

**FIRE DANGER  
EXTREME!**

# RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011 • OUR 65TH YEAR, NO. 8 • 75 CENTS

## Rifle Fire burns 600 acres

*Blaze near Fort Stanton Thursday threatened two structures, closed highway*

JIM KALVELAGE  
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A wildland fire that broke out late Thursday morning near Fort Stanton scorched hundreds of acres of land.

An unidentified piece of equipment was listed as the cause of the Rifle Fire by New Mexico's State Forestry Division.

The blaze and smoke forced the closure of 18 miles of U.S. Highway 380 between Capitan and Hondo during part of the afternoon. The highway was temporarily reopened to mitigate traffic buildup.

Three miles of State Road 220 (Airport Road) from U.S. Highway 380 to Fort Station were also closed. The fire had jumped Airport Road.

Initially firefighters from a

number of Lincoln County volunteer departments were called in, with other agencies responding as well.

Two single-engine air tankers and a heavy air tanker were being used to battle the flames that burned in brush and grasses and through stands of piñon and juniper trees.

Two additional large slurry planes were requested around mid afternoon, said Dan Ware with the State Forestry Division.

The area is popular for horseback riding, with a nearby BLM campground for riders and their horses. Lincoln County Manager Tom Stewart, who reviewed the area Thursday afternoon, said riders were cautioned about the fire. But no evacuations were required.

"I just got to say our guys,

Eddie Tudor, (the incident commander and New Mexico State Forestry District Forester), Travis Atwell (Lincoln County Emergency Services Director), our volunteer firefighters, BLM firefighters, Forest Service firefighters, just do a great job," Stewart said. "They got this thing taken care of."

Electricity to the Fort Stanton area had been turned off. Two structures were threatened but not damaged.

The Rifle Fire ran through state and Bureau of Land Management lands. Winds from the west/southwest raced at up to 48 miles per hour at nearby Sierra Blanca Regional Airport. The National Weather Service said strong winds existed along U.S. Highway 380 from Indian Divide through Capitan and into Hondo.

A wind advisory had been posted for the region on Thursday.

Briefly, the Southwest Coordination Center had posted the blaze at 1,200 acres, but Ware said that overestimate was later

revised downward. As of 4 p.m., Thursday, the Rifle Fire was put at approximately 600 acres. At the time fire crews were attempting to keep the flames south of U.S. Highway 380.

## Slurry planes luckily on duty

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Two planes that can deliver slurry to wildfires have been stationed at Ruidoso's Sierra Blanca Regional Airport near Fort Stanton.

The SEATs (single engine air tankers), were brought to the airport on Tuesday, said John Selkirk, the Bureau of Land Management's aviation manager for New Mexico.

"Because of the high fire danger that we're experiencing in southeast New Mexico we did bring these in on one of the going fires," Selkirk said. "It was on the Crooked Creek Fire on the BLM

See PLANES, page 10A

## COLORFUL HONDO



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

With wide smiles and dressed in the vivid colors of celebration, dancers strutted and twirled during the 58th Annual Fiesta de Hondo at the Hondo School.

## Police: Robbery account a hoax

■ Man who claimed he was shot during holdup faces criminal charges, himself

HAROLD OAKES  
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A Ruidoso Police Department investigation into an alleged May 10 attempted armed robbery and shooting on the village's north side has resulted in criminal charges against the wounded man.

According to investigating officer Matt Christian, Kenneth Bloomquist, 39, received a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his shoulder from a .22 caliber rifle.

### Burn patterns a clue

"There were burn patterns on his shirt, which went contrary to his story with me," Christian said. "So, it had to be point blank."

Christian described the path of the bullet as being from the left pectoral muscle area upward into the shoulder.

"Whether it was intentional or unintentional, I don't know yet," Christian said. "He had two guns in that house, the .22 rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun."

Bloomquist's house is about 400 yards from where he was on Ranier and University when he called 9-1-1 to report having been shot.

"Whether he did it on purpose or by accident, he definitely did it and it definitely happened in the house," Christian said.

After shooting himself, the investigation indicated Bloom-

quist left his home, walked down the street, and then called 9-1-1 to report he had been shot.

### No 'Hispanic' suspects

On May 10, Bloomquist told officers he had been walking in the area and was approached by two Hispanic men in a pickup truck. Bloomquist said the men demanded his wallet and when he refused, one of them shot him at close range with a small caliber gun that was wrapped in a towel. Local law enforcement agencies launched a search for the vehicle and the men Bloomquist described.

Police searched Bloomquist's home. Christian said evidence at the house indicated the shooting occurred inside the residence.

Christian said Bloomquist was treated at UNM Hospital and they did not remove the bullet, which lodged near his shoulder joint.

Christian has charged Bloomquist with filing a false police report and discharging a firearm within village limits. These are misdemeanor charges.

"There was no felony there," Christian said. "He had a felony back in '95. To charge someone with felony in possession of a firearm it has to have been within the last 10 years."

"I think that may have been part of the reason for him making up the story if it was in fact an accident," Christian said.

Christian said that there is also a possibility that Bloomquist was looking for sympathy from his estranged wife.

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**Gwen Jones**, Foster Parent Liaison, accepts a proclamation from Ruidoso Mayor Ray Alborn at a council meeting May 10 proclaiming May as Foster Care Month in Lincoln County and the village of Ruidoso. Alborn said about 20 children in foster care locally are being provided with a "safe, secure and stable home along with the compassion and nurture of a foster family."

DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

The contest will be judged on 50 percent personality and 50 percent horsemanship. The queen will represent Lincoln County at the Smokey Bear Stampede, Lincoln County Fair and the New Mexico State Fair.

The new queen will receive several great awards including a new saddle, breast collar and a \$500 scholarship.

A queen's clinic will be held May 22 from 1-3 p.m. at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. This will focus on horsemanship, public speaking and poise. Applications will be available at this time.

The queen's contest will be held June 25. The deadline for applications is June 15.

The reigning queen, Bethany Lauren Sweat, will crown the new queen during the Smokey Bear Stampede, to be held July 1-4.

For further information on the queen's contest or on carrying a flag during the Smokey Bear Stampede, call Mary Jane Cooper at 575-653-4180 or email her at cooper4@wildblue.net.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Cpl. Steven M. Chavez** VFW Post 12071 commander William Robinson, left, turned over command to Jerry Grace during an induction ceremony held at Cree Meadows Country Club Monday evening. Grace assumes command of the Ruidoso Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in June.

**Alpine district**

The Alpine Village Water and Sanitation District will meet at 4 p.m., June 6, in the District's building, 114 Alpine Meadows Trail.

This 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 prior to meeting time.

In addition to approving the use of part of the park, the city would also provide canopies. Whitaker said everything else, including set-up and clean-up after the tribute, would be done by volunteers.

The park would likely be used from 11 a.m. to about 2 p.m., with food served around noon.

**Fair queen**

The Lincoln County Fair Board announces the competition for Lincoln County Fair Queen.

The queen contest is open to all women between the ages of 16 - 22 years who are residents of Lincoln County.

**Rate hike talks**

The Greentree Solid Waste Authority Board will discuss the possibility of rate increases at the regular Greentree Solid Waste Authority Board meeting in the administrative offices of the Greentree Solid Waste Authority in Ruidoso Downs, 26590 US Highway 70.

The possible rate increase is limited to some types of commercial customers only.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, contact the GSWA office at 378-4897 or toll free at 1-877-548-8772.

**Firefighter tribute**

A tribute to the firefighters, police officers and other responders to the April 3 White Fire will take place in Ruidoso Downs on Sunday, May 22.

Joline Whitaker, manager of the Ruidoso Downs Shamrock gas station, received permission from the city council to use All American Park for the tribute.

"We think that it would be a nice gesture to serve those whom unselfishly serve us on a daily basis," Whitaker said.

She said the event would include "a barbecue" for those responders. Donations would be sought for the tribute.



**Mountain High RV Park** in Alto made its second large donation to the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter in Ruidoso Downs. The donation consisted of much-needed personal items such as shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, kids coloring workbooks in both English and Spanish, personal soaps and baby wipes and diapers. "Our friends at Mountain High realize how difficult it is to keep basic hygiene items in a shelter with 28 beds. We serve a lot of women and kids here at the Nest and their donation makes a major difference for our residents," said Christina Sanchez of Help End Abuse for Life, the non-profit organization that runs the Nest. The items were delivered to the shelter by Barb Childress and Darved Arnett, pictured above.

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Lincoln County Right to Life 257-084

**JUB meets**

Money will be the main topic at a special meeting of the Joint Use Board May of the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant at 3 p.m., May 25 at Ruidoso Village Hall, 313 Cree Meadows Dr.

Members will discuss and possibly take action on

the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget for the plant, followed by discussion and possible action about possible run-off effects on the plant from the White Fire ash.

The last items are an update on construction of the expanded Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**RUIDOSO NEWS**

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**LEATHER & LACE**

Kobi, Leah and Lenore pose at the Laced Corsets booth Thursday as the Aspen Cash Motorcycle trade show opened at the Ruidoso Convention Center. Leather, lace and motorcycle products abound at the annual Spring motorcycle rally that goes through Sunday afternoon.

HAROLD OAKES/RUIDOSO NEWS

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AccuWeather® 7-day forecast for Ruidoso AccuWeather.com

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
RealFeel 60° Humidity 30% Mostly sunny and windy Wind: W 15-25 mph	RealFeel 72° Humidity 23% Sunny, windy and warmer Wind: WSW 20-30 mph	RealFeel 81° Humidity 14% Sunny and windy Wind: WSW 15-25 mph	RealFeel 75° Humidity 14% Sunny and windy Wind: WSW 25-35 mph	RealFeel 72° Humidity 14% Sunny and windy Wind: W 30-40 mph	RealFeel 78° Humidity 13% Sunny and windy Wind: NW 15-25 mph	RealFeel 75° Humidity 41% Bright sunshine Wind: SE 6-12 mph

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

**Regional Cities**

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2011

**Almanac**

**Ruidoso**  
Statistics through Wednesday  
Temperature:  
High/Low ..... 66°/45°  
Normal high ..... 74°  
Normal low ..... 37°  
Record high ..... 87° (1996)  
Record low ..... 22° (1968)

Precipitation:  
Wednesday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.00"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.51"  
Year to date ..... 0.83"  
Normal year to date ..... 4.70"

Pollen:  
Grass ..... Absent  
Trees ..... Moderate  
Weeds ..... Low  
Mold ..... Low  
Predominant ..... Oak, Tree

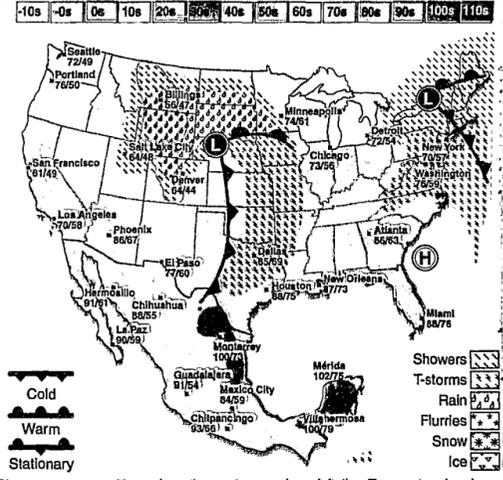
Source: Eddie L. Gaines, MD, of the Allergy & Asthma Clinic

**Alamogordo**  
Statistics through Wednesday  
Temperature:  
High/Low ..... 84°/62°  
Normal high ..... 85°  
Normal low ..... 55°  
Record high ..... 98° (1996)  
Record low ..... 39° (1986)

Precipitation:  
Wednesday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.00"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.36"  
Year to date ..... 0.46"  
Normal year to date ..... 2.43"

**Weather Trivia™:**  
Q: Sheets and torrents describe what weather?

National Forecast for May 20, 2011



National Cities		Regional Cities	
City	Today H/L/W	City	Today H/L/W
Abilene	87/58/pc	Albuquerque	73/51/s
Anchorage	60/43/c	Artesia	89/59/s
Arlanta	86/63/s	Chama	84/32/t
Austin	88/74/t	Clayton	76/45/t
Baltimore	76/56/t	Cloudfcroft	57/37/s
Boston	65/53/sh	Farmington	67/42/c
Chicago	73/56/pc	Hobbs	85/52/s
Dallas	85/69/t	Los Alamos	59/40/t
Denver	64/44/t	Portales	80/50/s
Des Moines	76/63/t	Raton	67/39/t
Detroit	72/54/pc	Red River	48/28/t
El Paso	77/60/s	Ruidoso	63/50/s
Las Vegas	83/70/s	Santa Fe	67/39/t
Los Angeles	70/58/pc	Silver City	72/49/s
Minneapolis	74/61/c	Taos	62/33/t
New Orleans	87/73/s		
New York City	70/57/t		
Philadelphia	75/58/t		
Phoenix	88/67/s		
Reno	74/51/s		
San Francisco	61/49/s		
San Diego	67/61/pc		
Seattle	72/49/s		
Tucson	79/57/s		
Tulsa, OK	82/65/t		
Wash., DC	76/59/t		
Wichita	80/58/t		
Yuma	87/66/s		

**Mexican Cities**

City	Today H/L/W	Sat. H/L/W
Acapulco	91/77/s	91/79/pc
Cancún	90/72/s	90/72/s
Chihuahua	88/55/s	90/59/s
Cludad Juárez	77/59/s	84/63/s
León	93/57/s	93/56/s
México, DF	84/59/pc	84/57/t
Monterrey	100/73/s	99/75/pc
Morelia	93/60/pc	93/62/t
Oaxaca	93/59/pc	95/61/t
Pto. Penasco	82/61/s	82/60/s
Tijuana	70/57/pc	70/57/pc

**Sun and Moon**

Friday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:01 a.m./7:58 p.m.  
Friday: Moonrise/Moonset 11:24 p.m./8:58 a.m.

**Extremes**

Wednesday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 101° in Laredo, TX  
Low: 14° in Bodie State Park, CA

Wednesday's World High/Low:  
High: 119° in Matam, Senegal  
Low: -25° in Summit Station, Greenland

**Moon Phases**

Last New First Full

May 24 Jun 1 Jun 8 Jun 15

# OPINION

## RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager  
Marty Racine, editor

A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, New Mexico

### OUR OPINION

## New beer/wine licenses a sign of optimism

Village benefits from expanded business models

Dusty photos, and the stories of those who were there, indicate that Midtown Ruidoso was, you might say, a little rowdier in the old days.

Over time, its image became somewhat gentrified, with the boutique-ish look managing to coexist with a few holdover drinking establishments.

If Midtown is to thrive, there needs to be fine a balance between daytime shopping and nighttime entertain-

ment, between a family-friendly destination and a place to get loose and enjoy a few laughs.

Thus, we're pleased to see three businesses - two of them located in the heart of town and one out Mechem Drive - granted beer and wine licenses for their expanding menus and business models.

One in particular, at Sacred Grounds Coffee and Tea House, coincides with a building expansion.

May you all benefit.

## A retrospective, part VI: A dog named Goose

First set foot in Lincoln County in 1985 on a camping trip to Bonito Lake - a city slicker married into a Carlsbad family that had been trout fishing here for years. I learned to chop wood, hook bait and roll out before dawn.

Several years later, Glynis and I bought some land outside Capitan; we weren't interested in the tall pines and congestion of Ruidoso but rather an open parcel on which to raise crops and let animals roam.

Then we returned to our jobs in Houston, dreaming and scheming.

Every fall we'd come camping, leaving Houston after catching some rock band in concert, driving through the inky loneliness of West Texas in an '83 Ford F100 and rolling into

Carlsbad with the new-day sun glaring over the plain.

On one such trip I'd arranged to meet with the editor of the *Ruidoso News*, a woman whose name is long forgotten. I wasn't dissatisfied with the *Chronicle*: It was an exciting life with good pay and lots of influence. But there was something *real* about a community newspaper that appealed to me.

Going to work at the *Chronicle* meant battling caffeine-crazed commuters on the Katy Freeway into downtown Houston, locating a spot on the upper ramps of the parking garage, joining the throngs of buttoned-up worker ants filing through the muggy heat, flashing an ID at the uniformed security guard and hailing an elevator up to the features department.

Going to work at the *Ruidoso News* would mean pulling into a back parking lot in the pine-scented air and entering an open door to find *Vamonos!* editor Sandy Suggitt sitting there with her dog, Goose.

Let's see, I'd have to think about that.

In 1998 we built a house on 12 acres and moved in. Built a greenhouse and dug gardens. They liked me at the *Chron*, and I was able to keep my job as a features writer, commuting and telecommuting to Houston as necessary. With each trip I longed to return to the high country, up through the pas-

toral Valley, into historical Lincoln, majestic mountains towering in the distance.

For five years we did this; Glynis had a computer programmer's job with a small Houston company. In 2003 I resigned from the *Chronicle* after 22 years, did some freelancing for the *RN* and hung out with the tomato plants.

On Halloween of that year, KEDU Community Radio went on the air from a small studio in the Gazebo shopping center. I became the news director for a small salary and, for free, hosted a Saturday afternoon music show called "Critic's Choice."

At KEDU, we trail-blazed a format that offered every musical genre in the book, open-mike roundtables with village officials whenever

they dropped by and an hour-long noon newscast with sound bites from all the important meetings. It was a community station in the truest sense, run by general manager Harvey Twite on behalf of a board of directors.

The next spring, I entered discussions to cover Lincoln County for the *Roswell Daily Record*. Before pursuing that further, I made an appointment with *RN* general manager Dave Price to assess any possible opportunities here.

"Funny you should ask," Price told me in his office. "Our editor Wes Schwengels just gave notice that he's moving to Las Cruces. Would you be interested in applying for that position?"

Interested.

The May 14, 2004, *RN* carried a story about the new editor: "We are very pleased to have found someone with Marty's skills, background and expertise right in our back yard," said Dave Price, general manager. "Marty's long journalism career, coupled with his local experience, is going to serve the community, the staff and the newspaper very well."

"I'm honored to accept the challenge of guiding the *News* to the next chapter in its history," Racine said.

And charmed to find dogs trotting through the newsroom. *Next week: The Ruidoso News*

## "A SHOT IN THE ARM"...



### YOUR OPINION

## One exceptional individual

To the editor:

ON MAY 15 I attended an occasion noting the passing of one thoroughly worthy of admiration. In the crowd overflowing the modest schoolhouse of his upbringing in White Oaks were many racetrackers and more than a few ranchers. They all know the elusive dream of producing that exceptional individual validating a lifetime of effort.

I've tried and have yet to raise a quarter horse that can outrun me. But I have know the consolation of meeting one truly exceptional individual. I knew Bobby Dan Crenshaw.

Rick Rotert  
Nogal

hot water heater. Our Board Member Mike Myers coordinated the installation and donated the supplies to hook it up. What a great team!

We are so grateful for the many kind people in our community. Let's everyone "pay it forward" and take the time to do something special for their favorite non-profit organization, like these two gentlemen have.

Thanks Carl & Mike!

Carrie Calkins  
Chief Operations Director  
Help End Abuse For Life  
Ruidoso Downs

they finished second a few weeks ago in stiff competition. The choir was also awesome.

Wayne Ellison did a magnificent job leading the guitarists in a solo concert.

Ellison and Shavers conducted a talent show last week with the help of Mrs. Shavers, Gayla Skeen, and LuAnn Ellison. I was only there for the practice session and I was amazed at the talent of each of the participants, particularly the singers, many of them Capitan choir members.

When you hear about austerity measures and the overall dire economic climate, school budgets across the country look to cut art and music programs first. There is not much holding many of these kids in school and the music and art programs do a superb job of developing their unique gifts.

Capitan's music program and Superintendent Shirley Crawford should be congratulated.

Bill Dement  
Alto

## Thanks for your time

To the editor:

I WOULD LIKE to send out a big thank you to Carl Parsons from Parsons Plumbing & Heating. Mr. Parsons came to the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter and donated his time to install a new

## Magnificent music

To the editor:

I WOULD LIKE to thank the Capitan music department for a fine concert Tuesday night. Duwayne Shavers, the Band Director/Choir Director, and his Capitan High School band put on an exemplary performance and even did a few songs from their State Band competition where

## The governor vs. the constitution

Perhaps it is inexperience. Or perhaps she's simply insensitive to the give and take required in a system of state government where the authority to govern is apportioned between three separate branches of government, legislative, executive and judicial.

Whatever it is, New Mexico's neophyte Gov. Susana Martinez's use of the line-item veto to accomplish legislative ends she sought but failed to achieve at the 2011 Legislature has key state lawmakers on both sides of the aisle talking about hauling her into court for exceeding her authority under the state Constitution.

There have been a number of instances where her veto practices have struck seasoned observers as constitutionally dubious.

Her line-item veto of a \$450,000 legislative appropriation for the Commission on the Status of Women, for example, raised as many questions as it did eyebrows. What was she thinking? Where was she getting her advice?

Martinez had asked the Legislature to abolish that commission. Lawmakers declined to do so, however, whereupon she decided to extinguish the agency on her own initiative by peremptorily vetoing the Legislature's appropriation funding it.

Critics were having none of it,

however. Unless statutes establishing an agency like the Commission are legislatively rescinded, they contended, a governor has no authority unilaterally to abolish it by denying the legislatively appropriated funding necessary to sustain its operations.

And it doesn't end there. Perhaps the most controversial Martinez line-item veto centered on the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA), the agency with oversight responsibilities for regional housing authorities in the state.

This year the Legislature appropriated \$150,000 for the MFA. But when the budget came to her desk, Martinez neither vetoed it nor signed it. Instead she basically rewrote the legislation to make it more to her liking.

It's extraordinary. During the process of drafting a state budget at the 60-day session, lawmakers set the final appropriation for the MFA at \$150,000, which is what went to Martinez for approval or for a line-item veto, up or down.

But Martinez apparently didn't like the either sign-it-or-veto-it option vested in her under the state Constitution, so she gave herself another choice by essentially line-item vetoing the number "1" that preceded the numbers "50,000," thereby writing her own MFA appropriation of \$50,000.

Thus did she almost certainly

exceed her authority under the state constitution she swore to uphold on taking office only a few months earlier.

Simply put, under the New Mexico Constitution the authority to appropriate the money necessary for the operations of state government is vested in the Legislature, not the governor. The power of the purse rests with the Legislature.

Small wonder top legislators from both parties were demonstrably undone when word of Martinez's unique embellishment of the line-item veto hit the front pages. But give her creativity credit, however misplaced. To date no one has found any record of a New Mexico governor prior to Martinez ever having tried such a stunt.

And if allowed to stand, it could become "a very dangerous precedent," said Stuart Ingle, the Senate Republican leader from Portales, of the governor's efforts to change a legislative appropriation by line-item veto fiat.

Last week when this reporter asked Senate President Pro Tem Tim Jennings, a Roswell Democrat, whether Martinez's veto will be challenged in court, he didn't miss a beat: "I imagine. How do you not!?"

Let it be usurped by the governor, Jennings went on to say, "The Legislature almost has to challenge it, because the Legislature has to protect its constitutional authority."

Newly installed governors often stumble. Susana Martinez, it turns out, is no exception.



MARTY RACINE

### ON SECOND THOUGHT

# Lincoln seeks preservation ally in county commission

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Volunteers from the Lincoln Historical District sought support from Lincoln County commissioners Tuesday in their efforts to stabilize and preserve deteriorating historic properties.

Reading from a prepared letter, Linda Fox, chairman of the Lincoln Historic Preservation Board, told commissioners, "There are buildings that have architectural and historic value to Lincoln and to the county. The more of these buildings in the Historic District that are kept from collapse, the richer the district is and the more enjoyable to the visitors and to Lincoln County residents."

"Once they collapse, a part of history is gone."

Seven letters were mailed to owners with such buildings, with follow-up communication from County Attorney Alan Morel, she said.

"What further can be done to get responses from the property owners?" she asked, asking commissioners for guidance.

"Will commissioners in tough economic times support the board's decisions?" Fox asked. "Our decisions are based on adherence to the ordinance guidelines and not on personal bias or



*Fox: "Once [buildings] collapse, a part of history is gone."*

taste. Is the commission willing to enforce our decisions? Is the commission willing to go beyond that and support the board's decision with fines, with litigation?"

Fox wrote that many residents of the historic district believe a property owner can do as they please and the county will not take any punitive action.

"This board wants to change that (impression) and send a new message," Fox said. The members take their job on the board seriously, because they believe in the ordinance and they chose to live in the settlement of Lincoln, she said.

Commission Chairman

Eileen Sedillo said when the historic preservation district was created by state statute and the ordinance was passed in 1972, everyone seemed to support the action. Support during the 1990s was centered in a group that realized the value of the buildings in Lincoln to the history of the county. The last revision occurred in 2005, Morel said.

"It has received varying degrees of support by the county commission over the years," the attorney said. "I think (the board has posed) a legitimate question. Having a situation where people are not in compliance and allow buildings to deteriorate falls under the

weaker part of the ordinance, he said.

"What level of maintenance is required?" he asked. "It's very important to Lincoln. The volunteers have an incredibly difficult job. They have not always received support from the commission the community."

The main focus has been changes or improvements to property visible from U.S. 380, Morel said. "Deteriorating buildings are a separate issue," he said. "There are a lot of old structures. I think the board is saying they are landmarks and to take action to at least preserve them in their current state."

"Not livable," Fox agreed. "Stabilized so they do not continue to fall apart. They're important to the history and architecture or the era. We're not asking owners to put in a bathroom, just close off a roof so no more weather gets in."

Many of the old buildings pique the curiosity of visitors, she said.

"I get asked often, why isn't a building fixed up. A minimum effort would be to stabilize structures," Fox said. All of them are empty.

"It's beautiful to live there (in Lincoln)," Sedillo said. "You've done a good job. It looks serene and clean."

Commissioner Mark Doth said he feels like he's only looking at part of the information. "Something prompted this," he insisted. "Is this a case or cases. It seems the ordinance has plenty of remedies. I'm not sure what you're asking us to do."

"I feel like this commission has been behind the board," Sedillo added, acknowledging that two new commissioners took office in January. But Fox pointed out that her board also is new at working together. "We wanted to meet and find out your attitude, she said. "The condition of two properties worry us. We've attempted to make contact (with the owners)."

The seven parcels are at different stages with some compliance and some with no compliance, Morel said. Most of the buildings are more than 100 years old and the ordinance contains no specific standards to which they must conform. He will bring some suggestions and more information to the commission's meeting in June, he said.

"Some (owners) have offered to work with us and others have not responded at all," he said. "Do you want us to move forward with legal action?"

Commissioner Kathryn Minter said the ordinance requires that buildings be

maintained, "Since we have an ordinance, we must enforce it. They can always ask for a variance."

"I agree as it sits today, we're bound by the law," Sedillo said.

But Commissioner Jackie Powell said the economic times are tough. Six years ago when the preservation board made a push, the county decided to try to do repairs with property owners. She owns an old adobe of the Fritz family from the 1880s and works on it a little each year, the commissioner said.

What's reasonable to ask of owners for maintenance in hard economic times is open to debate and she would prefer the county work with the owners, Powell said.

"We can work with everyone, but we need to enforce the ordinance for the best of everyone," Sedillo said. "We can go one step at a time, not bash them over the head." Minter pointed out that some absentee owners inherited the property and are not interested.

Doth said the ordinance seems "pretty self-explanatory with remedies and courses of action. We'll see what comes before us and we will go by the letter of the law."

"We're behind you, within reason," Sedillo murmured.

# County commissioners mull options on Bonito eyesore

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Dancing around the edge of their ordinance banning trash accumulations on lots, Lincoln County commissioners tried Tuesday to come up with a quicker fix to relieve an eyesore on Bonito Lake Road.

The regular route would be to serve the owner with a notice to clean up the lot or the county would hire a contractor to perform the work and then send a bill. If not paid, it would become a lien against the land. But in this case, the former Coe family lot is owned by The Deutsche Bank National Trust, a mortgage company, which is nearly impossible to deal with, said the county's ordinance administrator, Renee Santos.

Mathew Midgett contacted County Manager Tom Stewart to offer a clean-up of the lot across from Bonito Lou's by a group of volunteers.

"It's an extreme case," Midgett told commissioners as he came to the podium. "It's an affront to us all." His Clean Team has tackled illegal dump sites before, he said. "It looks like a health and fire hazard. There is a tremendous accumulation. It's just wrong."

On windy days, trash ends up in and along the banks of the Bonito River, he said.

County Attorney Alan Morel said he didn't think the county could just jump to authorizing people to enter private property to clean and then bill the owner. "There's a liability issue, as well, he said. The attorney said he became aware of the lot in October 2008, but the county has receive no cooperation from the bank. The county could spend a few thousand dollars to send a notice to the bank that if it doesn't clean

the lot, the county will hire a contractor and a lien will be filed to cover the expense. The normal time limit is 30 days to comply, he said. If the lot is sold, the lien would have to be cleared up.

Or the county could allow the 0.8 of an acre lot to be sold for delinquent taxes and then go after the new owner to clean it.

"We just need a live body to deal with," Morel said. "I think the mortgage company doesn't actually want the property."

Midgett urged commissioners to take some action. "I think we have an obligation to the environment, to ourselves and to visitors to the forest to clean it up," he said. "Once it has debris, others feel they can add their old appliances and it attracts more."

Commissioner Kathryn Minter, who serves as county representative to the Greentree Solid Waste Authority, which collects garbage and yard debris in unincorporated areas of the county, said Deutsche paid the authority to clean up some other property. "Maybe we can work through her and do the same," she suggested.

Santos assured commissioners, "this is a different situation from the Sun Valley property, which had an address. The mortgage company doesn't recognize this property, because it has no address. They say it does not exist. We don't deal in townships and ranges. Since I started, this case has gotten worse. It's been compiling more and more trash. It's one of the worst in the county. Even if it had an address now, it wouldn't help."

The mortgage holder is in "hot water with the feds," because it is not responding to anyone, she said.

"What is there to guarantee if we cleaned it up,



*Morel: "I think the mortgage company doesn't actually want the property."*

(the trash dumping) wouldn't start again?" Minter asked.

"Nothing," Commissioner Jackie Powell replied.

"Nothing, but clean property typically doesn't bring in trash," Santos said. "Those with trash do."

Commissioner Mark Doth asked about putting up a sign reading "No Dumping."

Santos said because of the configuration of the lot and nearby roads, she's not aware of any public right-of-way that could be used for a sign. Morel agreed that a sign couldn't be placed on private property.

"The problem is there are probably 50 or more similar lots out there where you could be asked to do the same thing," he said.

"If you do start, there will be no end to it," Powell added. "It's been like this for a while. A tax sale will handle it, or Debra (Ingle of Greentree) with the bank."

County Assessor Paul Baca cautioned that if too much money is spent cleaning, the expense could outweigh the value of the lot and no one would buy it at

a tax sale because of the lien. That's what happened in Alto Lakes when some lot owners didn't want to pay a road paving assessment on poorly located lots they bought to qualify for a country club membership, he said.

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo told Stewart to get a quote on the cost of cleaning up the lot, hauling off the trash and paying the associated dumping fees.

"It's so visible," Midgett said. "I know there are many others, but that area is a treasure. I encourage you to do what's right."

"It's ugly, it's awful," Powell said, but she doesn't favor the county getting involved with the former Coe property. She wouldn't want someone to intrude on her private property rights, she said.

Sedillo said at least

someone buying it would have an idea of the clean-up costs, if the county can obtain a figure. "Maybe Greentree would donate the use of a rolloff," she said.

Baca checked and told commissioners that no property taxes were paid on the land in 2008, 2009 or 2010. On July 1, it will be added to the list of properties to be sold for delinquent taxes next year. Taxes due come to \$269.68, he said.

The neighbors tried to buy the lot when they purchased their property and couldn't get through to Deutsche, Santos said. The land is valued at \$1,100. Baca said the value will increase once the lot is cleaned.

"I bet the neighbors would buy it (at a tax sale)," Minter said.

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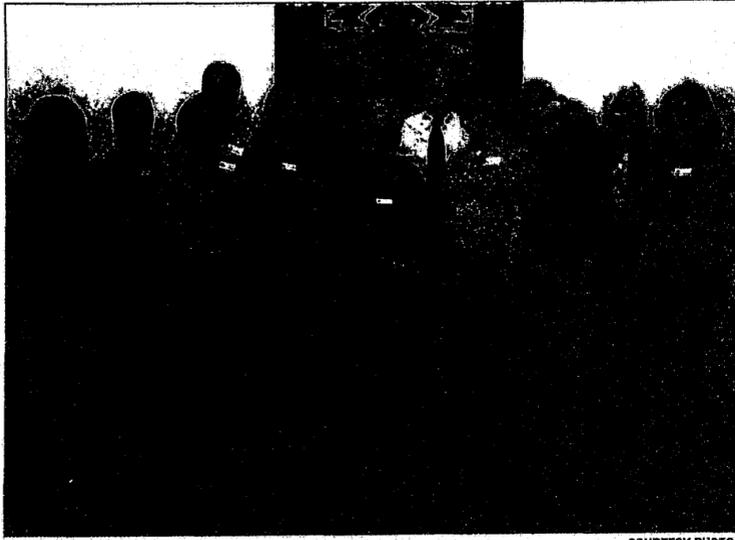
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Business Energy Efficiency Programs



# BUSINESS

## LEADERSHIP CLASS NINE



COURTESY PHOTO

**Class Nine** of Leadership Lincoln, graduated Thursday at the Alto Lakes Country Club. Rich Lurix, outgoing Treasurer was the keynote speaker. Class Nine members, Front row, l-r, April Rue, Taryn McCain, Aimee Bennett, Carol Howard, Georgia Underwood, Holly Braden, Debbi Jo Almager, Coda Omness. Back row, George Douds, Bart Byars, Clayton Alred, Diane Harmon, Susan Weir-Ancker.

## Solar savings at RMS

JIM KALVELAGE  
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Now in full swing, photovoltaic panels producing electricity are trimming the power bill at Ruidoso Middle School.

An electricity analysis showed the energy bill at the school between March 13 and April 6 was \$6,379. For nearly the same period a year earlier, before the electric-producing solar system was in place, the bill was \$11,291. The cost cut was nearly 44 percent. The savings in January and February were less because the roof-mounted generation system was put on-line this past winter.

"Last year, in (roughly the first three months) 2010, the cost was about \$50,000," noted Ruidoso Schools Superintendent Bea Etta Harris. "And this year, January through March, the cost was \$43,000, which is significant considering February."

The opening days of February brought bone-chilling temperatures to Ruidoso. For 40 straight hours the mercury remained below zero, and a new all-time record low of minus 27 degrees was recorded in the village.

District Finance Director Yvonne Perez said the system had been estimated to save the school about \$30,000 annually.

"It looks like it's going to go over \$30,000 a year actually, they way I'm looking at this," school board member Curt Temple said of the first figures. "Big time," he predicted.

The main rooftop PV array at the middle school is made up of 221 modules, each capable of producing 245 watts of electricity. A second smaller array, with 26 modules, serves some measures beyond just generating power. One of the added purposes is visibility - highlighting the "green" nature of the system. Mounted on poles, the "umbrella like" structures also provide shelter from

rain or snow for students who have been dropped off or are waiting to be picked up from school.

In addition to trimming electricity purchased from PNM, power in excess of the school's demand is fed into the PNM grid, creating credits for the school.

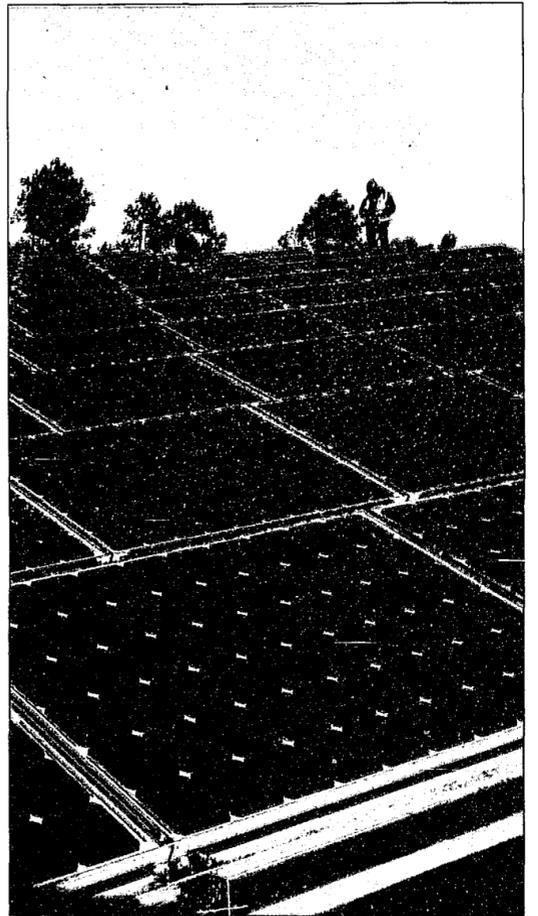
The Ruidoso Municipal School District was awarded a \$300,000 grant last year from the New Mexico Public Education Department for the equipment and installation. The money was supplied through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The photovoltaic panels can produce about 114,600 kilowatt hours per year. As of May 18, the system had generated just over 38,000 kWh since activated in January.

The Ruidoso Middle

School was one of three in Lincoln County awarded solar photovoltaic systems. Schools in Carrizozo and Corona were also among 15 schools in New Mexico to receive the funding.

The company that installed the 50 kilowatt hour system, DPW Solar, will be installing a kiosk at the school to display information about the system and how much electricity the solar collectors are producing.

"They (DPW Solar) talked a lot about the neat solar issues and how they would bring that into the school and have a computer screen there so the kids could see it," said Devin Marshall, president of the school board. "It could make them a little more energy conscience so that they can remember to turn off lights."



COURTESY PHOTO

These photovoltaic panels installed late last year are doing what was promised - saving Ruidoso Middle School on its electric bill.

## Arctic freeze business loans still available

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Businesses impacted by February's arctic freeze may still have access to low interest loans from the federal government.

The New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM) announced Wednesday that Small Business Administration loans are available.

The SBA provides small business owner's access to Economic Injury Loans that provide money for ongoing business expenses to recover from the adverse

economic impact of a disaster. The special loans are available even if the business did not sustain physical damage.

Loan amounts and terms are determined on a case-by-case basis. Interest rates as low as 4 percent for businesses, and as low as 3 percent for non-profit organizations, coupled with payment terms as long as 30 years, are intended to make the loans affordable.

In order to apply for a loan, a SBA worksheet must be completed by the applicant. The worksheet is not a loan application, but rather the first step in the process. Worksheets are

posted on the DHSEM website, www.nmdhsem.org, under SBA loan information. Once the worksheet is filled out, it must be faxed to the New Mexico Disaster Recovery Unit at 505-476-9650.

The deadline for the worksheets in June 1. If sufficient worksheets are not received by DHSEM by the deadline, the loans from the SBA may not be available.

The filing deadline to return loan applications for physical damage is June 28.

The deadline for economic injury applications is Jan. 30, 2012.

## March BRGRT receipts up

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Lincoln County's Business Retention Gross Receipts Tax, put in place on Jan. 1, collected \$64,224.90 in March.

The New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department reported the receipts to the county on May 17.

The local option sales tax, to provide a gaming tax offset to the Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino, was narrowly approved by voters in Lincoln County at a special election last September.

For years track owner R. D. Hubbard has said his

casino needed parity with the revenue sharing percentage paid by the Mescalero Apache Tribe's two nearby casinos to the state. Hubbard had submitted an application to the state in 2009 seeking to move the racetrack and casino to Las Cruces, a likely more lucrative market.

For the first three months of 2011, the tax realized \$178,347. January's revenues were \$60,209. February totaled \$53,913.

County Manager Tom Stewart, projecting the revenues by multiplying the first three months total by four, estimated \$713,388

for the year, "Will continue to track, but things still need to improve if we expect to make the \$750,000 for the track write-off," Stewart said.

The maximum for the track/casino tax credit is \$750,000 annually.

Any Business Retention GRT revenues beyond the \$750,000 limit would go to the county for higher education, economic development or county administration.

The special GRT has a five-year sunset.

County commissioners could repeal the tax before the five years run out.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### License sought

A liquor license transfer approval is being requested by the principals of

Shenanigans Irish Pub in Midtown Ruidoso.

The Ruidoso Village Council will decide the transfer following a public

hearing during the council's May 31 meeting. The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department's Alcohol and Gaming Division has already given preliminary approval for the license.

If approved, the license would transfer from another location in Lincoln County. Shenanigans Irish Pub is located at 2331 Sudderth Drive, on property that had been the location of the former Pasta Café.

## Median home price drops

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The median price of existing homes sold last month in Lincoln County dropped from the month before. But the price was well ahead of both April of 2010 and April of 2009.

The Realtors Association of New Mexico (RANM) reported Tuesday that of the 30 units sold last month in the county, the median price was \$204,500. In April 2010, 27 units were sold for a median price of \$170,000. April 2009 had 26 units sold with a median price of \$177,750. In March 2011, 26 homes were sold with a median of \$253,750.

Statewide, the association reported 1,065 existing housing sales last month, with a median price of \$165,000. The month before 1,137 existing homes sold with a median of

\$163,000. April 2010 had 1,285 sales and a median of \$172,000. April 2009 stood at 1,082 sales and a median of \$171,000.

Year-to-date, the Ruidoso/Lincoln County Board of Realtors reported 107 sales, up from 97 units sold during the first four months of 2010, and 90 units for the sale period of 2009. The year-to-date median price January through April was \$217,000, down from the same period of 2010's \$225,000, but up from 2009's \$151,000.

Across the Land of Enchantment, the 3,842 units sold during the first third of 2011 were below 2010's 4,151 units, but ahead of 2009's 3,575. The median price statewide was \$165,000 this January through April, below the \$170,000 recorded by the RANM for the first four months of 2010, and the \$173,000 in 2009.

Lower priced homes have seen the best sales performance both nationally and in New Mexico.

"The biggest sales increase has been in the lower price ranges, which are popular with investors and cash buyers," Teresa Ramos, RANM president said. "The preponderance of sales activity at the lower end is bringing down the median price. And the number of distressed homes (properties where the value is below the amount of equity) remains high, values continue to struggle to get off the bottom."

Nationwide, sales of previously owned homes fell last month by 0.8 percent, the National Association of Realtors reported Thursday. The national median price of an existing home was \$163,700 in April, which is 5 percent below April 2010.

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# Ten years later, RHS senior gets his diploma

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A former student of Ruidoso High School will belatedly receive his diploma during Saturday's commencement ceremony of graduating seniors.

"He missed his finals by 10 days and as a result was not able to graduate at that time," Principal Pauline Staski said of Marine Cpl. Shane Villado, who was a senior at RHS 10 years ago.

"He had to leave high school in his senior year as a result of family matters."

Two required tests were missed.

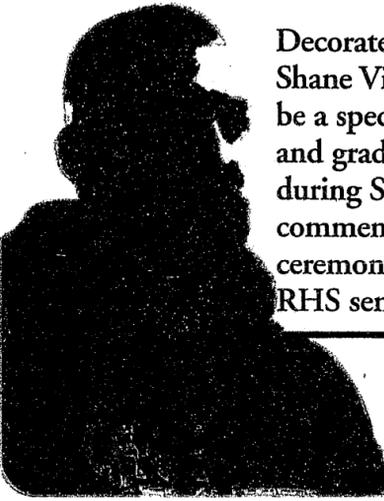
"His aunt contacted me and we did some research."

As of Tuesday, Villado had passed the two tests and completed his graduation requirements.

Between 2001 and 2009, Villado served in the Marine Corps, acquiring three medals.

"He received an award for his leadership during the Battle of Fallujah in Iraq. He received that award in 2005," Staski said.

The honor stated Villado showed "Heroic achievement while serving as 2D Squad Leader, 2D Platoon, Company C, 1st



Decorated soldier Shane Villado will be a special guest and graduate during Saturday's commencement ceremony for RHS seniors.

Battalion, 8th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 7, 1st Marine Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II from 8 November to 8 December 2004. Corporal Villado enthusiastically embraced the task of preparing his squad for the upcoming assault into the city of Al Fallujah. Corporal Villado's hard and realistic training of his squad resulted in an effective and motivated infantry force.

Upon crossing the line of departure on 8 November, pushing aggressively into the attack, Corporal Villado's squad encountered withering enemy fire from a numerically superior force.

Sustaining casualties as a result of heavy and ferocious contact, Corporal Villado quickly reorganized his squad and decisively destroyed the enemy.

Corporal Villado's initiative, perseverance and total dedication to duty reflect credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

"In 2007, he received an achievement medal with combat distinguishing device in the superior performance of his duties. That came during Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Villado showed "Heroic

achievement from July to December in 2006 in support of Iraqi Freedom. Corporal Villado led his squad on more than 50 security patrols, ambushes, and raids during intense combat operations in the Anbar Province of Iraq.

"On 4 November, Corporal expertly guided his squad through dense urban terrain to raid a target in Sadiquah, Iraq. Due to Corporal Villado's careful preparation and skilled planning, his Marines aggressively entered, cleared and separated suspects on the objective in fewer than two minutes.

"Instantly adjusting to new intelligence of an improvised explosive device factory nearby and allowing no time for escape, he issued clear orders and personally led his Marines to the next target. So effective was Corporal Villado's aggressive leadership, his squad cleared the second target and captured two insurgents in just minutes."

A third award came in 2009 for Villado's service in training officers.

"I think you will agree that this young man certainly deserves to be allowed to complete his

high school education," Staski told the Ruidoso education board on May 10.

"He is in the process of studying for his final exams in those two class-

es. Upon passing those exams, he will be a special guest at graduation. He will sit on the stage and part way through ceremony will be awarded his 2001 diploma."

## DID YOU KNOW.....

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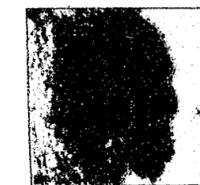
May 2011 Cancer Ed Bulletin

Tanning booths are just as dangerous as the real sun. Both can cause premature wrinkles and sagging skin

It is estimated in 2011 that 69,000 Americans will be diagnosed with melanoma.



When caught early, skin cancer can be treated. Keep a close eye on any changes to your skin and report them to a doctor without delay!



Prevention Tip: Shield your skin from the sun. Limit or avoid exposure during midday hours, when outdoors wear a hat, sunglasses and long-sleeves. And of course WEAR SUNSCREEN!

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## Odor most foul: Sleuths track source of fumes

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Lincoln County's manager said it took some sleuthing, but he finally found the source of a recurring foul odor that emanated from the district judge's chambers.

He blamed corroded and eroded pipes and a strong wind sweeping over the courthouse roof and open vents.

"We've done extensive renovations under the courthouse," said Manager Tom Stewart. "The piping was in terrible shape. I think that was rectified."

But 12th Judicial District Judge Karen Parsons

still called him frequently over the last four to five months, claiming the odor was becoming more extreme.

Her last call was May 12, prior to the commission meeting Tuesday.

He stopped at her office Monday morning, but didn't find anything.

### Winds fan fumes

"That afternoon, the winds came up," Stewart said. "I got on a ladder and with the flags flying, they showed me the winds were taking a direct shot over two vents and the ventilation system of her restroom."

He directed an electrician

to extend the two vents about 20 feet to the east and corrected a ventilating fan that was only working intermittently.

"The sewer gases were coming down the chute right into her bathroom," Stewart said. "The electrician is looking at some fan enhancements."

"I'm glad she called me, because I think we've found it. Hopefully, this will solve the problem. If not, we may have to renovate the bathroom or bring in a mold company to see if that's the problem. If it's not right, we have to fix it."

County Commissioner Jackie Powell said after six years of complaints, she'd

rather see the odor problem repaired than some of the scheduled road projects, if that's what it takes.

Stewart said when the old detention center in the bottom level of the courthouse was gutted, workmen discovered 15 sewer traps that were not working in the floor drains, urinals and commodes.

"I was a plumber in college and never had seen anything like it," he said. "They found pipes rotted out, the gas wore them away, and sewage was running in the bottom with no cap, just open on top."

## Pearce critical of FEMA flood plain maps

An amendment to federal legislation that would reform the National Flood Insurance Program has been offered by U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce (R-N.M.).

"I was contacted by a constituent in Tularosa whose home is 70 feet above the river," Pearce said. "Her home is listed in the flood plain, but the river itself is not. I introduced my amendment today (May 12) to help protect New Mexicans from unnecessary costs that arise from these types of errors.

"I hope we can resolve the issues with the flood maps through common sense approaches."

The Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011 would extend the authorization of the flood insurance program and improve the financial integrity and stability of the program. It would also increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk.

Pearce said federal requirements for flood insurance have become an important issue to New Mexicans. His amendment addresses a policy where

the Federal Emergency Management Agency ignores certain levees in drawing their flood maps.

The southern New Mexico member of Congress said the policy has created flawed flood maps, calls into question the credibility of the mapping

process, and has improperly forced some New Mexico families into the flood insurance program.

He said the amendment would require FEMA to recognize levees, resulting in more accurate flood maps.

- Jim Kalvelage

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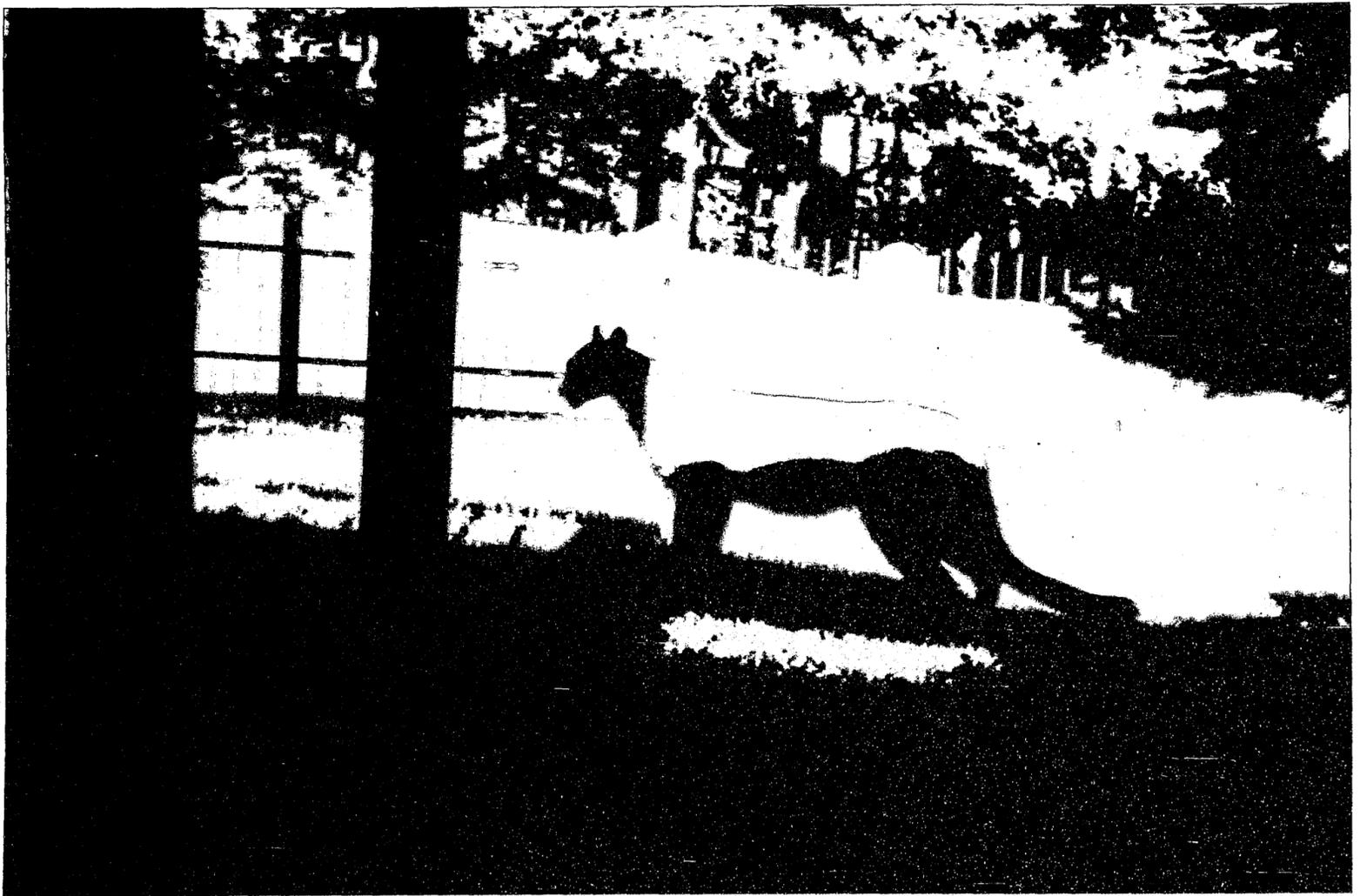
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COURTESY PHOTO

This formidable mountain lion photographed in a Ruidoso back yard was not afraid of humans before it was finally shot by an officer with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. Below, the lion guards its quarry — a freshly killed deer.

# Large cougar killed in Ruidoso neighborhood

JIM KALVELAGE

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

A New Mexico Game and Fish officer shot and killed a cougar in Ruidoso after unsuccessful efforts to chase the animal off from a residential neighborhood.

The animal was reportedly just several blocks from the White Mountain Schools campus.

"We're seeing more and more lions show up in different towns throughout the state," said Leon Redman, the southeast area chief with the Game and Fish Department.

"In this particular case, the lion didn't show fear to humans. It was run off three different times and kept on returning."

Redman said even though this has been a very dry year so far, cases of mountain lions roaming into populated areas have increased over the years.

"We're getting more and more reports of lions in towns like Ruidoso or Silver City, those kinds of towns. Being dry could possibly play a role but I think it's affecting the bears more

than the lions right now."

Two bears that traveled from the Capitan Mountains were removed from Roswell in the past week.

Redman said with cougars their movement is as predator/prey relationship.

"They go where the food is."

The department keeps track of phone calls and other reports of mountain lions in populated areas. Redman said there was "no doubt" more than one mountain lion has been in Ruidoso in recent months.

"From December 2010 to January 2011 we had seven calls on cougars in the Ruidoso to Alto to Capitan area. And we've had more, numerous more than that."

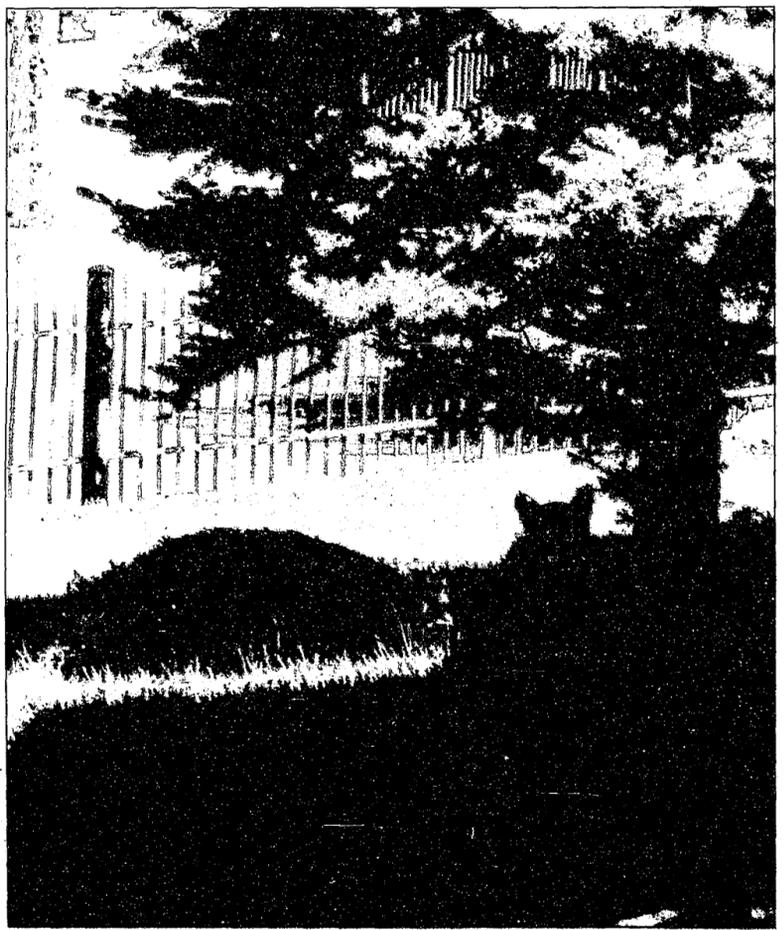
A Ruidoso area supervisor with the department has received 25 calls about lions since January and six in reference to bears.

Redman said mountain lion sightings should be called into the Game and Fish Department. The regional office is in Roswell at 575-624-6135. Local law enforcement can also be contacted.

"The best thing to do is make yourself big," Redman advised if a lion is encountered. "If you have a jacket on, open up your jacket. Walk away slowly. You do not want to run. Make sure you're talking so it hears your voice. It doesn't mean you have to be screaming at it. But any kind of noise, just so you don't scare it. And if you have any kids around, grab the kids so they don't run because you don't want to have that instinct of a predator, something running that would chase it. And just walk away slowly away from the lion."

A cougar killed a goat in August of 2010 on Ruidoso's southeast side. And in December an Alto woman said she had been followed by a mountain lion while walking.

New Mexico had two people attacked by cougars in separate instances in 2008. A 5-year-old Albuquerque boy was seriously injured while he and his family were hiking near Sandia Peak. And a Silver City area man was killed by a lion.



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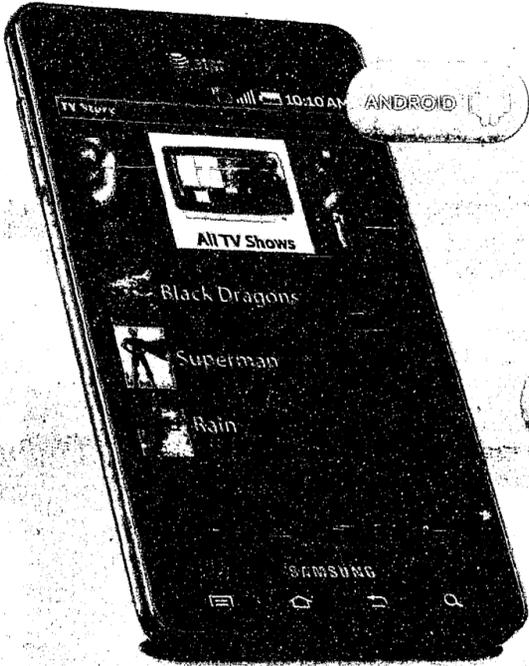
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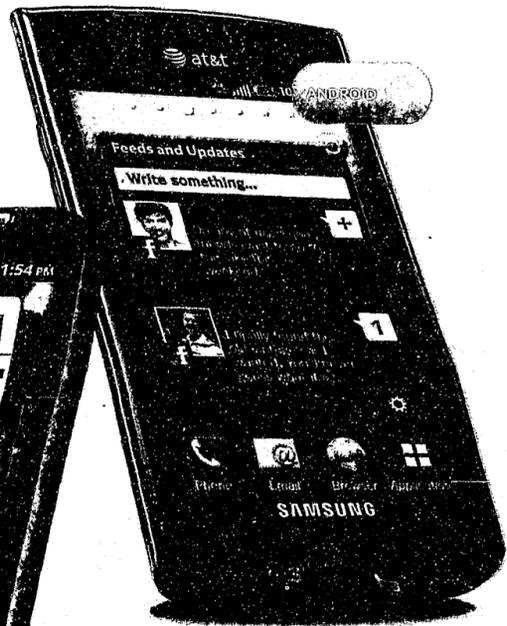
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# If you have to light it, it's banned

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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With not a murmur of opposition, Lincoln County commissioners extended the county's fire danger emergency declaration for another month Tuesday, based on the "extreme" fire danger designation for the area.

County Manager Tom Stewart said the classification was determined by the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, and the resolution extends the effective date of fire restrictions for 30 days.

The restrictions essentially outlaw any outdoor fire.

The Lincoln National Forest was closed to the public earlier this month and fireworks always are banned there and in the village of Ruidoso.

"Is there any description of the types of fireworks that are allowed (in the unincorporated areas of the county)?" Commissioner Mark Doth asked.

County Attorney Alan Morel said all but nonflammable types are banned. "I'll get a list for you," he told Doth. "There are lots of different types of fireworks."

"If you have to light it, it's

banned, is how I'd say it," Doth replied.

County restrictions prohibit any open fire for the purpose of burning refuse, brush, grass, wood, or any other vegetation or combustible material; campfires except in designated recreational areas; and fireworks.

## Public cooperating

Dave Warnack, Smokey Bear District Ranger in the LNF, told commissioners that he has experienced "a lot of cooperation" since the national forest closed May 12. Teams are patrolling the high-use roads daily, but Warnack said, "No one is coming out (trying to enter the forest) and that makes it easier. People understand it's really dry."

A log is maintained of those who are allowed entry through exemptions connected to permits and official duty within the forest, he said.

"We're well staffed to respond to fires and more firefighters are being released now from the Mayhill Fire (that burned more than 32,000 acres)," Warnack said.

Doth asked about access to Bonito Lake Road off New Mexico Highway 37, a heavily used route to the Bonito Lake Recreation Area

and the West Lake Camping, both owned by the City of Alamogordo; the South Fork Campground, operated by the U.S. Forest Service, and the road to the Argentine Campground, corrals and trail head.

"We get calls constantly regarding jurisdiction over the road and the condition of the road," Warnack said. "So many different jurisdictions are involved (including private owners, the City of Alamogordo, the county and the Forest Service)."

"I wrote Alamogordo asking them to consider closing West Lake Campground and Bonito Lake and they agreed. They closed the gate about three miles in."

Doth recalled that the last time the forest was closed because of extreme fire danger, a guard was stationed at the Bonito turnoff because that was a problem area.

Warnack said a guard shack at the gate will be staffed during weekends and the city is staffing it now. Personnel also are present at Ski Run Road, in addition to an electronic billboard warning people of the forest closure before they encounter the gate.

He confirmed that the staff at Ski Apache is being allowed access to perform their jobs.

# Mayhill Fire holding

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Despite gusty winds this week, containment lines on the Mayhill Fire were holding well, fire officials said Thursday.

The blaze, which started May 9 a couple of miles west of Mayhill, was 98 percent contained. The past three days crews extinguished a few flare-ups inside the perimeter due to the winds.

Mop-up was completed around the entire perimeter of the fire, from the containment line to about 200 feet into the interior.

Nearly 150 people were still assigned to the Mayhill Fire, with crews continuing to search out and put out hot spots. Rehabilitation of dozer lines was expected to be finished by Friday.

The fire has burned nearly 32,000 acres. Pockets of unburned areas within the interior were expected to continue to burn with low to moderate intensity, especially during periods of high winds. Smoke was anticipated to

be visible for several more weeks because of smoldering fuels.

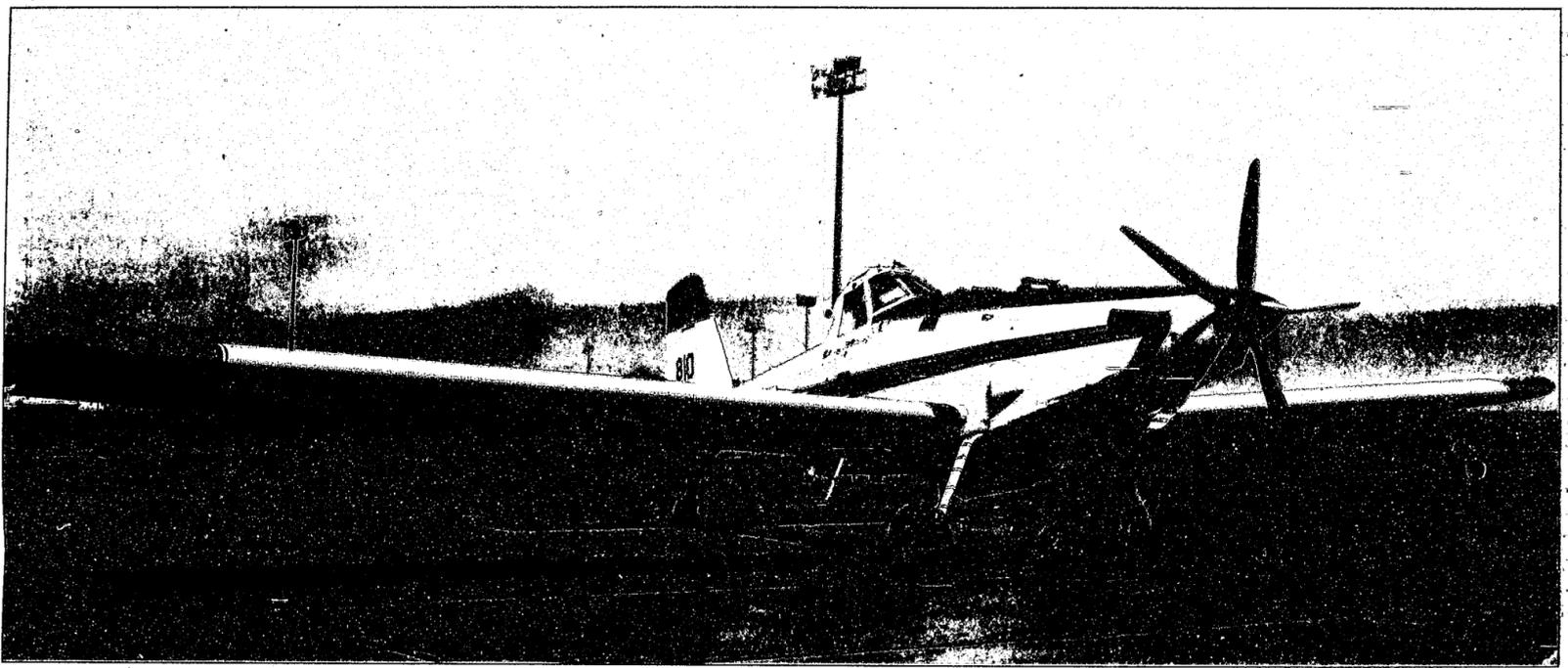
The fire has burned on lands under the jurisdiction of the Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico State Forestry, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, and private properties in Otero and Chaves counties.

Shortly after the fire broke out several hundred people had been temporarily evacuated in the Mayhill area.

The extreme fire danger in the region prompted the supervisor of the Lincoln National Forest to close the entire 1.1 million acre forest until substantial precipitation occurs.

In southwestern New Mexico, the Miller Fire was 40 percent contained on Thursday. The 76,000-acre blaze on the Gila National Forest started April 28.

Windy conditions Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday plagued the region. Ruidoso clocked a top wind gust of 54 miles per hour Wednesday afternoon.



COURTESY DAVID TREMBLAY

This plane parked at Sierra Blanca Regional Airport courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management is capable of dropping slurry on wildland fires, such as the Rifle Fire that broke out Thursday. The planes' availability was deemed important due to extreme fire danger across the region.

## Congratulations Graduates!



First National Bank would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the graduates in Lincoln County. We thought this was a fitting time to share one of our favorite quotes:

*"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."*

~ Benjamin Franklin

Good luck to each and every one of you!

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## PLANES

FROM PAGE 1A

Pecos District. And because of the high fire danger we chose to keep these single engine air tankers in the southeast New Mexico area."

The Crooked Creek Fire was fought earlier this month between Artesia and Mayhill.

The two SEATs at Sierra Blanca Regional were part of four aircraft brought into the region on May 8.

### Ruidoso key location

The other two planes are stationed in Roswell. Selkirk said Ruidoso is a key location for the pair of SEATs.

"Ruidoso's airport is ideal because it's so close to the wildland-urban interface. They (SEATs) come with their own support trailer. They can mix loads of retardant."

In addition to BLM financing, the Lincoln National Forest covered the pre-positioning cost of bringing in the slurry planes. The planes are owned and operated by private contractors.

"It is welcome relief," said Bob Madill, the forest aviation officer with the Lincoln and Gila national forests, said of the SEATs.

"I mean conditions are critical. We have a closed forest and any fire that starts is going to be serious because it is so dry. The way I look at it, it is like having a fire station right down the road."

### 'Severity' funding

Severity funding was secured to pay for the planes, Madill said.

"Congress has allotted this severity funding just for conditions like this, when they're beyond our capability of being able to procure aircraft with our normal budgetary means," Madill said.

Both Madill and Selkirk said agencies working together can make a difference.

"We're all in this together when it comes to wild-fires," Selkirk said. "Even though there's just two in Ruidoso and two down at Roswell, if a fire occurs we'll all start working together and you could potentially have all four aircraft loading out of Ruidoso."

The SEATs were expected to remain at the village's airport until the fire danger subsides.

"We hope to secure enough funding to keep them here for the duration of the fire season," Selkirk said. "Since these are very mobile resources they may come and go if there's a fire

someplace else. The one good thing about these single engine air tankers is we're more likely to keep them in the local area instead of large air tankers. The large air tanker fleet currently has only about eighteen of them nationwide. That means we may have some in Alamogordo or Roswell today. This afternoon they could leave and go to Colorado or Arizona to work on a fire that's threatening some high value resources. So with the smaller, single engine air tankers we have a better chance of having local control over those."

Use of the SEATs can be requested by various federal agencies as well as the New Mexico Forestry Division, which has jurisdiction over unincorporated state and private lands.

### Intends to keep here

"So they're pretty much good-to-go any agency anywhere in the state," Selkirk said. "Our intent would be to keep them down in the southeast New Mexico area."

Earlier this year Ruidoso village councilors had been told a SEAT would not be stationed at the airport this fire season. In the past the village, along with a combination of state and/or federal agencies jointly funded a firefighting plane.

- Lincoln County Commission -

# County adopts measures to protect indigent fund

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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To remain solvent and not be swallowed up in the surge of compensation claims, some changes were approved Tuesday for Lincoln County's Indigent Healthcare Fund reimbursement guidelines.

To reinforce that the county is not a perpetual source of coverage for medical costs, a lifetime limit per patient of \$100,000 was approved Tuesday by county commissioners, who also lowered the allowed eligibility income by \$5,000 across the board.

They reduced the limit paid to out-of-county hospitals from \$12,500 to \$5,000, and a limit of \$500 per claim was placed on ambulance service, down from \$5,000.

"As discussed in previous sessions tracking Indigent Healthcare costs, our program is on a path of insolvency in the next year if action is not taken. The time to act is now," County Manager Tom Stewart told commissioners.

He and Indigent Healthcare Manager Scott Annala sat down and analyzed which changes would assist the fund's viability while not impacting local providers or truly indigent patients, Stewart said.

The fund is fueled by a designated 1/8th of 1 cent gross receipts tax approved by voters and aims to reimburse nonhospital healthcare providers. Another program called the Sole Community Provider reimburses the county hospital in Ruidoso with between three dollars to four federal dollars for every \$1 of local money. The money for that program comes from a special voter approved property tax, commonly called the mill levy. The lifetime limit also would apply.

The issue of modifying the Housing and Urban Development income limits chart was examined, Stew-

art said.

In New Mexico, the range is wide, with Bernalillo County setting \$10,830 as the limit for one individual to earn, but Santa Fe County allowing up to \$36,950. Stewart recommended the eligibility limits for the county be reduced by \$5,000 for each group of family members.

"Judging from this month's claims, there would be very little return on the categorical reductions proposed without some decrease in eligibility criteria," Stewart said.

Examination also showed that from 50 percent to 55 percent of the expenses were allocated to out of county hospital facilities.

They looked at other counties and found that Torrance County limits that type of payment to \$4,000 per person each year, Sandoval to \$5,000 and Luna to \$2,000.

"Lincoln County's \$12,500 limit clearly is too high and it doesn't take but a few large claims for this amount of money to kill our program.

Many claims on this month's report would be payable without a significant impact on a large group of people," Stewart said.

Air and ground ambulance costs consume about 20 percent of the budget, he said. The counties of Chaves, Curry and Mora impose a \$1,000 limit per claim. Otero County caps at \$500, as does Luna County, with no difference specified between air and ground. Stewart and Annala recommended a \$500 per claim limit, instead of the current \$5,000. Stewart said the cost of airlifting could run as high as \$45,000, and while he doesn't want a patient worrying about the cost, the late Jerry Carroll told him he repeatedly informed hospital officials that, "He couldn't afford any of it, but they flew him

up to the Heart Hospital anyway and told him not to worry about it, and then he receives a big bill."

As for lifetime limits, Roosevelt County set a \$60,000 cap, Eddy and San Juan counties, \$250,000, and Santa Fe, \$335,000.

"It is felt that a lifetime

limit imposition tells applicants that the county should not be counted on forever to meet their healthcare needs," Stewart said. He recommended the \$100,000 cap.

"What is the highest amount for one person you've seen over the years," Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo asked.

Annala said about 20 percent of his clients are repeats, but in his three year tenure, the annual \$30,000 cap was reached by only one person. He didn't know whether, before he was on board, anyone ever exceeded that cap.

All changes are effective with the new fiscal year, July 1.

"It is anticipated that providers will accept the revised limits as the new reality for servicing claimants for Lincoln County without resistance," Stewart said. "With continued monitoring, the program can be adjusted again in the future based on budgetary projections and reserves."

Lincoln County Medical Center Administrator Al Santos will be asked to attend the commission's June meeting to talk about charges for services, such

as the laboratory and use of the magnetic resonance imaging, commonly known as MRI.

Sedillo asked if the hospital had a concise list of charges she could review. She said a person showed her a \$570 bill for blood work from the hospital and

not approved for an out-of-county hospital or for LCMC, which is managed and leased by Presbyterian Healthcare Services. Stewart replied that the entities may try to collect in other ways, declare it a charity case or write it off as a bad debt.

could be moved from SCP program the IHF, but Stewart said federal laws are explicit on how the money must be used and that wouldn't work.

"But I believe it would be within federal guidelines to move the ambulances under the SCP," Minter said.

Annala said small providers should not be heavily affected.

"Nobody is O.K. with any of this, frankly," Stewart said.

"I'd like to get rid of it all," Minter agreed, "But it's not going to happen, but I would like the ambulances to be transferred to the hospital side and the SCP. A lot of other counties have larger hospitals and don't have to send people out of county to another."

In a previous agenda item, commissioners approved 65 of 76 claims submitted last month under the IHF for a total of \$41,604.08, bringing the year to date to \$38,570.61. Stewart noted that last year, the average monthly payment was \$26,234 and the total spent was \$314,818.

The average month this year is \$35,324 and the year-end expense is projected at \$423,894 of the \$517,088 available.

Under the Sole Community Provider program for the Lincoln County Medical Center, commissioners approved 67 of 71 claims for \$88,061.41 and year-to-date approved hit \$1,021,347.14.

## COUNTY MANAGER TOM STEWART

*"Our program is on a path of insolvency in the next year if action is not taken. The time to act is now."*

another for the same work from an out-of-county clinic for \$85. He had insurance for both.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter asked that Stewart prepare a list of counties around Lincoln that have hospitals and another listing their ambulance charges.

She advocated moving the ambulance service under the hospital for medical indigent bills to be covered by the SCP program, instead of listing it as a separate entity covered under the county's IHF. Stewart said when the ambulance service experiences a loss, the county draws money from the voter-approved mill levy to offset the deficit.

She asked what happens when a major bill is

According to the county's preliminary budget also approved Tuesday by commissioners, the IHF gross receipts tax generates about \$575,000 annually, the mill levy produces more than \$570,000 for the clinics and more than \$2.7 million for the hospital.

From that last category, \$1.17 million goes to the SCP program that is matched with at least three federal dollars for each local dollar, Minter said. The mill levy reserve is up to \$6 million.

"I know they want to expand the hospital, and I don't want to injure small providers. But if you work for the hospital, you know you will get paid," she said. "There's no insurance for small outside providers."

She asked if money

## Organizations prepare for Flag Day

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dstallings@ruidosonews.com

The Lincoln County Flag Day Celebration is set for 6 p.m., June 14 at Wingfield Park in Ruidoso.

Patriotic, fraternal, civic and veterans' organizations are asked to participate. The purpose of the celebration is to honor the country's flag, to celebrate the anniversary of its birth and to recall the achievements attained beneath its folds.

When a flag of the United States is so torn and tattered, through wear or damage, that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner befitting such a symbol. The public is invited to bring their torn and tattered American flags to the Lincoln County Flag Day Celebration at Wingfield Park on Flag Day.

The flag of the United States of America is an honored symbol of our nation's unity, its hopes, its achievements, its glory and its high resolve, said Jack Shuster of Ruidoso, who is putting together the event. United States Federal Law provides that "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting

emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

The scouts of the Sierra Blanca District, Boy Scouts of America retired over one hundred American flags at last year's Flag Day event sponsored by the Republican Party of Lincoln County at the Ellis Store Country Inn in Lincoln.

Participating so far this year are the Republican Party of Lincoln County and the Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County, Elks Lodge #2086, and the scouts of Saint Eleanor's Cub Pack 58, Community United Methodist's Cub Pack and Boy Scout Troop 59 and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' Pack and Troop 107.

The Republican Party of Lincoln County will supply a stage and Harvey T of KEDU will set up a sound system. Hot dogs and lemonade will be provided by the Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County.

Brady Park of the Village of Ruidoso's Parks and Recreation Department has secured two 55-gallon drums for the flag retirement and interim

Fire Chief Harlan Vincent will station fire trucks and personnel on site to control the burning.

Following an opening ceremony, welcome and prayer, everyone will participate in the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem. The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of the Sierra Blanca District, BSA will reflect on the design and meaning of the flag.

Then the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, with the assistance of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of Lincoln County, will perform a ceremony to retire, with dignity and respect, the unserviceable flags of our country. During the ceremony, the Scouts will deconstruct the flags and fittingly reduce them to ashes.

After thanks and a closing ceremony, the public will be invited stay awhile, meet neighbors and enjoy refreshments.

Veterans' organizations could provide opening and closing flag ceremonies and someone is needed to lead the singing of the National Anthem, "She's a Grand Old Flag" and "God Bless America." Call Shuster at 257-0871.



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#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Mescalero Apache Housing Authority ("MAHA"), a Tribally Designated Housing Entity is requesting proposals for qualified Information Technology (IT) services.

The work to be performed under the proposal is on a project subject to section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450e(b)) and section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible (1) preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (2) preferences in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and Indian-owned Economic Enterprises. All firms submitting proposals and claiming Indian Preference must include documentation satisfactory to show that they are Indian-owned. Section 3 requires that to the greatest extent feasible opportunities for training and employment be given to lower income residents of the project area and contracts for work in connection with the project be awarded to business concerns that are located in, or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the areas of the project. All subcontracts executed between the proposer and its subcontractors, if any, also are subject to these provisions and language requiring such compliance will be included in all subcontracts.

In addition to the §§ 7(b) and 3 compliance requirements, the successful proposer must comply and ensure subcontractor compliance with the terms of the Copeland Act Requirements (29 C.F.R. Part 3); 24 C.F.R. part 85 Certifications, including but not limited to mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Pub.L. 94-163), and HUD requirements related to reporting, patent rights, and/or copyrights and other rights to data; HUD procurement regulations; MAHA Procurement Policy; and all other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Interested entities may request full RFP from Althea Palmer. Inquiries related to submittal of proposals may also be addressed to Althea Palmer, MAHA Chief Finance Officer at (575) 464-9236. Proposers shall submit an original and four (4) copies of the proposal in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Information Technology Services Proposal". All proposals shall be submitted to Mescalero Apache Housing Authority, Attention Alvin Benally, 101 Central Ave., Mescalero, New Mexico, 88340, and received no later than 4:00 p.m. on June 3, 2011. Proposals not received by that time and date shall be rejected. MAHA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any and all deficiencies.

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**DRAMATIC VALLEY TO CAPITAN VIEWS** Well designed 4600+ sq ft home. Aspen ceilings, butler's pantry, high end appliances. Enjoy views from covered deck with outdoor fireplace. Large storage area underneath. Full golf members. 2 acre lot. \$558,000. #109080



**JUST LISTED**  
**CLASSY MOUNTAIN CHALET WITH SIERRA BLANCA VIEW** No expense spared - over \$400,000. spent in remodeling this 4 bed, 3+ bath home on corner lot in Wht Mt Est. High end appli, granite, tile, rock. Beautiful landscaping, beautiful views. Realistic price for this quality. \$469,000. #108958



**CLASSIC NEW MEXICO SETTING** is the backdrop for this energy efficient, contemporary chalet. Very, very private location on the Bonito River w/views & sun in all directions. Year round spring, almost all 1 level, RV hook-ups too! \$449,000. #108266



**SECLUDED FULL MEMBERSHIP HOME** Bonito Located on 2 quiet acres. Enjoy the solitude with the deer, elk and turkey. Come see this Alto mountain hide-away. \$415,000. #105381



**CHARMING HOME** In the desirable White Mountain area. 3 or 4 Br's, 2 1/2 baths, 2 car garage, landscaped with fenced backyard. Light, bright & comfortable. \$399,500. #107906



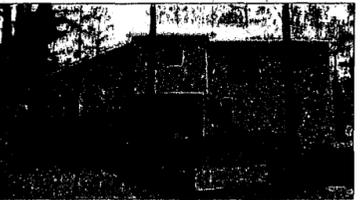
**SECLUDED MOUNTAIN LIVING AT ITS BEST** Alto chalet w/full/golf membership in Deer Park Woods. One acre lot at end of a cul-de-sac insures privacy. Wildlife abounds. \$399,000. #107133



**BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN HOME - OPEN TREED VIEWS** Wonderfully maintained home - huge private decks - 5th Br or entertainment room. Super location - landscaped - 2 w/d's - A/C - 4 baths - Jacuzzi & shower in master - great workshop & storage. \$398,500 #108870



**CUSTOM HOME** In excellent condition & location. All new wood floors. New kitchen appl, large 1st floor master w/large tub & separate shower. Upstairs large bedroom & full bath. 2 Car garage w/extra storage area. Covered backpatio. \$398,000. #108294



**GORGEOUS MOUNTAIN HOME ON BIG LOT** Lots of tall pines. Home is like new, open living area/kitchen that looks out at Sierra Blanca. Decks for entertaining, front & back. 3 Br, 2 1/2 Ba, 2 LA, 2 FP's, paved drive, close to clubhouse & full golf. \$389,500. #107132



**CUSTOM HOME W/FINE WOODS THROUGHOUT - 4.6 AC** Extra special custom home built by fine craftsman. Top quality construction & materials throughout. Sits on 4.65 acres with wonderful Sierra Blanca & Sacramento views. Wrap around decks and covered porches. \$389,000. #107903



**STEPS TO GOLF WITH PINE SCREENED PRIVACY @DPW** 1 level w/great floor plan-wonderful large kitchen & dining. Bath for each bedroom-separate shower-tub in master. Vaulted wood ceilings-large rooms-great covered decks! New roof. \$375,000. #106115



**ONE OF A KIND REMODELED ADOBE** Historic Lincoln, 1.98 ac w/ wtr rts, energy smart solar. Wood planked & tile flooring, exposed wood beams, renovated kit w/butler's pantry. Library, office, den, sun room w/pellet stove & salttillo tile. \$349,900. #106361



**PRICE REDUCED! ALTO - SIERRA BLANCA VIEW** Great 3/2, open floor plan, split bedrooms, vaulted living room - dining & kitchen area. Hickory cabinets, solid core doors. Bonus media-office-family room-private deck oversized garage. Level access. Lots of storage. \$344,000. #106476

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**CHARMING SPACIOUS MOUNTAIN HOME** Located on 1.41 wooded acres. 3 Bd, 3 bath, 2 Living areas, stainless steel appl, granite, wood floors, master on 1st level, covered decks, view of valley & woods, private, but close to Mid-Town, stucco ext, hot tub. \$339,000. #108803



**JUST LISTED**  
**CHARMING CABIN IN HISTORIC AREA OF UPPER CANYON** 3 Bdrm, 2 bath sits on 2 level lots. Beautiful remodel retained old Ruidoso charm, hot tub, decks, pool table, 2 FP's, 2 carport, furnished & has good rental history. \$279,900. #109059



**LOVELY VIEWS FROM THIS SETTING** 3 Bed, 2.5 ba, very clean & well maintained. Open kitchen & dining area. Nice sized living room. Lots of windows, light & airy. Extra large family, exercise room & workshop downstairs. Priced below current appraisal. \$239,500. #108839



**GREAT MOUNTAIN CABIN ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC** Price reduced! Really nice, clean, updated, 3 bedroom, study & 2 bath home. Refrigerated air, fully furnished. Hot tub, full golf membership. \$239,000. #107110



**JUST LISTED**  
**BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED HOME** Located near the golf course & all shopping venues. This home shows great pride of ownership & thoughtfully maintained. Great 3 bed, 2 bath floor plan with a 2 car garage as a definite plus. \$235,000. #109071



**JUST LISTED**  
**RARE FIND - CABIN ON THE RIO RUIDOSO** Newly remodeled - estate sale - beautiful original wood floors - super access on Sudderth (could be commercial) - tall pines - fenced beautiful lot - steps to the river - 1 level - logsided cabin. \$229,900. #109084



**JUST LISTED**  
**2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH CONDO AT INNSBROOK** Deck looks out onto the 9 hole golf course & trees. Fully furnished, wood burning built in fireplace. Possible seller financing. \$169,900. #109085



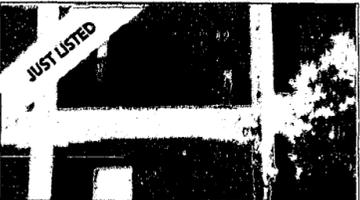
**JUST LISTED**  
**WONDERFULLY FURNISHED 2 BED, 2 BATH CONDO** In the pines of Ruidoso. Enjoy the mt experience & sit on the covered deck & admire the deer & the solitude or nestle up in front of the FP & enjoy a good book. Includes a garage, fresh paint, swimming pool, tennis ct. \$159,900. #109072



**30. ACRE PARCEL** Large 2 bdms, office, 2 bath home & dbl garage & workshop. Beautiful land & Capitan Gap views. Tile & wood floors throughout. Rural zoning conducive to many opportunities, adjacent to Capitan city limits. \$159,900. #109077



**JUST LISTED**  
**COZY HOME** Separate guest bedroom & bathroom. Great views across the valley. Covered & uncovered decks. Great for 2nd home. \$122,900. #109087



**JUST LISTED**  
**TERRIFIC CONDO WITH A VIEW!** Located close to "Inn of the Mountain Gods". Easy access, one level, good parking, view of Carrizo Creek. Updated, washer/dryer, carpet, H2O heater & refrig. Fully furnished. \$72,500. #109044

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## side line

### Sports On Tap

**Pro Baseball**  
 Friday, May 20  
 Ruidoso Osos at White Sands Pupfish at 7:05 p.m.  
 Saturday, May 21  
 White Sands Pupfish at Ruidoso Osos at 4:05 p.m.

### On Deck

**Hershey's Track Meet**  
 Hershey's Track Meet, 2011, is for all kids between the ages of 9 and 14. Due to increased interest, the event has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 4, at 2 p.m. at the Ruidoso Warrior track on Warrior Drive to run, jump and throw for ribbons, health and a chance to qualify for the State and National Meet. And it's all free. Watch for flyers and posters at school. This is the same date Kids Fishing Day will take place in the morning, which is sponsored by the Village of Ruidoso and the U.S. Forest Service. For more info call you may go online at [www.ruidoso-nm.gov](http://www.ruidoso-nm.gov) or call 257-5030.

**Senior Olympics**  
 The Lincoln County Senior Olympics will hold recreational athletics, including frisbee accuracy and softball and soccer distance events on May 20, at 10 a.m. at the White Mountain Sports Complex. 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 Sandee Jourden at 257-4565, 937-4416 or Bart Young at 257-3193.

**SADSP Tennis Fundraiser**  
 The first annual "Raise a Racket" Senior Doubles Tennis tournament will be held June 27-July 1 to benefit the Ski Apache Disabled Skiers Program (SADSP). The tournament will be for players over 50-years-of-age and will be played at Alto Lakes Golf and Country Club, KoKopelli Golf, Tennis and Social Club and the Ruidoso Parks and Recreation courts. Competition matches will feature women's doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles. Entry fee is \$40 per event and all proceeds go to SADSP, which is one of the oldest adaptive ski schools in the country. It depends on fees, grants, donations and fundraisers to operate. The program is in need of a "bi-ski," which enables a non-ambulatory person to sit and experience skiing with the aid of a volunteer. The Raise a Racket tournament hopes to raise \$4,000 to purchase a new and updated bi-ski for next season.

# EHV-1 infects cutting horses; not expected to impact track

## Neurological mutant virus starts at horse show in Ogden, Utah, but has not been found in racehorses

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

On the afternoon of May 18, a horse in the Weatherford, Texas, area reportedly tested positive for the Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1).

The animal had participated in the NCHA (National Cutting Horse Association) Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah, and has been quarantined since its arrival there. The Texas Animal

Health Commission was notified. That particular horse was considered a low risk of spreading the disease to other horses prior to its isolation.

While EHV-1 is contagious among horses it is not transmittable to humans. However, people can carry the virus on their clothes, footwear, etc.

As of this account, no other horses have been reported to have the virus in Texas.

Two confirmed cases

have been reported in New Mexico: one in Carlsbad and one in Estancia (which was euthanized). Both horses had attended the show in Ogden.

Horses at Ruidoso Downs Race Track, which opens May 27, should not be affected by EHV-1. Many of those animals were boarded in the barns on the backside prior to April 25.

Odds are low that these two distinct horse cultures (cutting and racing horses) co-mingle.

Unsubstantiated reports have indicated EHV-1 has also been found in horses in Colorado (2), Utah, California (10, one euthanized), Washington (3), Idaho, Arizona and Western Canada (one, in Alberta, and the first one to die).

These announcements are unofficial and thus far apply to cutting horses.

The University of Washington has voluntarily closed its large animal clinic due to identification of a positive horse.

This form of herpes virus infection can cause clinical signs in any age, breed, or gender of horse.

The NCHA is closely monitoring reported cases of cutting horses that attended the championships in Ogden, April 29-May 8, and has become the clearing house of factual information.

The Texas Quarter Horse Association has cancelled the cutting classes that were scheduled within the Texas Classic Horse Show, May 24-25. Non-cutting events

within that show will reportedly proceed as scheduled.

Additionally, the NCHA, AQHA (American Quarter Horse Association) and NRCHA (National Reined Cow Horse Association) have voluntarily cancelled most events around the country.

Thus far, only Colorado has implemented enhanced entry requirements regarding the EHV-1 disease.

Horse owners who wish to bring their horse to that state must have an entry permit, which, among other things, will require a permit number issued by the Colorado Department of Agriculture's State Veterinarian's Office.

No confirmed cases have

See **VIRUS**, page 2B

# Russell Harris: horse trainer-artist

## A soft-spoken horseman sees the potential of a racehorse through the eyes of a skilled painter

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

A visit with respected horse trainer, Russell Harris, is always a memorable conversation. Ask an intelligent - or not - question and you always get an astute, well-thought-out reply. Speak when it comes your turn and he politely listens. It's the mark of an adroit conversationalist.

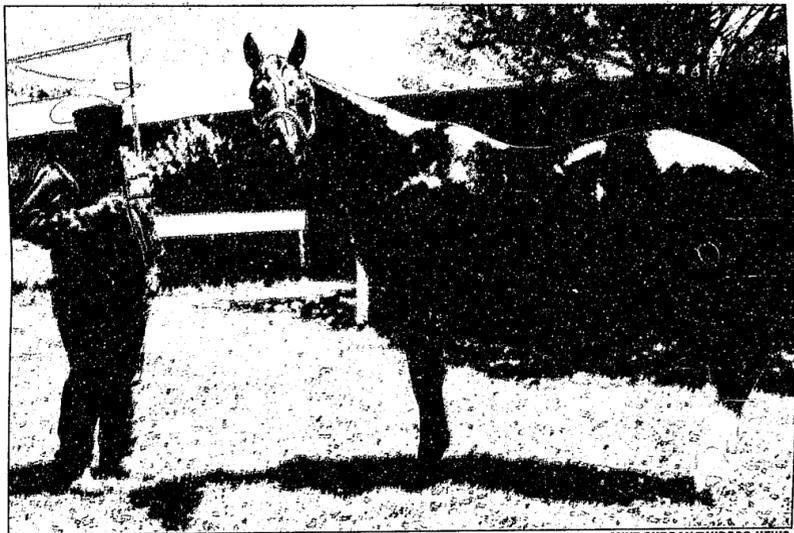
This commercial and

illustrative art graduate (Ringling Art School, Sarasota, Fla., 1968) occasionally perceives the view before him as a creative process. You might get the feeling, as he looks at you, he is sizing you up for a sitting at some art studio.

"How has your background in art helped you as a horse trainer?" the questioner asks.

Art has allowed me to

See **HARRIS**, page 2B



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Russell Harris stands with Feature Mr Who who posted the fastest time in the recent juvenile training races at Ruidoso Downs Race Track.

# Strong season expected at race track

TY WYANT  
[mcurran@ruidosonews.com](mailto:mcurran@ruidosonews.com)

On the heels of 195 aspiring juveniles racing in the first schooling races at Ruidoso Downs last week and record-setting purses forecast for this summer's major races, the first indications are for another strong summer season at Ruidoso Downs that starts on May 27.

Also new this summer is the racing schedule. For the first time, racing will be offered on a Friday through Monday schedule.

The exception is that the

All American Futurity trials will be held on Thursday, August 18.

The numbers are pointing at an upward trend, especially with the iconic All American Futurity.

This year's 440-yard running on Labor Day will have an all-time record purse of an estimated \$2.4 million.

It will be the all-time richest race in quarter horse racing history and the purse exceeds the \$2 million purse of the Kentucky Derby for thoroughbreds.

Through the latest pay-

ment, there are 628 juveniles still eligible for the Labor Day classic. This is up more than 23 percent from a year ago when 525 hopefuls were eligible to the race that was won by the narrowest of margins by longshot Mr Pilot.

There were 197 entrants in the 20 All American Futurity trials held last August.

The Rainbow Futurity, the second leg of the All American Triple Crown, will be capped at \$700,000 this summer.

See **TRACK**, page 2B

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- Joseph A. Zagone

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# VIRUS

FROM PAGE 1B

been reported in Oklahoma even though many horses left Ogden and went to that state.

"We find that somewhat perplexing," Capitan veterinarian Dr. Becky Washburn said.

"It should be noted that they [Oklahoma] don't have a state veterinarian at this

time.

"This is a viral infection similar to West Nile Virus but even though they share such characteristics as high temperatures and sluggishness there are major differences.

"EHV-1 is a mutant neurological strain and has supportive treatment but no vaccine. It is highly contagious between horses.

"When a horse becomes infected with West Nile it is the end host and cannot

infect another horse. There is a vaccine for that infection."

As officials rush to catch up with EHV-1 there are concerns among state veterinarians.

"The problem with the horse show in Ogden is there were many horses there," Washburn said. "And not all were cutting horses but also included pony or turn-back horses. The latter animals could be hard to track down."

Veterinarians, officials and horse associations across the country are closely watching the situation and have taken a proactive stance regarding the disease.

"People should use common sense and not share water buckets, etc.," Tularosa veterinarian Dr. Leah Starr said.

"The incubation period is usually one to two days but can be up to 21 days. Most cases are 7-10 days. It

would be wise for horse owners to pay attention to their surroundings and their stock. If a horse is under the weather don't take it anywhere.

"The NCHA, as well as government agencies have done an amazing job at identifying and tracking down the horses at the cutting championships show in Ogden."

The State Veterinarian's Office of New Mexico has recommended

not taking horses to any events for the next week or so.

"That will reduce the risk of EHV-1 spreading," Ruidoso Downs veterinarian Dr. Lane Dixon said. "Although people cannot become infected, they can be carriers."

"People need to be aware of that. Everyone should take a breather, not panic and keep their horses home until officials get a handle on the situation."

# HARRIS

FROM PAGE 1B

notice things more characteristically" Harris answers. "Such traits as their habits and the way they carry themselves. It's a natural thing."

The year following Harris's graduation from art school he obtained his trainer's license at Los Alamitos Race Course and has never looked back.

In 1977 he met his now wife Brook when she came to work for him at Bay Meadows Race Track and the two were married two years later.

Currently, Harris concentrates on quarter horses but in his day saddled and started 250 thoroughbreds, from Louisiana Downs to Hollywood Park, and won 82 of those races.

This racing season at Ruidoso Downs Race Track he expects to have 15 or 16 quarter horses in his barn. That's down from normal - he would ideally like to have 20 - but he

has definite feelings as to the reason for the drop.

"In the last few years, the horse racing business has gotten a lot tougher," he said. "The expense of such an operation has grown with the current economic climate across the country."

"Years ago we showed up to some horse races with a sport coat and a tie. A touch of class, if you will. That was when horse racing was king - like baseball."

"Now you have so many conflicting sports, like football, soccer, tennis and basketball - all fast-paced sports - competitively vying for attendance. As those sports gained popularity they naturally took fans away from horse racing."

Lately, Harris has been "kicking up" and started to do art once more.

"Like anything else, you have to be fit in art," he said. "Hand and eye coordination is very important. I find I enjoy it for my own personal pleasure.

Painting landscapes, or even an old chicken coop, would satisfy my desires."

Does that mean Harris has lost the fire in his belly for training horse racers? Not by any sense of the imagination.

And he proved that at the recent juvenile quarter horse training races at Ruidoso Downs where 195 young hopefuls raced for three days.

And how many did Harris start? Only two - Feature Mr Who and Stel Choice - both colts. Both horses ran on the third and final day in their respective races and both won.

Two entries - two wins. Not bad. Not only that, but Feature Mr Who posted the fastest time of all the horses that were entered.

Feature Mr Who is owned by Buddy and Patty Newsome of Dade City, Fla. and Stel Choice is owned by Jose Salazar of Laredo, Texas.

"I broke Feature Mr Who and have obviously had him for some time now," Harris said.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Russell Harris has the best of both worlds - training horses and art.

"He's big but ahead of where I expected him to be. He's doing well for his size and age but has more to learn. Right now, he looks like a Labor Day horse to me."

"I've only had Stel

Choice for a little over a month. He's responded well and I believe he'll get better as he goes. I think he could give a good effort in the Ruidoso Futurity trials."

Maybe this reserved

trainer will be painting winner's circle portraits of Feature Mr Who and/or Stel Choice this year.

Who knows? One thing for certain - he'll paint what he sees and he'll do it his way.

# TRACK

FROM PAGE 1B

This is up from the \$625,000 purse last summer.

It's not just futurities on a record-setting pace. The Grade 1 Ruidoso Derby could surpass the record purse of \$569,000 set last year when the race was won by champion Double Down Special.

A year ago there were 53 entrants in the Ruidoso Derby trials and there are 80 aspirants currently eligible to enter the trials held on May 28, the second day of the summer season.

The Rainbow Derby set a record with a \$373,441 purse when it was won by Swingin Daddy last summer and could reach that record level this summer.

New Mexico-bred futurities are also showing double digit increases with the Mountain Top Futurity showing an increase of 20

horses eligible and the Zia Futurity is 25 eligible horses ahead of last year's comparable figures.

## Preakness Saturday

Can Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom take the next step toward a possible Triple Crown?

The answer will be found this Saturday in the Billy The Kid Casino at Ruidoso Downs when the 136th running of the Grade 1, \$1,000,000 Preakness is simulcast from Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore. If Animal Kingdom can win the Preakness and go on to win the Belmont Stakes in three weeks then he will win thoroughbred racing's Triple Crown.

Also at Billy's Race Book in the Billy The Kid Casino on Friday, the full card of races from Pimlico will be simulcast, highlighted by the Grade 2, \$250,000 Black-Eyed Susan Stakes for 3-year-old fillies.

There will be full wagering on all the Pimlico races and a special Black-Eyed Susan-Preakness double wager.

There will also be advance wagering on the Preakness starting on Friday.

On Saturday, Preakness day promotions include \$1,000 in cash prizes, casino promotions, food specials and drink specials.

Also, a second-chance drawing will be held after the Preakness. Losing tickets on the Preakness may be exchanged for a drawing ticket and the winner of the subsequent draw wins \$500.

Preakness morning breakfast will be served starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

First post time from Pimlico on Saturday is 8:45 a.m. with the Preakness set to run at 4:19 p.m.

Animal Kingdom rates at the favorite in the Preakness after winning the Kentucky Derby as a 20-1 outsider. His Preakness favoritism was enhanced earlier this week when the owner of Kentucky Derby runner-up Nehro announced that his horse would bypass the Preakness and point towards the Belmont Stakes.

Wyomia is one of the choices in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes after finishing second, in the Grade 1 Ashland Stakes at Keeneland last month. Also set for the 3-year-old filly stakes are Comely Stakes winner Hot Summer and the sharp Royal Delta, an impressive allowance winner in her latest start.

On Friday, first post time at Pimlico in 10 a.m. with the Black-Eyed Susan scheduled to run at about 2:45 p.m.



COURTESY TY WYANT

Time, money and energy went in to resurfacing the race track.



COURTESY TY WYANT

A new parking lot surface will be the first improvement race fans will see on May 27.

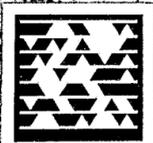
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**MAGISTRATE COURT BRIEFS**

**April 28**

**Arvis Coho** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of disorderly conduct.

Under a plea agreement reached with Deputy District Attorney Reed Thompson, the State dismissed a charge of battery against a household member.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Coho to 182 days of supervised probation, screening with a counseling center, a \$200 fine and \$73 in court costs.

**Daniel Bigmouth** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of battery on a household member.

LaMay sentenced Bigmouth to six days in jail, time served, completion of a Batterer's Intervention Program, a \$300 fine and \$73 in court costs.

**Berwyn Whitebird** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of aggravated battery.

The court dismissed a charge of battery on a household member, stating

that the act Whitebird committed did not meet the statute requirements.

LaMay sentenced Whitebird to 18 days in jail, time served, completion of a Batterer's Intervention Program, screening with Tribal Services, a \$300 fine and \$73 in court costs.

**Shannon John** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of battery on a household member.

LaMay sentenced John to five days in jail, time served, 359 days of supervised probation, a \$500 fine and \$73 in court costs.

**Cora Artrip** pleaded no contest to charges of battery and disorderly conduct.

LaMay deferred any jail time or fines and placed Artrip on 364 days of supervised probation. LaMay ordered Artrip to pay \$126 in court costs.

**Jesse Rhodes** pleaded not guilty to a charge of criminal trespass.

LaMay found him guilty and sentenced him to 364 days of unsupervised probation, a \$100 bench warrant fee and \$67 in court costs.

**May 12**

**Harley McQuary** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to two counts of resisting, evading or eluding an officer and one count of concealing identity.

LaMay sentenced McQuary to six days in jail, time served, 804 days of supervised probation, \$900 in fines, \$179 in court costs and ordered him to have no contact with any juveniles.

**Louis McCallister** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of shoplifting.

LaMay sentenced McCallister to 38 days in jail, time served, 144 days of supervised probation, screening with Gary Garland for anger, alcohol and drugs, a \$100 fine and \$73 in court costs.

McCallister also pleaded no contest to a charge of resisting, evading or obstructing an officer.

LaMay sentenced McCallister to 60 days in jail, 304 additional days of supervised probation, a \$200 fine and \$73 in court costs.

**RUIDOSO MAGISTRATE WARRANTS**

Issues April 30 - May 12  
Saul Acosta-Ponce, 43, 9735 Starry Night Drive, El Paso, Texas

Raymond E. Aragon, 32, 2407 Rule Street, Amarillo, Texas

Emanuel Carr Botella, 22, 319 Dipalo Hill Dr. Apt. 16B, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.  
Ethan Brown, 21, 807 Penn Scott Dr., Mescalero, N.M.

Zachary Cleveland, 29, 125 Carrizo Trail, Mescalero, N.M. (two warrants)

Bruce Commanche, 44, 1665 Mesquite Drive, Mescalero, N.M.

Terrence Douglass, 42, 370 Jasper, Las Cruces, N.M.

Dana D. Dryden-Beck, 51, 2508 Nevada, Roswell, N.M.

Margaret Ervin, 47, 1520 U.S. Highway 380, Jayton, Texas

Tracy Y. Faucher, 45, PIO Box 1423, Cloudcroft, N.M.

Edward D. Fisher, 20, 15 Isabelita, Tijeras, N.M.

Saiben R. Gabaldon, 18, 316 Highway 70, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Kimberly J. Gonzales, 25, 408 South Beech Avenue, Roswell, N.M.

Linda C. Gonzales, 19, Milepost 279 Highway 70, San Patricio, N.M.

Armando Gonzalez, 112 Hawaii, Alamogordo, N.M.  
Devin Herrington, 22, 109 Rio Ariba, Ruidoso, N.M.

Sandra R. Illingsworth, 19, 200 Gavilan # 41, Ruidoso, N.M.

Melissa M. Jacquez, 29, 417 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, N.M.

Rowena Kihaga, 39, 319 Dipalo Drive #25B, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Amberiah C. Klinekole, 23, 100 Big Hunter Drive, Mescalero, N.M.

Nathan Little, 24, 100 North Central, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Robin Lovelace, 41, P.O. Box 1106, La Luz, N.M. (two warrants)

Michael McCoy, 24, P.O. Box 1319, Alto, N.M.

Frank J. McTeigue, 42, Mile Marker 284 Highway 70, Hondo, N.M.

Sandra Morales, 28, 14121 Santiesteban Lane, El Paso, Texas

Courtney I. Morin, 25, 6352 Holland Road N.W., Bremerton, Wash.

Barry R. Nelson, 59, Lot 37 Tiligate Road, Tularosa, N.M.

Mike Nordling, 21, P.O. Box 2393, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Alejandro F. Preciado, 43, 102 South Hickory Street, Ruidoso, N.M.

Heriberto Rodriguez, 41, 218 Wyatt Earp Court, Alto, N.M.

Corey D. Saenz, 29, 220 Hill Top Lane, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Johnny D. Sanchez, 34, 1000 Sunrise Boulevard, Clovis, N.M.

Michael L. Schultz, 19, 31733 Nice Street, Sorrcinto, Fla.

Cheyenne Valdez, 19, 1521 West Frost Street, Tularosa, N.M.

Kristen D. Wade, 37, 111 Corral, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Wendell Hoot Webb, 56, 26536 Highway 70 Space E48, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Thomas A. Yahahki, Jr., 18, Willow Mobile Home Park #29, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

**RUIDOSO DOWNS POLICE BRIEF**

**April 30**

5:37 p.m. - Officer Carolee Jones responded to the 100 block of Valley View for a report of a man attempting to enter an occupied vehicle.

Jones arrested Andrew B. Salas, 22, on two charges of assault, two charges of assault on a peace officer and disorderly conduct.

The victim said the suspect appeared to be "extremely high," and attempted to enter the victim's mother's car first and then tried to enter her car, after her mother had driven away.

Officer's Joseph Bailey and Darrell Chavez located Salas, who matched the victim's description, in the

yard at 109 Valley View "screaming and throwing gang signs."

Salas reportedly squared off with the officers when they approached him and appeared to be prepared to fight with them.

Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman approved the charges against Salas May 2.

**CARRIZOZO MAGISTRATE WARRANTS**

Issued May 1 - 13  
John B. Aidoo, 41, 4312 Pan Am Freeway Apt. 222, Albuquerque, N.M.

Jacqueline A. Ancion, 41, P.O. Box 610195, Pompano Beach, Fla.

Brian L. Chavez, 23, no address provided

Joshua Dickson, 23, P.O. Box 1861 Capitan, N.M.  
Katie A. Garcia, 33, 11 Brittany Lane, Tularosa, N.M.

Adolph C. Herrera, 41, P.O. Box 105 C, Ruidoso Downs, N.M.

Charles E. Holt, 46, 32 Buckbrush Place, Las Lunas, N.M.

Claudia Magalde, 28, 8833 Pearl Street #511, Thornton, Colo.

Marcus K. Martin, 25, 1004 Cottontail Place, Albuquerque, N.M.

William Schillings, 58, 113 Randle, Ruidoso, N.M.

James Smith, Jr., 45, 390 Pleasant Street, Scandinavia, Wisc.

Robert Soliz, Jr., 29, 4715 Comanche, Midland, Texas

Alexias A. Torres, 27, 101 Lower Terrace, Ruidoso, N.M.  
Jose L. Trujillo, 51, 431 Riverside Drive, El Paso

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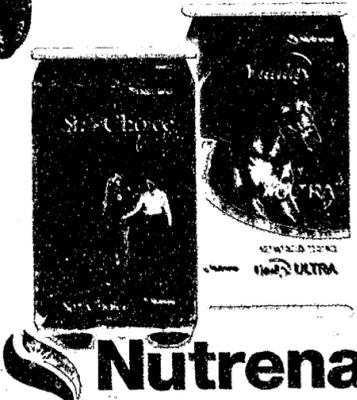
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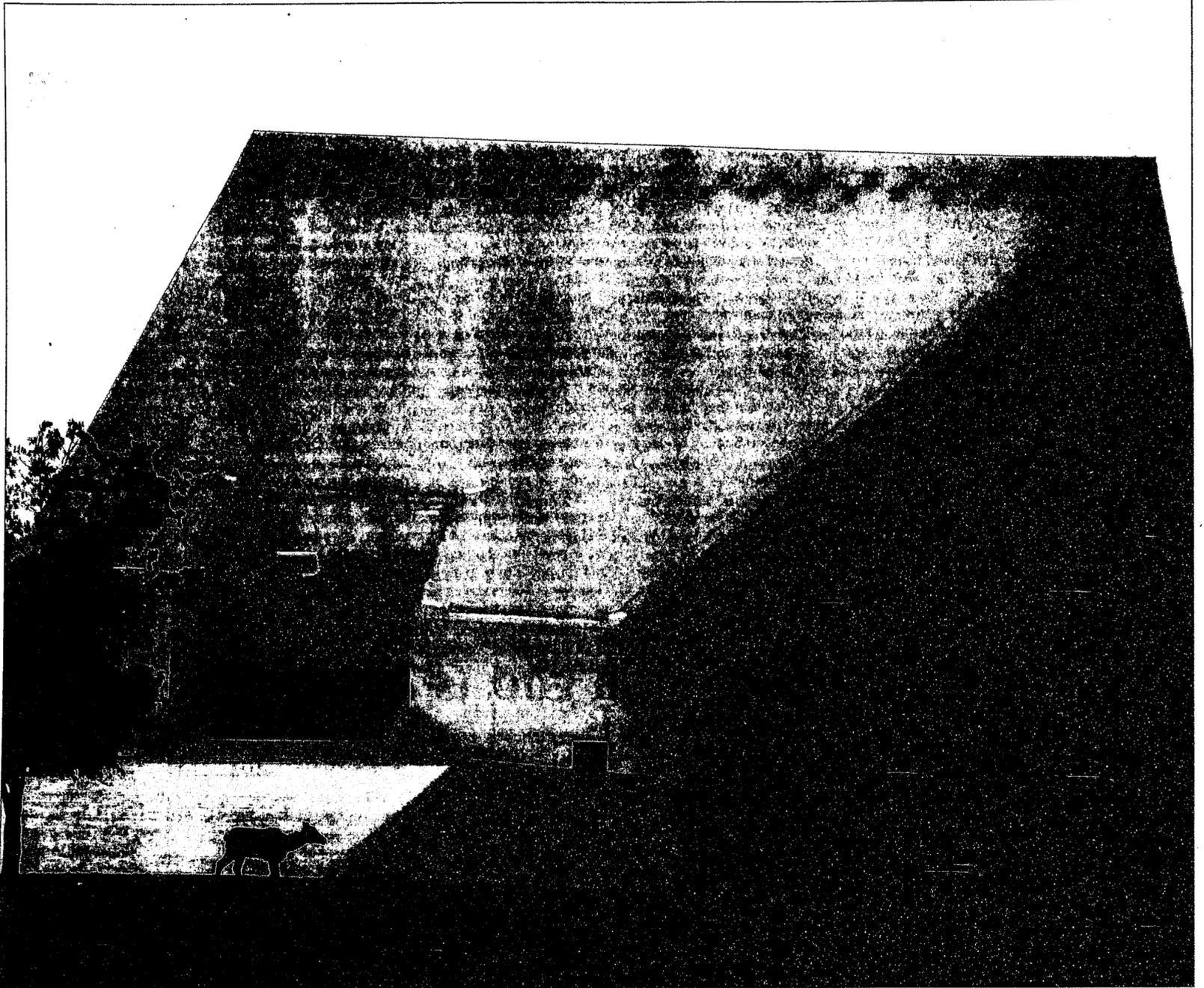
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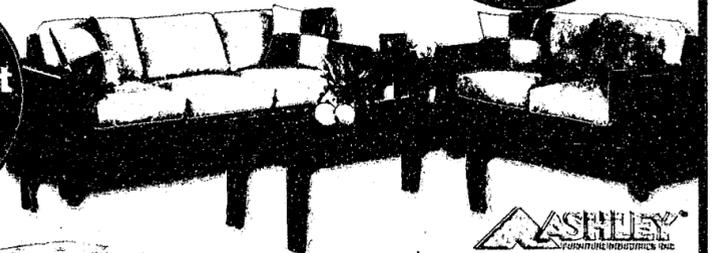
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# RELIGION

## Admire God's work outdoors

With the advent of May, we see the trailers and horses return for the racing season. And with Memorial Day, the summer folks will be returning for the comfort and beauty of the paradise of the Sacramentos. Some will come for six months of escape from the heat of the flatlands and others will get to come for



Clarifications  
BY CHARLES CLARY  
RUIDOSO PASTOR

a few days or a few weeks of respite from the relentless summer heat. I count it a privilege to live in the mountains of New Mexico. The pine and juniper forests, the deer and elk, and the wonderful people make this a pleasant and peaceful place to live. The outdoors is a wonderful place to recognize the

majestic power and presence of the Almighty God. Back in Texas, I have had folks tell me that the great outdoors is their "church" and that they can worship God sitting in their fishing boat out on the lake. I have had others tell me that they honor God by resting and taking it easy on Sunday by going camping or riding in their four wheelers. There is no question about it; God has blessed us with the beauty of the creation. But, there is one problem with considering the great outdoors the sanctu-

ary or church that is where we should be on Sunday. Sunday is the Lord's Day. And the Scriptures tell us this, "we are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together." We are to meet together to worship God and exalt Jesus Christ. We are also to meet together to encourage one another with prayer and praise. The fellowship of faith is one of the blessings that God gives us in worship. We care for one another and reach out to help in God's love. The church will never go out of style in the

mind and heart of God. But, in modern society, the church is not important to many folks. Let me remind you...the Church is the bride of Christ. The people who believe in Jesus Christ are the Church. If Jesus is of number one importance in the life of a person, then the Church is important because Christ died for her. I am not one to promote one church or denomination over the other. But, I do and will promote the church of your choice as the place to be on the Lord's Day. I realize the need for

nurses, doctors, firemen, law enforcement personnel, and others to use their skills and training for the good of others, but there are other days. The Sabbath means the seventh, so folks can worship the seventh day of their work schedule. Churches in our area have worship on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and I am sure that some how we could work in Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. That would give us seven days to worship and have help for today and hope for tomorrow.

## You don't have to believe in ghosts to believe that love never dies

Q: I guess no one can say for sure, but when we die, do we know it? I wonder about loved ones who've passed away. Did they know what happened and that they're away from us? When they died, did they know and see us grieving? Do they know about what we're doing now and that we miss them? I realize that heaven has no tears or sorrow, but I've always had these other questions. -- J., from North Carolina via godsquadquestion@aol.com



The God Squad  
MARC GELLMAN

that go bump in the night. Maybe such signs are small. After my dad died, a yellow finch appeared at my window and stayed there for the longest time, pecking at the glass. I'd never seen such a bird before or since, but I'm not one to generally read supernatural meaning into natural events. Perhaps it was just a hungry bird that never knew my dad! In any event, the belief that love never dies should give you comfort in knowing that the souls of your loved ones are safe with God. I actually admire the courage of atheists in being able to live their lives secure in the knowledge that when we die the worms eat us and that's that. They may be correct, or we religious folk may be correct that love never dies and that death is not the end of us. I bet on the power of love and hope in God. I don't think this makes me cowardly, but hopeful, and I share that hope with you. I believe we're not living our lives alone in a cold, unfeeling cosmos. I believe we're free and morally

challenged, but above all, I believe we are watched over by those we've loved and by the God who makes all love--and the greatest love--possible. Read Deuteronomy 6:5 about loving God with all your might and read its echoes in Luke 10:27 and Mark 12:30. You can also read in the Book of the Beatitudes: "The love you take is equal to the love you make." Q: In some past columns, you've referred to a teaching method employed by eagles to help their babies learn to fly. You've said that they literally bat a falling baby before it hits the ground. I've looked through heaps of books about birds in an effort to confirm this odd-sounding behavior and have yet to find any scientific observation of same. Perhaps you should watch the EagleCam to find out what eagles really do. You could even chat with an expert to get the facts. Here's the link: <http://www.wvec.com/marketplace/microsite-content/eagle-cam.html> -- S.C., a cynical reader A: The biblical reference you seek is from Exodus 19:4: "Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles'

wings, and brought you unto Myself." The question is, what does this eagle metaphor mean? Eagles have large pinion feathers, so one obvious meaning is that God carried the people to freedom the way an adult eagle carries its young upon its wings. My teacher, Rabbi Nelson Glueck, who spent much time as a biblical archeologist in the Judean wilderness, told me his interpretation based on witnessing several eaglet training flights. Eagles nest high up and over escarpments, places where it's a long way down. When eaglets first attempt to fly, they fly a little and tumble down a lot. The parents catch them and help them fly again. The adults don't actually bat the babies back up into the sky, however. They catch them on their wings. (One last thing: Perhaps Virginia eagles learn to fly differently than Israeli eagles. For example, I know Israeli eagles always fly right to left!) (Send QUESTIONS ONLY to The God Squad, c/o Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, NY 14207, or email them to godsquadquestion@aol.com.

## Robert D. 'Bobby Dan' Crenshaw 1944-2011



Bobby Dan Crenshaw died peacefully at his ranch in Carrizozo, NM on May 11, 2011. He was 67 years old. Memorial services will be held at the White Oaks schoolhouse in White Oaks, NM on Sunday May 15, 2011 at 1 pm.

Bobby Dan was born to Robert A. 'Bud' Crenshaw and Orene Kennedy Crenshaw in Fort Sumner, NM on March 4, 1944. His dad was a rancher in White Oaks and his mom delivered mail to residents in the area.

Mr. Crenshaw graduated from Carrizozo high school where he was an outstanding athlete, setting several high school track records and receiving a football scholarship with the New Mexico State Aggies. He was inducted as a High School All-American football player in 1963. He participated in many rodeo events during his high school years. Bobby Dan received professional football invitations from a variety of teams, eventually choosing to play for the Philadelphia Eagles.

Bobby Dan earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Biology from NMSU and a Master's degree in Psychology from New Mexico Highlands. He worked in a variety of settings including playing semi-pro football for the Texarkana Titans. Mr. Crenshaw also taught and coached high school in Arkansas, was the assistant administrator at Fort Stanton Hospital and Training School, ran for state senator, served as the mayor of Carrizozo, and became a NM horse trainer. His most recent job was that of rancher.

Bobby Dan very proudly served on the state board of the NM Horseman's Association of which he was a long time member and supporter. He was awarded the lifetime achievement award for service in the Horseman's Association in February of 2010.

Mr. Crenshaw was preceded in death by his parents and his only brother, Kenneth Loren Crenshaw. He is survived by his devoted wife Darla, his daughter Lisa Crenshaw of White Oaks, NM, his sons Kenneth C. Crenshaw and wife Robyn of Chandler, AZ, Chuck Goodman and wife Joanna of Missoula, MT, and Cash Spanhanks and wife Laura of Walters, OK. Bobby Dan is also survived by his grandchildren Kaitlyn Vega, Wacy Crenshaw, Wyatt Crenshaw, Dustin Crenshaw, and Lily Jean Goodman.

Bobby Dan enjoyed life. He loved his horses, cows, and beloved dog Goldie. He was a straightforward man who demonstrated a loyal, unique strength of character that will be greatly missed.

Donations to the New Mexico Oncology would benefit the many Americans currently fighting cancer.

**Berdena "Berd" Jean Shosh 1964-2011**

Berdena "Berd" Jean Shosh was born September 5, 1964 in Mescalero, NM. She crossed over to Jesus Christ on Sunday, May 15, 2011, in El Paso, TX. She had lived in Mescalero all of her life. Her passion was working with the youth and sharing Apache culture activities with others. She had a specialty at cooking during cultural ceremonies for Apache men and women on the reservation for the past 25 years. She was also a foster parent to the children of Mescalero for many years. She was also employed with the BIA Law Enforcement as a dispatcher and BIA youth development as a recreational assistant which she retired from. She is survived by one brother, Fernando Shosh Jr. of Mescalero; one sister, Lavernie Kinzhuma of Mescalero; 3 sons, Elmer "Kobe" Kaydezhinne Jr., Nathan Mangas both of Mescalero and STR Matthew A. Shosh and his wife STR Carl D. Shosh and grandson Hayden M. Shosh, of Ft. Hood, TX; 3 aunts, Norma Shosh-Adams, Rosaline Miller and Priscilla Randall; one uncle, Jess Randall all of Mescalero and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Fernando Shosh Sr. and Amy Shosh; maternal grandparents, Evelyn Martin and Ralph Chee and paternal grandparents, Kenneth and Fannie Shosh all of Mescalero. A memorial service for Berd was held on Thursday, May 19, at 6:00 PM at the Mescalero Community Gymnasium where the funeral service will be on Friday, May 20, at 10:00 AM. Burial will follow at the Mescalero Cemetery. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.lagroneruidoso.com](http://www.lagroneruidoso.com). 341 Sudderth Dr. • Ruidoso, NM 575-257-7303

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The Sealy Posturepedic *Silver Opulence* Cushion Firm Euro Pillowtop was developed to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Sealy Posturepedic. Because of this special event, Sealy included unique fabrics and foams to complement its superior Posturepedic support unit. The fabric on this mattress is coated with CoolMax™. This technology dissipates heat so you never feel like your sleeping hot. For your comfort, a full layer of Sense-Align™ Smart Latex™ has also been added. This latex in one of a kind! It has the slow response and feel of Visco-Memory Foam, but offers the support provided by Smart Latex™. This is combined with Posturepedic's 7-Zone Pressure Relief Inlay that includes both Visco-Memory foam and Smart Latex™ placed where it matters the most—under your shoulders, hips and knees. This comfortable feel is complemented with Posturepedic's best innerspring unit with added Posture Channels that helps eliminate pressure on your body, allowing you to wake feeling refreshed!

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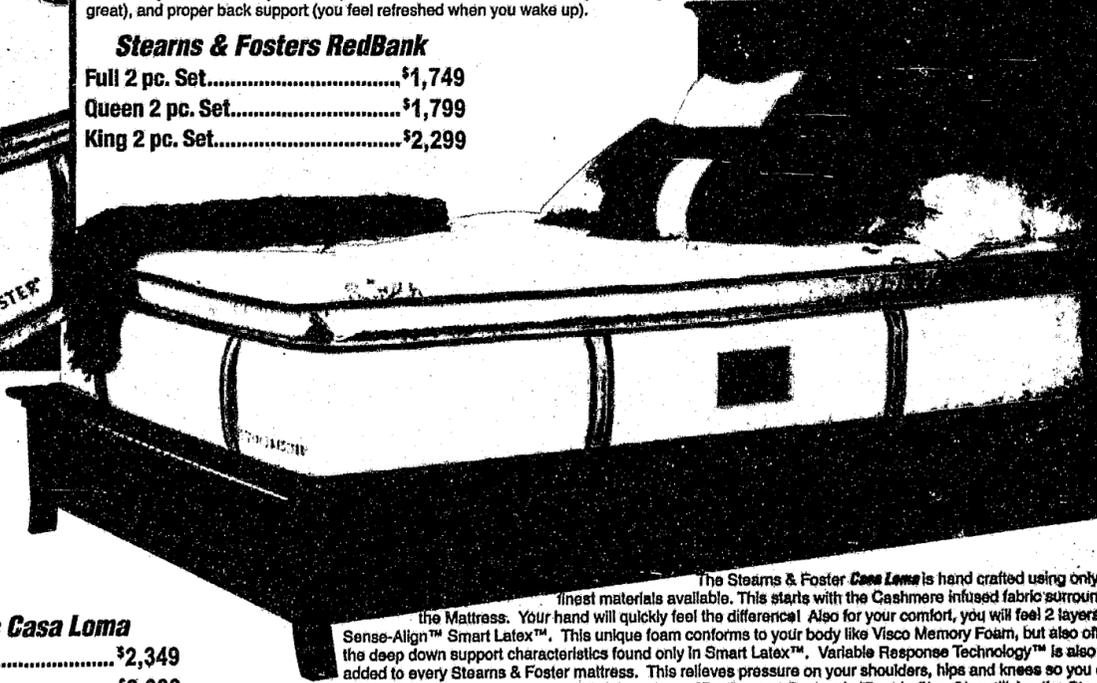
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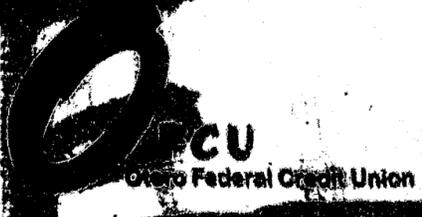
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