According to Dr.

Sewell, Mexico has also seen a predominance of H3N2 influenza virus this year along with influenza type B.

The health department established a cross border influenza surveillance system in conjunction with the Office of Border Health and health officials in Chihuahua, Mexico in 2007-2008.

The system tracks influenza in multiple sites along the New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico border.

In a typical season, New Mexico experiences 150-300 estimated deaths due

to influenza and related pneumonia.

The Department of

Health reports a plentiful supply of vaccine this year. The vaccine protects

against all three types of influenza that are circulating.

SHELTER NEWS

HUMANE SOCIETY OF LINCOLN COUNTY

An important source of income for our Humane Society are the little dog and cat banks that may be found at the checkout counter at many of the merchants in Lincoln County. Please patronize these establishments and make a donation to our banks, however small.

They are as follows: Allsup's, Mr. Payroll, All 4 Pets, Copper Bear Gallery, Ruidoso Animal Clinic, Copper Mountain Auto Body, Western Auto/Parts Plus, Magic Forest, NAPA Auto Parts, Walgreen's Photo Shop, Foxworth-Galbreath, Harvey's Feed and Supply, Cornerstone Bakery, Apache Travel Center, Postal Annex, No Bones About It, Schlotzsky's, Josie's Framery, Books Etc., End of the Vine, Hall of Flame, Emporium, Can't Stop Smoking, Great Wall of China, Club Gas, T.R.'s Convenience Store, Lawrence Brothers IGA, Log Cabin, Reed's Meat Market, Lincoln County Mercantile (Capitan), Smokey's Country Market (Capitan), Smokey Bear Restaurant (Capitan).

We have two old girls that have been in the shelter for way too long and we need to find them each a loving home.

One dog is Sierra, a very sweet Shepherd mix, about 6 years old. She is good with children and other dogs. Sierra weighs about 40 pounds.

The second dog is Cricket. She is a pretty red heeler/Aussie mix. She is very attentive and eager to please.

Cricket weighs 35 pounds and is about 2 years old. Both of these dogs can be adopted for a reduce fee of \$25.

Like other shelters, we have problem called "black animal syndrome." For whatever reason, our black dogs and cats are more difficult to adopt out.

Accordingly, we are launching a pilot program to train dogs as service dogs. Our first candidate is Sampson, a beautiful young black Labrador retriever.

We held an off-site adoption on Saturday, March 12. We adopted out four dogs and have two that are a maybe.



CHUCKS PICK OF THE WEEK

Bhut Jolokia

"Bhut jolokia" in Hindi, which when translated, means "ghost chili". "Ghost chili" "the worlds hottest chili pepper.

How hot is this "ghost chili" compared to other chili peppers? It has more than 1,000,000 scoville units, the scientific measurement in chili's spiciness. In comparison to other hot spices, a classic tabasco sauce has 2,500 to 5,000 scoville units, jalapenos measure 2,500 to 8,000 scoville units, and the previous world record holder red savina habanera contained 580,000 scovilles. The "bhut jolokia" on the other hand tested at a staggering 1,001,304 scoville units.

Please use extreme caution while ingesting or handling ghost peppers. Always thoroughly wash your hands after handling.

Cooking instructions for Jolokia Peppers

The pods are dried bhut jolokia chile peppers, complete with seeds and stems. Wear gloves before handling. Remove stems from pods. Place in a glass bowl. Add boiling water to cover the pod and cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Let the pods steep for 15-30 minutes. Drain water and chop into very small pieces. Add to your favorite food in small amounts. Add a little at a time and taste.

The pods can be used as they come, especially if they are going into wet food such as chili, beans or salsa.

The powder can be used as is. Add very small amounts to your food and mix thoroughly. Add more to taste. Bhut jolokia powder is a very easy, quick way to spice up food. A little goes a long, long way. Use with caution.

Pepper Heat Index

Chili peppers are ranked and listed using the Scoville Heat Unit (SHU) scale. The SHU scale is based on the amount of capsaicin in the pepper.

- 1. Jalapeno - 2,500 to 8,000 SHU
- 2. Habanero - 100,000 to 350,000 SHU
- 3. Bhut Jolokia - 1,001,304 SHU

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DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso Village Councilor Rafael Salas signs an adopted ethics code Tuesday and the establishing resolution that he advocated and Councilor Angel Shaw helped draft. The resolution states that in keeping with the village's commitment to excellence, all public officials, elected and appointed, must comply with both the letter and the spirit of the law affecting the operation of government. The code covers 16 issues, as well as implementation and compliance. The issues include acting in the public interest, complying with the law, appropriate conduct, preparation for meetings, to vote based on merit and to avoid conflicts of interest. The code specifically admonishes councilors not to participate in decisions where a conflict may exist and to declare even the appearance of conflict. They also should refrain from accepting gifts, favors or promises of future benefits that might compromise their independence of judgment or give the appearance of being compromised.

Whither, Joint Use Board?

Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn tells council he wants to dissolve the board that governs the wastewater plant

DIANNE STALLINGS
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Clearing the air Tuesday about an error in his interpretation of requirements for appointments to the Joint Use Board that governs the regional wastewater treatment plant, Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn used the moment to call for the dissolution of the board.

It's not the first time he's mentioned that option, but he sounded more convincing this time around.

Alborn explained that "I clearly made a mistake," when during a JUB meeting last month he contended the City of Ruidoso Downs needed Village Council approval of its change of representation on the board from City Clerk Carol Virden to Public Works Director Cleafus Richards.

The meeting was adjourned when Chairman Tom Armstrong, mayor of Ruidoso Downs, declined to allow Virden to serve that day until the issue could be resolved.

An update on the status of the \$36 million plant was scheduled, but no votes.

Alborn contended city officials should have brought up the change during a preagenda meeting to avoid any surprise to the other members, Alborn and Village Councilor Angel Shaw.

A seat for a Lincoln County representative remains vacant, after the city rejected one county commission nominee and the village another.

The rules state the city and village must approve the county appointee, but not the representatives

from the other municipalities.

The city sent a letter listing their members dated and postmarked March 16, the day of the meeting. Alborn received it March 17.

"My thought is - and I've talked to a lot of people familiar with the JUB - I think we need to dissolve that baby as quick as we possibly can and get on with the business of the village," he said.

"We're going to have to deal with the politics earlier than we anticipated. I think we need to dissolve it. I realize, it is not going to happen overnight."

However, the situation is complex. While the village owns and operates the plant, serving two business enterprises and a subdivision of the Mescalero Apache Tribe as customers, the City of Ruidoso Downs was awarded grants for construction of the new high tech filter plant.

The city added a property tax to repay construction loans and recently approved a gross receipts tax effective July 1, to help offset the cost of its 15 percent portion of the operating expense.

The plant is called a "regional" wastewater treatment facility, in line with state and federal preferences for broader approaches to such infrastructure and services.

The new plant was mandated after state and federal environmental agencies increased their requirements for levels of nitrogen and phosphorous in the plant's discharge into the

Ruidoso River, and as a part of a lawsuit settlement to restore the quality of the water in the river and to improve the riparian habitat.

Village officials have advanced scenarios in which Ruidoso Downs would become a customer and another under which "shares" of the plant would be owned based on the wastewater flow produced by each entity.

City officials indicated they weren't interested in a change.

The village currently is responsible for 85 percent of the plant's expenses.

"There is no need going through all the hubbub and hassle once a month," Alborn said of the JUB meetings.

"How near completion are we?" he asked Village Manager Debi Lee.

"About 95 percent to 98 percent complete," she replied. Dual systems from the old and new plant are running simultaneously now. "We're getting very close."

Alborn told her, "We need to move on and get it done."

Coming back to the audience at the council meeting, Alborn continued, "When Councilor Shaw and I went on the JUB, it was with the idea we'd get all the politics out of it and move forward, get the facility built and then deal with the politics.

"Well, we're going to have to deal with the politics earlier than we anticipated. I think we need to dissolve it. I realize it is not an easy thing or going to happen overnight. There are a lot of questions, but I believe it is something we need to do."

Councilor Don Williams told Alborn that he supports his position on the JUB.

Local nominated to serve on New Mexico State Game Commission

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

With hunting representing a significant portion of Lincoln County's economy, a local representative should be serving on the New Mexico State Game Commission, county commissioners decided at their monthly meeting.

They approved sending a letter to the governor asking for that consideration. Based on a request from former commissioner and rancher Stirling Spencer, they specifically nominated rancher and former Captain School Board president Preston Stone.

However, Gov. Susana Martinez's office jumped ahead of the request by announcing four appointments last week to the state game commission and one new appointee, Bill Montoya, is from Alto, an area north of the village of Ruidoso.

Montoya is the former director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and worked for the department 28 years over-

seeing conservation and game management before assuming the position of director.

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

Spencer told county commissioners the county needed someone familiar with the local hunting and wildlife management situation to make an impact on state rules, which he contended has been lacking.

"I've gone against (allowed activities) that could be money making for me, because I believe in management of the species over the long term and doing best for the land or the species," Spencer said. He said the game commission's decisions appeared to often be influenced by politics and revenue, which is shortsighted and not good for big game species, sportsmen or New Mexico.

He noted his opposition to an attempt to increase the number of in-state

hunting licenses, saying the state usually has to advertise several times to sell the current quota for private or public/private hunting areas.

Only 20 percent of the licenses go to out-of-state hunters, he said.

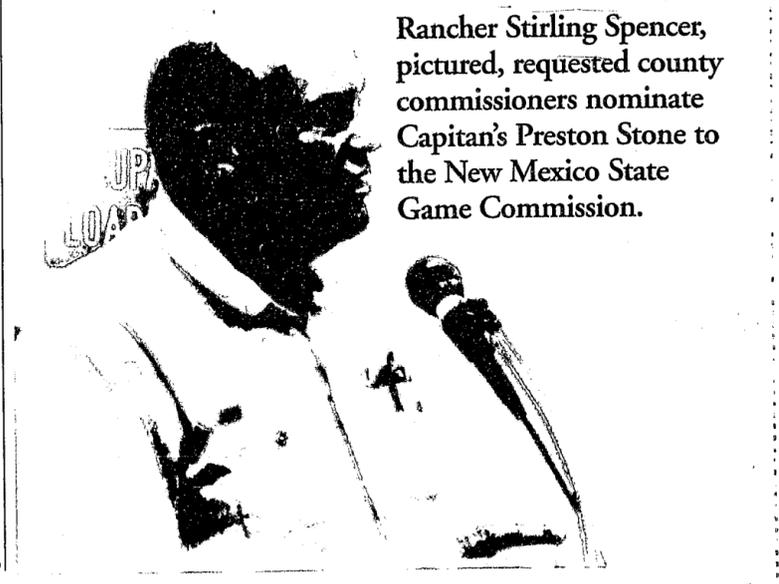
"The cost is not subsidized like the rest," he said. "It's free market and gives the opportunity for out-of-state to hunt our land. I think that's a good thing."

"You need to have influence on someone you can trust," he told commissioners, "I don't know that we've ever had anyone on the Game Commission."

County Commissioner Tom Battin offered a motion to send a letter recommending a Lincoln County nomination and specifying the county preference for Stone.

"I suspect Lincoln County is among the top four in the state in terms of revenue from hunters," he said, emphasizing the importance of the issue.

To be considered, a person must submit an application for an appointment.



Rancher Stirling Spencer, pictured, requested county commissioners nominate Capitan's Preston Stone to the New Mexico State Game Commission.

County 'voting centers' considered for next election

■ New system would have nothing to do with redistricting, commissioners told

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

In the next election, Lincoln County voters may cast their ballots in six or seven "voting centers," instead of 21 precinct polling places around the county.

County Clerk Rhonda Burrows told county commissioners at their meeting last month she's exploring the possibility of using voting centers as a less expensive and more efficient handling of elections. She also updated them on the status of redistricting county commission districts based on the 2010 U.S. Census data.

Commissioners decided that written bids should be obtained from three demographers in New Mexico to select a firm to complete redistricting for the commission districts, an exercise mandated by federal and state law to ensure an equal distribution of population among districts and that the voting power of ethnic and other shared interest groups is not diluted.

Burrows recommended a professional be hired. Ten years ago with the last redistricting, the cost was \$7,000, she said. Professional services under \$50,000 do not require advertising for requests for proposals.

Although the item was listed on the agenda for an update, commissioners took action and voted to direct Burrows to obtain

prices from New Mexico Demographics owned by State Sen. Rod Adair, a Republican from Roswell who help with redistricting 10 years ago; Research & Polling Inc., based in Albuquerque, a firm that helped in delineating and increasing county precincts this year from 18 to 21; and Williams Demographics of Las Cruces, owned by Jim Williams, Ph.D., who helped the county redistrict 20 years ago.

State hiring preferred

Burrows suggested hiring within the state to ensure a better familiarity with the process and with Lincoln County. Deputy County Clerk Tammie Maddox also sent out inquires to a demographer accreditation organization and received no response, she said. "I think there are a limited number per state and like plumbers in a freezy, they probably are very happy right now," Burrows told commissioners. "These are your three in-state options for consideration."

County Attorney Alan Morel, who was around 10 years ago for the 2001 redistricting, suggested finding out if the county could handle a portion of the work to keep the price down. Burrows said she thought the approach would be difficult, but would include wording to that effect in asking for a price. The companies then might be able to tell her how and if county staff could help. She recalled that 10 years ago, it was the precinct work the coun-

ty supplied, which is the same situation this year. The precincts are needed ahead to help redraw Congressional district lines, which is not part of the county's redistricting.

"Maybe they will tell us what we could do," she said. "I think the bulk of the charge is for the mapping."

"It's important to do sooner than later, because many counties are going to be seeking help," Commissioner Tom Battin said. "I support using a professional." He leaned toward Adair, because of the senator's long association with Lincoln County as part of his legislative district. He would know the cultural makeup, Battin said. The Albuquerque firm may be busy with the larger cities.

"This has nothing to do with his redistricting, so there would be no conflict of interest?" Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo asked.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter said all the precinct lines were redrawn and submitted, and commission districts lines don't influence Adair's legislative district lines. "But I want to be the devil's advocate here and I want to keep it clean," she said. "I'd just rather have no inkling of conflict."

Burrows said not much needs to be done, no major restructuring, because the county by U.S. 2010 Census only saw a 5.6 percent growth from 19,411 to 20,497, a jump of only 1,086 residents in 10 years.

When she traveled to the state capital of Santa

Fe, she met the new Secretary of State and also talked to Bobbi Shearer, the new state election bureau chief, who is from Capitan.

"I believe the proposed precinct boundaries are pretty well fixed now, using the new precinct 18 (a small nodule of a precinct with only a few voters)," she said. "The logic is those were required to build districts other than ours. I talked to Shearer about the district and she thought perhaps since it was recommended for legislative purposes, because of a possible shift in population in the state districts, that for our purposes, it can remain as part of Precinct 3."

Legislature approves

How that could occur would be through the use of voting centers, a concept approved by the State Legislature this year.

"The bill passed that will allow the commission with my recommendation to consolidate precincts for voting purposes only on election day," Burrow said. "County clerks across the state supported the move, because 30 percent to 50 percent of voters cast their ballots through early voting now, and because it is expensive to staff and supply precincts, where we might have nine to 12 people show up (to vote on election day). Ruidoso has six precincts that vote at the Ruidoso Convention Center. It's logical to combine into a voting center with fewer people having to man it. The centers would work very much like early voting

sites at the county clerk's office or the Ruidoso Senior Center in Ruidoso, regardless of your precinct."

"They are consolidated for voting purposes only," she clarified. "It doesn't impact what legislative or congressional or school district you fall in. I will bring a proposal before you for designation of polling places."

She planned to watch how voting centers work in a late March election in Albuquerque, she said.

"I see six to seven voting centers, Corona, Hondo, Capitan, Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs and Alto. We'll look at how many miles people have to travel and where we can have them if (combined voter attendance makes them) busier than the usually polling places. I look at it as potentially, a really great thing."

"So if I was shopping at Walmart, I could vote at a center in Ruidoso Downs," Minter said.

Burrows said she has more research to do on the centers and how to ensure people don't votes at several centers in an election.

"We have struggled some to recruit poll workers, as is the case in other counties," Burrows said. "With vote centers, we could split shifts morning and afternoon. The statute says we still have to report by precinct. It is just like a ballot on demand in early voting by precinct."

As for the possibility of losing the advantage of small precincts where poll workers know everybody who votes, Commissioner Jackie Powell said her

cousin is a poll worker and, "still made me show ID, and I appreciated that."

Commissioner Mark Doth pointed out the commission could handle the redrawing the commission district lines on its own. "We're not required to pick one of these demographers," he said. Burrow said commissioners also could opt for purchasing software that interacts with the county's Geographical Information Services, but it could run as high as \$20,000.

Doth said he mentioned the possibility only because of the low percentage of population increase for the county, "How hard could it be with 1,000 more people?" he said.

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo said the difficulty will occur in the Ruidoso area, where the most population was added and the lines already are awkward in places. "I think we still have to contract for the mapping," she said.

Minter agreed, saying, "For less than \$10,000, I don't think it's worth our staff time. It only happens once every 10 years. It would be different if we did this every year. Then it would be worth staff time to learn it."

Morel said from a legal point of view, with the added burden of ensuring changes won't dilute minority numbers and shared interests an advantage exists sharing liability by hiring an outside expert.

"I notice on their websites they said, 'We will support you in court,'" Burrows said.

Military Appreciation Weekend (MAW)

Millie Woods, President
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loftyheights@windstream.net
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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
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Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino

2011 Charity Triathlon

Local businesses compete on behalf of their favorite charity in a triathlon event. Proceeds from the triathlon will be used to fund the Ruidoso Middle School's "Day at the Races" for the 2011 Reading Season. Everyone who participates gets fun loot items and other prizes.

April 19, 2011 - 5K Triathlon

April 27, 2011 - 10K Triathlon

May 7, 2011 - Family Fun Triathlon





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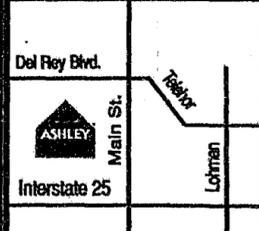
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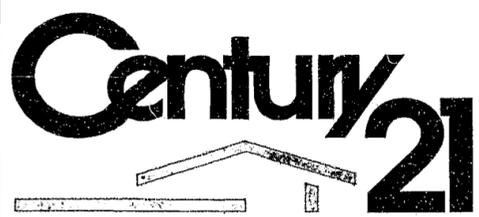
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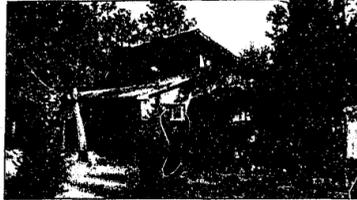
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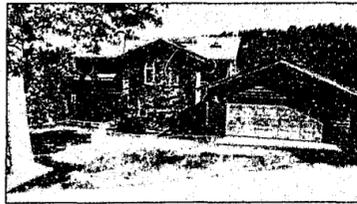
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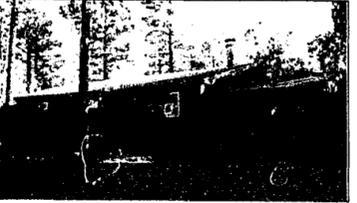
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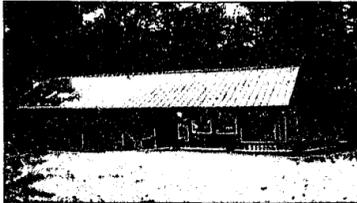
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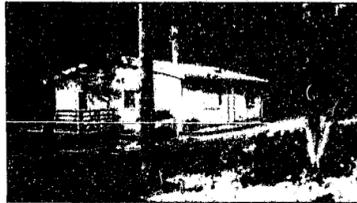
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SPORTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011

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PAGE 1B

side line

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.

Track

Saturday, April 2

RHS at Ron Singleton Invite, Carlsbad, TBA

Softball

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.

Archery Qualifier

The Lincoln county Senior Olympics will hold an archery qualifier, Saturday, April 2, at 10 a.m. at the Cox Ranch on Cora Dutton Rd. All persons 50 years of age (as of 12/31/11) or older may participate. An entry fee of \$5 is required, which entitles the entrant to enter all events offered. Country participation is required to enter the state meet. For more info or directions call Dick Cox at 354-3313 or Parks and Recreation at 257-5030.



The RHS boys and girls varsity track teams have already qualified five of their athletes for state competitions.

MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

RHS track and field: something for everyone

MIKE CURRAN
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Track and field is often overlooked in high school and college sports. But when you stop and think about it, it is one athletic activity that offers a level of participation like no other. Take the Ruidoso track and field program for instance. About 45 high school students participate in that varsity sport. And when you include an additional 55 athletes from Ruidoso Middle School seventh- and eighth-grades

you have some 100 competitors taking part in a given sport. And within that activity the Ruidoso teams attempt to compete in 19 different events.

For Ruidoso Track and Field head coach Colt Harrelson, the more the merrier – it's good for the students and it's good for the school.

"We have some good athletes on our teams (varsity and middle school)," he said. "Katie Coronado was a premier javelin thrower at Ruidoso High School, graduated from UNM and

tried out for the Olympics. In fact, she's already in training for the upcoming Olympics. I believe we have some of those types of athletes around here."

The always positive Harrelson likes the potential in this area.

"I'm encouraged by the kids I see in our program," he said. "All of our participants train towards the 400-meter run. We want every athlete to be able to run it and then we place them where they need to be to help the team."

Harrelson is another

Ruidoso coach who believes in competing against other strong school programs.

In the meets thus far, the RHS team has participated in events at 4A Roswell (March 5), 5A Carlsbad (March 12) and 5A Hobbs (March 17), which put them up against, not only those schools but the likes of Artesia, Odessa, Moriarty, Clovis, Lovington, Portales and other, such competitive teams.

To date, that strong competition philosophy has yielded positive results for

some of the Ruidoso athletes.

Devon Carr, Gage Whipple, Jesse Scarafiotti and Kalama Davis have qualified for state in the 4X100-meter and 4X200-meter relays with times of :43.87 (as of this report that is the fastest time in 3A) and 1:34.28, respectively.

Sophomore TyLynn Smith has also qualified for state by clearing 4-foot 10-inches in the high jump.

This has put the RHS

See TRACK, page 2B

The case for competition

"Competition is destructive to children's self-esteem, it interferes with learning, sabotages relationships and isn't necessary to have a good time," writes one pseudo-intellectual, Utopia-minded, know-it-all. To this overbearing lightweight, and other like-minded egoists, sports competitions take away from a child's creativity. Instead, we should teach the kids to just get along and have fun.



MIKE CURRAN
CURRAN EVENTS

I wonder what Ryan Fitzpatrick (QB, Buffalo Bills, Rams and the first Harvard quarterback to rush for more than 1,000 yards), Craig Breslow (RP, Oakland A's, Yale, molecular biophysics, biochemistry, 3.5), Myron Rolle (S, Tennessee Titans, Florida State, exercise science [premed], 3.75. He graduated in 2 1/2 years then received a master's in medical anthropology from Oxford.); or Ross Ohlendorf (SP, Pittsburgh

Pirates, Princeton, operations research and financial engineering, 3.8), to name but a few, would say about not competing in sports? Oh, and just for some nostalgia, how about Christy Mathewson, a pitching master with a lifetime professional record of 373 wins against 188 losses (1900-16)? "Matty" attended Bucknell University where he served as the class president and played on the school's football and baseball teams.

"Christy Mathewson brought something to baseball no one else had ever given the game. He

handed the game a certain touch of class, an indefinable lift in culture, brains and personality," Grantland Rice said.

Competition has defined America. It is the chief reason the U.S. has risen to be the greatest power on Earth.

But with its faults, there are those who long for a visionary system of political and social perfection, which they think will cure all ills.

Never mind, that's been tried before. "It just wasn't implemented correctly," these ideological, intellectually dishonest indi-

viduals counter.

And if you don't think sports can play an important role in an adolescent's life listen to this miracle story.

At the age of 16, a certain young man decided he didn't like the state where he resided with his father and the discipline he was expected to maintain. That Christmas he returned to his hometown to visit his mother for 10 days but decided not to return to his father. The father was hurt, the son was embarrassed

See CASE, page 2B

Are spring football practices important?

TEDDY FEINBERG
Las Cruces Sun-News

Are spring football practices important?

For some schools, not really.

For the New Mexico State Aggie football team, absolutely.

NMSU opens Saturday's spring sessions with a new offensive coordinator – yet again – and are coming off a dismal 2010 campaign.

This team needs to get

better and any time on the practice field helps.

Below, some burning questions facing NMSU, and what spring ball might help determine.

1. How will Doug Martin's system mesh with Aggie football?

Martin is either lucky or unlucky, depending on how you look at it.

The former Kent State head coach was going to run a high school program two weeks ago, before the Aggies called and eventual-

ly offered him the vacated offensive coordinator position.

Aggie fans have seen this movie before, as Martin will be the team's fourth offensive coordinator in the last four years.

Trying to keep tabs on a new coach's system is fun when the first guy rolls through town, yet at this point seems inconsequential.

But if the Aggies want to have any hope at turning things around, Martin's

philosophy is important. The reality is that Martin is following two guys – Timm Rosenbach and Mike Dunbar – who underwhelmed before leaving.

Expect the coach to incorporate a three-receiver, single-back look that utilizes a tight end as a pass-catching, H-back type.

The team will run to set up the pass, incorporating a zone-blocking scheme when taking to the ground.

See NMSU, page 2B

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-Joseph A. Zagone

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TRACK

FROM PAGE 1B

track team well ahead of where they were last year for state qualifiers.

The RHS track and field team will participate in Saturday's Ron Singleton Invite in Carlsbad, as well as four more meets, including their own 24th Annual Ruidoso Invite, before the May 7 District Meet in Lovington.

State Meets will take place May 12-14 in Albuquerque.

The 24th Ruidoso Invite

will take place, Saturday, April 16, at RHS. Including Ruidoso, 16 boys and girls teams will compete.

Among them will be 5A Monzano, 4A Goddard, 4A Roswell, 3A West Las Vegas, 1A Carrizozo and Capitan and possibly 1A Hondo.

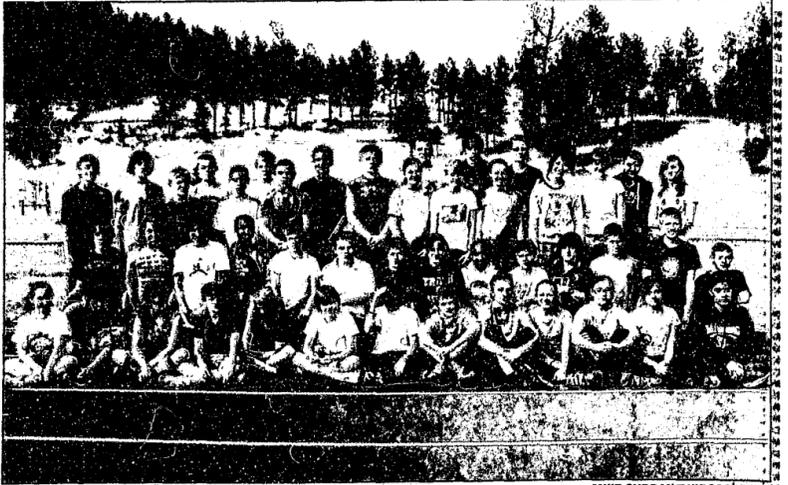
"As in all track meets, there will be something for everybody at the Ruidoso Invite," Harrelson said. "There will be some strong, fast athletes in Ruidoso that day. That, in turn, should promote a large crowd of interested spectators."

Harrelson, who is in his

second year as head coach, was born and raised in New Mexico and ran in track for NMSU. His wife Debbie is currently coaching the RMS track and field team.

Harrelson credits a large part of his team's success to the able assistant coaching of Patrick Hodges (RHS graduate, track athlete), Mandy Padilla (RHS graduate and track runner), Yelena Temple (RHS long distance runner) and Julian Romero (Capitan graduate, track runner).

"I believe we are making a difference and I think the athletes see this," Harrelson concluded.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Are there some future track and field stars on the Ruidoso Middle School teams?

CASE

FROM PAGE 1B

and neither spoke to one another for three years. The dad and his offspring were alike, you see. The son felt he had let his father down greatly and suffered because of it. He became reclusive, began drinking heavily and experimented with marijuana. Upon graduating from high school he got a job as a dishwasher with a chain restaurant. And that was all he wanted in life. I should add, at this point, the young man is mathematically gifted, a trait he had inherited from his paternal grandfather. A col-

lege opportunity was not in the offing for the young adult and so he believed he would only lead a menial existence throughout his life. Unbeknownst to the dad, a former good friend of his came out of nowhere, befriended the young man and became his mentor. One day, the young man's sponsor took the 19-year-old to a U.S. Navy recruiter. He passed the standard entrance tests handily. The Navy invited him to return and take the nuclear program examination. He passed it easily and was scheduled to leave for boot camp on Dec. 7, some four months away.

About this time, towards the end of the third year of the rift, the father came

down with a potential life-threatening illness and realized he had to reach out to his son in case the worst were to befall him. Not for himself mind you, but for his boy. He didn't want him to go through life angry and guilt-ridden. The dad made a call and his son responded by boarding a plane, on his own initiative, and flew to see his estranged father. The two weeks they spent together were as if they had never been apart. The older man had prayed for his son every morning and evening for all of those three years. His prayers had been answered even though he felt he did not deserve the miracle.

When they reluctantly parted, all was well once

again. The young man departed for the 10-week Navy boot camp on the scheduled day. Each wrote the other multiple times per week. When the seaman recruit graduated he was sent immediately to nuclear school in Charleston, S.C. Always, a worrier, the Navy man fostered anxieties as to whether or not he could pass the stringent, accelerated learning process.

One weekend the father called his son, as he did periodically, for news of his son's progress.

"How are you doing and have you had any tests yet?" the father asked.

"I'm doing OK, dad. I've had two big tests. I got a 3.7 on the first one, a 3.64

on the next one and I'm third in a class of 25, so far. It's hard. I've been studying four hours a night. It's easier for some of the others, so I have to put in more time with the books."

"Gee, son, I'm happy for you. I'm proud of you. Just out of curiosity, what do you attribute your beginning success to? Hard work?"

"Baseball, dad."

"What are you talking about?" the father asked.

"Well, when I was 8-years-old you had me in the cellar pitching and hitting for two hours a night, four times a week all winter. Other kids were playing Nintendo and watching TV.

But the next spring I was the star of the team and

one of the best in the league. That gave me incentive to work even harder the next winter. I enjoyed winning and I had fun. Then, when I was 10, you put me on that travel team. All nine other kids on the team were just as good as I was.

"So I had to work even harder to maintain a certain level of play I had set for myself. My teammates respected me and I enjoyed those days. Yeah, dad, baseball taught me how to overcome failure and rise above adversity. I never thanked you but I'm thanking you now. You always said baseball is a game about life and now I know exactly what you meant. It was all worth it."

NMSU

FROM PAGE 1B

Challenges in front of Martin will be making the Aggies an effective running

team - NMSU dropped off dramatically in their ground attack a season ago - and moving the sticks on offense, which will help the team's defense get a breather.

Martin will also have to

develop quarterback Andrew Manley, a diamond in the vast Aggie rough. Manley's the real deal, a swashbuckler possessing a sharp spiral, snappy release and guts.

He's a player the team

can build around.

Lastly, Martin and head coach DeWayne Walker will need to show a willingness to gamble more often.

Rolling the dice on fourth-and-short will have to be an option and creative playcalling cannot be an afterthought.

This team has to think outside the box, particularly on offense, if they want to be competitive.

2) Do the Aggies have any linemen?

This is a question for both sides of the ball, but lets start on defense.

NMSU got zero pressure on the quarterback last year and it showed - the overall unit was carved up on weekly basis and it started up front.

Simply put, the team needs to generate a push.

The tricky part is that there aren't many reinforcements to speak of.

The Aggies bulked up at defensive tackle because it

moved around personnel - offensive lineman Dylan Lusk will now move into the defensive interior, as will Kevin Pankey.

Defensive ends Pierre Fils and Donte Savage vanished last year after respectable 2009 campaigns.

Those two - outsized most weeks against opposing offensive tackles - need to get upfield in a hurry if this line wants to have any hope.

As for the offensive line, there should be improvements.

Bruising guard Sioli Fakalata returns for his senior season after being granted a medical redshirt and junior college transfer Andrew Kersten should be in the mix immediately.

The Aggies want to win with a blue-collar brand of football and that starts in the trenches.

3) Is this important year for the Aggies?

Yes.

For a myriad of reasons this team just hasn't even been competitive in recent seasons.

The schedule is tough, real tough, and something needs to be done to give Aggie football fans hope.

Maybe it's Martin or Manley.

Maybe it's running back Robert Clay who showed a knack of hitting the hole late last season. Maybe it's a step forward from the defense.

And at the end of the day, it boils down to being in games and getting wins.

This team needs to do it and, frankly, most fans won't care about potential and prognostications made in early April.

Followers of the program just want results in September and October.

With that being said, spring ball is here.

The Aggies have work to do.

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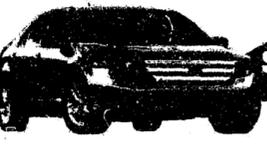
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RELIGION

Only faith can confirm life after death

Q: I need your opinion concerning a matter which has shaken my soul and made me introspective about my deepest religious beliefs.

Almost four years ago, I survived a heart attack. I was in cardiac arrest twice and "died" on the table, but was brought back.

I've always been a science- and evidence-oriented person, but what I experienced can only be described as an out-of-body experience.

At the beginning of the operation, I was awake, conscious and in severe pain. Then everything in the room went black, followed by a sensation of floating, feeling incredibly well, and being surrounded by a blinding white light.

My doctor sounded far away, repeating, "Don't go. Stay with us, George!"

I heard the voices of my deceased parents and grandparents asking me what I was doing there. Before I could answer, I sensed or felt I heard a voice I truly believe was the voice of God telling me it was not yet my time.

I awoke and experienced a rapid recovery. Do you

believe in the existence of such experiences?

— George via email

A: What you're describing is called an NDE (near death experience). According to Dinesh D'Souza in his wonderful book, *Life After Death: The Evidence*, the term was first used by physician Raymond Moody in 1975.

Moody reported on 150 cases of people who'd had NDEs like yours: floating above their bodies, seeing a bright light, meeting deceased family members, then reaching some kind of barrier and being told to return to life.

NDEs are nothing new. Plato recounts an NDE in *The Republic*.

Ernest Hemingway, wounded by shrapnel in WWI in Italy, wrote to a friend: "I died then. I felt my soul or something coming right out of my body, like you'd pull a silk handkerchief out of a pocket by one corner. It flew around and then came back and went in again and I wasn't dead anymore."

Even the atheist A.J. Ayer wrote of an NDE when, after a heart attack, he was "confronted by a red light, exceedingly bright" that he recognized was "responsible for the government of the universe." This didn't con-

vince Ayer of the existence of God but did provide, "rather strong evidence that death does not put an end to consciousness."

The most famous researcher on death and dying, Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, even reported that blind patients had NDEs and could suddenly describe accurately the jewelry of their attending physicians!

Today, there's even an International Association for Near Death Studies and a journal, "The Journal of Near Death Studies."

All this is spooky stuff blurs the boundary between science and faith, and that, in my opinion, is a problem.

It tries to use scientific methodology to prove (or disprove) religious beliefs, and this can't — and shouldn't — be done.

Even if NDEs are real, they don't prove there's life after death. They only prove, at most, that dying might take longer than we think.

The way our consciousness disconnects from our body might well be a gradual fading. In other words, people who've experienced NDEs were close to death but never really dead.

I can't quite explain the "floating" or blind people suddenly having sight, but frankly, I'm not interested in such "research."

The most important thing to me is that NDEs are not the way we build our faith in life after death.

The belief that death is not

the end of us is an article of faith, not a conclusion from a neurological experiment.

I believe in heaven (I call it The World to Come) not because some patient could see that an ER doc was wearing a Mickey Mouse tie, but because God has promised us life eternal if we obey the Torah, the Koran, or accept the atoning death of Jesus (take your pick).

Life after death can't be confirmed or refuted by science because it's not a scientific but a religious belief. Science talks about the heavens. Religion talks about how to get to heaven. Why can't people keep this straight?

Furthermore, the fixation on NDEs, tales of previous lives, and so forth just further erodes religious faith by making the only valid confirmations for our faith be scientific ones.

I'm prepared to accept reports from people who've visited Bemidji, Minn., that the city exists, even though I've never been there, but I'm not prepared to believe in life after death because people tell me they saw it while "floating" in the emergency room! Call me old-fashioned, but my proof for heaven is in my soul.

I don't mean to say that experiencing an NDE can't strengthen your faith. It seems to have done so, and research suggests it does so for others. However, it's a faith supported by a kind of pseudo science and thus is vul-

nerable to further discoveries.

For example, there's some indication that when the brain dies it produces a sensation of bright light. So the light of an NDE might not be heaven at all but the last luminescence of a dying brain. I don't want my faith held hostage by a guy in a lab coat.

I'm less interested in reports of the nearly dead than I am of reports of the totally alive who can read the first stanza of this great poem and come back to life and believe, fully and joyously and hopefully, that one day soon, death shall have no dominion:

"And death shall have no dominion.

Dead mean naked they shall be one

With the man in the wind and the west moon;

When their bones are picked clean and the clean bones gone,

They shall have stars at elbow and foot;

Though they go mad they shall be sane,

Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again;

Though lovers be lost love shall not;

And death shall have no dominion."

(Dylan Thomas, 1936)

Send questions only to *The God Squad*, c/o Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, NY 14207, or email them to godssquadquestion@aol.com.



The God Squad
MARC GELLMAN

God values the contributions of all to support His work

Q: I always prayed I'd become wealthy so I could give lots of money to our church and to missionaries, but God hasn't let it happen. Why do you think He's done this? Doesn't God need wealthy people to support His work?

— G.N.

A: No, God doesn't "need" wealthy people to get His work done, whether it's through churches or through other ministries. Most organizations (including ours) rely mainly on people who can only give a small amount of money — but who are faithful in their prayers.

Does that mean God can't use wealthy people, or that their help isn't important in getting His work done? No, of course not.

God has entrusted some people with significant resources, and their gifts can make a major difference to a project.

To the best of our knowledge, Jesus never asked for money (although that doesn't mean it's wrong to do so). But a number of people of wealth supported His work, and without them His ministry might have been hampered (see Luke 8:3).

The Bible, however, repeatedly warns us against the dangers of wealth, and urges us to be content with whatever God

gives us. Why is this? One reason is because money can easily take over the center of our lives — a place that belongs only to God. In addition, greed can creep into our lives (even as Christians), overwhelming us and tempting us into paths we shouldn't follow.

Jesus warned, "No one can serve two masters You cannot serve both God and Money" (Matthew 6:24).

My question to you is this: Are you serving God with the gifts and abilities He has given you — not

just with your money, but with your whole life? Put Christ first, and make it your goal to live for Him.

Q: Our son is enthused about participating in a mission project this coming summer with some other young people from our church. It's in another country that's supposed to be fairly safe, but do projects like this really do any good? They'll only be there two weeks.

— Mrs. E.C.

A: I hope you'll encourage your son and support him in this endeavor. After all, God has apparently opened the door for him to be part of this project, and you should be grateful that he wants to be involved.

Do short-term mission projects like this do any good? Yes, they certainly do. For one thing, they can be a great source of encouragement to the people being served.

The churches in that country (which you name elsewhere in your letter)

are mostly small and struggling, and they'll be greatly encouraged to meet committed young believers from another country.

They'll also profit from their practical help because their country is very poor and they have few resources.

But projects like this also can have a great spiritual impact on those who participate in them.

Most have never been in a poor nation; most also have never realized the challenges that Christians face in places like this.

They also may never have realized what God wants to do in the world — and how He can use them to do it. Jesus said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest" (John 4:35).

Pray not only that God will keep your son safe, but also that He'll use this experience to help your son see the world the way God sees it.

The greatest thing we can do for our children is encourage them to give themselves to Christ and seek His will for their lives.

Q: My husband died a few years ago, and recently I became friendly with a man who was just as lonely as I've been. I really thought our relationship was going to go somewhere, but now he's said he doesn't want to remarry.

I've prayed and prayed for God to change his mind, but nothing happens. Why doesn't God hear my prayers?

— Mrs. Y.S.

A: Just because God doesn't answer our prayers the way we want Him to doesn't mean He hasn't heard them — or even that He hasn't answered them. The Bible says, "The Lord is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29).

But God's answer isn't always a "Yes." Sometimes His answer is "Wait," or even "No." Remember: We see only part of the picture — but God sees the whole, and He knows what is best for us. And He also wants

what's best for us because He loves us. We think we know what we need, and there's nothing wrong with asking God for it. But if God knows it may not be wise or good, He lovingly tells us "No."

It's hard, I know, for us to accept God's "No," or even His "Wait" — but He can be trusted to do what is right. Is He telling you "No" in this situation? I don't know; perhaps He's only telling you to wait. But either way, I pray you'll seek His will about this relationship, and be willing to accept it, whatever it is.

God knows your needs, and He wants you to commit them to Him. But He also wants you to discover the joy of His presence every day, as you open your heart to Christ and learn to walk with Him. We are never alone when we know Christ.

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LINCOLN COUNTY

Capitan moves closer to ordinance amendment

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

The Capitan Planning Commission met Tuesday, March 29, with a room full of residents ready to air their concerns about a possible change to the current subdivision ordinance.

By a show of hands, the majority of those present did not want the 3-acre minimum lot size removed from the current ordinance. Concerns centered on the ramifications that could impact the availability of water.

One resident told the board, "If that subdivision we are talking about annexes and gets the water it needs from Capitan, and you've let them have 1-acre lots, do not then send me a notice telling me I have to restrict my water. Do not

do that."

Capitan attorney Zack Cook said the meeting was not a place for a "back and forth" between guests and the planning commission, but was for citizens to express their concerns and not debate the differences.

A developer with 21-acres fronting the north side of Highway 380 on the east side of Capitan is seeking a solution to the 3-acre requirement that hinders his developing that acreage for commercial use.

Capitan Mayor Sam Hammons said this particular developer has agreed to be responsible for the all infrastructure in the development.

"We never had a developer agree to do that. And you can't expect him to do that with 3-acre lots. The lots would be too expen-

sive," he said.

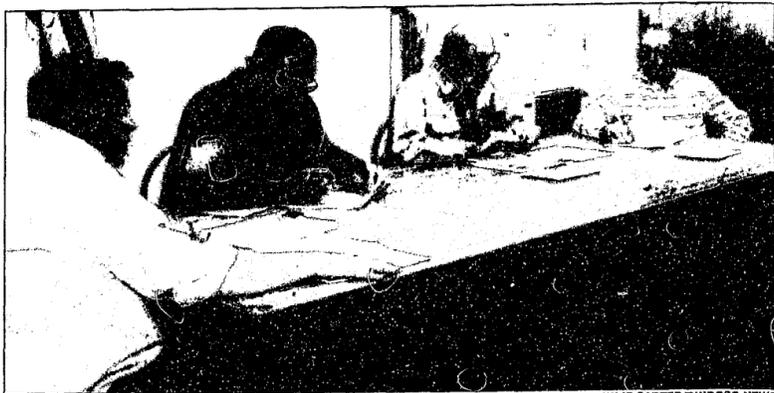
"If we don't get control of that out there, he [the developer] can go with the county and do what he wants," said Trustee and Planning Commission member Ricky LaMay.

LaMay made a suggestion to tie the requirements to physical characteristics of water and sewer.

"Let's say for a piece of property that has water and sewer, it could be 1/2 to 1 acre. And if you had water and septic, it could be 2 acres and if you had a well and septic, it would be 3 acres. Something like that."

"I like that idea," said Commission Chairman Joe Schafer.

Cook said, "That gives the Village a means of going forward on this. The commission can recom-



Capitan Planning members, l-r, Ricky LaMay, Bobby Woods, Bob Sanders and Joe Schafer wrestle with issues surrounding the proposed change to Capitan's subdivision ordinance.

mend to the council to direct me confer with the engineers and developer to write this up with the correct wording."

Planning Commission members Bob Sanders and Bobby Woods agreed and

Woods made the motion to proceed with LaMay's idea.

Audience members offered words of endorsement for the idea and promised to follow the procedure through the next processes. No determination was

made how soon this amended ordinance would be ready for a public hearing and trustee approval.

The next regular meeting of the Village of Capitan board of trustees is at 6:30 on April 12.

Who of us could?

There is a new crop of 18-year-olds about to be loosed on a world full of technology and endless possibilities. It seems important to remember that the abundance of choices and opportunities weren't always there.

The youngest of 10 children, her short life had been full of hard work and Old World discipline. Her mother died when she was 8 and in the summer of her 18th birthday, her father died. It was 1930.

Her siblings had already married, joined the military and found jobs. She was the last one in the nest and the nest was about to be sold, leaving her homeless.

Down the road a few miles was a childhood friend who was also looking for a home. His widowed father had taken a young wife and was starting a new family. He and his brothers felt in the way and decided to strike out on their own.

It was not at all a romantic start to life, but the two homeless young friends married that December because of circumstances, not love.

Their first home was a one-room cabin in the foothills near a freshwater spring. She filled the cracks with rags and tacked tar paper to the walls to keep out the winter winds. He had a job with a sawmill but it was too far away for a daily walk to work, so he left on Mondays and returned home on Saturday nights.

The isolation and loneliness was overwhelming for the young bride.

Her only company was a big collie dog and a very cranky milk cow. She spent her days sewing, mending, cooking and doing laundry.

The basics of living took all day, especially in the winter when wood needed chopped and laundry required water to be bucketed from the spring. After a washboard scrubbing, it was strung on lines throughout the cabin to dry.

A few chickens provided an occasional egg or two and the couple was gifted with half of a deer that she canned or fried and preserved in a crock of lard.

The cow provided them with fresh milk, cream and butter and copious amounts of cottage cheese that she made.

In the spring, she planted a garden with great anticipation of fresh vegetables. She spent long days watering, hoeing and hoeing some more. The green sprouts broke through the fertile ground and became lush with promise.

In a cruel twist of fate from Mother Nature, she awoke on a July morning to find row after row of frozen, blackened plants. Not knowing what else to do, she fell to the ground and cried.

When her anger and disappointment were spent, she prayed, picked up her hoe and began again. She never forgot the day her prayers were answered and she saw the first green stems poking through the ground in the garden she'd coaxed back to life.

It was the height of the depression - the dirty '30s. The family ranch was struggling with cattle selling for \$17 a head, if you could find someone to buy them. It was not enough to support two families so the young couple continued to fend for themselves.

He continued to find sawmill work and even found a mill closer to home. He walked four miles to and from work every day, working 10 hours a day for the princely sum of 15 cents an hour. Being frugal was not a choice.

The first baby was born a month premature and survived in an incubator fashioned from a shoe box set on the open oven door of the wood cookstove. Eleven months later another son arrived. Their income was supplemented with the sale of furs collected from a trap line.

After saving for a long time, they were able to buy a Model T Roadster for \$25. Their social life consisted of playing cards and checkers if someone happened by and stayed awhile. Material things didn't matter, family and survival did.

This couple is my grandparents - married 50 years, most of them hard times, remembered with sweet memories. "We raised our kids on beans, love and poached venison," my grandmother would say.

How many today could do the same?

Julie can be reached for comment at jcarter@tularosa.net.



Cowgirl Sass & Savvy
BY JULIE CARTER

Corona tops landscape contest

JULIE CARTER
jcarter@ruidosonews.com

The well-attended Roswell FFA Career Development Event was the closer for the 2011 invitational judging season and the prequel to the state contest this week in Las Cruces.

Lincoln County was represented by FFA Chapters from Hondo, Carrizozo, Corona and Capitan. There were 20 different contests offered for competition.

Sweepstakes winner were: 1. Artesia 2. Texico 3. Dora.

Teams are comprised of four contestants whose scores are combined for a team score giving the team ranking.

Individual scores are also ranked in each contest. Some FFA chapters do not have complete teams so combined scores and team ranking are not indicative of skill levels. Individuals scoring in the top are recognized with the team placings.

Results are as follows:
Ag Mechanics (29 teams)

20. Capitan: Walker Bymoen, Layne Southard; 21. Carrizozo #1: Don Myers, Wade Sultemeier; 23. Hondo: James Chavez, Cash Ficke, Lalo Lerma; 28. Carrizozo #2 Casey Vega; Individual: 15. Don Myers

Crops (17 teams)

8. Carrizozo: Kylie Gaines, Lauren Smith, Wade Sultemeier; Individual: 8. Kylie Gaines

Dairy Foods (19 teams)

17. Hondo: Jesus Guillen

Entomology (29 teams)

3. Corona #1: Troy Dial, Ally Huey, Jordan Huey, Ethan Johnson; 10. Corona #2: Cutler Cox, Hannah Gage, Christy Huey, Sheldon Mckibben;

19. Carrizozo: Micah Hamilton, Lauren Smith, Wade Sultemeier; 29. Hondo: Jordan Brady; Individual: 9. Jordan Huey; 11. Ethan Johnson; 19. Christy Huey;

Floriculture (7 teams)

7. Capitan: Maggie Rich; Individual: 15. Maggie Rich

Forestry (8 teams)

6. Hondo: Lauren Gomez, Stephanie Gomez, Celena Sanchez; Individual: 15. Stephanie Gomez; 19. Selena Gomez;

Horse (27 teams)

8. Capitan: Lane Carter, Kaleb Cleckler, Bryanna Parker, Kaydn Traylor; 22. Hondo: Jake Devine, Omar Lerma; Individual: 8. Lane Carter

Horticulture Produce (32 teams)

3. Corona: Hannah Gage, Ethan Johnson, Alicia Palomarez, Judith Torres; 7. Carrizozo #1: Emily Comstock, Kylie Gaines, Don Myers; Lauren Smith; 20. Capitan: Maggie Rich, Oliver Schultz, Wade Stearns; 28. Carrizozo #2: Tyrrell Barela, Lindsay Chavez; Individual: 5. Alicia Palomarez; 7. Ethan Johnson; 14. Lauren Smith;

Landscape Design (10 teams)

1. Corona: Ally Huey, Christy Huey, Alicia Palomarez, Judith Torres; Individual: 5. Alicia Palomarez; 6. Christy

Huey; 8. Judith Torres; 13. Ally Huey;

Livestock (36 teams)

3. Carrizozo: Joel Ferguson, Shayna Gallacher, Marshal Wilson; 7. Capitan: Lane Carter, Kaleb Cleckler, Forrest Sweat, Kirsten Wilson; 26. Hondo #2: Patrick Barela, James Chavez, Capo Gomez, Lalo Lerma; 30. Hondo #1: Edwin Prudencio, Anthony Rtel; Individual: 5. Kirsten Wilson; 5. Shayna Gallacher; 6. Marshal Wilson;

Meats (26 teams)

6. Carrizozo: Joel Ferguson, Sarah Ferguson, Shayna Gallacher; 16. Corona #1: Saige Bell, Cutler Cox, Haleigh Erramouspe; 26. Corona #2: Jordan Huey; Individual: 2. Shayna Gallacher;

Wildlife (41 teams)

7. Capitan #1: Layne Southard, Wade Stearns, Kaydn Traylor, J'nae Wood; 20. Hondo #2: Patrick Barela, Jordan Brady, Cash Ficke, Jesus Guillen; 25. Hondo #1: Adriana Gandarilla, Irving Gomez, Anthony Martel, Montana Prudencio; 30. Capitan #2: Walker Bymoen, Oliver Schultz; Individuals: 11. Kaydn Traylor

Wool (22 teams)

4. Capitan: Bryanna Parker, Forrest Sweat, Kirsten Wilson, J'Nae Wood; 7. Corona: Saige Bell, Haleigh Erramouspe, Sheldon Mckibben; 14. Hondo: Adriana Gandarilla; Lauren Gomez; Stephanie Gomez, Celena Sanchez; Individual: 10. Haleigh Erramouspe; 12. J'Nae Wood; 13. Kirsten Wilson; 15. Sheldon Mckibben.

COUNTY BRIEF

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

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Carrizozo still needs a chief

The Town of Carrizozo learned Monday that the new chief of police that they expected on the job Tuesday, March 29, would not be arriving.

Mayor Mike Petty told Ruidoso News that John Parker phoned him to say he had taken another job in another state.

Petty said, "It's back to the drawing board. I will look again closely at the applications we received

when we decided on Parker, and we will also begin, once again, to aggressively advertise for a new chief."

Carrizozo's last chief, Rachel Weiser, officially resigned in early January.

The one part-time officer left in the department completed his employment with the Carrizozo department on March 30, leaving the town without a police department.

-Julie Carter

Fire destroys Loma Grande home

A Loma Grande area home burned to the ground and sparks ignited a brush fire around the house late Wednesday.

Lincoln County Emergency Services manager Travis Atwell said that the fire apparently started when a log rolled out of the fireplace.

Fire fighters from Nogal, Bonita and Capitan Volunteer Fire Department responded to the fire

off Highway 37 north of Ruidoso at about 11:30 p.m. They contained the brush fire at an estimated 1.6 acres. Atwell said they were unable to save the home.

Atwell said two occupants of the home were transported to Lincoln County Medical Center for treatment, one for minor burns and one for smoke inhalation.

-Harold Oakes

RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

March 21

10:39 p.m. — Officer Jon Lund responded to the 2500 block of Sudderth for a report of a man lying on the ground, following an altercation.

Lund reports he found a woman bending over a man lying on the ground, bleeding and unresponsive. Lund requested Emergency Medical Services.

Lund reports that the 26-year-old victim stopped breathing four or five times before EMS arrived and Lund performed chest compressions to revive him. Lund reported that Ruidoso Fire Department arrived on scene and he turned the man's care over to the fire fighters.

Lund reports a witness told him she saw two men punching and kicking the victim.

Lund reported that he is reviewing the surveillance tape from inside the night club to try to identify the assailants.

10:58 p.m. — Officer Lance Ledford and Corporal Lawrence Chavez responded to the 300 block of Evergreen for a report of a domestic incident.

Ledford arrested Eddie Padilla, Jr., 26, on a charge of battery on a household member.

Ledford reports Padilla allegedly pushed his girlfriend to the ground and onto the bed several times and refused to allow her to leave. She reportedly said Padilla also kicked her in the leg repeatedly.

March 22

Officers responded to reports of vehicles being "egged" in the 100 block of Eagle Drive, the 200 block of Grove Drive and the 100 block of Roswell Street.

9:16 p.m. — Corporal Lawrence Chavez responded to the 200 block of Carters Lane for a report of a domestic incident.

Chavez arrested Damien Olivas, 20, for assault on a household member.

Chavez reports Olivas allegedly threatened his grandfather when the older man would not give him prescription pain killers.

March 24

3:12 p.m. — Officer Chris Bryant responded to the Diamond Shamrock at 1901 Sudderth Drive for a report of a larceny.

Bryant reports the clerk told him a woman came in and bought a \$15 Verizon phone card and left. She allegedly returned a few minutes later and said the card did not work. The clerk reportedly gave her another card, which she entered into her cell phone and said it did not work either. The clerk gave the woman her money back.

Later the clerk realized the cards did work and the woman had added the minutes to her cell phone.

March 25

1:10 a.m. — Officer Steve Corbin reported observing someone throw a lit cigarette from the window of a vehicle in the 500 block of Sudderth Drive.

Corbin reportedly stopped the vehicle and the passenger, Nathaniel Mays, 21, allegedly admitted throwing the lit cigarette out the window.

Corbin cited Mays for improper handling of fire and set him for an April 6 court date in Ruidoso

Municipal Court.

March 29

2:21 p.m. — Officer Larry Smith responded to a day-care for a report of a battery.

The victim reportedly told Smith that Jaqueline Benavides, 30, had come to her place of work to talk about some personal issues they had and alleged that Benavides had struck her on the side of the face.

A witness reportedly said that the two women grabbed each other by the arm, but there were no blows.

Smith issued Benavides a citation to Municipal Court on a charge of battery.

3:20 p.m. — Corporal Aaron Frost reported that he was traveling south in the 300 block of Mechem and spotted Louis McCallister, 22. Frost reportedly knew there was an

arrest warrant outstanding on McCallister.

Frost reports dispatch confirmed that there were three outstanding warrants for McCallister.

Frost turned around and returned to the area, but did not see McCallister. He reports that he then observed McCallister exiting Thriftway, unwrapping a corndog.

Frost reportedly yelled "Louis" and McCallister started to approach his

vehicle, then seemed to realize it was a police car and ran away toward Upper Terrace. Officer Tillman Freeman pursued McCallister on foot, but could not apprehend him.

Frost filed a criminal complaint against McCallister for resisting, evading or obstructing a police officer.

March 30

1:30 p.m. — Officer Tyrel

Tyson responded to the 800 block of Main Road for a reported breaking and entering.

The owner of a vacation home reported that the front door of his home had been kicked in, there were empty beer cans on the kitchen counter, the beds had been disturbed and someone had built a fire in the fireplace.

Tyson reported there were no pry marks or any other marks on the door.



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H.D. FLHPT '05 miles, \$10,999, we finance, Call Now!! 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '06 FX4 4x4, ltr, 70k mi 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Hummer H-3 '06 sr, ltr, 4x4, 43k mi, wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Mercury Mariner '08 all pwr, \$16,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
H.D. FLHTCU '08 299k miles, \$17,999, we finance, Call Now!! 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '07 auto, 37k mi, v8, \$12,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Hummer H-3 '06 sr, ltr, 4x4, 43k mi, wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
H.D. FLSTN '94 32.6k miles, custom mirrors, toolbag, \$17,999 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '07 auto, 37k mi, v8, \$12,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Hummer H-2 '06 sr, 60k mi, 4x4, Call!! 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
H.D. FLSTF '99 14.6k miles, chrome wheels, \$9,999, we finance, Call Now!! 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '07 auto, 37k mi, v8, \$12,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Hyundai Tucson '06 4x4, v6, 37k mi, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
H.D. FLT '84 pwrdr pipes, chrm blt cov, \$17,999, we finance, Call Now!! 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '07 auto, 37k mi, v8, \$12,995 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Infiniti H2 '06 sr, ltr, 4x4, 43k mi, wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
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H.D. FXDWG '98 custom pipes, chrome wheels, \$17,999, we finance, Call Now!! 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '05 XLT 21k mi, nav, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Jeep Gr Cherokee '05 auto, v6, pwr, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
H.D. FXSTC '99 chrome switch housings, \$10,999, we finance, Call Now!! 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '05 XLT 21k mi, nav, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Jeep Gr Cherokee '05 auto, v6, pwr, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
H.D. FXST '99 windshield fork pouch, 22.7k mi, \$8,999 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '09 STX 12k mi, v8, pwr, wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Jeep Patriot '08 Lmid, ltr, \$14,955 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow
H.D. FXSTDI '02 ltr, sissy bar and pad, 5.287mi, \$11,999 915-592-5804 Barnett		Ford F-250 '08 heavy duty, \$10,999, w/wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford F-150 '09 STX 12k mi, v8, pwr, wty 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Dodge Ram '08 stk #P7696 Call Now!! 915-778-6633 Bravo	Jeep Patriot '08 Lmid, ltr, \$14,955 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Nissan Armada '05 SE all pwr, \$16,988 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Rumble Seat '30 all original, \$15,938 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Ford Fusion '08 pwr, ac, cd, w/wty, Call 1-866-614-9328Rainbow	Pontiac G6 '06 ltr, v6, sr, with warranty, 1-866-614-9328Rainbow

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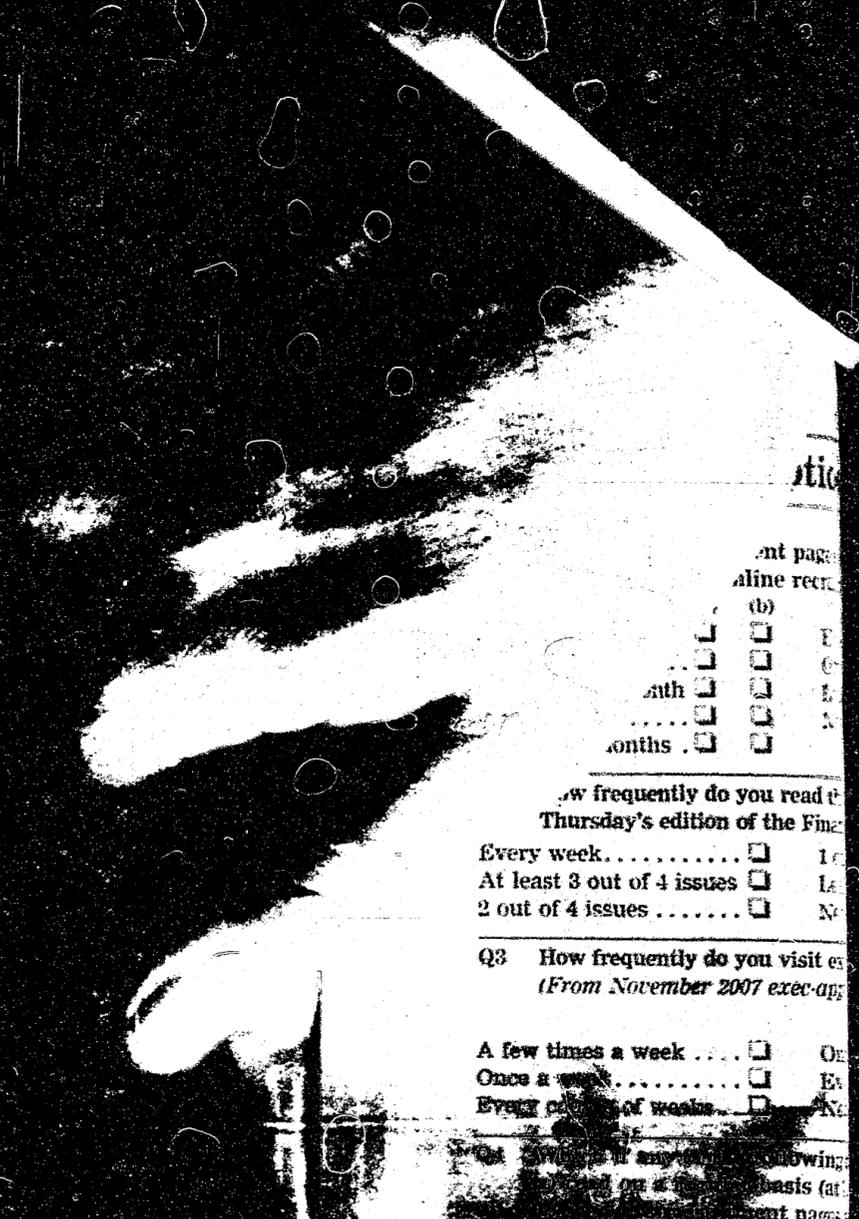
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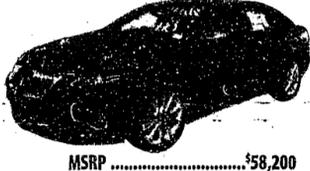
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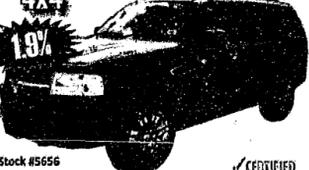
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<p>2011 FORD FUSION HYBRID</p>  <p>Stock #3K408</p> <p>41 MPG</p> <p>1 LEFT</p> <p>Loaded Climate Control, Ambient Lighting, Sync Voice-Activated System and Satellite Radio</p>	<p>2011 FORD FIESTA</p>  <p>Stock #5K429</p> <p>38 MPG</p> <p>\$208/mo.</p> <p>Sport Appearance Package Including 6 Speed Automatic, Moonroof, Heated Seats, Ambient Lighting, Sync Voice-Activated System and Satellite Radio</p>	<p>2011 FORD TAURUS \$285/mo.</p>  <p>Stock #9K439</p> <p>25 MPG</p> <p>MSRP\$29,080 RFL DISCOUNT-\$1,000 OFF FACTORY REBATES-\$2,000 OFF SALE PRICE\$26,080</p> <p>Limited with all the Luxury Goodies!</p>	<p>2011 FORD FOCUS</p>  <p>Stock #5K441</p> <p>34 MPG</p> <p>SE Package With Automatic Transmission, Power Windows, Power Door Locks, Cruise, And Sync Voice</p>
<p>2011 FORD ESCAPE 4x4</p>  <p>Stock #9K016</p> <p>26 MPG</p> <p>\$268/mo.</p> <p>XLT Package with Full Factory Power, Sync Voice-Activated System and Cargo Package</p>	<p>2011 FORD F150 4x4 SUPERCREW \$300 OFF</p>  <p>Stock #9K046</p> <p>MSRP\$37,320 RFL DISCOUNT-\$1,500 OFF FACTORY REBATES-\$4,500 OFF SALE PRICE\$31,320</p> <p>XLT, Full Power, Tailgate Step and Satellite Radio</p>	<p>2011 LINCOLN MKS AWD</p>  <p>Stock #9K046</p> <p>MSRP\$58,200 RFL DISCOUNT-\$2,000 OFF FACTORY REBATES-\$3,000 OFF SALE PRICE\$53,200</p> <p>EcoBoost, Active Park Assist, Navigation, Dual Moonroof, THX Audio, Climate Controlled Seats, And Much More!</p>	<p>2011 FORD 350 4x4 Crew Cab Diesel \$300 OFF</p>  <p>Stock #8K045</p> <p>MSRP\$58,190 RFL DISCOUNT-\$3,500 OFF FACTORY REBATES-\$4,500 OFF SALE PRICE\$50,190</p> <p>Lariat Package, Heated Seats, Rear View Camera, Remote Start and Tailgate Step</p>

USED

<p>2007 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN</p>  <p>Stock #56321</p> <p>was \$13,985 NOW \$12,747</p> <p>SXT, Quad Captain's, 3rd Row Seat, Dual A/C, Stow N Go</p>	<p>07 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE</p>  <p>Stock #56161</p> <p>\$13,975</p> <p>GS, Moonroof, Rockford Fosgate Sound, Alloys, Low Miles!</p>	<p>2007 CHRYSLER 300C</p>  <p>Stock #56321</p> <p>was \$23,985 NOW \$19,999</p> <p>Hemi, Moonroof, Low Miles, Heated Leather, Boston Sound, 6CD, 25 Mpg!</p>	<p>2007 F-250 CREW CAB DIESEL 4x4 \$423/mo.</p>  <p>Stock #8K061</p> <p>\$35,295</p> <p>Lariat, FX4, Grill Guard ✓ CERTIFIED</p>
<p>2004 LINCOLN TOWN CAR</p>  <p>Stock #56371</p> <p>\$14,695</p> <p>Ultimate Memory, Heated Leather, Reverse Sensing, Power Pedals, Low Miles, Loaded!</p>	<p>2009 DODGE NITRO 4x4</p>  <p>Stock #5655</p> <p>was \$22,500 NOW \$19,999</p> <p>SLT, Stability Control, Remote Start, Satellite, Auto, Loaded!</p>	<p>2004 CADILLAC ESCALADE 4x4</p>  <p>Stock #6J0861</p> <p>was \$23,485 NOW \$21,955</p> <p>Luxury, Nav, Moonroof, Heated Leather, Dual A/C, Low Miles!</p>	<p>2007 JEEP COMPASS 4x4 \$178/mo.</p>  <p>Stock #5K4161</p> <p>\$15,760</p> <p>Stability Control, Safety Canopy, GREAT ECONOMY!</p>

PROGRAM

<p>2010 LINCOLN TOWN CAR 1.9%</p>  <p>Stock #56321</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>was \$32,395 NOW \$28,833</p> <p>Lincoln Luxury!</p>	<p>2008 LINCOLN MKZ AWD 1.9%</p>  <p>Stock #5639</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>was \$27,895 NOW \$24,599</p> <p>AWD, Lincoln Luxury!</p>	<p>2010 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE 2.9%</p>  <p>Stock #5649</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>was \$25,320 NOW \$21,727</p> <p>Auto, CD, A/C, Full Power, Sporty!</p>	<p>2007 FORD EDGE AWD 2.9%</p>  <p>Stock #5629</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>was \$25,095 NOW \$21,757</p> <p>Sel Plus, Leather, Vista Roof, Advantecrac, 100K Factory Warranty!</p>
<p>2008 FORD EXPEDITION 4x4 2.9%</p>  <p>Stock #5J4271</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>was \$33,195 NOW \$26,721</p> <p>Eddie Bauer, Heated/Cooled Seats, Moonroof, 3rd Row Seat</p>	<p>2009 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 4x4 1.9%</p>  <p>Stock #5656</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>\$45,833</p> <p>Elite, Moonroof, DVD Entertainment, Navigation, THX Audio, Much More!</p>	<p>2008 FORD F150 CREW CAB 2.9%</p>  <p>Stock #5653</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>was \$30,070 NOW \$24,750</p> <p>XLT, Alloys, Power Windows, Locks, Tilt, Cruise, CD, A/C</p>	<p>2008 MARINER 4WD 2.9%</p>  <p>Stock #5630</p> <p>✓ CERTIFIED</p> <p>was \$23,395 NOW \$19,995</p> <p>Moonroof, Navigation, 6 CD, Loaded, Low Miles!</p>

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