

**FIRE DANGER  
EXTREME!**

# RUIDOSO

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LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK  
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RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011 • OUR 65TH YEAR, NO. 17 • 75 CENTS

## Sifting through the ashes

*Residents ponder future after Swallow Fire*

DIANNE STALLINGS  
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Ken Swarb owned a vacation home at 108 Swallow Drive in Ruidoso for 26 years, but within an hour Thursday, a fast-moving fire burned it to the ground, leaving only ashes, twisted metal, cinder block and charred wood to mark decades of happy summer memories.

The Monahan, Texas, resident said he and his wife were watching television when an announce-

ment flashed on the screen about a fire in Ruidoso and it mentioned Swallow Drive.

He called a friend who has a year-round home nearby and heard the bad news that the fire seemed to be in the vicinity of his house.

Another friend tried, but was unable to drive by, because the roads were blocked off. He checked for Swarb at the fire command center in

See **ASHES**, page 7A

## Vincent: 'We did the right thing'

JIM KALVELAGE  
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In the aftermath of last week's Swallow Fire, Ruidoso's interim fire chief has been meeting with residents of the Pinecliff Subdivision, where nine homes were reduced to rubble. Most of the homes destroyed in the 10-acre wildfire were vacation residences, and owners have been arriving to see the devastation.

"I talked to a lot of the people that lost their homes and to give our condolences to that," Harlan Vincent said. "We hate losing houses like that. But we got up

See **CHIEF**, page 7A

## BLESSINGS, LARGE AND SMALL



POLLY E. CHAVEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Justin Barela waits for his bike to be blessed, along with the bigger bikes, during the Blessing of the Bikes at Fred Chavez Park in Carrizozo on Saturday, June 18. Father Tony Basso, Santa Rita Catholic Church, and Rev. Jean Riley, Trinity United Methodist Church, were in charge of the blessing. After the ceremony the motorcyclists headed to a poker run that included stops in Capitan, Bonito Store, Nogal, Valle del Sol and Carrizozo Market. Proceeds of the event went to the Knights of Columbus.

## State drought an official record

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The ongoing drought is now a record.

And National Weather Service Meteorologist Kerry Jones in New Mexico said Monday despite the start of the summer season, the summer rainy season remains elusive.

"We don't foresee any decent, sustained moisture intrusions this week," Jones said. "We don't expect any major wind-bag events either. However, we may see a bit of tease-play for Sunday with moisture attempting to work northward. But, overall, the large-scale pattern is not looking favorable for significant moisture return although it is looking more typical of mid to late June, sort of."

Late June to early July normally is the starting point for the monsoon season around Ruidoso.

It is more than the southern part of the state that has lacked precipitation.

As a whole, New Mexico is labeled the driest in the country by the National

Water Year 2011 Precipitation Deficits		
Oct '10 - May '11 precipitation totals & deficits:		
	Oct '10 - May '11	Departure fm Nrmal
Alcalde	2.56 inches	2.11 inches
Santa Fe 2	2.26	-4.47
Albuquerque	1.54	-2.76
Socorro	0.34	4.01
NMSU Las Cruces	0.51	-3.18
Carlsbad	0.54	4.81
Cloudcroft	2.97	-7.42
Ruidoso (New Mex)	1.98	5.66
Glenwood	1.31	-7.26

Climatic Data Center, with record dryness. The timeline covered the first five months of 2011.

The U.S. Drought Monitor last week expanded the drought conditions to the most severe category, exceptional, for nearly all of the southern half of the state.

The Ruidoso area had been without a drought classification until about the start of this year. By

May the local conditions had raced up the ladder of five drought categories to the exceptional rung.

For the water year, a 12-month period that begins in October, Ruidoso has received 1.98 inches of precipitation. That is a deficit of 5.66 inches from the normal for October through May.

Only Glenwood, in southwestern New Mexico, and Cloudcroft, had larger

deficits on a National Weather Service briefing chart that listed nine communities in the state.

The water year covers October through September to keep mountain snow, which melts in the spring, in the same accounting period.

There is a slight chance for thunderstorms this afternoon and evening in Ruidoso. But the odds are only 10 percent.

## Commissioners clash over LCMC management

*Depth of county involvement in hospital sparks debate*

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The message was delivered without equivocation Tuesday. If Lincoln County Commissioner Kathryn Minter wants any more information about the commission's arrangement with the firm that manages the county hospital in Ruidoso, she's on her own.

Al Santos, administrator of the Lincoln County Medical Center, and Gary Mitchell, president of the hospital's community board under Presbyterian Healthcare Services, brought a recent audit and other information to the commission session ready to answer questions about rates, contract terms and finances. But they warned those answers could flow only to the extent the information did not violate the federal patient privacy law or divulge proprietary information that should not be accessible to competitors.

They also cautioned commissioners that if they become too involved in the daily operation of the hospital, they could open up the county to liability from which it now is shielded by the Presbyterian management contract and lease.

"I'm tired of hearing proprietary, not-for-profit and trust me," Minter told Mitchell after about an hour of discussion. "The audit still doesn't contain enough detail. I

See **LCMC**, page 7A



**Republican meeting**

The Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County have invited New Mexico State Rep. Zachary Cook, District 56, and Al Santos, CEO, Lincoln County Medical Center, to speak at their June meeting.

Slated for Monday, June 27, the meeting takes place at the Ruidoso Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and use the side entrance.

For information, 430-7258.

**Coming events**

**Today**

- Preschool story time at the Ruidoso Public Library, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.; Potpourri of Stories from Different Countries; interactive day, watercolors, play dough, beads, puzzles and toys.

- Miss New Mexico Pageant at the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, through Sunday, June 25; preliminary competitions Wednesday and Thursday evening, finals Saturday; additional information and ticket information when it becomes available.

- The Sterilizers per-

form at Casa Blanca Restaurant on Mechem Drive from 6 to 9 p.m.

- Brendan Dawes Band performs at WPS in Midtown Ruidoso from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; through Sunday.

- Karaoke with DJ Pete at Lucy's Mexicali Restaurant in Midtown Ruidoso from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

**Thursday**

- Six- through 12-year-olds Summer Reading Programs at the Ruidoso Public Library; belly dancing demonstration from 2 to 3 p.m.; sign-up continues for Summer Reading Program until July 16; teen summer reading program available.

- "Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary" at the Ruidoso Public Library at 11 a.m. or 1 p.m.

**Friday**

- Lincoln County Relay for Life First Annual H.O.T.T.T. Auction to benefit the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, at 8 p.m., Quarters Bar in Midtown Ruidoso; Ruidoso's H.O.T.T.T. est single ladies and gentlemen will be auctioned off to the highest bidder, including the Ruidoso Osos base-

**HAPPY DANCERS**



LEONARD PICKEL/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

The Ruidoso Downs Senior Boot Scooters line dance group sponsored a Jamboree at the Convention Center Friday and Saturday with about 250 line dancers from New Mexico and Texas. The event was dedicated to Bessie Ellis, the 80-plus instructor. Participants performed more than 60 different dances over the two-day event, some of which involved 30 steps to memorize. Music ranged in style from 1930s tunes such as, "In the Mood," to more recent favorites like "Boot Scootin' Boogie." People can see more photos and follow the planning for 2012's Jamboree at the event's Facebook page, Ruidoso Downs Line Dance Jamboree.

ball team.

- Doug Fuqua performs in Wendell's Lounge at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino from 5 to 11 p.m.

- Mike Sanjku performs in Wendell's Restaurant at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino from 5 to 10 p.m.

- Tomas Vigil performs at Landlocked Restaurant and Bar on Mechem Drive from 6 to 9 p.m.

- The Eliminators perform at Casa Blanca Restaurant and Cantina on Mechem Drive from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday.

- Michael Beyer performs older songs and jazz at Kokopeli Country Club in Alto from 7 to 10:00 p.m.

- Karaoke with All For Fun Karaoke at the Elk's Lodge on Highway 70, next to the Ruidoso Emporium at 7 p.m.

**Saturday**

- Petting Zoo at Two Rivers Park Pavilion No. 2 from 9 a.m. to noon; for children 12 and under; free.

**Sunday**

- Sunday Under The Stars at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Resort & Casino, 6 p.m.; music by

**A WORLD OF READING**



COURTESY

As one of the presenters for the Capitan Library's June 20 Summer Reading Program with the theme of "One World, Many Stories," Germaine Joseph-Hays spoke of her native island, Saint Lucia. She shared customs, foods, and language and spoke of the beauty of her former home. The June 27 program will feature Storyteller Nisha Hoffman, who will share Chinese fairy tales.

Jace N Lee, followed by the movie "Sea Biscuit," free; children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Monday**

- Wilderness Camp at

Ruidoso Parks & Recreation from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; activities include horseback riding, fishing, canoeing, hiking,

biking, disc golf, nature walks, nature crafts and archery, outdoor sports, and more; call 575-257-5030 for more information on cost to participate.

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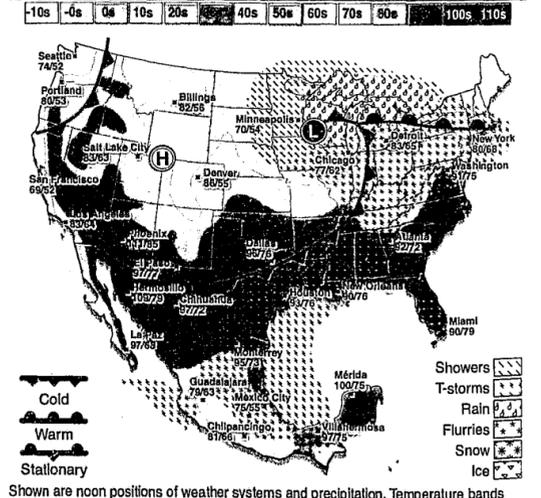
**AccuWeather® 7-day forecast for Ruidoso**

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
RealFeel 86° Humidity 29% Sunny Wind: SSE 7-14 mph	RealFeel 90° Humidity 25% Breezy with plenty of sunshine Wind: W 8-16 mph	RealFeel 94° Humidity 9% Bright sunshine and breezy Wind: WNW 10-20 mph	RealFeel 92° Humidity 10% Mostly sunny and breezy Wind: W 10-20 mph	RealFeel 91° Humidity 7% A full day of sunshine Wind: WSW 10-20 mph	RealFeel 88° Humidity 11% Mostly sunny Wind: SSW 10-20 mph	RealFeel 84° Humidity 36% Mostly sunny Wind: SSE 7-14 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.

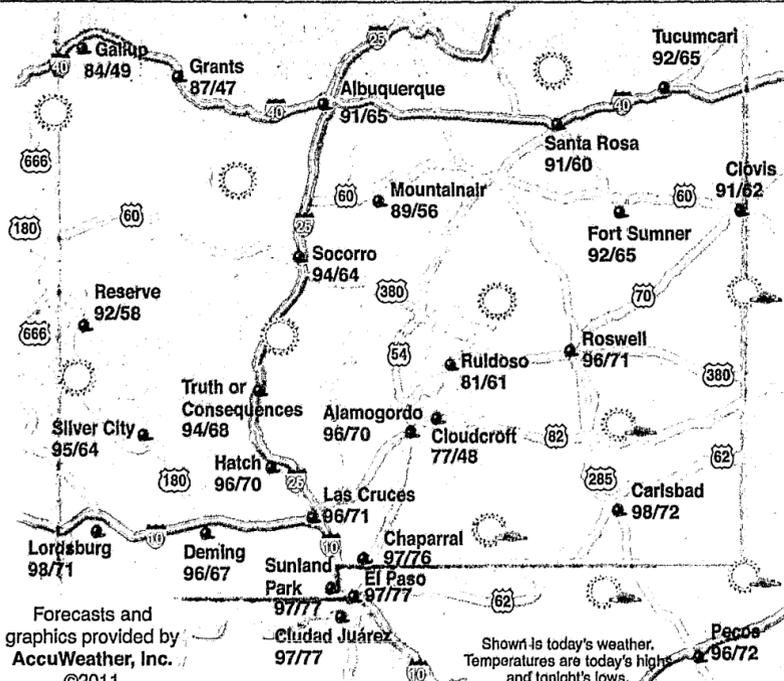
**AccuWeather.com**

**National Forecast for June 22, 2011**



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

**Regional Cities**



**Almanac**

**Ruidoso**  
Statistics through Monday

**Temperature:**  
High/low ..... 77°/55°  
Normal high ..... 83°  
Normal low ..... 45°  
Record high ..... 95° (1981)  
Record low ..... 28° (1979)

**Precipitation:**  
Monday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.05"  
Normal month to date ..... 1.30"  
Year to date ..... 0.88"  
Normal year to date ..... 6.56"

**Alamogordo**  
Statistics through Monday

**Temperature:**  
High/low ..... 93°/65°  
Normal high ..... 95°  
Normal low ..... 64°  
Record high ..... 107° (1981)  
Record low ..... 55° (1979)

**Precipitation:**  
Monday ..... 0.00"  
Month to date ..... 0.17"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.54"  
Year to date ..... 3.23"

**Pollen:**

Grass ..... Low  
Trees ..... Moderate  
Weeds ..... Low  
Mold ..... Low  
Predominant ..... Pine Tree

**Weather Trivia™:**  
Q: Does the hottest weather normally occur around the first day of summer?  
A: No, it's dailly average temperatures do not peak until midsummer.

**National Cities**

City	Today H/L	Thu. H/L
Abilene	96/72pc	97/74/s
Anchorage	67/54/sh	64/55/pc
Atlanta	92/72/t	90/70/t
Austin	98/73/t	95/72/t
Baltimore	92/72/t	92/70/t
Boston	75/60/t	71/58/sh
Chicago	77/62/t	73/60/sh
Dallas	96/76/pc	97/76/s
Denver	86/55/s	81/57/s
Des Moines	75/57/c	72/55/c
Detroit	83/65/t	77/61/s/t
El Paso	97/77/s	102/79/s
Las Vegas	105/87/s	108/89/s
Los Angeles	83/64/pc	82/64/pc
Minneapolis	70/54/sh	66/55/sh
New Orleans	90/76/t	88/74/t
New York City	80/68/t	80/68/t
Philadelphia	87/72/t	86/68/t
Phoenix	111/85/s	111/85/s
Reno	95/65/s	91/60/s
San Francisco	69/52/pc	65/51/pc
San Diego	75/68/pc	71/65/pc
Seattle	74/52/pc	68/52/pc
Tucson	104/75/s	106/77/s
Tulsa, OK	91/70/s	91/72/t
Wash., DC	91/75/t	92/71/t
Wichita	88/64/s	87/68/s
Yuma	111/83/s	109/81/s

**Regional Cities**

City	Today H/L	Thu. H/L
Albuquerque	91/65/s	95/66/s
Artesia	96/73/s	101/72/s
Chama	80/44/s	85/42/s
Clayton	88/59/s	93/60/s
Cloudcroft	77/48/s	80/39/s
Farmington	90/54/s	95/57/s
Hobbs	95/69/s	100/68/s
Los Alamos	81/54/s	88/51/s
Portales	82/64/s	86/62/s
Raton	84/50/s	89/50/s
Red River	71/39/s	79/39/s
Ruidoso	81/61/s	87/64/s
Santa Fe	88/53/s	93/55/s
Silver City	95/64/s	98/68/s
Taos	85/43/s	89/43/s

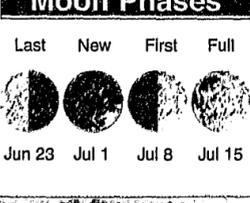
**Mexican Cities**

City	Today H/L	Thu. H/L
Acapulco	84/73/t	90/77/t
Cancun	90/75/pc	88/73/pc
Chihuahua	97/72/s	95/70/pc
Ciudad Juárez	97/77/s	102/79/s
Leon	79/59/t	78/60/t
Mexico, DF	75/55/t	75/55/t
Monterrey	85/73/t	91/72/t
Morelia	77/65/t	82/63/t
Oaxaca	84/61/t	86/63/t
Pto. Penasco	100/75/s	98/76/s
Tijuana	75/61/pc	77/63/pc

**Sun and Moon**

Wednesday: Sunrise/Sunset 5:55 a.m./8:15 p.m.  
Wednesday: Moonrise/Moonset 12:08 a.m./12:32 p.m.

**Moon Phases**



**Extremes**

Monday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states)  
High: 109° in Goodyear, AZ  
Low: 25° in Grand Canyon, AZ

Monday's World High/Low:  
High: 118° in Ahwaz, Iran  
Low: -6° in Summit Station, Greenland

# CYFD investigating foster care

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A state department that has some oversight of Treatment Foster Care agencies is investigating the June 8 death of a foster care provider that prosecutors said was murdered.

Two 15-year-old girls, who had been placed in the San Patricio home of Evelyn Miranda, were charged on June 9 with her murder.

Mesilla Valley Hospital in Las Cruces operates the Treatment Foster Care program, described as a program to bring changes in children's social, emotional and behavioral needs.

Treatment foster care parents receive 40 hours of pre-service training.

"This type of incident is very isolated and is really an aberration," said Enrique Knell, the communications director for the New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department. "It is not typical of the challenges faced in foster parenting, whether for CYFD

foster homes or the Medicaid service Treatment Foster Care. The staff at CYFD extends our condolences and prayers to Evelyn Miranda's family. Since the morning this happened, CYFD staff has been working with Mesilla Valley Hospital and others to perform a careful review of this tragedy from a regulatory perspective for any possible indication of overt contributing factors."

Knell said the hospital's Treatment Foster Care department has been fully cooperative with the department.

"It is not within CYFD's regulatory scope to directly oversee or supervise the individual TFC parents and their homes as this role falls to the TFC agencies who are responsible for the individual licensing of each of its TFC parents and their homes. CYFD's regulatory role for TFC agencies is one of oversight and monitoring to ensure each of the TFC agencies substantially comply with both the regulations governing the licensure of its TFC

homes as well as the regulations governing its service delivery of TFC services to its children and youth and their families. CYFD has a vested interest in ensuring that the treatment agencies and providers serving the children, youth and families of New Mexico are providing the best possible care."

Knell said as a result, the department has taken an active role in reviewing the incident to determine if standards were followed.

The department has said traditional foster care and treatment foster care are two completely different programs.

Kevin Burgess, the CEO of Mesilla Valley Hospital, said management and staff have cooperated fully with all authorities involved in the investigation and will continue to do so until it is completed.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our families in the Ruidoso office," Burgess said.

He said because of patient confidentiality and privacy law, Mesilla Valley

Hospital was unable to talk about specific details.

Burgess provided some general information about treatment foster care.

"Prior to becoming licensed, all treatment foster parents receive 40 hours of training and receive 24 hours of annual training thereafter," Burgess said. "Prior to placement of a child in any treatment foster care home, there is a multi-step assessment and placement process that involves the child, state or other governmental agencies acting on the child's behalf, the treatment foster care agency, and the treatment foster care parents."

Alexis Shields, who is from Mescalero, was moved into the treatment foster care system earlier this year and in late May placed with Miranda.

Desiree Linares was charged a year ago with misdemeanor aggravated battery for an incident in Roswell. She was placed with Miranda just days before she was found bound and smothered.

# Transit system may stop at borders

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Lincoln County Transit buses soon might only go as far as the municipal boundaries of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs.

The two-and-a-half year old public transportation will stop service to the remainder of Lincoln County on July 1.

The Lincoln County Commission last month declined to fund the transit system for fiscal year 2011-2012.

"The contract is over on June 30 with the county," said Patty DeSoto, manager of Lincoln County Transit. "Without that money we can't really afford to be going to Capitan and Carrizozo."

The county had been asked to fund \$28,874.08 as part of a local match that helps to secure federal funding for the small buses operated by the Ruidoso Downs headquartered transit system. Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs also pledged nearly similar amounts, either in kind or with funding.

DeSoto said the end of service into the non-Ruidoso/Ruidoso Downs part of the county will have an impact on those who use Lincoln County Transit to get to work or to doctor's

appointments.

Most of the system's fares beyond Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs have been from the Alto area.

"We got one that comes from Loma Grande everyday," DeSoto said. "Most of the riders going to Carrizozo are going to court. Some go to the dentist over there because they charge on a sliding scale."

She said there are riders from the Rancho Ruidoso Valley Estates area as well.

"It means a lot to me," said Joe Bob Browning, who lives in Glencoe. "I use it to get groceries and go to doctor's appointments."

Browning said without Lincoln County Transit, he may have to do without trips to buy food, which he said averages once a week.

"I was born and raised here," Browning said. "Everybody I used to know here has either passed away. Or they got jobs and moved away. Years ago everybody helped one another out. Now they're in rest homes or their kids who would help you out moved away. This is a great service we need to keep in Lincoln County."

Public transportation to the Inn of the Mountain Gods might also be halted.

"Right now I'm working on trying to get money through the Mescalero

Apache Tribe," DeSoto said. "People don't look at it like 'That's our tax money and you're still going to Mescalero and the Inn.' I really need an answer before the end of the month to continue that service."

DeSoto said the tribe helps to subsidize Z Trans, which operates public transportation between Alamogordo and parts of the reservation, including the Inn of the Mountain Gods and the Casino Apache Travel Center.

"I'm hoping we can get a little piece of the pie and continue doing that service. And that would hopefully

replace the county portion of the local match."

During the first five months of 2011, 61 percent of the transit's 9,813 riders were from Ruidoso. Ruidoso Downs accounted for 23 percent. Mescalero represented nine percent of rides. Lincoln County, excluding Ruidoso and Ruidoso Down, was seven percent.

Federal funding provides 80 percent of the administrative costs and 50 percent of the operational expenses of the transit operation.

The local matches make up the balance.

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3 months.....\$20  
6 months.....\$26  
1 year.....\$40  
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3 months.....\$27  
6 months.....\$32  
1 year.....\$53.50

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**OUR OPINION**

**Quick response  
deserves gratitude**

Community owes a debt to firefighters

The tension over the radio scanner was palpable Thursday afternoon as fire climbed the hills behind the Travelodge hotel on Highway 70, whipped up by strong winds like a beast unleashed.

Area firefighters were quick to respond and while nine homes were lost, the situation could have been much worse.

Tanks to propane grills exploded as the blaze ran down Swallow Drive, Mockingbird Lane and Cliff Drive, sounding like, in the words of Ruidoso Downs Mayor Tom Armstrong, "a little war."

In the midst of that war, the warriors in yellow slickers. There is at least one report of a firefighter who lives in that neighborhood who was helping to protect one house, who was doing his job, not knowing if he himself would have a house to go home to.

The community, as it already has started, needs to rally around those who have lost so much.

We also need to thank the firefighters who have put their lives on the line time and time again during a fire season in which the state, the Southwest and much of the country has never seen before.

In Florida, two firefighters working for the Division of Forestry were killed Monday

after a fire believed to have been contained suddenly flared up again.

This serves as a tragic reminder that we did indeed dodge a bullet on Thursday, that it could have turned out much worse, and we do indeed owe a debt of gratitude to those who literally stood in the line of fire.

In addition to firefighters from Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs, responders from a number of Lincoln County departments, the U.S. Forest Service and others worked to suppress the flames. An estimated 150 fire personnel were on the ground.

The Swallow Fire and the White Fire, which destroyed five homes back in April, currently are under investigation and are considered to be "human-caused."

With the White Fire mitigation underway, we were lucky helicopters already were on hand to help out with the Swallow Fire.

In the times of such tragedy, the term "lucky" tends to have a more flexible definition.

The Ruidoso Police Department is asking anyone who might have information as to how these fires started to give them a call. The number to the department is 575-258-7365.

As residents, let's stay vigilant and careful until this extraordinary fire season is over.

**YOUR OPINION**

**A heart-felt thank you**

To the editor:

We as a business that was in the harm's way of the Swallow Fire on Thursday, June 16, we surely want to thank everyone that had a big part in getting the fire contained so quickly. It shows what a small community can do by working together as they all did in such a marvelous way. With God and lots of prayer, our towns were spared once

more.

But our hearts and prayers and thoughts go out to those who lost so much. And we must help them in any way we can to get back to living their life in this area.

Thank you is really not much but sent from hearts that care is where this is coming from.

Dorothy E. Smith  
Ruidoso Downs

*It may be time for a makeover...*



**It's going to take us all**

Uncharacteristic wildfires can be devastating to natural resources and our communities. This year's fire season is showing us that first hand.

Too many trees and unhealthy forest conditions, a dry winter and spring, above-average temperatures, low humidity, and near constant wind events created extremely dry vegetation, vegetation that was ready to burn.

Every spring people ask us (the Forest Service) if we are ready for fire season. Some might say we can only know the answer after the season is over. But I believe we can be ready for wildfires, in fact, we must be ready, knowing events won't always turn out exactly how we would like.

If you've lived in the Southwest for any length of time, it's easy to realize all of the conditions favored a potentially long and difficult fire season. And we got it...but we, in the wildland fire business, were ready. Here are the reasons why I think that was the case.

We take our charge to protect life, property, and the natural resources that our communities depend on very seriously. That means taking actions to prevent fires from starting in the first place and being prepared when they do start. We took actions to help prevent fire starts and to protect both human life and the forests that we all treasure. We restricted camp fires and other activities when the risks for fire increased, and when conditions became too extreme on some

forests, those forests are now closed to public use. The hot, dry, and windy conditions told us we needed to be prepared earlier than normal for fire season. We brought in firefighters and equipment three to four



weeks early and made sure helicopters and air tankers were in close proximity. But restrictions, closures, and securing resources early are not cure alls. We need each of you to take personal responsibility to stop fires from starting.

Humans and nature can be unpredictable and the fires that result can be destructive given the right circumstances. It's important to recognize however, what our efforts and firefighters achieve in the face of adversity, and that there are successes to be thankful for along the way.

**The commitment**

We are blessed with committed individuals both inside and outside the Forest Service, including highly trained people who risk their lives every day to minimize the impact of wildfires. With nearly 200,000 acres burned this spring on national forests in New Mexico (and more each day); hundreds of threatened homes and businesses have been saved. We would rather never lose homes to wildfire, but sometimes the conditions make it impossible to save every one, and our hearts go out to those who have suffered losses. Many communities including Mayhill, Ruidoso, and Queen have been threatened by the various fires in New Mexico. Despite extreme fire behavior,

we were able to save the majority of homes, losing three in the Mayhill Fire, five in the White Fire and one in the Last Chance Fire. Heroic efforts of local, state, and federal firefighters were aided in these successes by the previous removal of trees to thin forests in and around communities. Many individual homeowners worked hard to "firewise" their homes and we thank each and every one of you. Thinning done around the towns of Mayhill and Ruidoso, New Mexico can be credited with protecting those communities from the extreme fire behavior of the Mayhill and White fires. Fire hit these areas with incredible force but the flames dropped down to something more manageable in the thinned areas. Fewer trees in more natural patterns with appropriate spacing result in fires that burn primarily on the ground or with more moderate behavior, and at a slower pace. This allows firefighters to safely attack the fire more directly, minimizing its impacts and allowing for protection of property and other resources. Efforts to thin forests around communities paid off for the resources, the firefighters, and the communities.

**The ecosystem**

Fire is a natural and important part of southwestern forest ecosystems, so we will never eliminate all impacts from fire. But we can and are striving to minimize those undesirable impacts by restoring our forests to a more healthy condition; a condition that supports lower intensity fires that are easier to manage and benefit the forests. I recognize the urgent need for restoration not only to reduce the risk of fires like the Mayhill

See FIRE, page 5A

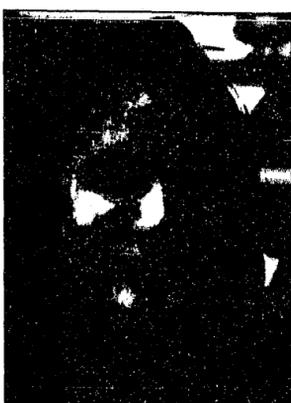
**THE STREETER, BY ERIK BEARER**

Q: What do you think of emergency services' response to the Swallow Fire?



**Paul Wenzel**  
Ruidoso

"My hat goes off to all the responders. They were coordinated and did an amazing job preventing any casualties, including the animals."



**Anyssa Espinoza**  
Ruidoso

"I'm grateful for the quick response, especially for the officer that got my family out of the house before the fire reached them."



**Frank Potter**  
Ruidoso

"The response was unbelievable. All the departments cooperated and had everything in place to put it out."



**Ben Hall**  
Ruidoso

"We were fortunate that the Forest Service had helicopters immediately available. That really helped control the flames."



**Peggy Borden**  
Dallas, Texas

"I wasn't here the day of the fire, but I've heard nothing but praise for the firefighters. They stopped it from taking the whole mountain."

## More thank-yous

### Triathlons

To the editor:  
On Saturday, June 11, 235 triathletes took part in the fifth-annual Ruidoso Sprint & Kids Triathlons. The event was held on a gorgeous day, staged at Wingfield Park in conjunction with the health fair, Walk in the Woods. All proceeds will benefit the Ruidoso trails coalition program.

We would like to give credit and thanks to all the local organizations, sponsors, volunteers and triathletes that supported this event.

Corporate sponsors and individuals sponsors: Hammernutrition, TriSports.com, New Mexico Sports Authority, The Ruidoso Athletic Club, Bicycle Ruidoso, Presley Printing, Holiday Inn Express (host hotel), Ruidoso Outdoor Adventures, Ruidoso Lodgers Tax, BuyRuidoso.com; Landlocked Restaurant & Bar; Therapy Associates; Lincoln County Medical Center; Brunell's; Lawrence Brothers Supermarkets; EJ Signs; Thriftway supermarket; Billy the Kid Race Track & Casino; High Country Agency; Southwest Securities Group; Zia Gas; Ronnie Hemphill CPA; Dr. Michael Spence M.D.; Dr. Jon Ogden Chiropractor; and Village Ace Hardware.

Support Services: Lincoln County Sheriff's Posse; Ruidoso Parks & Recreation Commission; Ruidoso Boy Scout Troop 59; Sierra Blanca Amateur Radio Club; Emergency Services of Lincoln County Medical Center; Ruidoso Police Department; and White Mountains Search & Rescue.

Volunteers extraordinaire: Michele Thurston & Avril Coakley registration/packet pick up wiz; emcee genius Aaron Lacombe;

Eddie Cisneros equipment specialist; Craig Maldonado course marking/sag car & much more; the forever Young Bart & Mary transition marshalls; Dr. Albert Witte M.D.; Harvey Foster and Joseph Arcure photographers, the great team for the KidsTri too many to mention.

Last but not least, we would like to congratulate all the triathletes old and young that travelled from far away to our mountain community.

We hope that you will be our ambassadors to promote the Ruidoso Sprint & Kids Triathlons and Ruidoso as a new destination in New Mexico for outdoor sports.

If we have missed anyone who helped, please accept our apology now and know that without your help, this wonderful event would not have been possible.

See you next year in June 2012.

Frederic Moras  
Ruidoso Sprint & Kids Triathlons race director

### Flag Day

The Lincoln County Flag Day Celebration at Wingfield Park turned out to be more successful than expected with a couple hundred people in attendance and over 600 torn and tattered American flags de-constructed and respectfully reduced to ashes.

As the organizer of this now-annual event, I want to offer thanks to the Village of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Department, especially Brady Park, and thanks to Chief Harlan Vincent and the officers and men of the Ruidoso Fire Department for monitoring the burning and keeping us all safe.

Thanks, too, to Harvey T of KEDU for providing a sound system.

Thanks to the Veterans'

Honor Guard, made up of members of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for presenting the colors to open the evening and retiring the colors to close the event. Thanks to Pastor Tim Gilliland of Church out of Church for the opening prayer and to Julie Gilliland for leading everyone in singing the National Anthem, "She's a Grand Old Flag" and "God Bless America."

Thanks to Judi Waymire, Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge No. 2086, who led the Flag Retirement Ceremony with presentations by the Boy Scouts of Lincoln County's Sierra Blanca District; Saint Eleanor's Cub Pack 58, Community United Methodist's Cub Pack and Scout Troop 59 and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints' Cub Pack and Scout Troop 107.

Thanks to Girl Scout Troop 16033 for helping with the presentation, too. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, especially the Patriotic Fourth Degree, who assisted the Scouts in de-constructing the flags and reducing them to ashes.

Thanks to the Republican Party of Lincoln County and the Federated Republican Women of Lincoln County for providing hot dogs and lemonade and having American flags available for folks to replace those retired. The Republicans also provided the stage. Thanks to the Tea Party Patriots of Lincoln County for keeping things clean.

Most especially, I want to offer thanks to the citizens of the Village of Ruidoso and Lincoln County.

The Lincoln County Flag Day Celebration for 2011 was truly a community event.

Jack Shuster  
Ruidoso

## Hubbard's Humane contribution

To the editor:  
One of your recent "letters to editor" by a Mr. (Jack) Hemby stated that Mr. (R.D.) Hubbard should be giving money to the Lincoln County Humane Society.

We would just like everyone to know that through Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard's foundation, the R.D. and Joan Dale Hubbard Foundation, we have received \$45,000 over the last five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard have been right at the top of our most ardent supporters for many years now.

In fact, just two years ago, we honored them at our Annual Ball for all of their efforts to support our organization, not just monetarily but also by recruiting their friends and acquaintances to become ardent supporters of ours as well.

We can not thank them enough for their help.

We wish we had a hundred more just like them.

Board of Directors  
The Humane Society of Lincoln County

## FIRE

FROM PAGE 4A

and White Fires, but also to improve the resilience of our forests and ensure they are here for future generations.

We have accomplished some good things but they aren't nearly enough. We need innovative thinking, committed partners, and a vibrant wood products industry to achieve our goal and overcome financial and other challenges we face. Federal resources alone will never be sufficient.

We need you to observe restrictions and closures and do your best to make your homes defensible (www.firewise.org). Projects such as the Southwest Jemez Mountains Landscape Restoration project in northern New Mexico and the 16 Springs Stewardship project in the southern New Mexico are two examples of what we can do when we work together.

The Southwest Jemez project is a collaborative, landscape-scale initiative designed to restore fire-adapted ecosystems on 210,000 acres in northern New Mexico.

The area is a key source of water for the greater Albuquerque area and many smaller communities, and is also rich in archeological and other natural resources.

Together, with a diverse group of stakeholders, the Santa Fe National Forest is working toward restoration of this landscape across National Forest, National Park Service, state, private, and tribal lands. The 16 Springs Stewardship is a partnership between the Lincoln National Forest and the Mescalero Apache Tribe and is the first stewardship project conducted under the Tribal Forest Protection Act (TFPA).

The goal of the project is to improve forest health, and reduce hazardous fuels and associated fire risk to tribal lands, the community of 16 Springs, the Village of Ruidoso

(rated the most at risk community in New Mexico and number two on the list of most at risk communities in the nation), and National Forest System lands.

The 16 Springs Stewardship project, currently underway, includes the 16 Springs (Otero County) and Perk/Grindstone (Ruidoso, Lincoln County) project areas on the Lincoln National Forest.

I ask for your support, your energy, and your ideas to help us meet this challenge. We stand ready with your help... to both fight fires and to restore forest health to make fires a more manageable part of the future.

Corbin Newman was assigned to the position of Regional Forester for the Southwestern Region of the U.S. Forest Service in December 2007. Newman has held numerous positions at all levels of the Forest Service-in both the eastern and western parts of the country-during his 35-year career.

## More compassion for pets needed

To the editor:  
"Humane" characterized by tenderness, compassion and sympathy do not currently describe our "Humane Society."

The great freeze out this winter not only led to broken pipes, but many broken, cold and starving animals abandoned by their owners for whatever reason, in the worst of times. My old barn and abandoned chicken coop became home to numerous forgotten, starving cats that had obviously been in a home at one time. Food and water were all I could provide. The barn and chicken coop gave them shelter.

This brings us to springtime. In an effort to eliminate an increase in the population, I have contacted many places to inquire about spaying, and or adoption of these poor, mistreated, abandoned animals.

In its wisdom, the County saw fit to only fund our "Humane" Shelter. Let me tell you that if you think your gifts to this shelter would help place an animal, or be an advocate for these unfortunate leftovers of human neglect, you are mistaken.

Their policy of euthanasia to feral cats, and "no kittens" rule are in line with the County's solution of "just shoot them."

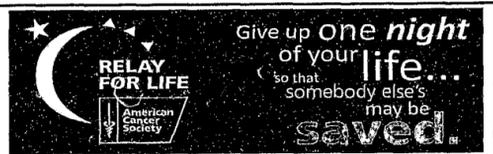
I did find a glimmer of hope by investigating the

"Paws" program in Alamogordo. Now, because not enough funding has been provided to the "Paws" program, they are struggling to provide truly humane care for these abandoned souls.

I still have the problem and responsibility of finding a solution, and at 73, and on a very limited income, I am writing in frustration to those more fortunate than myself. If you want to make a humane contribution, con-

sider the policies of where you fund "humane" treatment of animals. The "Paws" program not only provides neutering but finds homes on ranches, in barns and inside the house, for those animals. Unfortunately, easy solutions such as "kill" are the mindset of the same people that dump their responsibilities for someone else to have to deal with.

Julia Cano  
Capitan



Relay For Life is a community gathering, where everyone can participate in the fight against cancer. We need your help before, during, or after Relay. All talents and interests are welcome.

Everyone is needed! Join us today!

Event Name: Relay for Life  
Event Date: July 8 & 9, 2011 6pm-10am  
Event Location: All American Park in Ruidoso Downs

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Devonna.petty@hotmail.com for more information  
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# EDUCATION

## Warrior code of conduct changes

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Adjustments to the Ruidoso Warriors Athletic/Activities Code of Conduct could be in store for the 2011-2012 school. Some sanctions could be eased and a newly added infraction could bring tough consequences.

Activities Director Kief Johnson said a committee had worked on the proposed revisions.

"We determined we wanted to give students a chance to recover if they make a mistake," Johnson said. "Kids make mistakes and we don't want to give them the death penalty. We don't want to not give them hope to coming back into activities or athletics."

Johnson said he has seen both extremes in the past.

"At different places, zero tolerance, first offense you're done, you'll never play again. Never be able to participate in band or anything else. Or give them a certain percentage of time off."

Johnson said the committee looked at the con-

cept of having students "buy in" to the program.

"If we can get the kids committed to the programs then they're less likely to mess up or do something wrong. Whatever we have on paper, it doesn't mean a whole lot on that Friday or Saturday night when they're out there doing something wrong."

Among the changes recommended by the committee are the consequences for the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol even off campus or testing positive to a random drug test.

Extra-curricular students with a second offense while enrolled in the high school currently are removed from extra-curricular participation for the remainder of the student's high school career.

"A freshman student may make a poor choice. And they can get two offenses real fast. And then they're done for 365 (days) or possibly done for the rest of their high school career. And we don't want that. We want to teach them how to overcome that and do what's right. Kids that



FILE PHOTO

Ruidoso Municipal School Board member Curt Temple.

all of the sudden have no chance of getting back on the teams, most of the time we see them get worse. They start partying, they're drinking, doing other things. They don't have any hope of coming back to something they love doing."

Johnson said sports and activities sometimes keep kids in school. But he added, the change could be a double-edged sword.

"We also have a ton of kids, a majority of our kids, are doing what's right. And is it fair to them to give another kid a chance?"

That question was a

tough one for the committee, Johnson said. Recommended was a 40 percent suspension from extracurricular activities for a second offense.

"But then we also threw in the following: We're going to have a hearing with parents, principal, student, activities director, coaches and a counselor, whoever else we need. And we're going to look at, 'Are they trying to make a change? Or are they continuing in their ways? Are their grades passing? Have they completed a community-service project? Have

they completed Life of an Athlete?"

The Life of an Athlete is a special course.

If a student is involved in a drug or alcohol offense, they are required to participate in intervention through the school-based health clinic. Second-offense students who fail to complete the requirements would remain suspended.

A third offense would result in the removal of the student from all extra-curricular activities for 365 days. After that, a hearing would be held as is done with a second offense.

"In the past, a third offense, you were done, never come back," Johnson said. "Now if it's your third offense and you're a junior, you're probably going to miss your senior year. Sorry, it gets tougher."

Added into the draft changes to Ruidoso Warrior Activities was a section on the distribution of illegal drugs or alcohol. Such an infraction would exclude the student from all extra-curricular activities for 365 days, followed by a hearing.

"If you're distributing

drugs or alcohol, we don't want you around the athletes and activities," Johnson said.

School board member Curt Temple questioned Johnson about distribution.

"Joe on the team bought a six-pack and he gave me a beer. If Joe gives it to three players on the team?" Johnson said that would be distributing.

"Joe gets a harsher punishment than the other ones," Johnson told Temple.

Change to the tobacco sanction was also offered. What has been an automatic two-week suspension would become tiered, based on first, second or subsequent offenses.

"Tobacco, it is there in some of those kids," Johnson said. "We have kids that grew up on ranches and some of it is acceptable. I've dealt with some parents that, 'It's OK with my kid.'"

Some seniors are 18, legal age to use tobacco products.

"But still, if they're going to participate in our athletics or activities, we hold them to a higher standard."

## Planned changes scrapped, school day remains same

"You know when to hold and you know when to fold."

Bea Etta Harris  
RMS Superintendent

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

The education day in the Ruidoso Municipal School District for the coming school year will remain unchanged. A plan to enact a two-tiered schedule, to save on transportation costs, has been scrapped.

"The middle school had such a fit that we're just going to do one (tier)," said Superintendent Bea Etta Harris. "The sixth and seventh grade parents were organizing. I just didn't want to go there. You know when to hold and you know

when to fold."

Harris said a number of middle school parents said starting later would encroach on the time they had to report to their jobs.

The plan had proposed that the middle and high schools would start the school day 45 minutes later than the elementary classes to trim bussing costs.

"One bus could run two routes," Harris said. "They wouldn't have had to use so many busses. They could have actually cut a few busses and that means they could have had fewer drivers so they would have saved some money there. We had hoped to save \$60,000 because we subsidize transportation because the state doesn't pay enough."

Harris said transportation funding from the state has been reduced since 1995 while fuel costs have

risen.

Wednesdays, however, will have a 45 minute delay in the start of the school day across the district. The delay was in place last year at Ruidoso High School last year.

"Jump Start Wednesday means we have a delayed start on Wednesdays. We'll ask the teachers to come in 15 minutes earlier (than the normal schedule) so they'll have an hour to have Professional Learning Communities because it's been proven that when teachers collaborate we can make a difference in student learning because they'll spend time looking at data to form instruction. They'll be working in teacher groups to look at standards and look at the data."

Jump Start Wednesday will not take place on the first and last Wednesdays of the 2011-2012 school year.

The coming school year begins with orientation on Aug. 15 and instruction on Aug. 16.

## Art teacher attends class

A Ruidoso High School art teacher will sit down with some nationally acclaimed artists next week.

Marilyn Lyons will attend the Teacher Institute in Contemporary Art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Lyons will be a part of daily workshops and presentations during the week long event.

"I will learn from the best," Lyons said. "I am so excited."

Each summer the Teacher Institute in Contemporary Art provides a diverse

group of art educators from across the country a chance to come together for an inspirational education experience. The program includes daily studio sessions, dialogue about contemporary art theory, and one-on-one interaction with leading contemporary artists and museum educators.

The institute is offered at no cost to accepted applicants. It is funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

- Jim Kalvelage

## Sex ed option for ninth graders

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A health education course, that will include topics such as dating, sexually transmitted diseases and teen parenthood, will be implemented in the Ruidoso Municipal School District.

"A new state law requires that a health course be provided to students either in middle school or high school," Ruidoso High School Principal Pauline Staski said. "We decided, through deliberations, that the best place for this course would be in

the ninth grade."

The course, which would provide a half-credit, is required to graduate from high school.

The course's implementation plan will be provided to the New Mexico Public Education Department for their review.

"Part of that implementation plan is that you accept the opt out letter," Staski told the school board. "There is a current opt out letter in board policy. It is much more general and does not contain as much information for parents. We thought a more detailed opt out letter that

contained more information concerning what they're opting out of was appropriate."

The letter was called "descriptive" by school board member Curt Temple.

"I like it. It tells them basically what they're going to learn and doesn't beat around the bush," Temple said.

Staski said the only item parents can opt out of is the sexual education component of the curriculum.

"You can't opt out of the whole course," Staski said. "You can only opt out of the sex ed."

### NOTICE TO EAGLE CREEK RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS

In 1984, Eagle Creek was described as "a perennial, high quality creek" by the US Forest Service. The NM Environment Department designated Eagle Creek as a "high quality coldwater fishery" in its 2004 listing of impaired surface waters. We now know it as a dry stream bed.

Recently, the Village of Ruidoso applied for a special use permit to continue unregulated pumping of the Eagle Creek North Fork wells. These wells have operated without a valid permit since 1995. Eagle Creek residents have an opportunity to submit comments to the US Forest Service documenting the effects of loss of stream flow in Eagle Creek due to the North Fork wells. Comments and photographs will be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement being prepared by the US Geologic Survey.

Residents along Eagle Creek are urged to submit statements and photographs documenting the environmental effects on their property of the loss of stream flow. Examples of the detrimental effects documented thus far include:

- Changes in the water table requiring deepening of domestic wells
- Dead, dying, and fallen trees
- Effects on fish, wildlife, and vegetation
- Appearance of sinkholes and other evidence of environmental degradation

Statements must be submitted by July 30, 2011 to:

Mr. David Warnack  
Smokey Bear Ranger Station  
901 Mechem Dr.  
Ruidoso, NM 88345

Members of the Eagle Creek Conservation Association, an organization formed by Eagle Creek residents concerned about the loss of stream flow, will gladly provide examples of testimonials and assist property owners in preparing their statements. Please contact Ab Kous (akous@valornet.com) or Bill Midkiff (billmidkiff@valornet.com) for assistance or further information. This is an important opportunity to help restore our creek and preserve the environment and our quality of life.

### LINCOLN COUNTY CLERK NOTICE OF FEE CHANGE

The fee schedule for recording documents has changed in New Mexico and therefore in Lincoln County. The 2011 New Mexico Legislature passed Senate Bill 369 titled An Act Relating to Public Records. The Governor signed the bill into law on April 7, 2011. The new fees will become effective July 1, 2011. The new law sets fees as follows:

- Sets a flat fee of \$25.00 for all documents filed in the office that require 10 or fewer entries to the County Recording Index.
- Sets a fee of \$25.00 for each additional block of 10 or fewer entries to the County Recording Index from a single document.
- Sets a reduced fee of \$10.00 for any document filed in person by an interested person named on any document requiring 10 or fewer entries to the County Recording Index.
- Sets a flat fee of \$25.00 for all plats filed that require 10 or fewer entries to the County Recording Index.

If you have any questions, please contact the County Clerk's office at 800-687-2705 ext. 6.

Rhonda Burrows  
Lincoln County Clerk

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# ASHES

FROM PAGE 1A

Bealls parking lot and was told the house at the 103 address on the south side of U.S. 70 was burned.

"I have no idea right now if I will rebuild," Swarb said Friday standing at the site with Mayor Ray Alborn and Village Manager Debi Lee. "I have insurance, but not

enough to rebuild what I had."

By 4 p.m. Sunday, Ruidoso Acting Fire Chief Harland Vincent declared the 10-acre Swallow Fire 100 percent extinguished.

As reported Saturday on www.ruidosonews.com, Lee and Alborn spent most of the morning trying to personally contact the seven homeowners who lost houses, but live in Texas. Two owners were Ruidoso residents and the structures were

their primary residences.

Lee said it was tough delivering the news and difficult tracking down telephone numbers because utility records only list addresses in Paradise, Santa Teresa, Marcos, Midland and Plainview, Texas.

Owners of destroyed structures and those evacuated for their safety were allowed to return late Thursday after the fire incident commander felt confident the main blaze

was out.

Firefighters stayed on scene overnight to extinguish a few flare-ups as they occurred.

Friday, they were back to sift through rubble and ashes and smother any remaining embers or hot spots.

Lee said she stayed at the command center until about 9 p.m., and it was a good moment when many of the volunteer, municipal, state and federal firefighters gathered there at

the end of a hard day keeping the Swallow Fire contained.

Village Engineer Bob Decker said Special Projects/Airport Manager Justin King was the first to spot the fire.

From Bealls parking lot, he called to set slurry planes in motion and within minutes they were dropping the fire retardant around the perimeter of the fire.

Helicopters with water buckets followed to specif-

ic target areas.

Although still forested, the area was one of the neighborhoods treated in the village's push to reduce wildfire fuel and encourage creation of defensive space around homes, Decker said.

Commercial land along U.S. 70 escaped with little damage. Firefighters said if the flames hadn't run up the mountain and instead paralleled the highway, many businesses could have been lost.

# CHIEF

FROM PAGE 1A

there and did the best we possible could."

Vincent said he has been chatting with many in Pinediff, asking about the response Thursday afternoon.

"Everybody is just ecstatic on how we responded and some of the tactical-decision making that was going on up there. It was a 99 percent that we did everything great. We will have an 'after-action' and, of course, on everything there's room to improve."

Vincent said communications was an area that will require improvement.

The "after-action" will look at the initial and

extended attacks on the Swallow Fire, as well as the entire operation, seeking input from all those involved.

"What did you like? What did you dislike? What can we prove on," will be the questions, Vincent said.

The "after-action" will like take place late next week.

Vincent said one person he met with has been critical of the response.

"The Forest Service concurs. Everybody concurs that we did the right thing and we got that fire stopped," Vincent said in defending the suppression work. "It was almost an unrealistic fire. I mean it was raging out of control. And the amount of heat that comes off of these houses, it just pre-heats

everything and it's just like a domino effect and it just starts burning them down. They got in there and they took a really aggressive stand. They got the fire suppressed and never backed out one time."

Vincent said he truly believed in all the firefighters and he would like the community to support them.

"I'm so proud of my people," Vincent said. "I know that you know that I usually say that. But you don't know how proud I am of them right now."

In addition to Ruidoso Fire Department members, crews from Ruidoso Downs, the U.S. Forest Service, Mescalero, State Forestry, Lincoln County Emergency Management and its volunteer fire departments, and

others battled the blaze.

In the aftermath of the Swallow Fire, firefighters were described as in a "stressed out," state.

"Those fires like that are absolutely no fun. They're stressful and you have to make the right decisions at the right time. And if you don't make the right decisions at the right time, you could possibly lose lives. We didn't lose any lives. We met our objectives up there. We got it slowed down and stopped really, really quick. We're armed and ready for the next one and I hope that next one doesn't come."

A community "pat on the back" to the firefighters would help ease the stress, Vincent said.

Local firefighters performed another rapid

response over the weekend.

A small grass fire was knocked down behind Reed's Meat Market at 118 U.S. Highway 70. The fire was ignited Saturday afternoon by a cigarette. Another small grass fire occurred Monday on a residential property on

Willie Horton Drive. Hot liquid asphalt started the grass on fire.

Vincent said people must remain vigilant about the extreme fire danger. He said he was told the monsoon season might not kick in until the middle of July.

# LCMC

FROM PAGE 1A

think it is my obligation to understand the intimate details. Would the hospital be open to a state or forensic audit?"

"I wish it was either all public or private. If it was all private, the county wouldn't have to worry about it."

At that point, Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo told Minter that she had the right to want to dig deeper, "But it is not being done as a board."

Minter shot back, "Thanks for covering for them."

"I'm not covering for them, but we're not here, I'm not here as a commissioner, to micromanage the hospital," Sedillo replied.

"You're right," Minter said. "We should just trust them."

Commissioner Tom Battin, who previously served on the Presbyterian board, jumped into the exchange.

"I think we're getting into micromanaging and I think it is totally inappro-

priate," Battin said. "It not only damages the public image of the hospital, it creates a significant liability for the county that we have chosen over the years not to expose the county to."

"I look forward to the day we don't spend an hour at each commission meeting (grilling hospital officials)."

As he continued and Minter attempted to respond, Sedillo interrupted, saying, "Let's stop here."

"It's not because of the quality of care," Minter said. "It's just the cost."

Earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Jackie

Powell defended the current arrangement, which is supported in part by a voter-approved dedicated property tax for hospital operation that will expire in four years.

"I think our system works really well," she said. She complimented the efficiency of the ambulance operation and referenced a memorandum from the county attorney cautioning commissioners not to become too involved in the daily operation of the hospital because of the associated liability.

"If you have deeper questions, take them up on their offer (to respond one-on-one)," she suggested to

Minter.

Commissioner Mark Doth said he appreciated the "flow of information," but said he would like to see the hospital "do more from a public relations standpoint."

He encouraged more sharing of information and "good stories about the hospital."

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# Downs hires a temporary officer

JIM KALVELAGE  
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A temporary officer may be added to the Ruidoso Downs Police Department to help with a shortage because of two officers out. Ryan Frost would relocate from the Atlanta area.

"Just before our new budget hearings we had advertised for an open police officer's position," Chief Doug Babcock said. "One subject applied for it. He made it through the background process and we were getting to the point where we were ready to call him in for an interview. At

that time, the police officer's position was frozen for the upcoming budget year. We've got personnel issues with understaffing and the track being open during the summer."

One Ruidoso Downs officer has been deployed to Afghanistan and may return in late December. Another officer may be out for as long as three months because of an injury.

"I talked to the candidate and he would be willing to take a temporary police officer position for the remainder of 2011," Babcock said. "There are no benefits involved. It's

salary only. We will supply him with uniforms and leather gear we have in storage. We will plan on sending him to the certified waiver class which is going to be in October. That's for three weeks to solidify his New Mexico certification. He's coming in as a certified officer in Georgia."

He had been employed by the DeKalb County Sheriff's from 1991 to 2008. Frost would be paid \$17.81 per hour.

A city memorandum said Frost wants to relocate to Ruidoso Downs to be close to family and return to police work.

## RUIDOSO DOWNS POLICE BRIEFS

May 29

2:02 a.m. - Officer Joseph Bailey observed a blue F-250 pickup eastbound on Highway 70 traveling at a reported 51 mph in a 40-mph zone and failing to maintain its lane.

Bailey reported smelling alcohol on the driver and reported Pablo Rabasa-Youcham, 45, was unsteady on his feet.

Bailey arrested Rabasa-Yoacham, of Anthony, N.M., for driving while intoxicated, and cited him for speeding and failure to maintain lane.

9 a.m. - Officer April Keck responded to milepost 263.5 on Highway 70 for a report of a motorcycle crash.

Keck reports she found the rider lying on his back and complaining of shoul-

der pain.

Saul Enriquez Jr., 36, of Artesia, N.M., reportedly said that a gray pickup truck turned left in front of him and he crashed when he swerved to avoid it.

Keck cited Enriquez for failure to provide proof of insurance.

May 31

4:44 p.m. - Officer Martin Valenzuela responded to the Billy the Kid Visitor's Center for a report of criminal damage to property.

Valenzuela reported a worker at the Center said when she arrived at 9:45 a.m., she noticed a vehicle had hit the fence at Highway 70 and Champ-ions Run.

Valenzuela reported observing tire prints and

recovering the front license plate holder from a Honda utility vehicle.

5:42 p.m. - Valenzuela responded to Walmart for a vehicle verses deer accident report.

The driver reportedly struck the deer at Highway 70 and Avalon. The deer broke the windshield of the vehicle.

Valenzuela reported the driver was transported to Lincoln County Medical Center, complaining of shoulder and neck pains.

June 2

10:34 a.m. - Officer Darrell Chavez responded to Magistrate Court for a subject with an outstanding warrant.

Chavez arrested Andrew B. Salas, 22, of Ruidoso Downs.

## RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

June 3

1:42 p.m. - Officer Eric Ament responded to the 100 block of Woodlane Drive for a report of a burglary.

Ament reported someone had kicked the door open. The homeowner reported a rifle stolen.

June 8

4:52 p.m. - Officer Josh Snodgrass responded to the 200 block of Wingfield for a report of criminal damage to property.

Snodgrass issued a non-traffic citation to Iris Mortensen, 20, for criminal damage to property for

allegedly throwing a piece of wood through a window in a fit of anger.

8:15 p.m. - Officer James Urban responded to the 200 block of North Eagle Drive for a report of a breaking and entering.

Urban reported two stereos and several bottles of wine were stolen.

Urban reported a footprint on the busted door.

Based on reports from the neighbors, Ruidoso police issued a "be on the lookout" for a small, blue dodge pickup.

June 9

10:30 a.m. - Officer Chris Bryant responded to

Condotel on Mechem Drive for a report of falsely obtaining services.

Bryant reported 12 softball players allegedly rented a house from Condotel for \$1,028.21 and failed to pay the bill.

Bryant obtained an arrest warrant for Carlos Chavez III, 31, of Andrews, Texas, for falsely obtaining services. Chavez is allegedly the person who arranged for the rental.

June 10

2:24 p.m. - Officer James Urban responded to the 400 block of Mechem for a report of stolen rims.

Urban reported a set of

rims, with distinctive red valve stems, were stolen from outside the shop.

6:04 p.m. - Urban responded to the 100 block of Davis Drive for a report of a burglary.

Urban reported a flat-screen television, DVD/VCR combo, stereo disc changer, two radios, two portable DVD players and about 50 DVDs stolen.

7:40 p.m. - Officer Josh Snodgrass responded to the 100 block of Spring Road for a possible burglary.

Snodgrass reported the front door to the residence was broken and open and a sliding-glass door had been smashed with a concrete block.

The pillowcases were reportedly taken from the beds to carry undisclosed items from the home.

June 11

2:08 p.m. - Officer Jon Lund responded to a 911 hang up and reported the residents were uncooperative and would not let him in the house.

June 12

3:07 p.m. - Cpl. Aaron Frost and Officer Larry Smith responded to a report of a domestic incident in the 100 block of South Evergreen.

Frost reports the victim

said there was an argument and Drew J. Beck, 19, threw her on the bed, put his hands around her throat and choked and shook her. Frost reported observing red marks on the victim's neck.

Officers located Beck on Rio Street, where he reportedly attempted to hide from them by riding his bicycle into the river. Beck reportedly said he wasn't trying to hide, he was just thirsty.

Frost arrested Beck on charges of battery on a household member and criminal damage to property. Beck allegedly threw a potted plant against a wall as he departed the home.

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**RUIDOSO MAGISTRATE COURT BRIEFS**

**May 25**

**Johnny Flores** pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted possession of a controlled substance.

Under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Public Defender Mandy Denson and Assistant District Attorney Matt Wade, the state dismissed a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Flores also pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of less than one ounce of marijuana in a separate case.

Under a plea agreement Denson and Wade reached in that case, the state also dismissed a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Judge Lorena LaMay sentenced Flores to 30 days in jail, time served, 328 days of supervised probation and allowed Flores to serve an additional six days in jail for fines and court costs in both cases.

**Kenneth Berry** pleaded no contest to charges of driver must be licensed, no insurance and open container.

Under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Denson and Assistant District Attorney John Bernitz, the state dismissed charges of driving while intoxicated (1st offense), driving while license revoked or suspended and registration violation.

LaMay sentenced Berry to eight days in jail, time served, 172 days of supervised probation and \$628 in fines and court costs.

**Tara Blake** pleaded no contest to driving while license revoked and failure to maintain traffic lanes.

LaMay sentenced Blake to eight days in jail, time served, 356 days of supervised probation and \$452 in fines and court costs.

**Anthony Platta** pleaded no contest to charges of driver must be licensed, no registration and no insurance.

Under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Denson and Bernitz, the state dismissed a charge of driving while license revoked.

LaMay sentenced Platta to 69 days in jail, time served, 111 days of unsupervised probation and \$379 in fines and court costs.

**Brian Flowers** pleaded no contest to charges of driving while intoxicated (1st offense) and roadways laned for traffic.

LaMay sentenced Flowers to two days in jail, 364 days supervised probation, DWI School, alcohol/drug screening, 24 hours of community service and ordered Flowers to install an ignition interlock device for one year. LaMay also ordered Flowers to pay \$302 in fines and court costs.

**Jenise Burns** pleaded guilty to a charge of driver must be licensed.

LaMay sentenced Burns to 90 days of unsupervised probation and \$131 in fines and court costs.

**Jordan Comanche** pleaded no contest to driving while intoxicated (1st offense), careless driving, expired registration and no driver's license.

LaMay sentenced Comanche to 364 days supervised probation, DWI School, alcohol/drug screening, 24 hours of community service, ordered Comanche to install and ignition interlock device for one year and pay \$874 in fines and court costs.

**Sonia Younis** pleaded no contest to driving while intoxicated (1st offense).

LaMay sentenced Younis to 364 days of supervised probation, alcohol/drug screening, 24 hours of community service, ordered Younis to install an ignition interlock device for one year and pay \$241 in court costs.

**Greg Liges** pleaded no contest to careless driving.

Under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Denson and Bernitz, the state dismissed a charge of driving while intoxicated (1st offense).

LaMay sentenced Liges to 90 days unsupervised probation and \$381 in fines and court costs.

**Terry Balderama** pleaded no contest to driver must be licensed.

Under a plea and disposition agreement reached by Denson and Bernitz, the state dismissed a charge of driving while license revoked.

LaMay sentenced Balderama to 90 days unsupervised probation and \$381 in fines and court costs.

**May 26**

**Erik Bearer** pleaded no contest to a charge of disorderly conduct.

Deputy District Attorney Reed Thompson dismissed a charge of battery against a household member.

LaMay sentenced Bearer to 11 days in jail, time served, 171 days of unsupervised probation, \$73 in court costs and a \$100 bench warrant fee.

**Johnny Flores** pleaded no contest to a charge of resisting, evading or obstructing an officer.

Under a plea and disposition agreement reached by defense attorney Todd Holmes and Thompson, the state dismissed a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

LaMay sentenced Flores to 31 days in jail, time served, 333 days of unsupervised probation, \$73 in court costs and a \$100 bench warrant fee.

**Salvatore Delgaudio** waived the right to appear in person and allowed defense attorney Dan Bryant to enter a no contest plea to two charges of aggravated battery on his behalf.

LaMay sentenced Delgaudio to 728 days of supervised probation, \$526 in fines and court costs and ordered Delgaudio to pay \$2,448.26 in restitution to the victims.

**June 1**

**Tanner Smith** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to charges of driving while intoxicated (1st offense), possession of less than one ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

LaMay sentenced Smith to 23 days in jail, time served, 720 days of supervised probation 24 hours of community service, DWI School, alcohol/drug screening, ordered Smith to install an ignition interlock device and pay \$1,101 in fines and court costs.

**Preston Bulloch** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to charges of driver must be licensed and no registration.

Under a plea and disposition agreement Bulloch reached with Assistant District Attorney Libby Williams, the state dis-

missed a charge of driving while license revoked.

LaMay sentenced Bulloch to 180 days of unsupervised probation and \$242 in fines and court costs.

**Jeffrey Cooley** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of driving while license revoked.

Under a plea and disposition agreement Cooley reached with Williams, the state dismissed charges of expired registration and insurance required.

LaMay sentenced Cooley to seven days in jail, time served, 357 days of supervised probation and \$381 in fines and court costs.

**Amanda Byington** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of driver must be licensed.

Under a plea and disposition agreement Byington reached with Williams, the state dismissed a charge of driving while license revoked.

LaMay sentenced Byington to 90 days of unsupervised probation and \$131 in fines and court costs.

**Andrew May** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of driving while license revoked.

LaMay sentenced May to one day in jail, time served, 357 days of supervised probation and \$381 in fines and court costs.

**Javier Cadena** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of driver must be licensed.

Under a plea and disposition agreement Cadena reached with Williams, the state dismissed charges of driving while license suspended and registration violation.

LaMay sentenced Cadena to 90 days unsupervised probation and \$81 in court costs.

**Isaac Contreras** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to a charge of driver must be licensed.

LaMay sentenced Contreras to three days in jail, time served, and \$131 in fines and court costs.

**Juan Martinez** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to charges of driver must be licensed, no insurance and no registration.

LaMay sentenced Martinez to 90 days of unsupervised probation and \$285 in fines and court costs.

**Joshua Vantussenbroek** waived the right to an attorney and pleaded no contest to charges of driver must be licensed and possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

LaMay sentenced Vantussenbroek to 105 days of unsupervised probation, \$309 in fines and court costs and ordered him to remain employed.

**June 2**

**Joseph Potts** pleaded guilty to a charge of speeding 16 to 25 miles an hour over the posted limit.

Under a written plea agreement reached by Denson and Assistant District Attorney Joanna Zimmerman, the state dismissed a charge of reckless driving.

LaMay sentenced Potts to pay \$127 in fines and court costs.

- Compiled from court Judgement and Sentencing documents by Harold Oakes/Ruidoso News!

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# Hospital officials field questions before commission

DIANNE STALLINGS  
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Armed with an audit, financial statements and his well-honed ability as New Mexico's lead death penalty defense attorney, Gary Mitchell stood ready Tuesday to answer questions about the Lincoln County Medical Center posed by county commissioners.

He recalled more than 35 years of involvement with the county hospital by Presbyterian Healthcare Services based in Albuquerque, saying that especially during the early lean years, the company poured millions of dollars into the facility just to keep the doors open.

Under the current agreement, Presbyterian leases and manages the hospital in Ruidoso, paying the county about \$800,000 a year.

The company also operates two of the county's three rural health care clinics and took over the ambulance service about 10 years ago.

The first question from the commission dealt with operating costs for the clinics, which showed expenses of \$1.24 million and a \$44,000 deficit for the year ending Dec. 31, 2010. During the same period, the hospital saw a \$5.409 million in excess revenue over expenses of \$33.35 million.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter said the breakdown did not contain the details she would like to see relating to expenses. She said she also was concerned

about Presbyterian developing a monopoly in health care locally with only a few medical people in the community not associated with the hospital.

The second question focused on how Presbyterian uses money collected under the Sole Community Provider program, a federal program that sends back about \$4 for every \$1 contributed by the county to uncompensated care for the uninsured, the underinsured and those who cannot pay their bills.

"The federal government directs exactly what we're using it for, but if you think it is enough to cover the total obligation, you'd be wrong," Mitchell said. "It fell short this year by \$866,000. The hospital bore that whole burden until (Sole Community Provider) came along. We used (the dedicated property tax called the mill levy) to help. But that changed 15 years ago when the law changed. It was a great thing for rural hospitals especially."

Minter said the hospital is well protected by the Sole Community Provider provision, but independent physicians and other health care providers, who must file under the county's Indigent Health Care Fund for any reimbursement, are much more vulnerable.

The hospital also used Sole Community Provider money to establish a separate laboratory unit across the street from the hospital that will allow lab fees for blood work to be reduced, she said. "Federal law prohibits us from price fixing,"



DIANNE STALLINGS/RUIDOSO NEWS

Attorney and Lincoln County Medical Center Board of Directors member Gary Mitchell took questions from the Lincoln County Commission Tuesday.

Mitchell said. "We can't coordinate with Gerald Champion or the hospital in Roswell. That doesn't mean we aren't aware of what other Presbyterian hospitals are doing and what Medicaid and Medicare will pay or what major insurance companies will pay."

Local hospital officials try to establish fees in a middle range, he said.

"For some years, we were the lowest in the state," he said. "It was tough to break even or build a reserve, so the board said to set fees somewhere in the middle."

Al Santos, CEO of the hospital, said with the law now classified as an outpatient service, fees were reduced by 40 percent effective June 1. As a hospital-based service, the work had to be billed differently, he said. The lower fees factor in the cost of the separate building. He offered to meet individually with

patients who complained to Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo that their bill for previous blood work at LCMC was nearly \$500 more than the \$50 they paid at another facility for the same thing.

Sedillo said lab technicians at the hospital in Alamogordo told her many Lincoln County residents go there for their blood workups. Santos replied that many Alamogordo women come to LCMC for the births of their babies.

The last question dealt with ambulance fees and commissioners were pleased to see Lincoln County fared well compared to many other areas in the state. Minter had proposed that any deficit be covered with Sole Community Provider money through the hospital instead of by the county's Indigent Health Care Fund, paid for by a gross receipts tax, which is nearing its limit. Benefits covered by that fund are being cut back and qualify-

ing incomes reduced.

Mitchell offered some history, explaining that the hospital never wanted the ambulances, but Ruidoso village officials asked to be relieved of that burden. The county still operated a volunteer ambulance service and commissioners repeatedly asked the hospital to assume responsibility, he said.

"We knew better than to get in the ambulance business," Mitchell said. "It's a government service and it's a bottomless pit. But 10 years ago, we decided to take it."

"We negotiated with the county with the understanding that part of the ambulance fees would be paid for through the Indigent Healthcare Fund and not the Sole Community Provider. I plead with you not to change the formula. If you do, we have to be reimbursed somehow. It's trading pockets."

Pressed by Minter to show the part of the contract tying any deficit to the Indigent Healthcare Fund, Mitchell acknowledged the agreement was not in writing. "The local people here just told each other what they needed," he said.

Describing the current board, which fills its own vacancies, as the most independent and aggressive in the Presbyterian orb, Mitchell said the first allegiance of the members is affordable health care for residents and the well-being of the hospital. The hospital never denies care regardless of ability to pay, he said.

As long as the board meets three requirements set down in its contract

with the commission, it was given discretion in hiring an administrator and how money is spent, Mitchell said. The requirements are to maintain a minimum net revenue of 2 percent over expenses, patient satisfaction surveys must not dip below 90 percent and a reserve of 60 days operating expenses must be maintained. One month's operation is about \$2.8 million, he said.

"But that's not nearly adequate and this board time and again has tried to up that level," Mitchell said. "We've never forgotten the lesson of that first decade and how hard it was to operate."

This year with no rain, the forest closed and relatively few tourists will be a test, he said.

"One disaster can turn up hundreds of thousands of dollars in bills never paid and we have to be prepared," he said.

While the not-for-profit hospital was able to construct three major renovations and building projects without incurring debt, the proposed next major expansion/replacement will require some bonding.

"For the first time, we will have to seek bonds, because we couldn't save the full amount," he said.

"People ask how can a hospital have this in savings and it is because (the hospital board) decided years ago, the only way we could do what we wanted to do, plan ahead and build for the next 50 years, is if we saved our money and build up our credit."

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### Sports On Tap

#### Race Track

Ruidoso Downs Race Track holds racing Friday through Monday. Post time is 1 p.m. each day. Parking is always free.

#### Pro Baseball

##### Wednesday, June 22

White Sands at Ruidoso Osos, 4:05 p.m.

##### Thursday, June 23

Osos at White Sands, 7:05 p.m.

##### Friday, June 24

White Sands at Osos, 4:05 p.m.

##### Saturday, June 25

Osos at White Sands, 7:05 p.m.

### On Deck

#### Osos Golf Fundraiser

On Sunday, June 26, the Ruidoso Osos will hold a charity golf scramble at 1 p.m. at The Links at Sierra Blanca. The cost is \$75 per person and you will golf with an Osos player. For info contact Eric Eggleston at 258-5330.

#### Summer Soccer Camps

At White Mountain Elementary Soccer Complex, Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24. Led by Ruidoso High School soccer coach Kelly Brown, UEFA Certified Soccer Coach. Ages 2-3 Soccer Activities/Games, 1 hr 8:30-9:30 a.m. - (max 10) - \$55/child PARENTS MUST ATTEND FULL HOUR. Ages 3-5 Beginning Soccer, 1.5 hrs 9:30-11 a.m. - (max 15) - \$65/child. Parents encouraged to attend. Ages 6-10 Basic Improving Skills, 3 hrs, 11:15 a.m.-2:15 p.m. (max 25) - \$80/child. Ages 11-14 Improving Skills / Intermediate, 3 hrs, 4-7 p.m. - (max 30) - \$80/child. Contact Kelly Brown, PO Box 2074, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346.

#### 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 fund-raisers 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.

# Cubs go straight, win title

## Local Little League team goes 15-0 for season and takes championship

MIKE CURRAN  
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Saturday, the Cubs completed their season with their 15th consecutive conquest with an 11-5 win over the Dodgers — and with that triumph, claimed the 2011 Majors title.

This is the sort of stuff sports competitors dream about. A season with no defeats, no embarrassments and no regrets. The Rocky Marciano condition (49-0), if you will — no losses in a given moment of time and then moving on to the next chapter of life.

In Saturday's title game the Cubs and Dodgers were scoreless at the end of one inning of play before the Dodgers came up with five runs in the top of the second. The Cubs came right back with seven big runs of their own to take a two-run lead and they never looked

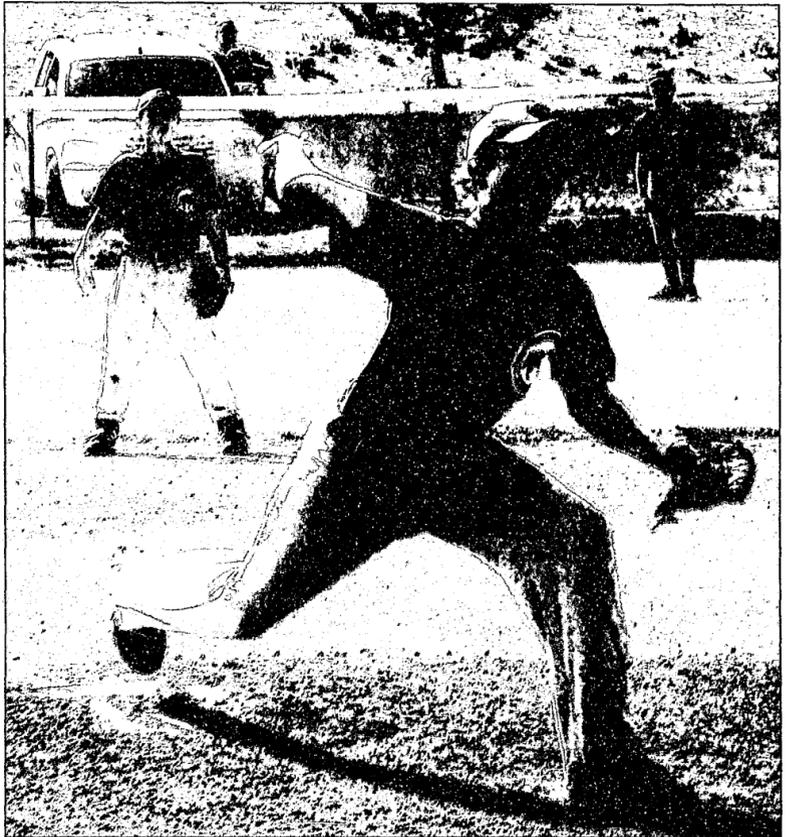
back, going on to an eventual six-run win for the championship.

Defense played a role in the Cubs win, too. Two Dodgers were thrown out at third base by the Cubs. Kyler Woodul pitched all but the last two outs of the game before Oscar Guillen came on in relief to cement the victory.

On April 30, nearing the halfway point of the season, the Cubs were 6-0, after defeating the Devil Rays, 11-0. About that time, other teams were taking note that the Cubs were the team to beat. And with that realization, came an added competitive spirit in some of the games the Cubs had to play.

Some might say it was the luck of the draw at the beginning of the Little League season.

• See CUBS, page 2B



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

Kyler Woodul pitched all but the last two outs of Saturday's title game as the Cubs beat the Dodgers, 11-5.

# Sammy James wins Mountain Top Futurity

TY WYANT  
Ruidoso Downs Race Track

Isabell Charolais' Sammy James moved to the top level of the New Mexico-bred 2-year-old ranks with an impressive daylight victory in the \$276,609 Mountain Top Quarter Horse Futurity on Sunday afternoon at Ruidoso Downs.

Sammy James quickly went to the lead from the inside post position under jockey Ricky Ramirez and had the race secured 100 yards before the wire.

He easily pulled away to win by two lengths while well in hand and earned \$137,772.

The son of Jesse James Jr covered the 350 yards in :17.844 while facing a gusting 35 miles per hour headwind.

Two Shine finished second by a nose over Caught On Tape.

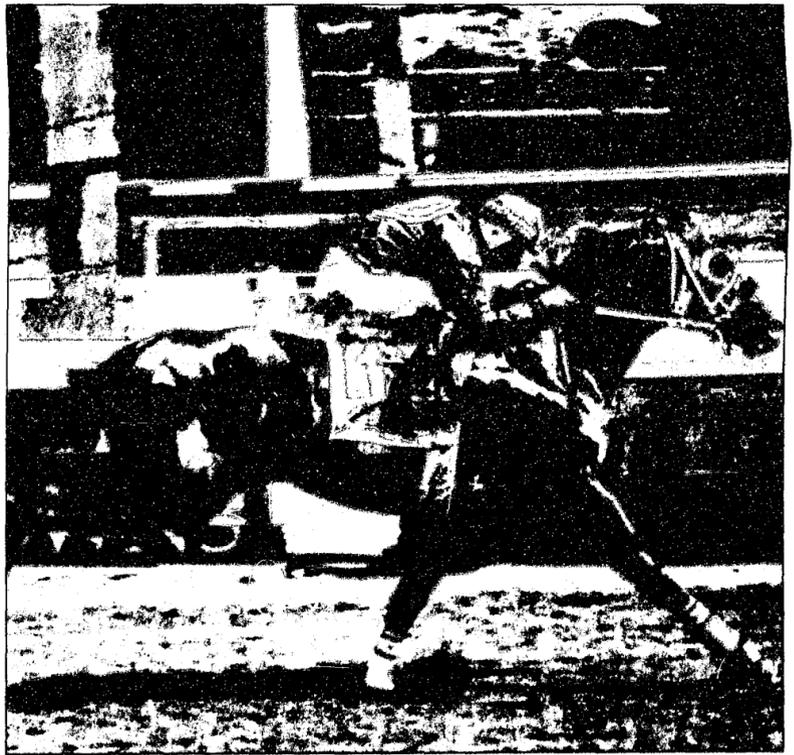
Sammy James has shown improving form for

trainer Blane Wood over his three career starts and now will be one of the hot favorites for the \$350,000 (est.) Zia Futurity on July 31 at Ruidoso Downs.

The \$20,000 Ruidoso Yearling Sale purchase crossed the finish line in fifth place in his career debut at Sunland Park and awarded fourth position following a disqualification. He then stepped up and won his Mountain Top Futurity trial by three quarters of a length with the fastest qualifying time of :17.550 for the 350 yards.

Runner-up Two Shine, owned by Beda Prieto and trained by Juan Gonzalez, is still a maiden from four starts and raced in the New Mexican Spring Futurity at Sunland Park.

Third-place finisher Caught On Tape scored his first career win when he won his Mountain Top Futurity trial for owner Gary Hartstack and trainer Jackie Riddle.



COURTESY RUIDOSO DOWNS RACE TRACK

Sammy James wins Sunday's \$276,000 Mountain Top Futurity.

# Mostly Dust wires field to take Norgor Derby

TY WYANT  
Ruidoso Downs Race Track

Larry and Harry Teague's Mostly Dust took the lead out of the gate and then repelled two challenges to get the mild upset win in the \$40,000 Norgor Derby on Saturday afternoon at Ruidoso Downs.

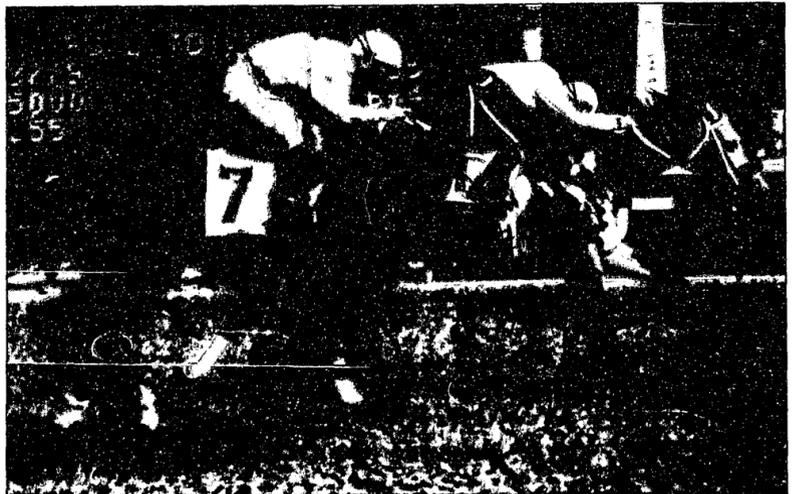
The Larry Gamez-ridden Mostly Dust, sent off at 7-1 odds, took on his first challenger on the turn when Suguarintheevening pulled alongside and then faded throughout the stretch run. Favored Shigeo then made a rally from near the rear of the seven-horse field and came up one-half length

short at the wire.

Mi Domsat rallied for third, two lengths behind Shigeo.

A gelded son of Dry Gulch from the Weston Martin stable, Mostly Dust covered the six furlongs in 1:11.64 for his third win from seven starts and his first stakes victory. He prepared for the Norgor Derby with a gate-to-wire win in a \$33,000 Sunland Park allowance race on April 19.

Runner-up Shigeo earned favoritism after winning two of his previous four starts with a second-place run in the KHEY Sprint Handicap at Sunland Park.



COURTESY RUIDOSO DOWNS RACE TRACK

Mostly Dust held off all challengers to win Saturday's \$40,000 Norgor Derby.

# RUIDOSO OSOS PLAY TO DRAW FATHER'S DAY



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Ben Gorang** puts wood to the ball. The Osos battled the visiting Roswell Invaders to an eighth-inning 17-17 tie Sunday before the game was called due to darkness. It will be completed at a later date.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Chris Welborn** pitched the middle innings in relief of Courtney Nelson.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Casey Kahsen** takes one for the team. Monday evening, the Osos lost at Roswell, 11-10.

## CUBS

FROM PAGE 1B

Still, a team has to come together, be motivated and not let down — even for one game — no matter how talented they are.

Cubs head coach Chris Woodul knew what he had to try to do once the team was 10-0.

“As the season got longer it became harder,” he said. “Once we had won 10-in-a-row I told my players they had something special to achieve.

“We never planned on going undefeated. Keeping them fully motivated was the objective.”

An old baseball adage states, “The more you win the closer you come to losing.” The Cubs kept up their focus and prevailed over the long haul.

“Sometimes, during the middle of the season I felt we were better as a team because we played a lot of games per week,” Woodul said. “At the end of the season we played one game in 17 days. It’s hard for anyone to stay focused under that scenario.

“The kids worked hard and the end result is they feel great about themselves. Thirty years from now they can tell their children about the time they went 15-0 for an entire season.”



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Josh Duncan**, of the Dodgers, throws to a Cubs batter.



MIKE CURRAN/RUIDOSO NEWS

**Cubs hitter**, Nathan Bryant, makes contact in Saturday's game.

# PLEASE ADOPT ME!

## Adoption Special

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



**CALLAHAN**

Is a good looking shepherd/husky/ohow mix. He does well with other dogs, weighs about 65 pounds, is neutered, current on vaccinations AND is kennel trained. Callahan also qualifies for a reduced (\$25) adoption fee because he is about 5 years old. Remember, adopting a middle aged dog has great benefits...he already has some obedience and training and Callahan has already been well socialized. Plus, adopting an adult, large breed dog is not only rewarding but saving a life.

SPONSORED BY  
**JOANIE HOLT**



**MARTIN**

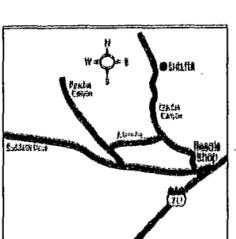
Is a well behaved, friendly cat who is about 2-3 years old. He was found surviving on his own in Capitan when he was lucky enough to be saved. Now, Martin needs you to rescue him and give him a loving home. Martin has short hair and is solid black. He is very friendly with people and cats alike. Also, Martin has been neutered and received all his vaccinations already.

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**LIANJE**

Is a cute Lab/Border Collie mix about 6-7 months. She is very gentle, walks well on a leash, plays well with other dogs and weighs about 35 pounds.

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**TRISTAN**

Is a spunky doxie/terrier mix, about 6 months old. He loves attention and playing with other dogs. Tristan weighs around 10 pounds, has short black fur with some white on his chest and paws. He also has a very faint white stripe down the middle of his face.

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**JONAH**

Is a good looking Boxer mix, about 9 months old. He is very friendly, weighs about 38 pounds now, and does well with other dogs. Jonah loves going to the dog park and is great with everyone he meets there. He is quite the ball fetcher and would love to show off his skills in a park or home!

SPONSORED BY  
**CHRIS DOMINGUEZ**



**STEFFI**

Is an adorable Spaniel mix, about 8-12 months old. She is very people oriented, loves to go on walks and is a very trusting dog. Steffi weighs just under 30 pounds and will make a wonderful family pet.

SPONSORED BY  
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**MALIBU**

Is a beautiful puppy with unique markings. With a body type like hers, there is likely some Corgi in her. Malibu has a very expressive face and a sweet disposition. However, when meeting a stranger she is very standoffish, but with just a little effort she will become much more comfortable.

SPONSORED BY  
**JANET & KEN LANE IN MEMORY OF TODD**



**GEORGIA**

Is a very friendly cat who was abandoned at the shelter. She was found loose outside our office and came right up to us when we went to catch her. She is very friendly and affectionate.

SPONSORED BY  
**RUIDOSO NEWS**



**SMOKEY**

Is a beautiful smoke colored cat with a wonderful disposition. He was found loose here in Ruidoso and now he is available for adoption. Smokey gets along well with other cats and is quite affectionate. He is still young, about a year old.

SPONSORED BY  
**DIANE GREMILLION**



**MANGO**

Is a handsome kitten, about 10 weeks old. He is friendly and very good-natured. Mango is definitely ready for a great home.

SPONSORED BY  
**RUIDOSO BOWLING CENTER**



**DEWEY**

Is a good looking kitten with a bright white smudge on his face. He is friendly, about 10 weeks old and quite playful.

SPONSORED BY  
**BETT BARRETT**



**WILLOW**

Is a cute kitten, about 8 weeks old. She was found abandoned and unhealthy underneath a local home. She is now back to good health and ready for a home.

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# RUIDOSO DOWNS RACEHORSE HALL OF FAME 2011

TY WYANT

Ruidoso Downs Race Track

Peppers Pride, trainer John Bassett, jockey Jerry Burgess, owner/breeder Johnny T.L. Jones Jr. were inducted into the Racehorse Hall of Fame and publisher Ben Hudson was honored with the first Ruidoso Downs Racehorse Hall of Fame Special Recognition Award before the all-time largest attendance for the enshrinement evening at Ruidoso Downs on Friday night.

The nearly four-hour event started with the unveiling of the new

inductees' cases in the Racehorse Hall of Fame and followed with dinner and the induction ceremony. Videos, each about 10 minutes in length, were shown for each honoree.

Hudson accepting the first special recognition award started the evening. He co-founded and has overseen *Track Magazine* for 35 years and is also the founder and publisher of the Monday Report.

In addition to his tireless work and dedicated on-the-scene coverage of quarter horse racing events, he has been very active in volunteer causes in racing, including

obtaining pari-mutuel racing in Texas and the Race Track Chaplaincy of America.

Peppers Pride is the most acclaimed New Mexico-bred thoroughbred in history.

Racing for Joe Allen and trained by Joel Marr, Peppers Pride won each of her 19 stakes (14 stakes) and retired with earnings of \$1,066,085.

Her record of 19 wins from 19 starts is the modern thoroughbred record for wins without a defeat.

She is now co-owned by Mike Stinson and has a 2011 filly by Distorted Humor and is bred to

Distorted Humor for a 2012 foal.

Bassett came from the Arizona fair circuit to become one of the most import stakes winning trainers in quarter horse racing over the past 20 years.

He has earned two wins in the All American Futurity, four wins in the Los Alamitos Million/Two Million, three wins in the Rainbow Futurity, three wins in the Golden State Futurity, and wins in the All American Derby, the Los Alamitos Super Derby and the first running of the Texas Classic Futurity.

Burgess was a premier quarter horse jockey who is now a steward at Lone Star Park near Dallas and Hialeah Park near Miami. He won the All American Futurity aboard Bugs Alive In 75, the Rainbow Futurity on Mighty Deck.

Three and two stakes races on world champion Dash For Cash. He also rode Cinder Leo, Mr Hay Bug, Chicory Moon and Alamitos Feature to stakes wins.

Jones has been a force in international thoroughbred racing and throughout quarter horse racing.

His Walmac Farm in Lexington, Kentucky was

home to leading sires Nureyev, Alleged and Miswaki and remains an important breeding operation in central Kentucky.

He is actively involved with racing quarter horses and is co-owner of 2-time champion Noconi, champion Brenda Beautiful, champion My Dashing Lady, Champion Of Champions winner The Down Side and Rainbow Futurity winner Planet Holland.

He also co-owns Ochoa, who was the third-place finisher in the Grade 1, \$500,000 Ruidoso Futurity last Sunday at Ruidoso Downs.



Standing in front of the case honoring the 2011 inductees into the Ruidoso Downs Racehorse Hall of Fame are (l-r) Cody Thurston, Peppers Pride's farrier; Joe Allen, Peppers Pride's owner; Armando Gonzalez, Peppers Pride's groom, Joel Marr, Pepper Pride's trainer; John Bassett, trainer inductee; Jerry Burgess, jockey inductee; Johnny T.L. Jones Jr., owner/trainer inductee; Guy Mogge, Jr., Jones' grandson; and Ben Hudson, recipient of the first Ruidoso Downs Racehorse Hall of Fame special recognition award. Peppers Pride was the horse inducted into the Racehorse Hall of Fame.



Joan Dale Hubbard presents 2011 Hall of Fame jockey Jerry Burgess with his induction plaque Friday evening.

The photos on this page are by Mike Curran/Ruidoso News and are available at the Ruidoso News Media Center at [www.ruidosonews.com](http://www.ruidosonews.com).



Johnny T.L. Jones, Jr., is welcomed into the Hall of Fame as an outstanding owner/breeder.



John Bassett, trainer (and humorist), thanks the Hall of Fame and large crowd on hand for admitting him into the prestigious group of horse racing luminaries.



RD Hubbard congratulates the incoming 2011 inductees into the Ruidoso Downs Racehorse Hall of Fame.

RUIDOSO NEWS  
**LINCOLN COUNTY**



POLLY E. CHAVEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Carl McDaniel and his Moto Guzzi, a 1990 California III cycle.

## Blessing the bikes

POLLY E CHAVEZ  
 for the Ruidoso News

There was an unusual sight in Carrizozo as Father Tony Basso and Rev. Jean Riley blessed bikes of all shapes and sizes on Saturday, June 18. Sponsored and run by Sam & Liz Duran, the event was designed to raise

money for the Knights of Columbus, a nationwide charitable organization. The event started with the motorcycles, as well as some bicycles and tricycles, receiving a blessing before heading out on a poker run, which included stops in Capitan, Bonito Store, Nogal, Valle del Sol, and the Carrizozo market.

Other participants remained at Fred Chavez Park and spent the day with events such as horse-shoes, raffles, music, bouncing balloons, and locally cooked food. "It was lovely. Everyone had a great time," said Liz Duran. The event raised about \$1,000 to aid families in need.



POLLY E CHAVEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Lines of bikes await a blessing on Saturday at Carrizozo's Fred Chavez Park.

## The historic Lutz building, 1917 and on

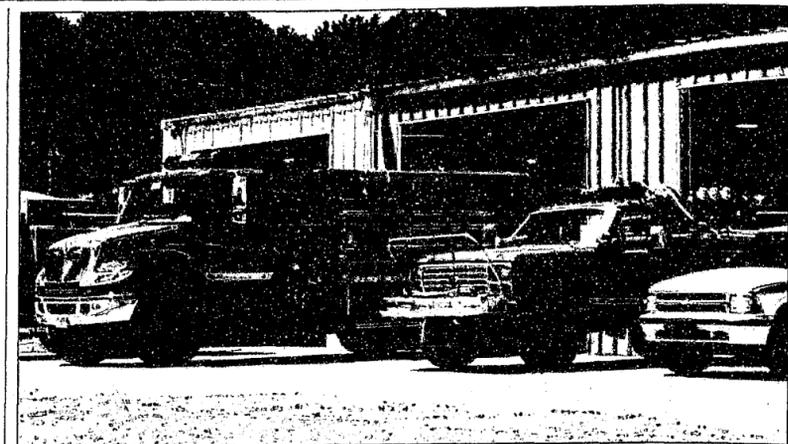
There is a story about the building known as the Carrizozo Hardware Store and as Carrizozo Trading Co. in earlier years. It was built for Henry Lutz in 1917. Lutz came to Carrizozo from Lincoln, where he had a store. He sold wool and mohair; hides and pelts; hay and grain (according to an ad in the 1913 Lincoln County Year Book). Lutz, sheep rancher and merchant, had the Lutz



Historical Potpourri  
 By Polly E. Chavez

building constructed of Ancho brick at a cost of \$35,000. In Carrizozo's early years this site was a large wagon yard and corral. Lutz went broke in the 1920s and the building remained vacant for a time. Back then the street was known as Alamogordo Avenue. Frank English, who had lost out on the contract to build the Lutz building, bought the building and operated a hardware store throughout the Depression

Era and World War II. Dances were held upstairs, which also doubled as a roller skating rink. There were several apartments upstairs. His son, Fred English, and my neighbor continued the business, Carrizozo Hardware Store, until the 1980s. The interior still has a pressed tin ceiling and old hardwood floors. There is an office typical of the period, as well as a full basement. The original sign on the side of the building has been repainted. My other neighbor, Johnson Stearns, and I had chatted the other day about the building. He remembers that when he lived in Nogal, his parents rented an apartment in the Lutz building during winter so he could continue to attend school in Carrizozo. A dental office was located in the Lutz building. County fair farm exhibits could be viewed in this building. Today the Carrizozo Hardware Store is the location of Gallery 401



COURTESY PHOTO

Fire trucks and other emergency vehicles line up outside the station's new bay.

## A welcome addition

The Nogal Fire District announces the grand opening of a new addition to its main fire station. The Forsythe Fire Station, located just off Highway 37 in Nogal, has served the community for more than 30 years. The addition was completed in May and the grand opening, along with an open house, is planned for 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on July 10, 2011. The addition features a 20 by 40 foot steel sided third bay to house apparatus and equipment added in the past four years. In 2007, the district added an International watertender built by Emergency One Corporation of Ocala, Florida. This 2,000-

gallon watertender was a sorely needed water source and welcome addition to the 1977 F-900, which had a 500-gallon-per-minute capacity, the 1987 Ford, and long outdated 1966 Chevrolet Brush/Mini-pumpers then in service. Following the addition of this watertender, the District replaced the 1977 Ford with a 2009 International Engine. This pumper, built by Rosenbauer, was part of a purchase by Lincoln County Fire Services to update outdated equipment in Glencoe, Hondo, White Oaks, and Nogal. In 2010, the district purchased a Ford Super-duty chassis to be fitted with a wildfire unit for use in

brush and wildland fires. The wildland unit is currently being built at Artesia Fire Equipment and should be in service by late summer of 2011. To celebrate the opening of the addition to the Forsythe Station, the Nogal Fire District is holding an open house along with the grand opening of the addition. The Lincoln County community, particularly in the Nogal, Loma Grande, and Magado Creek areas which are served by the Nogal Fire District, is invited to join the Nogal Fire District for the open house on July 10. Refreshments, including hotdogs will be served. -From reports

## 4th of July weekend

- July 3: Music in the Parks, Carrizozo** From 5p.m. to 7p.m., Music in the Parks will sponsor Paul Pino and the Tone Daddies. Free admission. Carrizozo Little League will sell food and soft drinks. Carrizozo Woman's Club on D Ave and 11th For more info, call (575) 648-2757.
- July 4: Annual Smokey Bear Fun Run, Capitan.** 7:30a.m. Male and Female, 10k and 2-mile fun run. Smokey Bear will present the awards to the runners. For more info, call David Cunningham at (575) 354-2748. The intersection of East Creek Road and Pine Lodge Road.
- July 4: Smokey Bear Stampede, Capitan.** The parade begins at 10a.m. Events also include a fun run marathon, barbeque, western dance, music festival, and fireworks. For more information call (575) 354.2748
- July 4: Valle del Sol Fireworks, Carrizozo, NM.** The volunteer firefighter department is hosting a fireworks display and old-fashioned pig roast at dusk.

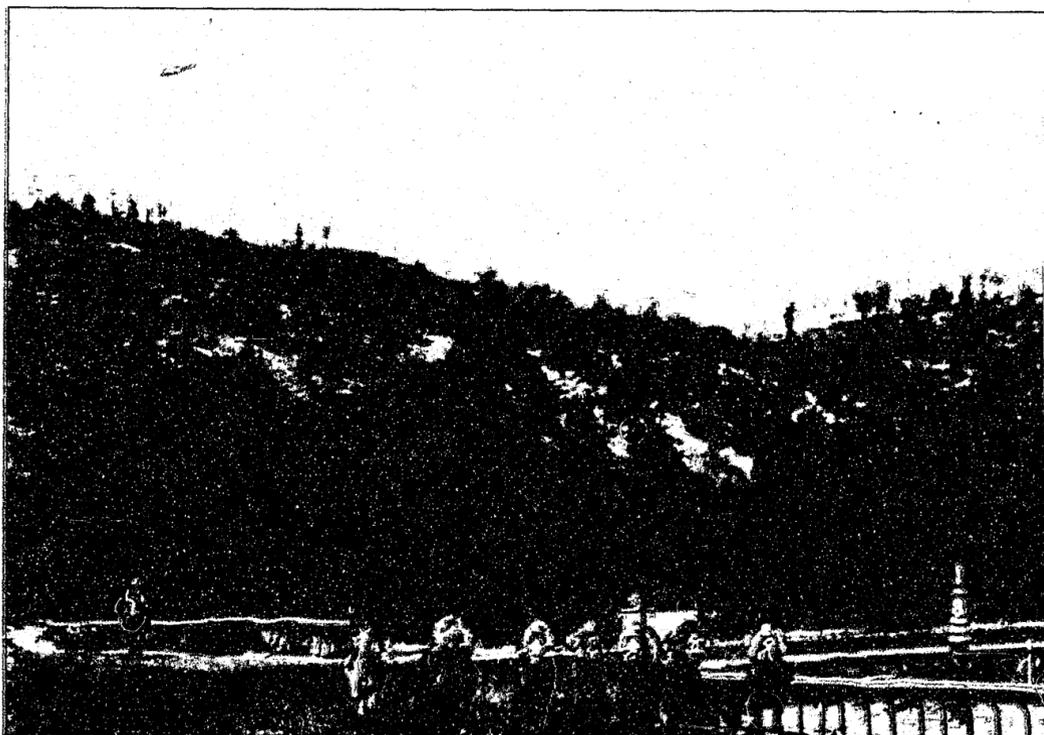
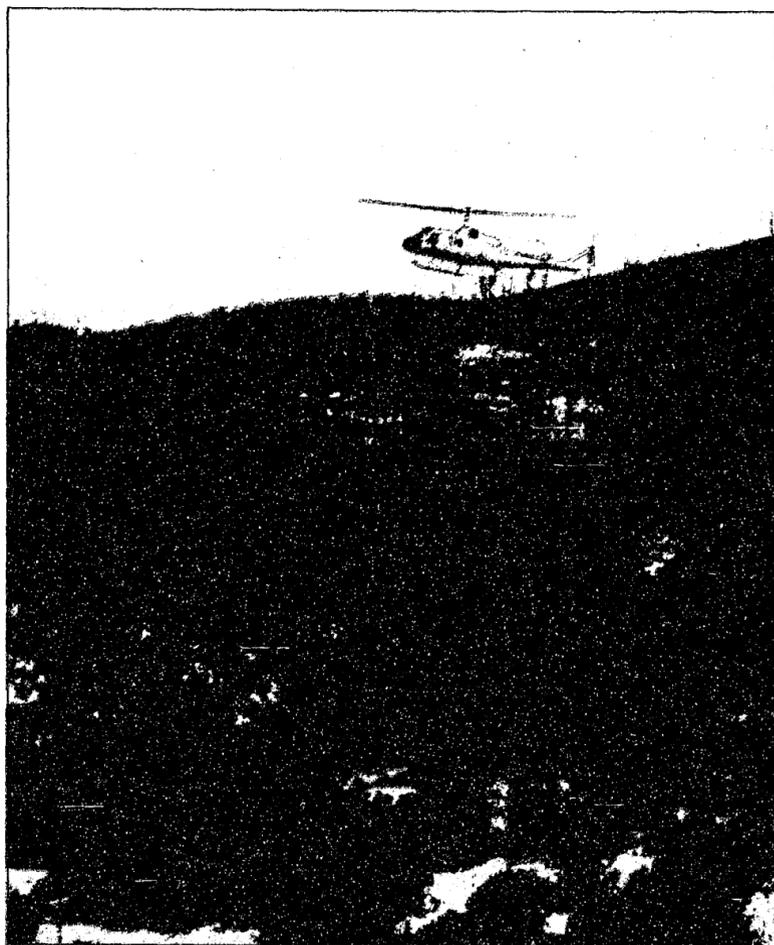
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POLLY E CHAVEZ/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

The Lutz building, as it stands today.

# Hay is for horses, straw is for burn areas



The normal early morning quiet of Ruidoso Downs has been disturbed by the sound of helicopter blades beating the air into submission as straw is picked up at two locations, one behind Ruidoso Downs Racetrack and the other off River Lane, and dropped into the White Fire Burn area to provide cover for the seeds dropped by planes in the past week. The pilot of one of the helicopters looks down to see his target on the ground as he prepares to pick up another load of straw at the River Lane loading zone. The helicopter hovers above the loading zone, lining up another load. One of the helicopters flies east of Ruidoso Downs Racetrack as the horses run on the track Sunday. The cause of the White Fire, which burned 10,356 acres of Lincoln National Forest and private land in early April.

PHOTOS BY DANA TERLECKY, TOP, AND GAY HARRIS, BOTTOM, FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS



## Chilo Channe Rimple

Since his birth on August 17, 1990 a life well-lived leaves behind good memories. Chilo Channe Rimple was a good person and a great friend. He touched many of our lives. He lived to the fullest and traveled many places. Chilo leaves behind a mother, Cathy McAllister; a brother, Channon Rimple and a girlfriend, Missy Autrey and their dog "Nugget", and many friends. A gathering will be held Saturday, June 25, 2011 at the Carrizozo Golf Course Club House at 10:00 AM. The family has requested memorials to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in place of flowers.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.lagroneruidoso.com](http://www.lagroneruidoso.com).

**La Grone**  
Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso  
341 Sudderth Dr.  
Ruidoso, NM 88345  
575-257-7831

## Sandy Chavez

1958-2011

Memorial service for Sandy Chavez, 53, of Carrizozo will be Thursday, June 23, at 2:00 PM at the Carrizozo Assembly of God Church. Mrs. Chavez passed away Saturday, June 18, in Socorro County, New Mexico. She was born February 5, 1958 at Overbrook, Kansas.

Mrs. Chavez had lived in Carrizozo for 36 years moving from Phoenix, Arizona. She was owner/operator of the Carrizozo Thrift and Flea Market and attended the Carrizozo Assembly of God Church. She married George Chavez on May 7, 2011 at Carrizozo.

She is survived by her husband George; two sons, Dave Vermillion Jr. and Jimmy Vermillion; her mother, Gloria Sizemore; two sisters, Glenda Frank and Nikki Widjether and 9 grandchildren.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.lagroneruidoso.com](http://www.lagroneruidoso.com).



## Bernard Russell "Rags" Ragland

TSgt, U.S.A.F., Ret.

Bernard Russell "Rags" Ragland, 61, passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2011 in Mescalero, NM. He was born April 15, 1950 in Chillicothe, OH to Russell and Kathleen (Tanner) Ragland.

He retired as a Tech Sergeant from the United States Air Force after serving in Viet Nam, Panama and the Persian Gulf. He then was a Waste Water Operator for the Mescalero Utility Company and a security guard at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Casino.

Survivors include Donna Stern of Mescalero, NM; his mother, Kathleen Ragland; his daughter, Amy Ragland of Alamogordo, NM; sons, Donnell McFadden and wife Sharlayne of Mescalero, NM, Daniel McFadden and wife Eugenia of Alamosa, CO; grandchildren, Tehya and Davonte' McFadden of Mescalero, NM and Diandra and Dolton McFadden of Alamosa, CO; two brothers, three sisters, and a special caregiver, Josie Fuller of Alamogordo, NM.

He was predeceased by his father, Russell Ragland.

Memorial services for Bernard Russell "Rags" Ragland will be 2:00 pm, Thursday, June 23, 2011 at Mescalero Reformed Church; 346 Wardlaw Dr.; Mescalero, NM with Pastor Bob Schut officiating. A reception will follow at the church.

Should friends desire, contributions may be made to Alamogordo Home Care/Hospice

The Ragland family has entrusted their loved one to the care of Alamogordo Funeral Home to direct the arrangements. Cremation will take place at PCS.

To sign the online register book, please visit [www.alamogordofuneralhome.org](http://www.alamogordofuneralhome.org).

The McFadden, Stern and Chino families would like to thank the family and friends for all their acts of kindness and support during this time.



## Norma Jo Coleman

1933-2011

Norma Jo Coleman, 77, of Ruidoso, N.M., went to heaven June 19, 2011 at Las Cruces, N.M. Services will be at 10:00 A.M. Friday, June 24, 2011 at the Hereford Church of the Nazarene in Hereford, TX. with Rev. Ted Taylor, Pastor and Pastor Royce Riggan officiating. A viewing will be held from 9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Thursday, June 23, 2011 at Hereford Heritage Funeral Home, 411 E. 6th St. Burial will be in Rest Lawn Cemetery in Hereford.

Norma Jo was born to the late Norman and Josie Busby, Aug. 24, 1933 in Lynn County, TX. She married Bruce Coleman on Valentines Day in 1951 and lived south of Bootleg, TX. She then lived in Hereford, TX., before relocating to Ruidoso, N.M. in 2002.

Norma Jo was preceded in death by her loving husband, Bruce Coleman and two sons, Gary and Jeff Coleman.

Survivors include one daughter, Cindy Lemons; two sisters, Shirley Brown and Marie Mount; two brothers, Leroy and Dale Busby; daughter-in-law, Joni and husband Mike Tackett; four grandchildren, Dax and wife Jamie Riggan, Brandon and wife Arra Coleman, Brent and wife Katy Coleman, Kyla and husband David Michelotti; four great grandchildren, Tyler and Tanner Riggan and Christian, Tyler and Brooklyn Coleman.

In lieu of flowers the family encourages donations to favorite charities.

Express condolences and sign the online guest book at [www.herefordheritage.com](http://www.herefordheritage.com)

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Lucina,  
Your coverage of the arts, artists and "characters" of the area is a breath of fresh air. Your passion and writing skills have enhanced the cultural realities of the entire region. "Thank You," from me personally and from the arts community as a whole. Though I have no right to speak in any official capacity, I can as an artist and unwavering arts advocate! You are truly making a difference.

Rodney Brown  
Ruidoso

Dear Ms. Walsh and Ms. Sarber,  
I have subscribed to the Ruidoso News for 12 years. Before, I just glanced at Vamonos. Now, it's a different story! I thoroughly enjoy the articles Ms. Sarber writes about our local residents. I want to go out and meet them! Instead of giving Vamonos a moment of attention I look forward to Friday's paper just to read it cover to cover!

Carol Manchester Brown  
Ruidoso

Dianne Stallings

Thank you for all the good press. Reading your coverage made me feel like we got something good done!

Beth Hood - Ruidoso

Lucina  
Just flipped through Vamonos and can see the difference in the layouts. So clean. Beautifully done. And well written articles on your part! I appreciate that you are doing lots of hard work to produce such a difference there.

Deborah Wenzel  
Ruidoso

Lucina  
You conducted our interview with the utmost professionalism, your questions were direct and to the point. The article in Vamonos was the best interview experience and subsequently the best written article that I've seen pertaining to me.

Thank you  
David Tremblay - Ruidoso

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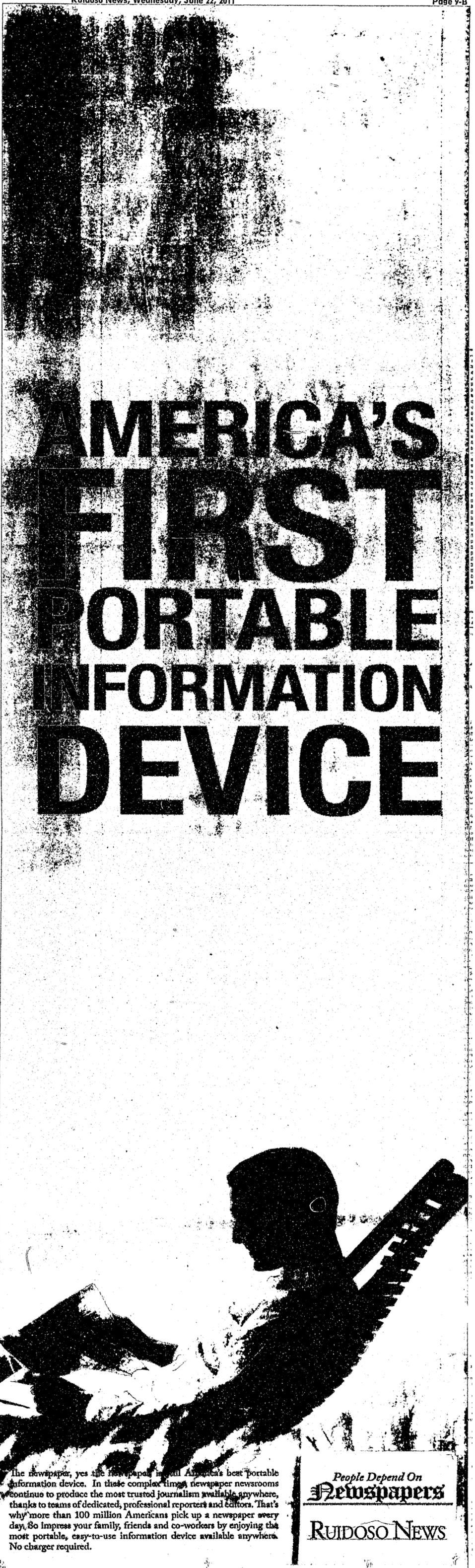
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