

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011 • OUR 65TH YEAR, NO. 28 • 75 CENTS

State PRC approves PNM rate hike

Utility customers to see a rate increase of 9.1 percent

MILAN SIMONICH
Santa Fe Bureau

SANTA FE — What state utility regulators did Thursday may have been the fastest and least-discussed electric rate increase in New Mexico history.

It allows Public Service Company of New Mexico to raise

its base rates by 9.1 percent.

The company, known as PNM, would collect an additional \$72 million in the first year and \$178 million across three years if it accepts the commission's decision.

PNM wanted a different plan that would have given it a rate increase of more than 11 percent.

This would have brought the

company \$85 million in the first year and \$216.3 million over three years.

Company executives said some of the money would have gone for expansions of power lines, substations and power plants to better serve PNM's 500,000 customers.

One person only, Public Regulation Commissioner Jason

Marks, knew about the alternative rate plan before Thursday.

Advocacy groups, the state attorney general and the company itself had been haggling with the commission for 14 months over rate plans. By comparison, Marks delivered a bolt of lightning.

Marks, D-Albuquerque, carried his brand-new proposal into the

hearing room, distributed copies of it to his four fellow commissioners, then saw it approved in less than an hour.

The proposal carried on a 3-2 vote, surprising Commission Chairman Patrick Lyons, R-Cuervo, who opposed it.

See PRC, page 7A

FOG: Village broke state law

Group files complaint with Attorney General

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

A statewide government watchdog group has filed a formal complaint with the New Mexico Attorney General's Office contending that the village of Ruidoso violated the state's Open Meetings Act.

Sarah Welsh, executive director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government, said she notified Mayor Ray Alborn by e-mail of her decision to pursue the complaint that stems from a July 12 meeting and is based on public record.

Contacted Thursday, Alborn said he still believes after input from the village attorney and village clerk that "We're OK."

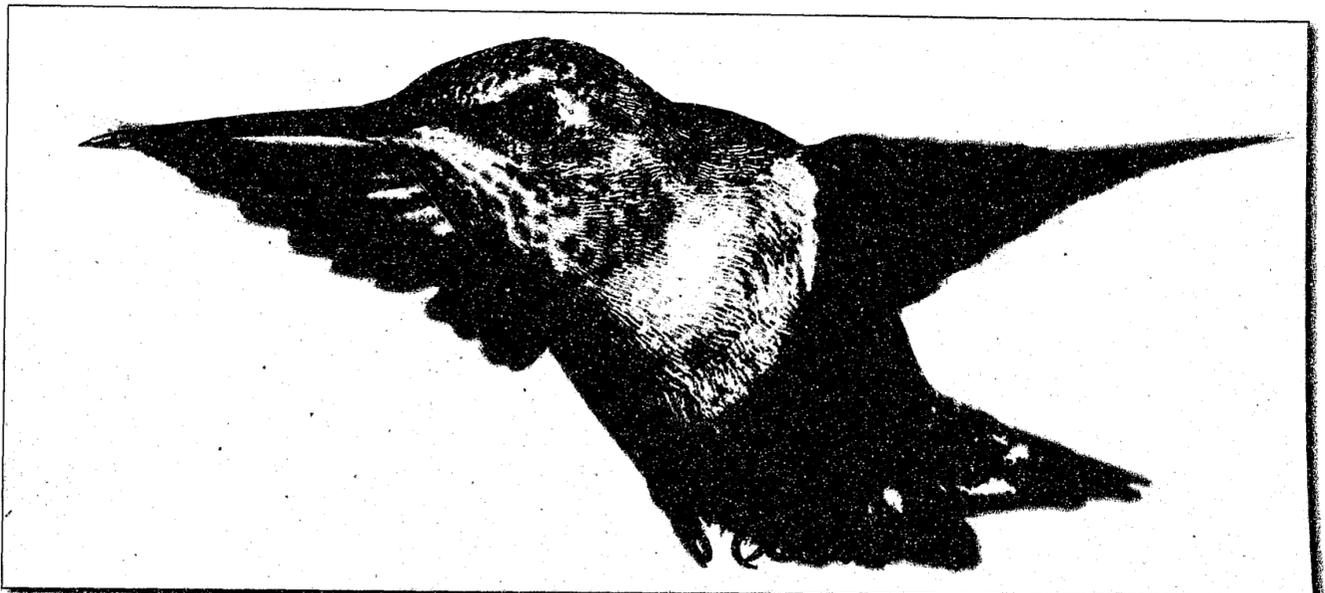
"It was an important agreement," he said. "In looking back quickly, there was no mention (in the complaint) of a May 12 meeting and that was the initiation of the agreement."

Alborn said he passed along the notice from Welsh to Village Attorney Dan Bryant and Village Manager Debi Lee, and Bryant, "is in the process of responding."

In her letter to the attorney general, Welsh wrote, "I believe that the Village of Ruidoso governing body violated the Open Meetings

See LAW, page 8A

THE HUM IN THE AIR



DAVID TREMBLAY/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS



DAVID TREMBLAY/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS



ERIK BEAVER/RUIDOSO NEWS

Clockwise, from top, a female Calliope hummingbird beats her wings 40 to 80 times per second in order to stay airborne; a female Broad-tailed hummingbird hovers in midair. The male Broad-tailed are responsible for the frequent "trill" residents hear as the ferociously territorial birds fight over feeders, according to ENMU wildlife biologist Quentin Hays; a distinctive red Rufous hummingbird perches on a tree, fanning his wings. Hays said along with Black-chinned hummingbirds, the Broad-tailed are Ruidoso's most frequent visitors, arriving as early as March and staying sometimes as late as September before they being their migration to wintering grounds in southern Mexico or Central America.

Santos discusses healthcare

Hospital CEO talks insurance, facilities

JIM KAIVELAGE
jkavelage@ruidosonews.com

Affordability, accountability and access. The three As are key to healthcare reform both nationally and locally, said Al Santos, the administrator of the Lincoln County Medical Center in Ruidoso.

He said the Ruidoso hospital has plans to address the three As.

Speaking during the summer membership meeting of the Alto Lakes Property Owners Association, Santos said right now healthcare in the United States is not affordable, in part because of the 50 million uninsured.

"You have nine-and-a-half million that are non-citizens," Santos said. "You have 12 million that are eligible but not signing up for some reason. You have the temporarily uninsured, usually because of employment changes. You have free-riders, which are those who purposely don't have insurance.

See CEO, page 7A

Village council renews contract for manager, approves raise

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Debi Lee's contract as Ruidoso village manager was renewed Tuesday by a unanimous vote of village councilors without discussion, and her pay was increased by 4 percent.

The motion to accept a second renewal agreement with Debra Lynne Lee, her full name, was offered by Councilor Denise Dean and seconded by Councilor Jim

Stoddard with a friendly amendment to include the raise from \$95,000 to \$98,800.

The mayor and council conducted a performance evaluation June 28. Her original contract when she was hired was signed in 2009, for a period of four years through June 22, 2013, with the option to renew annually.

With top management out of the way, councilors turned their attention to their legal representation, opting to go temporarily with a

See COUNCIL, page 7A

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Dems discuss water

Three speakers will provide the viewpoints of the village of Ruidoso and of homeowners on Eagle Creek about the future use of Eagle Creek water during the monthly meeting of the Democratic Party of Lincoln County.

The meeting is set for 6 p.m., Aug. 4, at K Bob's, 157 U.S. Highway 70 in Ruidoso.

Attendees who wish to eat before the meeting can come between 5 p.m. and 5:45 p.m. and order from the menu. The speakers will be Jack Atkins of Ruidoso's water consultant team, former village manager and water activist Frank Potter, and scientist Bill Midkiff of the Eagle Creek Conservation Association, which sued the U.S. Forest Service in connection with an expired permit for the village to pump from the wellfield at the North Fork of the stream. The future of the stream, the wellfield permit and the potential impact on the water supply for the village are subjects of community interest and the meeting is open to the general public.

Museum show

The Hubbard Museum is pleased to announce that a special program for the public entitled, "The Tarahumara/Mogollon Connection" at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 6th with Anthropologist Larry

Baron providing the multimedia presentation. The presentation will be held in the Johnny & Marty Cope Learning Center. There is no additional charge other than regular admission fee to attend the program. Members of the Museum will receive free entry to the program and to the museum as well.

Tea Party

The Lincoln County Tea Party will be having a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Carrizozo Golf Course Club House.

Flower show

Flower show entry registration for the annual Lincoln County Fair is set for 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 2, with judging to begin at 1 p.m.

The exhibition hall at the county fairgrounds in Capitan will be closed from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for the judging. The county fair runs from Aug. 2 through Aug. 6, at the fairgrounds on New Mexico Highway 48.

Flower show categories are annuals, perennials, bulbs/corms/tubers, roses, dahlias, house flowering plants, flowering shrubs and tropical. Plenty of bottles and water are available at the fairgrounds for entries. Again this year, a children's table for 12 and younger entrants, will be set up to display in the

NEW ALTRUSA



COURTESY JUDY GRIFFIN

On July 19, Altrusa Club of Ruidoso added two new members at the Sanctuary on the River, the new downtown Inspired Living Center. Kim Mathison, sponsored by Doris Wallace, and Helen Woodfin, and Kathy Dunn, sponsored by Barbara Dickinson and Pam Gervais, were initiated at the group's meeting. Dunn is the owner of Casa Feliz and Flowers at 1031 Mechem. Mathison is technical infrastructure manager for a large insurance company. Altrusa provides scholarships to returning students and books to Head Start children, and also donates to Lincoln County Food Bank and The Nest Domestic Abuse Shelter, among others. The club also is working with Lincoln County Medical Center to finalize details for this year's annual low-cost mammogram program in October. Altrusa Club of Ruidoso is part of an international service organization. For more information about the club or its community service projects, call Membership Chair Judy Griffin at 575-937-5437, or visit www.AltrusaRuidoso.com. At left are Dunn with Vice President Barbara Dickinson and President Pam Gervais; Director Helen Woodfin, with Mathison and Treasurer Doris Wallace.

same categories as adults.

A person may enter as many categories as they choose. The flower show is open to all Lincoln County residents.

Partner program

The second annual Dea-

con Bob Racicot Open charity golf tournament is offering two creative, unique programs to the wives and girlfriends of the golfers.

According to Angie Fernandez, a community member who serves on the Golf Committee, "We wanted to create two exciting

programs for the partners of our golfers who don't play golf themselves. It is a fun way for them to spend the afternoon together while their partners are playing in our tournament."

The Beginner's Golf Clinic, Wine Tasting and

Fashion Show will be held at the Links at Sierra Blanca in Ruidoso. PGA Pro Eric Eggleston will conduct a two-hour clinic on the basics of golf. After the clinic, participants will be treated to a special

See **EVENTS**, page 3A

CHECK OUT

OUR NEW MENU FAVORITES

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"VENISON" BURGER \$9.99
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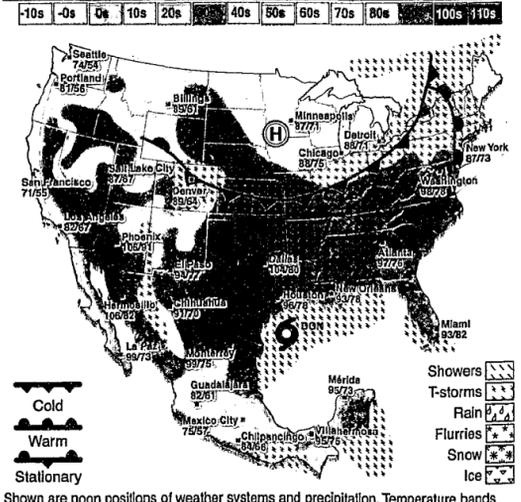


AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Ruidoso AccuWeather.com

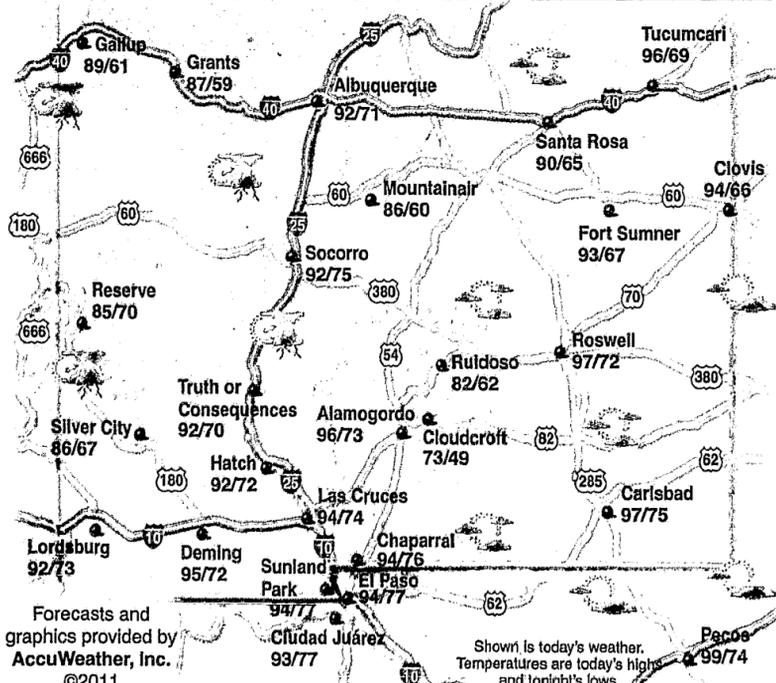
TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
RealFeel 86° Humidity 48%	RealFeel 86° Humidity 54%	RealFeel 90° Humidity 38%	RealFeel 85° Humidity 42%	RealFeel 89° Humidity 30%	RealFeel 89° Humidity 30%	RealFeel 86° Humidity 54%
Some sun, a t-storm in the p.m. Wind: SE 8-16 mph	Pleasant with sun and some clouds Wind: SE 6-12 mph	Partly sunny; t-storms at night Wind: SE 8-16 mph	An afternoon thunderstorm possible Wind: SSE 7-14 mph	Partly sunny Wind: S 7-14 mph	Partly sunny; rain at night Wind: SSW 7-14 mph	A thundershower in the afternoon Wind: S 4-8 mph

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

National Forecast for July 29, 2011



Regional Cities **Almanac**



Ruidoso
Statistics through Wednesday
Temperature:
High/low 82°/57°
Normal high 80°
Normal low 49°
Record high 94° (1995)
Record low 41° (1952)
Precipitation:
Wednesday 0.00"
Month to date 2.17"
Normal month to date 3.15"
Year to date 3.05"
Normal year to date 10.57"

Alamogordo
Statistics through Wednesday
Temperature:
High/low 98°/69°
Normal high 92°
Normal low 66°
Record high 107° (1995)
Record low 57° (1975)
Precipitation:
Wednesday Trace
Month to date 0.45"
Normal month to date 1.86"
Year to date 1.08"
Normal year to date 5.53"

National Cities **Regional Cities**

City	Today	Sat.	City	Today	Sat.
Abilene	101/74/s	95/75/s	Albuquerque	92/71/f	91/70/p
Anchorage	69/57/sh	69/56/sh	Artesia	95/75/p	96/76/p
Atlanta	97/76/s	98/78/p	Chama	82/51/f	83/54/f
Austin	100/76/s	89/74/f	Clayton	93/66/p	94/66/p
Baltimore	98/72/p	93/69/f	Cloudcroft	73/49/f	73/52/s
Boston	83/68/f	87/69/p	Farmington	94/67/f	91/68/f
Chicago	88/75/f	81/69/p	Hobbs	95/70/p	98/68/p
Dallas	104/80/s	98/80/p	Los Alamos	81/57/f	82/58/p
Denver	89/64/f	96/65/p	Portales	93/66/p	93/67/p
Des Moines	88/72/f	88/74/f	Raton	87/59/f	88/59/p
Detroit	88/71/f	89/67/p	Red River	72/46/f	74/52/p
El Paso	94/77/p	94/75/s	Ruidoso	82/62/f	79/62/p
Las Vegas	102/87/s	104/89/p	Santa Fe	90/61/f	88/61/p
Los Angeles	82/67/p	84/65/p	Silver City	86/67/f	88/68/f
Minneapolis	87/71/s	92/73/p	Taos	87/54/f	87/54/f
New Orleans	93/78/f	94/79/f			
New York City	87/73/f	92/74/p			
Philadelphia	91/76/p	93/73/p			
Phoenix	105/81/f	107/91/f			
Reno	99/65/s	99/66/s			
San Francisco	71/65/p	71/57/p			
San Diego	74/67/p	75/68/p			
Seattle	74/54/s	79/56/s			
Tucson	98/80/f	99/80/f			
Tulsa, OK	99/75/p	95/77/p			
Wash., DC	98/78/p	93/73/p			
Wichita	88/74/p	88/76/p			
Yuma	105/87/p	104/89/p			

Sun and Moon **Moon Phases**

Friday: Sunrise/Sunset 6:14 a.m./8:04 p.m.	Friday: Moonrise/Moonset 5:03 a.m./7:15 p.m.	New	First	Full	Last
Extremes		Wednesday's National High/Low: (For the 48 contiguous states) High: 113° in Salina, KS Low: 30° in Stanley, ID			
Wednesday's World High/Low: High: 123° in Mitribah, Kuwait Low: -13° in Islas Orcadas, Argentina		Q: What is the wettest place in the United States? A: Mt. Waialeale, Hawaii, averages 472 inches of rain each year.			



EVENTS

FROM PAGE 2A

fashion show put on by Sweet Charity, a Resale Boutique that benefits the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter in Ruidoso Downs. During the fashion show, New Mexico wines will be showcased. Shuttle transportation will be available.

The second program is a Casino Games Clinic held at the Inn of the Mountain Gods (IMG) Casino & Resort in Mescalero. Participants are invited to play in two HEAL slot tournaments and receive gaming lessons on Blackjack, Roulette and Craps, delivered by the professional gaming staff at IMG. The slot tournaments will feature cash prizes to the winners.

After each program, participants can opt to join the golfers for a barbecue dinner and awards ceremony at the IMG Championship Golf Course.

The cost of the program

is \$50 and the barbecue dinner is \$15. All proceeds benefit the Nest Domestic Violence Shelter.

These programs are popular and registration is limited to the first 35 participants, so early registration is encouraged. Register online at HEALgolftournament.eventbee.com

For further information, call Coleen at 575-973-0828.

The tournament is a signature fund-raising event offered by Help End Abuse for Life (HEAL) in Ruidoso Downs.

Open house

Mountain Massage and Healing Arts at the Lodge at Sierra Blanca will be having an open house on Friday as part of the Mountain Wellness Experience.

There will be Tai Chi on the back patio of the Lodge at Sierra Blanca from 9 to 10 a.m., open studio from 10 to 11 a.m. and free water aerobics from 4 to 5 p.m.

In addition, Ruidoso

Physical Therapy, Sanctuary on the River and High Mesa Healing will all have open houses from 9 am to 5 p.m. Friday.

Art show

There will be an Historical Works Show at LongCoat Fine Art, 2825 Sudderth Drive from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today through Sunday.

They will be featuring the works of master artists such as Peter Hurd, Thomas Moran, Peter Moran, George Catlin, Earl Bliss, Toss

Stefan, Vladan Stiha, Hoe Ferrera, Jim Reno and many more. There is a sneak preview of the show on the gallery's website www.longcoatfineart.com.

Mexican Consulate

The Mexican Consulate will be in Ruidoso on Saturday, July 30.

Mexican Nationals living outside of Mexico can receive assistance with Consular Identification Cards, passports and other services. Those needing healthcare also can get information.

The consulate will be at

the Ruidoso Senior Center, 501 Sudderth Drive, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 30.

turn to guerilla resistance after a Soviet invasion of America.

The movie was filmed in and around Las Vegas, N.M.

The Carrizozo Heritage Museum is open from 6 to 7 p.m.

The free showing of these movies made in New Mexico starts at 7 p.m. with sodas and popcorn available at Heritage Hall next door to the Museum.

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104 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 128 Ruidoso, N.M. 88355
Telephone (575) 257-4001 • Fax (575) 257-7053

Rena Walsh
General Manager
Ext. 4118
rwalsh@ruidosonews.com

Terrance Vestal
Editor
Ext. 4107
tvestal@ruidosonews.com

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e-mail: editorial@ruidosonews.com • online: www.ruidosonews.com
A MediaNews Group Newspaper

NEWSROOM

Dianne Stallings
General Assignment Reporter Ext. 4108
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Jim Kalvelage
Reporter Ext. 4109
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Erik Bearer
Lincoln County Reporter Ext. 4110
ebearer@ruidosonews.com

Mike Curran
Sports editor Ext. 4111
mcurran@ruidosonews.com

Lucina Sarber
Editor, Vamonos Ext. 4112
lsarber@ruidosonews.com

Harold Oakes
Reporter Ext. 4130
hoakes@ruidosonews.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Ross Barrett
Retail Advertising Manager Ext. 4113
rbarrett@ruidosonews.com

Beth Barrett
Account Executive Ext. 4104
bethbarrett@ruidosonews.com

Trina Thomas
Account Executive Ext. 4105
thomas@ruidosonews.com

Dina Garner
Account Executive Ext. 4102
dgarner@ruidosonews.com

James Goodwin
Finance/Business Development Ext. 4119
jgoodwin@ruidosonews.com

Chris Gonzales
Circulation Coordinator Ext. 4106
cgonzales@ruidosonews.com
Member New Mexico Press Association, NAA, Inland Press Association

OPINION

RUIDOSO NEWS

Rena Walsh, general manager
Terrance Vestal, editor

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OUR OPINION

An 'A' for accountability

When Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports are released showing less than stellar results, there is usually a chorus from administrators and teachers.

"The test isn't fair," "We need more money," "We're teaching to the test and the kids aren't learning anything."

And so it was refreshing to see Ruidoso School District Superintendent Bea Etta Harris penciled in the bubble indicating "None of the above."

Instead, Harris made no bones about the district's results being absolutely dismal but instead of finding excuses, she has outlined a plan to bring about improvements in student performance.

As Harris said, "When we went into classrooms we saw evidence that if you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten."

That's why Harris and the district have adopted programs and developed strategies that, hopefully, will not only make for better students but better teachers as well.

This includes changing the teaching culture so educators work together at their grade levels or in their departments. This means teachers can plan together and give each other feedback on what might work or what might not work in the

classroom.

When it comes to students, the plan includes matching reading levels to students instead of trying to fit students to a reading level. This means that students who are struggling get the attention they need, and those who are actually reading at a higher level are challenged instead of bored.

When it comes to math, teachers will be expected to be interactive with students as far as children explaining their work so teachers know what level the student is at.

These seem like common-sense approaches but as we all know, sometimes getting a governmental agency to change its culture is like trying to change the course of a luxury liner. Let's just hope it's not the Titanic.

We commend Harris and the district for taking the bull by the horns instead of the dance and dodge that we've seen from other administrators and education officials in the past.

As was pointed out by columnist Harold Morgan in Wednesday's edition, the more education, the more likely a person works. In these economic times, that's critical.

And more education begins with the basics — reading, writing and arithmetic.

Closing Rural Post Offices...



Doug McLeod 11
Ruidoso News

Thinking outside the 'baugh'

When California Republican Congressman Darrell Issa issued his apology to radio shock jock Rush Limbaugh for daring to have his own thoughts late last year, it provided just another example of what is wrong with the political climate right now and why we are mired in the current debt-ceiling deadlock.

Congressmen have forgotten who they are supposed to be representing. I'm pretty sure Mr. Limbaugh didn't cast a vote for Mr. Issa and yet Mr. Issa felt obliged to apologize to Limbaugh for apparently stepping out of bounds. I wonder how many constituents Mr. Issa apologized to for taking a different view and voting a different way in which some of his constituents might have wanted him to vote. We expect that our own representatives might not always take the same view on some issues that we have, but, really, to apologize to Limbaugh for saying, "It's pretty clear the American people expect us to use the existing gridlock to create compromise and advance their agenda?" To whom does Issa's loyalty really belong? It makes one wonder how many other legislators Limbaugh is exacting tribute.

These are congressmen who are supposed to be representing those in their own districts instead of swearing their fealty and allegiance to some blowhard in Florida.

There are plenty of

Republicans, including former National Republican Chairman Michael Steele and Georgia Congressman Phil Gingrey, who, one day, are critical of Limbaugh,

and, a few days later, fall upon their knees, prostrate themselves before Limbaugh, and beg with pathetic simpering for his forgiveness. Once they confess their sin of original and independent thought and renew their acceptance of Limbaugh as their political lord and savior, chanting his dogma as if it were

their own, they are welcomed back into the flock.

District disintegration

And it's not just Republicans who have decided that dysfunction is the way to function.

With the latest redistricting of Congressional districts throughout the country, "safe houses" in various parts of our nation have been created for both Republicans and Democrats. The only challenges that could arise in these districts are from those who claim to be more "conservative" or more "liberal" than the persons currently holding office. This means that these legislators have to kowtow to their base, not their constituents. They have to placate the fringes, not the people who actually need their help and representation. They are motivated to do what is politically expedient so they can win re-election, taking action and making statements so they can keep their seats, not necessarily

doing or saying what might be best for the country.

People like Limbaugh or former MSNBC's Keith Olbermann have an incredible influence on public opinion and even potentially public policy that will impact the rest of us. They have no real experience or knowledge of political science or public or foreign policy beyond their own bombastic interpretations and arrogance in the belief that their ideas are not only the best ideas, the "right" ideas, but any other ideas are obviously anti-American. They make tons of money to foment the anger, frustration and fear that exists in the country right now.

Limbaugh, among others, is a shock jock, in the same vein as Howard Stern. His political pornography, however, is twice as obscene as what Stern could ever conjure up because he claims that any other ideas beyond his own are either socialist or communist or part of the "gay agenda" or whatever inflammatory terms he could use to spook his audience. But, in the words of Michael Steele, before he was castigated and castrated by the Big Man, Limbaugh is an "entertainer." Olbermann is not a "journalist." Both of them are on the extreme fringe trying to paint every Republican as a bigoted slave to Wall Street out to crush the poor and the minorities and every Democrat as a pinko Commie out to destroy capitalism and the country.

It's hard to do the fine political detailing this country needs when you're painting with such broad brush strokes. Neither one is improving this country on any level with his vitriol beyond

THINK on page 5A



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THE STREETER, BY ERIK BEARER

Q: What do you think about the proposed rural post office closures?



Carla Fickel
Ruidoso

"As long as they're not closing all of the offices in an area, it's alright. But people need their mail."



Jeanette Herndon
Ruidoso

"I hate that it's putting another hardship on people in rural communities and losing more jobs."



Rick Riddle
Ruidoso

"The post offices have been losing money, but instead of trimming fat the government is cutting another service."



Andrea Collura
Alto

"This county is so vast and spread out that we need all the post offices that we can get."



Jenny Carpenter
Capitan

"It's another service stopped because of the economy, and one more hardship for some people."

The perils of New Mexico's Republican Senate Primary

By this time next year, New Mexico Democratic and Republican voters will have chosen their nominees for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Jeff Bingaman, the Democrat who was first elected to that seat in 1982.

Chances are Dems will have settled on either 1st Dist. Congressman Martin Heinrich or state Auditor Hector Balderas.

Republicans, in turn, will likely have opted for Heather Wilson, a former 1st Dist. Congresswoman, or Lt. Gov. John Sanchez, although two lesser-known GOP hopefuls, Greg Sowards and Bill English, are also running.

At this distance, eleven months out, polls are little more than points of departure in a race yet to take shape. Still, a survey conducted late last month by the firm of Public Policy Polling had Heinrich leading Balderas by a margin of two-to-one.

It also found Wilson outdistancing Sanchez by more than

two-to-one, 52 to 24 percent, with Sowards and English in the single digits.

Make of it what you will, but a late April Magellan Data and Mapping Strategies poll put Wilson at 59 percent to Sanchez 17 percent, suggesting some slippage in Wilson's numbers between April and June. On the other hand, that April survey was taken before Sanchez officially entered the race, and simply by announcing his candidacy, Sanchez's numbers were bound to hike a bit.

In any case, more important numbers will be in play next year at this time when the Republican nominee discovers what it's like between the rock and the hard place

Simply put, Wilson and Sanchez are faced with balancing two conflicting political imperatives for either of them to prevail in the fall of 2012.

First, they must fashion campaigns that resonate with Republican primary voters, throw them the red meat that roils the partisan passions. Then, very quickly, they must mute

all that primary campaign rhetoric calculated to rouse the faithful, lest it alienate the independent and Democratic voters they will need in November to win.

It's a tall order. Overwhelmingly, those Republicans who vote in GOP primaries constitute the party's hard-core, right-leaning base. Yet,

come the general election, there are not enough of them to push their Senate nominee over the top without an assist from some Democrats and Independents.

In short, the Senate hopeful must mollify her or his hard-right base without alienating moderate Democrats and independents. And there's the peril for Wilson or Sanchez, because for the nonce virtually all reliable polls show congressional Republican to be held in low esteem by most prospective 2012 voters who are not a part of the core GOP base.

A national CBS News survey last week found over 70 percent of those polled giving congressional Republicans thumbs-down for their role in subverting negotiations to raise the debt ceiling, close tax loopholes and make significant spending cuts.

Two-thirds of those polled want upper-income tax hikes to be part of any deficit reduction deal, something Republicans in

Congress adamantly oppose.

The 30 percent who back the GOP on these matters are, of course, the party's core base which, increasingly, has come to be dominated by the Tea Party crowd.

Elected last year on the Tea Bagger wave, those Republicans now dominate the House of Representatives and have rendered John Boehner one of the most enfeebled House Speakers in memory, unable to lead or compromise.

So what are the likes of John Sanchez and Heather Wilson to do? Well, last week, both signed a "pledge" to support the GOP's congressional budget plan which decimates Medicare as we know it.

It might delight Republican primary voters in June, but come the fall 2012, it leaves the Republican nominee contemplating the hard place and some big-time flip-flops going into November.



HAL RHODES
UPON REFLECTION

THINK

FROM PAGE 4A

improving his own ratings. That is the ultimate concern of those who pattern themselves after Limbaugh and Olbermann on their radio or TV shows or their blogs and the congressmen who genuflect to them are ultimately concerned with keeping their congressional seats, nothing more.

And people are actual buying it. If you talk to Democrats, Republicans always are the problem and vice versa. No one is about to take any responsibility — "Oh, it was the Obama stimulus package," or "Oh, it was the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and unpaid wars" and most, based on the Olbermann/Limbaugh/Boehner/Reid vitriol, are more than happy to play the blame game instead of looking forward and finding solutions. Nero might have fiddled while Rome burned, but Rome still burned.

Problem of politics

I would argue that the crisis of the country is not just one of economics, but also one of politics. The Founding Fathers realized the Constitution would not have been ratified at the time it was proposed without serious compromises. Those who were anti-slavery agreed to the 1/3 compromise, which, deep in their hearts, they were vehemently opposed, but they knew that, without such a compromise, the Constitution could not move forward. They realized that their concerns would have to be addressed later on once the Constitution itself was ratified. They realized that their own immediate gratification would have been damaging to the fledg-

ling republic.

Of course, if they had a slavery lobbyist breathing down their necks and stuffing millions of dollars into their re-election campaigns, who knows how it might have turned out.

The Founding Fathers created a system that only works through compromise. This isn't a parliamentary system, like in Britain, in which one party wins all and, from time to time, voters toss the whole government out in favor of the other political party when they feel dissatisfied.

And because of this system put in place by the Founding Fathers, compromise isn't a non-option. Government locks up when compromise doesn't happen (See: RIGHT NOW). The Founding Fathers lived compromise and knew that the only way they could bring the varied colonies together, the interests of Massachusetts versus those of Virginia, would be to compromise. Now we have 50 "colonies" and twice as many groups who want this and won't even consider taking that. And they want it right now.

When Congress tries to placate every group at every moment on every issue, which is what it is trying to do right now, there will be no progress. Without compromise, under this particular system of government, it doesn't happen.

The atmosphere

We've created an atmosphere, however, in which, if I'm a congressman and another congressman votes against my legislation, well, he's obviously an obstructionist. If I vote against his proposal, however, I will remain smug in my belief that I have "stuck to my principals," arrogantly believing that I'm the only

legislator with such capabilities and only my principals and issues are worth consideration. I might even respect a political adversary personally but once the TV cameras start rolling, once I get on the Limbaugh show, I'm going to call him a Nazi at the first opportunity. I'm going to be as inflammatory as I possibly can because I know, in this atmosphere, if I want to keep my seat in Congress, it's politics over country. So if that means I run on a jobs-creating campaign and win the office, and I have to turn around and push anti-abortion legislation to appease the extreme of my base, well, I mean, if it gets me re-elected, shrugs. I'm creating at least one job, albeit my own. How's that for keeping a campaign promise? And there is not a single member in Congress, in the House or the Senate, who isn't playing this game on some level right now. Not one.

The solution

We don't have to march lock-step in some torch-lit radio show ceremony, chanting "Ditto Head, Ditto Head." We can have our own thoughts and ideas if we are honest and courageous. But in this politically charged climate, we might be afraid to express them. Apparently that's what passes for democracy nowadays.

Shout down those who have ideas different from yours. Call them anti-American. Wear a bigger flag pin on your lapel, that'll show 'em who is the "real American."

Speak your mind and, if it's not the repeated talking points from Rush or Olbermann or the Tea Party's Koch brothers or the demagogic rhetoric of the various other blog-

spheres, expect at least to be rapped on the knuckles if not run out on rails altogether. That's what passes for freedom of speech nowadays, apparently.

Of course, freedom of speech doesn't guarantee civility or a mature exchange of ideas based on respect, never mind intellect. Recently, we have seen that time and time again. We should expect and demand the country's leaders to rise to the occasion, however. Had the Lincoln-Douglas debate of 1858 been held today, I think it would have gone something like this:

Lincoln: "You suck."
Douglas: "No, you suck."
And then there would follow 90 minutes of 24-hour news channel analysis of who actually sucked more. But the issues of slavery or states' rights would never come up.

Maybe this atmosphere has been created because

those in Congress feel they can't trust the voters who they supposedly represent. Voter turnout continues to be paltry, even when the country has never been in more dire straights. Maybe those in Congress or those running for office believe they have to rely on the millions of dollars from the Koch brothers or the U.S. Chamber of Commerce or Moveon.org or other political action committees to buy them votes through manipulative, ugly and clearly deceitful television advertising (congressmen, of course, deplore such efforts — wink, nudge, nudge).

But they might not have to stage so many palm-greasing meetings with lobbyists of special interest groups and have more time to meet with actual constituents if they could trust Americans to come out and vote for them. And vote on what legislators actually stood for instead of on how

many redundant, insubstantial, colorful-but-empty talking points they could fit in a 30-second sound bite (backed by Lee Greenwood, of course).

That, however, would mean people would actually have to vote.

And that would mean we could not rely on people like Limbaugh or Olbermann to do our thinking for us. We would have to do our own homework.

When we think for ourselves and come to our own conclusions regarding what is right for ourselves and our next-door neighbors, for our bosses and for those who work for us, based on our own thoughtful deductions and not the smoke and mirrors thrown up by both political parties and the mouthpieces of those who serve those parties, that's when we will stop being just Republicans or Democrats — and start being Americans again.

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BUSINESS

Committee funds trail-building plan

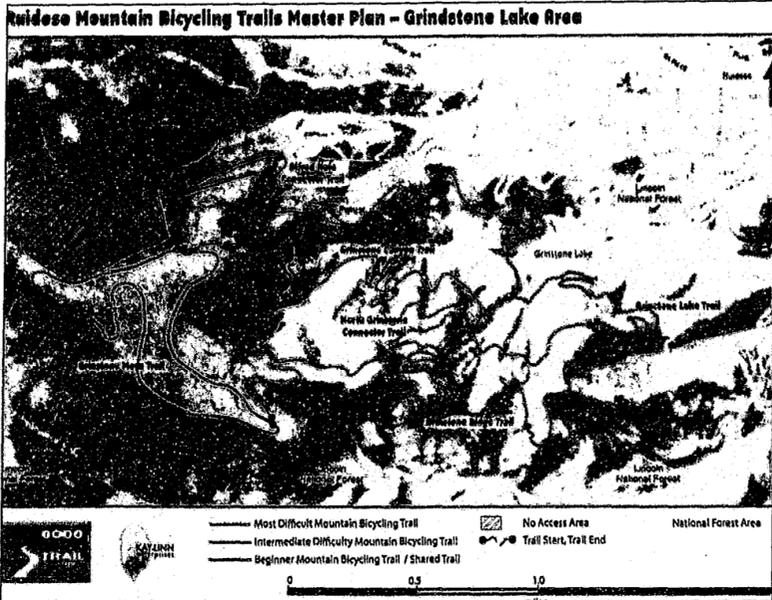
JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Looking to bring more ecotourism to the Ruidoso area, the effort to see mountain biking trails established in the Ruidoso area received support last week from the village's Lodgers Tax Committee. The committee recommended \$50,000 in room tax revenues assist in the construction of the trails.

"It's very important that we add this additional money to finish the trail phase because right now there's no additional funding or grants being doled out," Cody Thurston, with Bicycle Ruidoso, told the lodgers tax panel. "If we don't add it, it could be 2013 to have the project done without additional money."

Federal funding of \$112,000 was previously awarded for the trails project being worked on at Ruidoso's Grindstone Reservoir and into the Lincoln National Forest.

"It's going to complete the trail system because the \$112,000 only pays for roughly six miles developed around the lake," Thurston told the lodgers tax committee in making the request for \$50,000. "This will be additional money to do the 17.96 miles of trails. It will do layout, construc-



Mountain biking enthusiast Cody Thurston successfully petitions the Ruidoso Lodgers Tax Committee to support \$50,000 in funding for bike trails (see map, left).

tion and signage and maps which include the kiosk."

The Grindstone mountain biking trail will also be available for other outdoor activities such as hiking and horseback riding.

"One thing we don't have is a 'quality trail system,'" Thurston said. "We do have a few trails here and there. The (White Mountain) Wilderness is off boundaries to bikes. The thing that is important to have is a specially designed, laid out and built trail system. We have two sections of land that are in the backyard of the village that have roughly 50

miles of trail designs. Having this as our stepping stone for this trail system is important to doing it right."

Trails planned for the area along and beyond Ruidoso's southwest side include the Grindstone Lake Trail, the Grindstone Canyon Trail, the Grindstone Ridge Trail and the Grindstone Mesa Trail. Another path, the Alfred Hale Connector Trail, would link Grindstone Canyon with Grindstone Mesa.

"To make sure that I'm very, very clear," said Cindi Clayton-Davis, chair of the

lodgers tax committee, "The \$112,000, and if we add \$50,000 on top, we get the green trail (Grindstone Lake Trail), we get the blue Grindstone Canyon Trail, information signs, directional signs, plus the kiosk, there's ample parking there, and with the \$50,000 we actually get something start to finish, nothing pending, nothing else to be done other than the option of expanding the trail system at a time when there's funding through whatever funding source?"

Thurston said the money would pay for all the

trails, including the connector, Grindstone Mesa and Grindstone Ridge.

"It's very important to do the complete project and not piece it over three years," Thurston said.

"I totally agree with you about finishing it rather than piecemeal here and there," said committee member Sunny Hirschfeld. She offered the motion to earmark \$50,000 in lodgers tax funding subject to possible compliance with the state's procurement code. The funding was unanimously backed by the committee. A final decision by

the village council is expected at their Aug. 9 meeting.

Other envisioned trails for the future would be in the Perk Canyon and Bonito Canyon areas, for a total of more than 90 miles of mountain bicycling trails.

Aug. 13 is a tentative date for a kick-off party for the trail system. People will be able to walk the part of the trail and meet with forest service officials and EcoServants, the Lincoln County Youth Conservation Corps group helping to blaze the trail.

Old bank building houses new credit union

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A new financial institution opened earlier this month in the Ruidoso area.

"We are a branch of the Roswell Community Federal Credit Union," the organization's CEO Karen Griffo said of the recently opened Ruidoso Credit Union branch. "We are a 57-year old credit union. I like to tell people that so they won't think we're brand new. We've been at it a long time."

Griffo said it has been lengthy process to open in the former Compass Bank branch building at 26144 U.S. Highway 70 in Ruidoso Downs.

"A couple of years ago we started working with NCUA (National Credit

Union Administration), which is the equivalent of the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) for the banks, and asked them to expand our charter to allow us to be able to serve the people in Lincoln County."

The approval was given in March.

"We found this location," Griffo said. "It was a great location just asking for a financial institution to be here because it was all set up and ready for us. We just felt there was a need in Ruidoso because we really focus on member services. We try really hard to be everything we can to each individual member. We learned long ago that if you'll do what's best for your members ultimately it's what's best for your

credit union."

Credit unions differ from banks in that the financial institution is owned and controlled by its members and are operated to promote thrift, offering credit at competitive rates.

"We tend to focus on the individual," Griffo said. "We try to get them loans that are good for them, 'best fits,' whether it be our savings account or checking account. We have very low minimums to open. We have very low monthly fees. Whatever we can do to make it best for that individual member."

On the lending side, Griffo said Roswell Community Federal Credit Union and its new Ruidoso Federal Credit Union branch are largely focused on consumer loans.



Roswell Community Credit Union CEO Karen Griffo, left, and branch manager Alina Gaston show off the new branch, Ruidoso Credit Union, at 26144 U.S. Highway 70 in Ruidoso Downs.

"Used car loans are our bread-and-butter. We have an opening special which is really awesome. We'll refi your current vehicle loan for two percent less than your current rate with a base of 4 percent. It's on approved credit. We've been able to turn those

loans around in the matter of an hour."

In addition to checking and savings accounts, the credit union offers IRAs, CDs, VISA credit cards, free online banking, debit or ATM cards, money market savings, a Christmas Club, youth accounts, money orders and other financial products.

Beyond Chaves and Lincoln counties, the financial institution is also chartered in De Baca, Eddy and Roosevelt counties. Membership is limited to those who live, work, worship or attend school, as well as businesses and other legal entities, in the five counties.

Pledging to be active in the community, Griffo said Ruidoso Federal Credit Union has joined the local chamber.

Jobless rate up

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

After dropping significantly for four continuous months, the unemployment rate in Lincoln County rose. State labor officials reported Thursday that 5.4 percent of the county's labor force was without a job in June. The month before the rate had declined to 4.5 percent.

"It looks like June had an influx of people coming into the job market so you expect an increase in unemployment," Mark Boyd, a labor economist with the Department of Workforce Solutions said of Lincoln County. "But you're still below the year ago number even though there's an increase from the previous month."

The county's labor pool stood at 11,379 in June, almost 400 stronger than May. The number of people working last month was 10,759 versus 10,490 in May. Year over year, 141 fewer people were collecting unemployment benefits last month.

Boyd said Lincoln County continued to rank in the bottom third of New Mexico counties with low jobless rates.

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PRC

FROM PAGE 1A

"I didn't think a plan that just got thrown out 30 minutes earlier would be approved," Lyons said in an interview.

He supported the higher rate increase the company sought.

Lyons said it was a reasonable request and would have precluded attempts by the company from seeking other rate increases for three years. This would have been a good hedge against inflationary increases, he said.

Pat Vincent-Collawn, PNM Resources president and chief executive officer, said the company could not fully assess the decision until it

receives the commission's written order. It will not be completed for about a week.

"Clearly we are disappointed that the commission deviated from the \$85 million request that was agreed to by several key parties and was deemed justified and reasonable by a hearing examiner and the commission's general counsel," Vincent-Collawn said in a statement.

CEO

FROM PAGE 1A

They're healthy. They're young. And they're just waiting for the time to come to take out a policy. And then you have the long-term uninsured, eight million, which is the reality of the number we need to be concerned with."

Many go to the emergency room for care.

"That's not good care and we need to stop it," Santos said.

In an effort to deal with the use of the ER by those without insurance, Santos said LCMC will establish a less expensive Express Care Clinic.

"It will be seven-day-a-week access, walk-in-wise to a nurse practitioner, separate from our ER with a lesser rate than it would cost to be seen in the ER."

Santos said the hospital also would try to change behaviors through a Community Assistance Program.

"Whatever the problem may be, whether it's drugs, alcohol, a family situation, an in-law, you know what do I do with mom or dad needing assisted living, we're going to be here to help you out 24-7. That's going to be a program available to all

county residents. This is in partnership with the county commissioners. It is a program that will be of no cost to anybody needing it."

Santos said people must have accountability to improve their health and responsibility, which will reduce costs.

"In combination with primary care expansion as well as the CAP (Community Assistance Program) we can begin to change behaviors. If we don't, we're doomed to fail."

Another way to rein in healthcare costs is through electronic medical records, Santos said.

LCMC's outpatient facilities maintain electronic records with the emergency room and inpatient services to follow.

Santos said construction of a new physicians' office building, with four examination rooms per provider, will increase doctor productivity by about 25 percent. Additional specialty medicine will also be brought into the larger facilities.

Demolition of existing provider offices along El Paso Road is expected to begin late this summer and a replacement three-story office building ready by the first quarter of 2013.

The new clinic building is part of a long-term plan that



JIM KALVELAGE/RUIDOSO NEWS

To ease the cost of going to the expensive emergency room at the Lincoln County Medical Center, Al Santos, the hospital's administrator, said an Express Care Clinic will be added to the facility. Santos provided a status report Tuesday on the healthcare delivery system during a meeting of the Alto Lakes Property Owners Association.

may include construction of a new hospital.

Questioned by an Alto Lakes resident about the ambulance service run by LCMC, Santos said there has been an effort to have an ambulance stationed north of Ruidoso.

"A substation in the proximity of Alto has been on the agenda and we have been looking. It really is a ques-

tion of the facility's cost. We need to have some facility that we can park the ambulance in and lock it up. Because of what's onboard those ambulances you can't leave them out in the open."

Santos said use of the small car wash at the Ski Run Shell station fell through a couple of months ago. He said the search is still going on.

COUNCIL

FROM PAGE 1A

month-to-month arrangement with two law firms employed last year.

Councilor Angel Shaw cast the only nay vote against the arrangement with the Bryant, Schenider-Cook Law Firm.

"I just had some concerns and I don't see even with a month-to-month or long-term arrangement that those concerns have not been addressed, so I said 'no,'" the councilor said Wednesday.

In a memorandum to the council, Lee wrote that the Bryant firm provided professional services to the village as general counsel under a one-year contract date July 13, 2010, with an option to extend the agreement for up to three consecutive one-year terms.

"The current contract has been tracked by task order system in an effort to manage activity and costs," she wrote. "Upon discussion with the council, it is recommended that an evaluation of services be conducted. As a result, it is necessary to continue this contract on a month-to-month basis to allow time to complete this evaluation and to make a recommendation to the Internal Finance/Audit Control Committee and village council."

The committee was appointed by

"We also are considering an in-house attorney, but (the workload) goes in spurts."

Debbi Lee
Ruidoso village manager

the mayor earlier in July and consists of Councilors Rafael Salas and Dean with Councilor Ron Hardeman as an alternate for Salas and Councilor Shaw for Dean, Finance Director Nancy Klingman and the staff accountant, the village manager and the village's financial advisor.

"I recommend we go month-to-month as we have done before to evaluate legal services of the Bryant and the Gibson (& Leonard) law firms, and look at other efficiencies under the existing compensation," Lee said.

"I would hate not to have legal counsel until we know where we want to go with this," Dean said.

"I'm new to this," said Councilor Gloria Sayers, who was appointed to fill a council vacancy in July 2010. She asked if the council also is considering an in-house attorney.

Lee explained that a request for proposals was issued a year ago and in an attempt to try to cut legal expenses, the Gibson firm was hired to handle cases in municipal court and Bryant's firm oversees the traditional role of village attorney.

"We also are considering an in-house attorney, but (the workload) goes in spurts," she said. The council could issue a new RFP and see what firms respond and what terms are offered. But for now, each village department will be asked to evaluate the legal services received during the past year. The process could take from one to three months, she said.

"I'll get the evaluation (sheet) out this week and give two weeks to conduct the evaluation using the internal audit finance committee to review the results," Lee said.

The same process will be used to evaluate the arrangement with the Gibson firm, councilors decided in a unanimous vote.

Sayers asked if any duplication of fees occurred with two firms working simultaneously for the village.

Lee said using task orders keeps each assignment separate, but she added, that the village didn't end up saving any money with the arrangement, and saving money was the goal.

Municipal Judge Beverly Rankin manages the court efficiently and Gibson wasn't used very often, she said.

"He's been helpful from time to time when Dan Bryant was tied up," Lee said. "Both work (based) on task orders that are signed (by an appropriate village official) and tracked on the expense side. We're very careful that we don't duplicate."

Physical Therapist Joins LCMC Rehabilitation Services Department

Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) is pleased to welcome Casey Kirkham, DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy), to our Rehabilitation Services Department. Casey joins three other physical therapy practitioners who together will provide a wide range of rehabilitation services - including specialized treatments for sports and orthopedics - to Lincoln County residents and visitors.

Casey received his bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah. He recently completed his doctorate of physical therapy at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. In addition to his academic experience, Casey has worked as a student physical therapist and a Physical Therapy Aide throughout Nebraska and Utah.

Casey will see patients in the LCMC Therapy Center, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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City, village continue to haggle over plant

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A regional wastewater plant budget impasse between plant owners Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs will continue.

Last month, Ruidoso Downs officials were at odds with Ruidoso's budget proposal to charge 11.5 percent of the village's administrative expenses to the treatment plant's budget. The level in the past had been 7 percent.

Wednesday added another wrinkle to the budget debate.

Ruidoso's finance director, Nancy Klingman, told the four board members at Wednesday's Joint Use Board meeting that she and the finance director for Ruidoso Downs sat down on several occasions over the village's administrative fees for the plant.

"The administrative fees that I put forward were basically just showing in the negotiations we

took off (some of the administrative fees) which means the Village of Ruidoso would pay 100 percent up to \$20,487," Klingman said. "One of the things that we have to keep in mind is that budgets are simply estimates. And so, when we do the actual administrative fees, you will be working with actual numbers."

Ruidoso Downs Finance Director Terri Mosley responded the city has administrative costs connected to the plant that warrant a credit to cover the city's expenses.

"So I had used (Public Works Director) Cleatus Richards, myself and (City Clerk) Carol Virden's salary and had put in the 15 percent credit because we're 15 percent owners, and it comes to \$39,012.36," Mosley said. "This would be giving us a credit for our portion of the employees."

Mosley said the idea of recouping some of the

city's employee costs connected to the plant had been suggested by Ruidoso Village Manager Debi Lee.

Klingman said the village would do whatever the Joint Use Board decided. Ruidoso is the fiscal agent for the sewage plant and its operation.

A motion offered by Richards and seconded by Ruidoso Downs Mayor Pro Tem Dean Holman proposed approval of the plant's 2011-2012 budget with the administrative fee formula advanced by Mosley. But the two Ruidoso members on the board, Village Councilor Angel Shaw and Utilities Director Randall Camp rejected the motion, which created a deadlocked vote and non-passage. An alternate motion was not offered.

The board had, for years, included a fifth member appointed by the Lincoln County Commission. But since

the beginning of the year there has not been a county representative. Both Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs had balked at the county's nominee.

A preliminary \$2.2 million budget had been approved in late May after the village's proposed 11.5 percent administrative fee was returned to 7 percent to provide discussion before a final budget. In June, Ruidoso returned with the 11.5 percent administrative fee in the budget resulting in a decision to continue negotiations.

The wastewater treatment plant budget proposed by Ruidoso recommends \$2.2 in expenses, compared with a projected \$1.5 million for the fiscal year that ended June 30.

A new \$36 million sewage treatment facility went on line a couple of months ago, a plant that had been predicted to cost substantially more to operate and maintain.

Downs customers take advantage of amnesty

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

Fifty water and sewer customers in Ruidoso Downs took advantage of a 45-day amnesty program that waived past due fees for delinquent municipal utility bills.

"We have decreased our current unpaid previous balance," said Terri Mosley, the city's finance director. "In May, we had \$118,237.70 (charges in arrears). In June we had \$104,469.57. And as of Friday (July 22), we had \$3,927.13. So I think this was a success."

The city council approved the amnesty program in early May. It ran from May 16 through June 30. Customers with past due amounts were urged to take advantage of the program to avoid having their water turned off and liens filed against their properties for the unpaid amount.

The city adds a 10 percent penalty to balances in arrears. During the amnesty, more than \$57,000 in penalty charges were waived. Mosley said accounts with larger past due amounts made up the bulk of those catching up. Many of the accounts that had been behind are now current.

"There were a couple that weren't and of course now we're working on filing liens on those properties. We're doing cut offs right now. We've got about 15 to 20 that we did door hangers at this time. And of course some of these are the ones that are just two months past due. We're going to stay on top of it and make sure none of them get behind as bad as these last accounts were."

A letter to delinquent utility customers had stated that the amnesty was essentially a final warning.



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18 ct., Large Grade A Shurfine Eggs
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LAW

FROM PAGE 1A

Act on July 12, 2011, by taking action on a non-emergency item which was not listed on the meeting agenda."

She enclosed copies of the official minutes from the meeting that outlined the process and included a reference by Alborn to the May 12 presentation on the agreement.

The executive session was called for three specific items falling under exemptions for limited personnel matters, attorney-client privileged communications regarding threatened or pending litigation, and the transfer of water right, Welsh wrote.

"After adjourning the closed session, Mayor Gus Raymond Alborn stated that a proposed memorandum of agreement between the village and Rio Hondo Land and Cattle Co. L.P. had been negotiated within the past 24 hours," Welsh wrote. "The Mayor stated that the village needed to take action on approval of the proposed MOA prior to a July 19 hearing."

"The council then took two votes. The first vote was to add consideration of the MOA to the agenda for the just-completed executive session. The second was to approve the

MOA itself.

"The council did not convene a new closed session to discuss the Rio Hondo MOA. Therefore, the first vote suggests that the council had already discussed the MOA in executive session. I noted that one of the properly noticed executive session items did deal with water rights, but the council did not add the Rio Hondo MOA under that legal authority. Instead, it voted to add (consideration of the MOA) to the agenda retroactively under the exemption for attorney-client privileged communication of threatened or pending litigation. The MOA discussion therefore appears to be a separate item, which was not announced prior to closure."

Welsh contended the council's action violated state law, which states that "only those subjects announced or voted upon prior to closure by the policy-making body may be discussed in a closed meeting."

She also contends that the situation surrounding the council's actions did not appear to meet the definition of an emergency as described in the Open Meetings Act, which is, "unforeseen circumstances that, if not addressed immediately by the public body, will likely result in injury or damage

to persons or property or substantial financial loss to the public body."

Welsh pointed out the council had six full days and four business days, before the hearing on the water rights applications.

By not tabling the action until a subsequent meeting, the village violated (state law) that requires, "except for emergency matters, a public body shall take action only on items appearing on the agenda," she wrote.

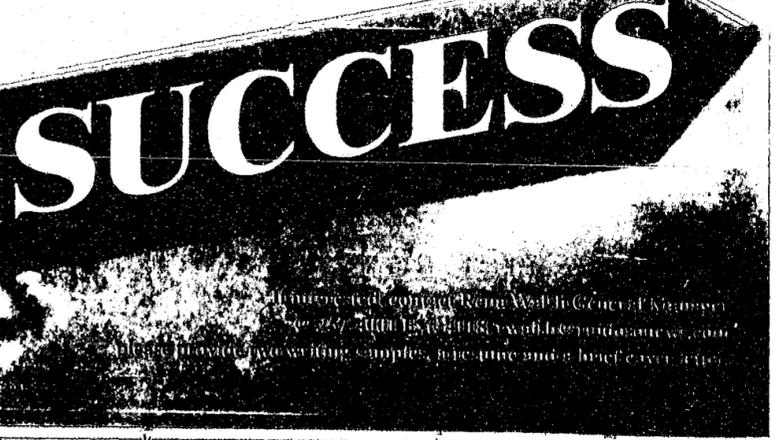
Welsh added that the council also appears to have violated its own Open Meetings Act resolution by not providing three hours notice of the vote, once councilors deemed it an emergency. She reiterated the council had plenty of time to schedule a special meeting.

Although Village Attorney Dan Bryant pointed out in a Ruidoso News article July 20, that delaying action until a subsequent meeting would have cost taxpayers dollars, Welsh wrote that added expenses, "neither elevates the situation to emergency status nor obviates the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Simply put, the citizens of Ruidoso, who were entitled to attend and listen to this vote, were denied that opportunity by the council's sudden action. Therefore, the action is invalid."

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BREAKING ON 'BADLY'



COURTESY

Delana Michaels, of Ruidoso, and Jonathan Richards, of Santa Fe, will be featured in the TV series "Breaking Bad" on AMC at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 31. They play a homeowner couple with series star Betsy Brandt, as Marie Schnader. Michaels has worked on numerous films, television, and commercial projects in New Mexico and Los Angeles. Some of her TV credits include "In Plain Sight," "Roseanne," "Murder She Wrote," "HIGHWAY to Heaven," and "The Buringing Red." Film roles include "My Family," "Lewis & Clark & George," and the award-winning movie, "Becoming Eduardo." Her commercial work includes spots for McDonalds, Disney World, Honda Accord, Quaker Oats, Cheer, and Jerky Treats.

County fire restrictions lifted after hazy commission debate

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Restrictions banning open flames in unincorporated areas of Lincoln County were rescinded Thursday by county commissioners during a special meeting in Ruidoso.

But not until Commissioner Mark Doth inadvertently convinced two commissioners to vote against the motion to rescind, and then cast his own vote in favor.

County Manager Tom Stewart said a pattern of humidity and rain is developing. The Bureau of Land Management already lifted its restrictions and the state is expected to follow today or early next week, as is the city of Ruidoso Downs.

"The U.S. Forest Service takes a little longer to lift, but after talking to several people (including County Emergency Services Manager Travis Atwell), in my opinion we can lift county restrictions," Stewart said.

"This doesn't relieve people of the responsibility of handling fire carefully."

Tom Stewart
Lincoln County manager

Notification to the sheriff's office of controlled burns still will be required, but charcoal grilling is allowed, he said.

"This doesn't relieve people of the responsibility of handling fire carefully," he said.

Commissioner Kathryn Minter offered a motion to rescind the fire restrictions. Doth shifted nervously in his chair and said, "It's still dry and very spotty, extremely spotty."

"But it's greening up and that will help," Minter said.

"It's bone dry in my area," Doth replied.

Commissioner Tom Battin asked Stewart how much hardship would

result if a vote was delayed until the commission's regular meeting in mid-August. Stewart responded that he thought people realize how dangerous the situation remains for wildfires and it wouldn't be a problem.

Battin said he also observed dry spots in subdivisions, the forest and grasslands. "I kind of prefer to stay with the Forest Service," he said. Battin suggested holding off on rescinding and placing the item on the Aug. 16 agenda.

Commission Chairman Eileen Sedillo called for a vote on Minter's motion and it passed 3-2 with Battin and Sedillo voting against.

"Did you understand the motion?" Sedillo asked Doth, who looked a little sheepish.

"Did you think I was going to vote no?" he asked. "It was just an observation."

"Well, you inspired me (to vote no)," Battin said.

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RUIDOSO NEWS HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

PAGE 10A

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FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2011

Shelter News

By the Lincoln County Humane Society

One of the most heart-warming stories coming out of the Humane Society lately is about a puppy named Jonah.

Jonah came to us in early February. He was one of the most well-adjusted, socialized puppies we've had in a long time.

We just couldn't figure out why he had been overlooked by prospective owners time and time again.

He was on posters all over town, on the radio, and on the Pet Page in the Ruidoso News. People knew and liked him at the dog park.

Recently, we put his photo and a write-up in Shelter News. The response was overwhelming.

Three parties called to ask about him and he was adopted by a wonderful couple with land and other dogs.

It was worth the wait!

We have an abundance of cute little kittens.

As an inducement to adoptions, we are offering kittens and cats at the reduced adoption fee of \$10 through Labor Day.

Adopted animals have all their shots, are spayed or neutered and receive a microchip when they are adopted.

We have a number of dogs that appear to be separated from their owners.

We are the only animal shelter in Lincoln County, so we would think that dog owners who have missing dogs would contact us first.

Our number at the shelter is (575) 257-9841.

We continue to need volunteers at the shelter, spay and neuter center, resale shop and the executive director's office.

Volunteers need not commit to long hours; we will be happy to have volunteers if only for an afternoon a week.



SYLVIE

Call (575) 257-9841 to volunteer at the shelter or spay and neuter center, (575) 378-1040 for the resale shop and (575) 378-1039 for the office of the executive director's office.

Our featured animal today is Sylvie, a sweet little kitten.

Sylvie's mother was found when she was very pregnant and homeless. Her finders were kind enough to keep her until her kittens were old enough to be on their own.

Now, Sylvie and her littermates are three months old and more than ready to be adopted.

Since she has been around people from the day she was born, Sylvie is very affectionate and social.

She has medium length hair and the cutest curly whiskers!

Investing in hospitality's future

Sage advice from Roy Rost

For locals who live and work in the Ruidoso area, amid fire dangers, water shortages, and local political squabbles, it's easy to lose sight of the incredible recreational potential of the region. Few would deny there is untapped potential in our quaint mountain resort area, but Roy Rost, with a sparkle in his eye, excitement in his voice, and a career that makes him uniquely qualified, is anxious to bring something special to the mix.

Rost's first job was plowing fields in Oklahoma, but after his family moved to Vegas, he started a long career in the hospitality and tourism industry. In high school, he worked at the Maxim Hotel/Casino, then one of the most popular hotel/casinos in Vegas. As a junior, he worked a 40-hour week as a dishwasher; as a senior, he was promoted to kitchen steward.

After graduation, he was called into the executive manager's office and told that the company wanted to invest in his career development. He was sent to Chef School at San Francisco City College, where he trained in baking and pastry arts. He returned to the Maxim and worked as a baker and pastry chef for six years.

Eager to learn other

facets of the hotel/casino business, he transferred to the hard count room, where he learned gaming rules, how slot machines work, and about hotel/casino management.

Rost earned a bachelor's degree in education from UNLV with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation, since Las Vegas was (and is) a recreation empire. He earned a master's degree in therapeutic recreation from the University of Utah, later working in a psychiatric hospital helping rehabilitate trauma victims.

Returning to Vegas, Rost worked for the city as an outreach coordinator, developing activities, play grounds, and other facilities for the disabled. He also developed programs for victims of brain trauma.

Rost has dabbled in various other activities along his life's journey, including teaching leadership workshops, publishing feature articles in outdoor magazines, and starting several 501c organizations for disabled sports events. He also started the Battleborn Fencing Club, which enabled kids to travel to engage in their sport.

Not the least of his abilities is that of businessman, having built a successful gourmet coffee business in Las Vegas. The first day his shop was open, Rost notes with a laugh that he earned \$86. Within six years, he had expanded to two stores and dozens of employees, and had turned his gourmet coffee shops into a million-dollar-a-year business. However, with the economic nose dive of the last decade, business gradually declined and Rost's coffee shops succumbed.

That change brought Roy and his wife Amber to Ruidoso, where they are hard at work remodeling a house where they live with their twin two-year-olds, Lorelei and Juliet.

Asked why Roy chose Ruidoso, he says that after visiting the area, he realized it was "an undeveloped gold mine of recreational opportunities." His vision is to augment the tourism industry by developing unique recreational activities, such as cycle road races, century bicycle rides into Mexico, and even lumberjacking competitions. Roy also plans to develop a website for Ruidoso which

focuses specifically on local recreation and outdoor venues.

The move is a wise one for Roy, now an experienced businessman and hospitality industry expert, who punctuates this observation with a knowing smile: "The service industry is the only growing industry in the United States. We spend more on our recreational pursuits than anything else."

This fall, Roy will be teaching two online hospitality and tourism courses for ENMU Ruidoso: Introduction to Hospitality & Tourism and Resort Management. In the Intro course, students will learn about restaurants, convention centers, hotels, and specialty venues, such as dude ranches. In the Resort Management course, students will learn the history of the resort phenomena, the process of resort development, as well as various aspects of hotel and resort management, accounting, marketing, food planning, housekeeping, etc.

Rost's teaching philosophy is that students need to be excited about what they are learning. In today's hospitality field, "if employees are just doing day-to-day work, then they'll just produce a day-to-day product." Roy believes that hospitality personnel need to understand why they do each and every thing that they do.

For example, before his coffee shop workers could serve a single cup of espresso, they had to complete a two-month training, learning every detail of the business, from the history of coffee to the repair of every piece of equipment in the store. Putting this emphasis on knowledge and understanding, Rost says, improved his turnover rate, and it gave his employees a sense of pride in their work. He plans to use the same approach with his students at ENMU Ruidoso. "If they know why they are doing a thing, they develop a sense of ownership."

Rost also believes in investing in those around him, whether employees or students, the way his first executive chef at the Maxim invested in him. Ruidoso and our local college students are lucky indeed to have Rost investing in the future of hospitality.

For more information about these and other courses at ENMU Ruidoso this fall, contact the college at 575-257-2120, or drop by 709 Mechem. The fall semester starts on August 24 and registration is going on now.



Anne Wilson
Twito



Pecos Cantaloupe

The Pecos area of West Texas began irrigation and cultivation of cantaloupe in the early 1900's. By 1913, Pecos cantaloupes were famous for their sweetness and overall flavor. The term "Pecos cantaloupe" would be promoted in the public consciousness to a level similar to "Swiss cheese" and "Maine lobster". So when you walk through the doors at your Lawrence Brothers IGA the first thing you notice is the smell of the Pecos cantaloupe.



Cantaloupe, Prosciutto and Arugula Salad with Champagne Vinaigrette

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup champagne vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh herbs, such as basil, chives and parsley
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
- 10 ounces fresh arugula, washed and spun dry
- 1 cup roughly chopped toasted Marcona almonds, or other almonds with skin removed
- 1 tablespoon minced shallot
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 cantaloupe, peeled seeded and cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 8 thin slices prosciutto, cut into thin strips

Directions

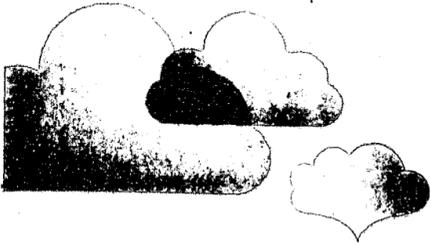
In a mixing bowl combine the vinegar, shallot, garlic, mustard, salt and pepper and whisk to combine. Combine the vegetable oil and olive oil in a measuring cup. While continuously whisking the vinegar mixture, add the oil in a slow, steady stream, until completely emulsified. Whisk in the fresh herbs and set aside as you prepare the salad. In a large bowl, combine the cantaloupe, red onion, prosciutto, arugula and almonds. Drizzle with 1/2 cup of the vinaigrette and season lightly with salt and pepper. Toss gently to combine; all ingredients should be well coated with the vinaigrette. Serve immediately.



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BRIEFS

Auction aid

Steve and Peggy Miller lost their Hondo area home and their possessions during the month ago Donaldson Complex Fire. Artists Michael Hurd, Dee Westcott, Irby Brown and John Kiker have donated paintings to be auctioned to raise money for the Millers.

The paintings are on display at Compass Bank, 1710 Sudderth Drive in Ruidoso. The silent auction bidding will close Friday, at 5 p.m. Aug. 5. Bid sheets are with each painting. Donations are also being accepted.

"This is a great opportunity to get a painting you will enjoy while benefiting the Millers who very much need your help," the artists said.

Village postpones move to refinance debt

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

Two public hearings scheduled for a Tuesday Ruidoso Village Council meeting were canceled, resulting in a substantially shorter session for councilors.

The first dealt with refinancing of a portion of the village's long-term debt, but Village Manager Debi Lee said until the village officially has caught up with its audit submissions to the state, financing entities will not consider bond issues or loans. The village also is not eligible for some grants until caught up.

Two audits were performed this year in an effort to bring the village back into compliance after lag-

ging behind since about 2006, when a special state audit followed by several changes in finance directors threw the village off its stride. Lee joined the village in June 2009 and has been trying to catch up, something she expects to see before the end of the calendar year with the filing of the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 audit, she said.

Councilor Jim Stoddard asked Lee if the council could take action on the refinancing or would have to postpone until the full FY 2009-2010 audit is returned by the State Auditor and released to the public.

Lee said the refinancing already was postponed once in the hope that the audit would be back by Tuesday, "But because of the exten-

sive findings it will be another couple of weeks," she told the councilor. "The financing for the bonds can't move forward without completed audits. They are aware of the contents. Based on our meeting Friday with the State Auditor's staff, we are comfortable the audit will be back in time for our Sept. 7 meeting."

To speed up its public release, the village requested a waiver from the state of the usual five-day waiting period after an audit with village responses and state observations reaches

the desk of the village clerk.

"We want it to be released to the public as early as possible," Lee said. "We have a clear plan for action and some of the findings already were corrected, but we recognize we're another year out (from cleaning up all of the findings mentioned).

Councilors as the village board of finance have taken an active role in all aspects of the effort to bring the village into good standing, Lee said. In a meeting July 22, officials with the State Auditor's office were supportive of the progress made by the village, she said.

By Dec. 1, the village should be able to submit the last audit due and be considered back in good stand-

ing, Lee said.

Mayor Ray Alborn said when Lee and Village Finance Director Nancy Klingman began speaking at the meeting in Santa Fe, state officials listened. "They said it was nice village representatives came to see them, instead of them having to hunt down someone," he said.

In the second public hearing, without discussion, councilors removed it from the agenda. The hearing was scheduled to take action on a proposed ordinance amendment that would have authorized the village to shut off water service for nonpayment of utility bills or for failure of a lodgers tax vendor to comply with an audit request.

Village residents air out grievances, criticism at council meeting

DIANNE STALLINGS
dstallings@ruidosonews.com

In one relatively brief Ruidoso Village Council meeting Tuesday, one resident called for a citizens review board to be formed, another asked for the mayor's resignation and an encounter over a weapon occurred between the police chief and a former candidate for magistrate judge.

And the moon wasn't even full. The first flurry transpired in the back of the council chamber at village hall when Tony Seno, well-known for his role in the local Libertarian movement and for his multiple unsuccessful runs for public office, including a judgeship, stood up to take his turn at the podium during the public forum portion of the council meeting.

He was stopped by Police Chief Joe Magill.

Seno said Wednesday, "I was disarmed by force. I came home and immediately documented everything. They held my Second Amendment rights hostage so I could express my First Amendment rights to free speech."

Contacted Thursday, Chief Magill said he had no comment on what transpired.

The village council has no ordinance banning weapons in the council chambers or village hall, Village Clerk Irma Devine confirmed.

A proposed ordinance amendment that would have imposed a ban was considered on April 30, 2002, and Seno and a few others spoke against it. The amendment failed to pass in a 2-3 vote with one

councilor absent, Devine said.

Arriving at the podium Tuesday after surrendering his weapon, Seno laid down his hat and asked if the village had any ordinance against wearing hats while speaking, a situation over which he ended up successfully suing the Lincoln County Commission several years ago.

"I'm up here as a citizen, because I'm frightened," he said. "I read in the paper about cops impersonating generals and the council violating the Open Meetings Act, so I am lobbying you to start a civilian review board."

The request became more personal as he continued speaking during his three-minute limit at the microphone.

"Two weeks ago, code enforcement knocked on my door because

I had a sprinkler on," he said. "I have a private well, but no sign (as required by village ordinance to let people know a private well is being pumped for a lawn, not the municipal water supply). I asked code enforcement to write a citation and I asked for a trial."

But his citation was dismissed by the judge, Seno said.

"Nobody is off the hook here," he said. "The ordinance is not properly written."

He later added, "How can they ask me to advertise for them, if they can't regulate private wells," which are to be left completely out of the regulations, he contended.

"Let's restore trust in government," Seno told councilors Tuesday. "Let's get a citizen review board. Isn't this how government works? I'm lobbying you and you

make sure bureaucrats get the job done."

Next came Anthony Pride, who has been at odds with the Ruidoso School Board over some issues. This time, he zeroed in on the police department and Mayor Ray Alborn, who had cautioned before the public forum segment began that criticism of municipal employees is not allowed during presentations to the council.

Pride apparently disagreed with the handling of a call to dispatch in which he was involved and accused the department of destroying evidence and being corrupt.

"I believe you're crossing the line of criticism of employees," Councilor Rafael Salas interrupted as Pride was speaking. "Make an appointment to meet with (Village Manager) Debi Lee."

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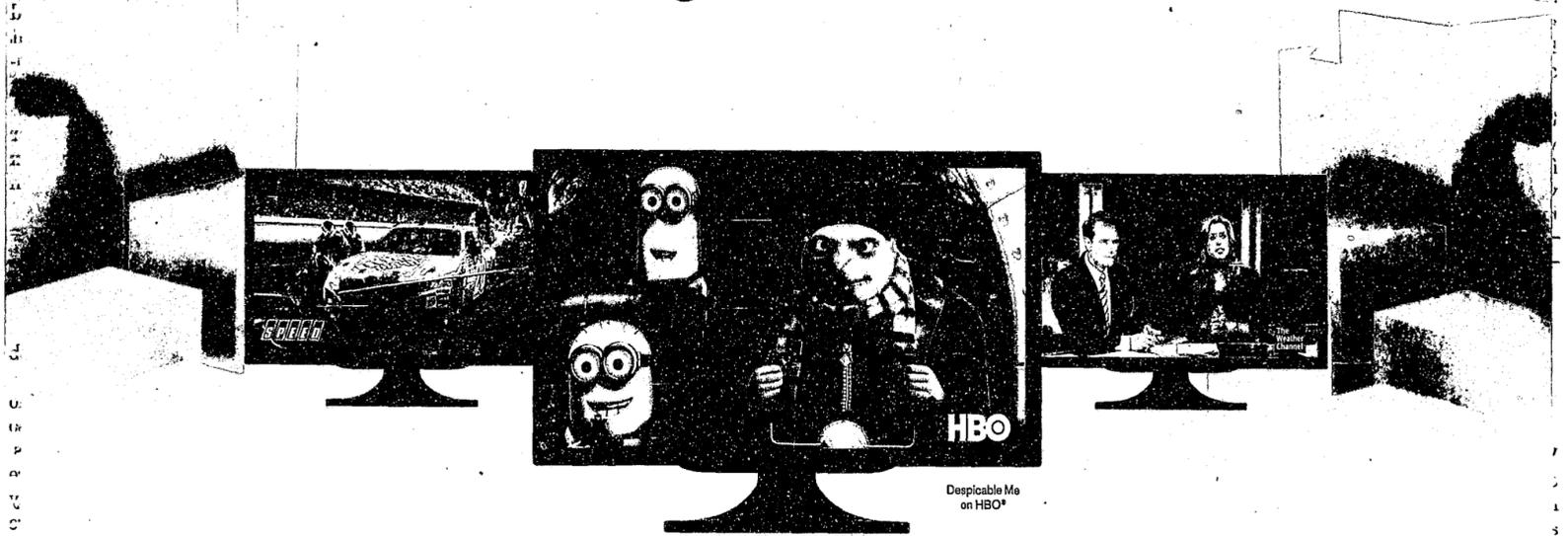
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ADSTUC
RUIDOSO

Acequia group fails to make case before state Appeals court

JIM KALVELAGE
jkalvelage@ruidosonews.com

A Ruidoso Valley community-operated acequia group that challenged a water rights transfer, has been blocked by split decision from New Mexico's Court of Appeals.

In December 2004, the estate of Alfred McTeigue and the City of Ruidoso Downs filed an application with the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer to transfer 32-acre feet of the estate's water rights from the acequia to the city.

More than two years beyond the period for responding, the acequia community Storm Ditch filed a protest. A hearing officer in the Office of State Engineer denied

Storm Ditch a hearing, contending the acequia's commissioners filed their objection too late.

The case was appealed to the District Court for Lincoln County where the case was dismissed on a determination that Storm Ditch had failed to file a timely protest.

The arguments were renewed before the appeals court.

Storm Ditch claimed that it was entitled to an actual notice of the proposed transfer of water rights from the acequia. Asserting that it did not receive proper notice, the acequia group contended it was not required to file its protest by Jan. 23, 2005, a deadline calculated using state statute.

The application notice

Storm Ditch lost in a 2-to-1 vote before the New Mexico Court of Appeals regarding a water rights transfer case.

was published three times in a local newspaper and a friend of a Storm Ditch commissioner informed the commission by telephone of the application four days before the deadline for filing protests, court documents indicated.

The Appeals Court concluded that Storm Ditch waived a right to present their case before a hearing examiner in Office of State Engineer because of their delayed protest.

The acequia community also noted that the city and estate were required to include with their application to the state an affidavit from Storm Ditch indicating that the acequia had not adopted requirements for applicants seeking acequia water transfers.

More than two years after the city and estate filed their application, the applicants became aware of the need for the affidavit and approached Storm Ditch for the legal document.

Storm Ditch refused to provide it and instead filed to intervene in the application process.

The acequia group argued the applicant's failure to seek an affidavit at the proper time should

have prompted the Office of State Engineer to dismiss the application. Storm Ditch maintained that if the application had been rejected and the city and estate told to obtain the affidavit, Storm Ditch would have received actual notice and could have filed a timely protest.

"We are not persuaded," the Appeals Court decision stated. "As noted by the hearing examiner when he rejected Storm Ditch's motion to intervene, that regulation was not in effect at the time the applicants submitted the application or when notice of the application was published in a local newspaper. Therefore, that regulation does not apply in this case."

One of the three appel-

late judges that reviewed the case, Judge Timothy Garcia, disagreed. In his dissent, Garcia said the applicable law used the mandatory language "shall" in regard to the need for the affidavit from the commissioners of an acequia.

"Because the applicants failed to submit the required affidavit with their original application, the mandatory language required the application to be rejected by the State Engineer and returned to the applicants for correction and refiling," Garcia said. "As a result, I would have reversed and remanded the approval of the application and required the applicants to re-file a new application with the State Engineer."

good **questions**
deserve
good **answers**

Soon, the N.M. Public Regulation Commission will make a final decision on an agreement to increase electric rates. The negotiated agreement was signed on Feb. 3 by several groups that represent consumer interests, including the N.M. Attorney General's office, the N.M. Industrial Energy Consumers and the N.M. PRC Staff. Our customers have asked us questions and deserve clear answers.

Our rates have gone down 6 straight years. Why does PNM need a rate increase now?

No one likes rate increases, and we don't like asking for them, but our residential and business customers expect and deserve power that's always there when they need it. And, although your rates will still be lower than they were in 2005, this increase pays for improvements we made in response to growing demand for electricity. Our power plant investments will help keep low-cost sources of power serving customers efficiently for years to come. In 2010 and 2011, PNM will have spent more than \$500 million dollars to improve your electricity system. That's important to current customers and to our state's ability to attract new businesses.

Are there other fees customers will have to pay in addition to rates?

There is already a fee customers pay on top of rates to fund rebates and other programs to encourage energy savings. Customers in the Alamogordo, Ruidoso and Silver City areas will see two new fees as a result of this rate case. One is a return of the fuel clause line item on your bill. The other is a temporary transition charge. PNM's rate proposal would put a cap on existing fees for energy efficiency and fuel adjustments. It's a way to protect customers. Currently, electric rates are different for customers in former TNMP communities than other PNM service areas. This new charge is an initial step toward consolidation of the two service territories. New fees are expected in the future for state-mandated renewable energy and for more system improvements. One expected new fee would fund renewable energy like solar and wind to meet state rules, and the other would pay for additional improvements to the PNM system that aren't included in the current rate proposal.

How will this rate change affect me personally?

Directly as a result of this rate increase, the average monthly residential bill will increase about \$6 this year and another \$4 in 2012. Our energy efficiency programs can help you reduce, or even eliminate, these increases without affecting your lifestyle. See suggestions at PNM.com/save. The fees mentioned above, if they reached the customer protection limits that have been set, would add a maximum of an extra \$3.98 per month by 2013.

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If you have questions and want good answers, go to PNM.com/answers

Lightning strikes Alto home

Lightning struck a home on Buena Vista Drive in Alto Wednesday evening, sparking a fire in the attic.

The residents of the home were able to call 911 and get everyone out of the house, said Kathryn Minter of the Bonito Volunteer Fire Department.

The Bonito Fire Department responded to the call at 7:20 p.m. with four units and 15 firefighters and extinguished the fire, which caused minimal damage to the attic and the ceiling in one room on the second floor of the home.

The firefighters were released from the scene by 9:30 p.m.

No one was injured in the incident.

— From reports

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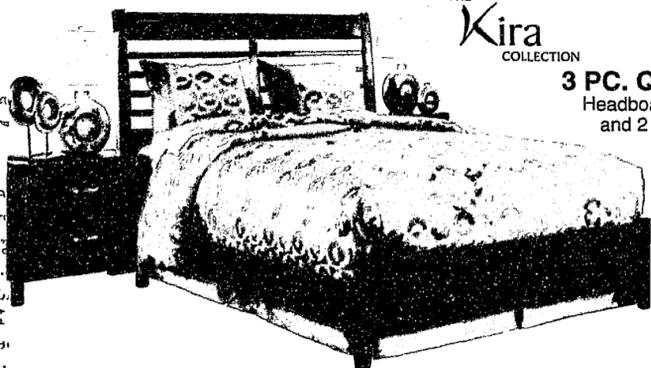
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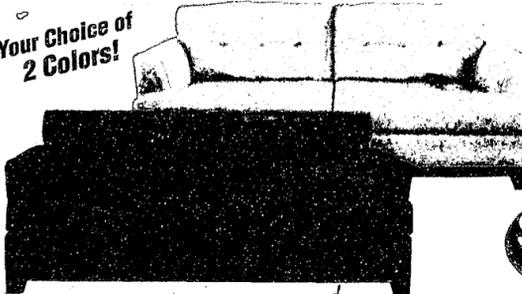


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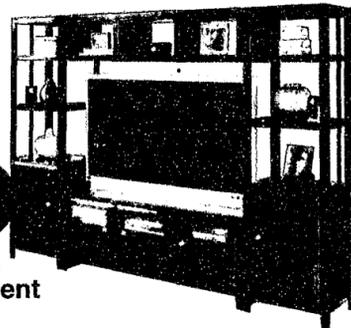
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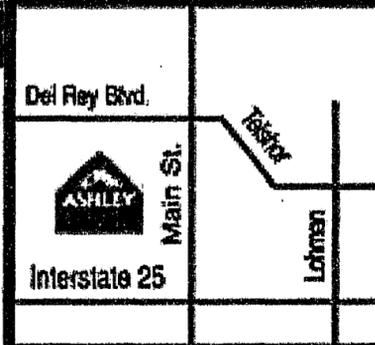


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COLORADO STYLE HOME - NEW CONSTRUCTION Wood & stone exterior, 4 bed, 4 1/2 bath, Siberian Oak floors, Alderwood doors, trex decking, stainless appliances, granite counter tops, 3 FP's, open kitchen, game room, office & workout rm. ALG&CC & Outlaw m'ships. \$699,500. #109497



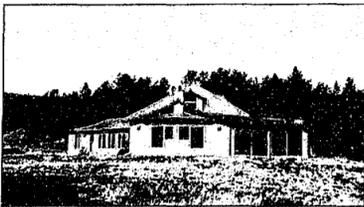
COMMERCIAL-LARGE SQ FT FOR THE PRICE. Great location, right before Upper Canyon. New heating & A/C system installed '02, remodeled offices, large parking & overhead door delivery area. At the Upper Canyon circle! Owner/Broker. \$499,900. #103420



FANTASTIC COMMERCIAL LOCATION Almost an acre w/175 feet Sudderth Dr frontage looking at the beautiful River Crossing complex. Some mountain views. Owner finance or trade. Lots of possibilities. \$470,000. #108403



DEER PARK WOODS HOME Beautiful remodeled home on a corner lot, 4 bd, 4 baths, large rock fireplace w/cathedral ceilings, large windows to view Sierra Blanca. Stainless steel appliances in updated kitchen, wood floors. Golf membership. \$459,000. #106237



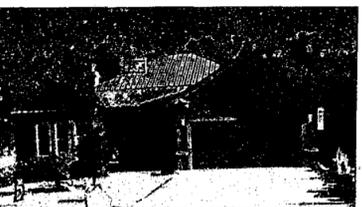
CLASSIC NEW MEXICO SETTING is the backdrop for this energy efficient, contemporary chalet. Very, very private location on the Bonito River w/views & sun in all directions. Year round spring, almost all 1 level, RV hook-ups too! \$429,900. #108266



PRICE REDUCED! ALTO - SIERRA BLANCA VIEW - Great 3/3, open floor plan, split bedrooms, vaulted living room - dining & kitchen area. Hickory cabinets, solid core doors. Bonus media-office-family room-private deck oversized garage. Level access. Lots of storage. \$349,900. #106476



LOVELY CUSTOM SANTA FE STYLE HOME On over an acre. Gourmet kitchen with granite counter tops & double ovens. Covered patio in back with fireplace & courtyard in front invite you to enjoy the outdoors & beautiful views. \$339,000. #109504



IMMACULATE 1 LEVEL IN WHITE MT MEADOWS Like new stuccoed home backing up to wooded view. All one level, paved, sunny access, city utilities. Split floor plan & classy xeriscape landscaping. Priced to sell! \$298,500. #108672



ATTRACTIVE MOUNTAIN HOME On quiet cul-de-sac, 2100 sq ft, 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath home w/ excellent views of Sierra Blanca. Great home at an affordable price. \$249,900. #108764



FABULOUS LARGE HOME ON LARGE LOT And look at this price - \$83 per sq ft. Almost no maintenance. Super nightly rental history on this 4 bedroom + 3 bath home. Jacuzzi, tall pines, ez access, 2 kitchens, all on 1.4+ acres. Priced firm. \$249,000. #109495



GRAND MOUNTAIN CABIN WITH A BIG VIEW There is plenty of room for everyone in this 4 bed, 3 bath home. Sit by the fire & read or play pool in the game room. Furnishings available outside of home sale. \$235,000. #108250



LOVELY ONE LEVEL @ ALTO - SUPER PRICE! Full golf membership = 2 courses - 36 holes. Level access land & 1 level home, south windows provide sunny local & views - sw colors - neat floor plan for great gatherings - 2 decks + studio/sun room. \$217,500. #107674

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NEW CONSTRUCTION: 3 Bed, 2 bath on large lot with huge Sierra Blanca views, tall pines, lots of wood accents; large covered/uncovered decks/ SS appliances, nice cabinets & tile tops, tile tub surrounds, wood floors & ceilings. \$199,900 #108548



MOUNTAIN FEEL From exposed rafters to wood paneling in living area. Clean & updated. Extra large master Br w/an open feeling porch. Covered deck for entertaining. Downstairs game room. Close to town, but in a lovely wooded area. \$199,900. #108762



ENJOY THE PRIVACY & SECLUSION FROM COVERED DECK in this quiet forested area. Cute 3 bedroom, 2 bath home w/2 living areas & bonus loft upstairs. Features include wood stove, vaulted ceilings & hardwood floors in living room. Home is freshly painted & move-in ready. \$179,000. #109479



JUST REMODELED Great location in Ruidoso. 2240 sq ft, new paint throughout. Complete master bath & kitchen remodel, new covered redwood deck for privacy. Refrigerated air. Reverse osmosis, water softener, all appliances included. \$169,900. #105397



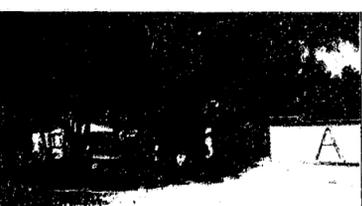
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GORGEOUS SOUTHWEST REMODEL 1 Level - all tile & wood floors - professionally remodeled - new roof - custom window treatments - sw colors - new light fixtures - improved kitchen - skylights. Fabulous get-away in Alto Mountain Village. \$159,500. #107714



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REMODELED & REFORMED MFG MOUNTAIN HOME Almost everything is new - sinks, fixtures, carpet, paint, lighting - you name it. Great entertainer's deck w/hot tub & privacy. \$129,900. #108446



SINGLE LEVEL CABIN Nice big lot, but needs a little work. 3 Bd, 2 Ba w/freestanding fireplace. Great buy for the money. \$115,000. #109283



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SPORTS

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PAGE 1B

Zia Festival weekend again

Ruidoso Downs Race Track holds 10 stakes races along with annual local event

TY WYANT
For the Ruidoso News

Joe Allen and Michael Stinson's Fullofenergy tries for an unprecedented fifth-straight win in the \$50,000 Land Of Enchantment Handicap to highlight the Zia Festival racing program on Sunday afternoon at Ruidoso Downs.

The Zia Festival is dedicated to New Mexico-bred racing with 10 stakes races for state-breds and total purses reaching \$1,110,839.

Other races offer higher purses, yet the focus will be on the Land Of Enchantment and Fullofenergy's attempt for his fifth-straight victory in the seven-

and-one-half furlong race.

A year ago in the Land of Enchantment, Fullofenergy raced just off the pace and then rallied to win by one-and-one-half lengths.

That was a shortest winning margin from his four wins in the Land Of Enchantment. He won by five-and-one-half lengths in both 2007 and 2009.

Trainer Joel Marr brings the eight-year-old Fullofenergy up to the Land of Enchantment off a nearly 11-month layoff. The Desert God gelding has worked six times at Ruidoso Downs since May 18 preparing for the Land Of Enchantment.

Freda McSwain and Joe Walter's Train Rider Blues



COURTESY RUIDOSO DOWNS RACE TRACK

Fullofenergy wins last year's \$50,000 Land Of Enchantment Stakes race with Carlos Madeira aboard.

faces Fullofenergy in the Land Of Enchantment and he is after his third-straight win of Zia Festival Day. Two years ago, he won the Rio

Grande Senor Futurity and last year he won the Road Runner Handicap for trainer Terry Walker.

The Land of Enchant-

ment is the 10th race with Carlos Madeira aboard Fullofenergy with the 10th post position and Juan Ochoa aboard Train Rider

Blues with the eighth post position.

The richest Zia Festival

See ZIA, page 2B

side line

Results

Pro Baseball
Wednesday, July 27
Osos 12, Roswell 4

Sports On Tap

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

On Deck

LC Little League Football
Registration for Lincoln County Little League will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at A Secure Indoor Self Storage (200 Resort Dr.) and again, Monday, Aug. 22, 5-7:30 p.m. Minors players, seven through nine-years-old and majors players 10 through 12-years-old are encouraged to register. Age deadline is Sept. 1, 2011. Fee is \$85. All players that did not play in 2010 must bring proof of age. There will be no late registrations.

RUIDOSO OSOS HOLD KIDS CAMP



MICHAEL FRIBERG/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Pitcher Erick Campos shows Erik Guerrero the correct mechanics of pitching.



MICHAEL FRIBERG/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

The Ruidoso Osos held a baseball camp for kids Monday and Tuesday. At least 52 young baseball players attended the two day instructional clinic covering fielding, hitting, pitching and catching. All participants received T-shirts and tickets to the next home game. "The kids and the players all had a good time," Ruidoso Osos General Manager Billy Page said.

Cree Uprising Golf Tournament

NEWS REPORT
For the Ruidoso News

The Cree Meadows Ladies Association hosted the 23rd Annual Cree Uprising Golf Tournament at Cree Meadows Country Club on July 5-7.

This is a two-lady partnership tournament with a shamble played the first day and a best ball the second day. The field had 48 teams from all around the region making up four flights of competition: Championship, first, second, and third.

The winners in each flight were as follows:

Third flight — Third Net, Bobbie Riddle and Kay Baker (132); Third Gross, Earlene Neeley and Jerry Betty (174); Second Net, Gerry and Gert Krettek (129); Second Gross, Martha Cowart and Maxine Bishop (168); First Net, Patsy Smith and Dana Larson (121); and First Gross, Casteel Martell and Beth Buchanan (166).

Second Flight — Third Net, Anna Martinez and

See CREE, page 2B



COURTESY

The winners were, from left, Marita Hynes and Carole Wall winners of Low Net over the Field and Kay Doss and Sherri Chandler winners of Low Gross over the Field.

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Tip of the Week:

Often a potential seller's first question is: At what price should we list our house? Instead, the first question should be: What should the house sell for? First consider real comparable sales, current competition, market time, price range activity, negotiating percentage, and proper "slotting". Thus, an accurate list price can be determined.

-Joseph A. Zagone

See some of CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate's listings on the back page of section A TODAY!

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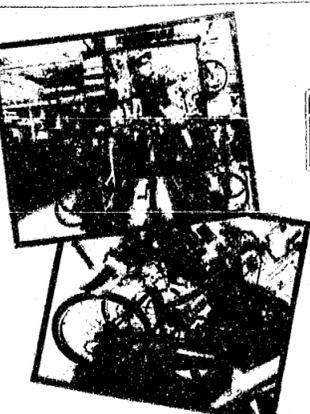
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ZIA

FROM PAGE 1B

race is the Grade 1, \$383,030 Zia Futurity, the ninth race, for quarter horses and trainer Paul Jones has the two fastest qualifiers - Erasmus B Dragon and First Blazin Love.

Also bred and owned by Jones, Erasmus B Dragon won his Zia Futurity trial by more than two lengths with the fastest-qualifying time of :19.519 for 400 yards.

First Blazin Love won his maiden in his first start on June 3 and then rolled to a two-length win in his Zia Futurity trial with the second-fastest time of :19.546.

In the \$156,290 Rio Grande Senorita Futurity for two-year-old female thoroughbreds, Our Flying Angel tries to back up a stunning career debut in her Senorita trial when she won by more than 11 lengths.

In the \$149,250 Rio Grande Senor Futurity for two-year-old male thorough-



FILE PHOTO

The Zia Festival is always one of the biggest weekends at Ruidoso Downs Race Track.

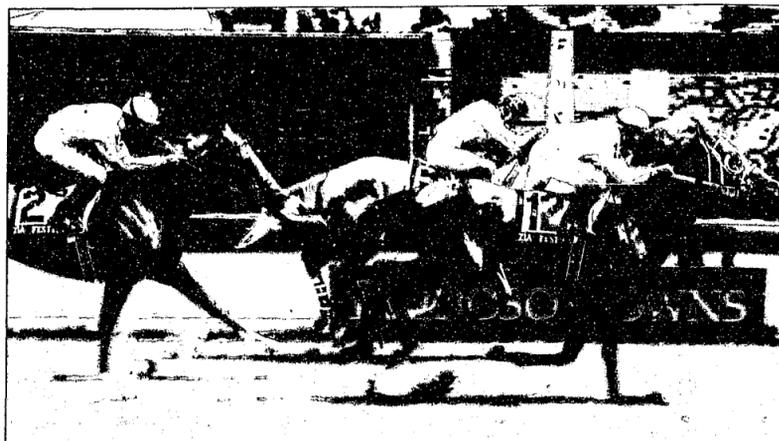
breeds, Who Left Who and Boy Ego each won their trials in their first starts. Who Left Who set all the pace to win by nearly three lengths while Boy Ego pushed the early leader and went on to win by a neck.

In the Grade 2, \$121,219 Zia Derby at 400 yards, Viva La Moon won his trial by a neck for his first win in more than 10 months. His time of :19.622 was the fastest time

from three trials.

In the \$50,000 Road Runner Handicap for three-year-olds at five-and-one-half furlongs, Mostly Dust comes off a gate to wire win in the Norgor Derby and Attitude E Racer returns from a front-running victory in the Dine Stakes at SunRay Park.

In the \$50,000 Lincoln Handicap for fillies and mares at six furlongs,



COURTESY RUIDOSO DOWNS RACE TRACK

Train Rider Blues rolls through the stretch to capture last year's \$50,000 Road Runner Handicap.

Soaring Goddess is in sharp form with two wins this summer at Ruidoso Downs. The four-year-old has finished in the top three runners in five of six 2011 starts.

In the \$50,000 Sierra Starlet for three-year-old fillies at five-and-one-half furlongs, Comicsperfection returns to racing for the first time since winning last year's Rio Grande Senorita Futurity. She won three of

four starts before her year-long layoff.

In the 400-yard, \$50,000 Zia Handicap, Fredda Draper's Jenuine Joy makes her first appearance at Ruidoso Downs since a maiden race in 2008.

The Carl Draper-trained mare has won seven of 10 starts and has stakes wins this year in the Mesilla Speed Handicap and the Tommy "Duke" Smith

Stakes from three starts.

In the \$50,000 Zia 870 Championship, Rogelio Carrasco's BRT Opulence carries high weight of 125 pounds after winning the New Mexico Horse Breeders 870 Handicap in his most recent start.

He also rallied from a striking position to win last year's Zia 870 Championship by more than one length at 3-1 odds.

CREE

FROM PAGE 1B

Marty DiSanto (126); Third Gross, Charlene Atkinson and Lovella Williams (163); Second Net, Sennie Rhoades and Judy Smith (124); Second Gross, Pam Skar and Holly Roberts (160); First Net, Cheryl Knobel and Wy Haragan (123) and First Gross, Sherron Carroll and Sue Bishop (158).

First Flight - Third Net, Mary Salopez and Mary Parra (128); Third Gross, Kay Allen and

Barbara Gossage (158); Second Net, Linda McKinley and Judy Walsh (126); Second Gross, Lynne Blackman and Linda Emerson (153); First Net, Karin Brown and Georgia Rink (122); and First Gross, Lauren Zelt and Margot de Alba (146).

Championship Flight - Third Net, Pat Wylie and Barbara Lumley (130); Third Gross, Sandy Bynum and Joan Daniels (149); Second Net, Pam Hirsch and Aurora Arrambide (130); Second Gross, Kim Lagasse and Linda Russell (149); First Net, Gathel Young and Jane Spruiell

(126); and First Gross, Raydene Drennan and Karen Wells.

Low Net over the field was won by Marita Hynes, Cree Meadows Country Club and Carole Wall, Alto Lakes Golf and Country Club (120). Low Gross over the field was won, for the second year in a row, by Kay Doss, Riverside Country Club in Carlsbad and Sherri Chandler, Lake Carlsbad Country Club (129).

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to all participants.

Congratulations also to Cheryl Knobel for a hole-in-

one on the second day of the tournament on hole No. 4 at Cree Meadows Country Club. The yardage is about 134 yards and she said she used a 6 hybrid to get it high up and down and it rolled right into the hole.

The Cree Meadows Ladies Association would like to thank the many sponsors that with their support made the tournament a huge success: Carter Resort Services, City Bank New Mexico, Earlene Neeley, Cheryl Henson, Sonic - America's Drive-In, E J Signs, and Cindy Sanchez. There were also many individuals

and businesses who were hole sponsors and donors: H&R Block, Cree Meadows MGA, Sherrin Evans, Ken and Cheryl Knobel, Max and Ann Cowan, Hal and Jerry Betty, Jim Walker and Mary Kay Nanz, Shuttle Ruidoso, Tom and Pat Riffle, Mountainair Cabins, Noisy Water Lodge, Lucy's Mexicali Restaurant, Sharon Heaton and Anna Martinez, Wy Haragan and Emmett Hatch, Jane Hoover, Marita Hynes, Marty DiSanto, Betty Blair, Martha Cowart, Mary Lou Whiteley, AnnaBelle Sears, and

Evaleene Dunn.

There was also huge support from various individuals and businesses who donated raffle gifts and we certainly want to thank them: Cree Meadows golf shop; Rebekah's; Alto Lakes Golf and Country Club; Rainmakers golf Club; The Linksat Sierra Blanca; The Finish Line Gift Shop at Ruidoso Downs Racetrack; Snidow Studios; Kokopelli Country Club; Inn of the Mountain Gods; Spencer Theater; Village Ace Hardware; Cindy Sanchez; and Cree Meadows Ladies Association.

Dr. Loren K. Spencer Joins Alamogordo Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

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Loren K. Spencer, D.P.M. to Alamogordo. Dr. Spencer was born and raised in Mesa, Arizona. He received his Medical School training at Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona. He completed his three-year surgical residency at Scripps Mercy Hospital and Trauma Center in San Diego. Through his various rotations, he became proficient in elective and traumatic foot, ankle and leg surgery. In his spare time, he enjoys riding bikes and spending time with his wife, Claire, and their three sons.

- American Podiatric Medical Association
- American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons
- San Diego Podiatric Medical Society
- Several publications on radiographic foot & ankle measurements analysis and chronic ankle instability

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Leather Seats • Heated Front Seats • Sunroof • AM/FM/XM/CD
Changer w/10 Speakers • Pwr. Windows & Mirror • Pwr. Locks
After all discounts and rebates. Tax, extra, dealer fees, license, title, etc.

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Down Feature • AM/FM/CD/MP3/RMA w/Aux Input
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\$20,999 **\$2,906 OFF MSRP!** **28** MPG-HWY

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...the response absolutely exceeded my expectations!



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Monday, July 18, 2011
Dear Trina:

When a customer comes through Funtrackers, they must buy a ticket per person, per activity. Therefore, if you wanted to ride GoKarts and also play miniature golf, you would buy two tickets.

Last year we started tracking Military Discounts with the tickets we sell. When I compare last year to date, (1/1/10 to 7/18/10) to this year, (1/1/11 to 7/17/11), we show a 202% increase in Military Discounts! The monthly comparison of January to June shows anywhere from a 150% to 300% increase in the number of Military Discounts sold per month!

Obviously, we show a significant increase in Military traffic and awareness of our Military Discount because of your R & R Military publication that inserts 15,000 copies into the Fort Bliss Monitor every month.

Thank you for your being the Official Publisher. It works for me!

Sincerely,

Tyson Whittle
Owner
Pillows Funtrackers

“...when I compare last year to this year we show a 202% increase in Military Discounts...and the monthly comparison of January to June shows anywhere from a 150 to 300% increase”.
This absolutely exceeded my expectations! ”

Tyson Whittle
Owner
Pillows Funtrackers



“The Ruidoso News' Military R & R publication reaches an important audience. R & R has 15,000 copies inserted into the Fort Bliss Monitor each and every month. Run a very special offer, and you will get a response that equals and exceeds your expectations... ”

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Advertising and New Media Specialist



Beth Barrett
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Beth Barrett
Advertising and
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bethbarrett@ruidosonews.com
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Trina Thomas
Advertising and
New Media Specialist
tthomas@ruidosonews.com
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The next deadline for R & R Military is Friday, August 12, 2011.



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RELIGION

Revival comes from within

What a beautiful summer. We are getting some rain and cooler temps.

We are blessed to have a little bit of the monsoon season. And the fire threat is lessening.

I hope that everyone is praying for God's provision and protection.

We desperately need His help in the things that we cannot control.

However, there are some things that we can do...practice good fire safety and give thanks for the firefighters and ask the Lord to bless us with moisture.

I am giving thanks for the Rocky Point Baptist youth group that is leading our sports camp for children. They are a group of dedicated youth and leaders who have come from Stephenville, Texas, to help us reach out to our community in to show the

love of Christ through wholesome activities.

With thirty-five youth and fifteen adults, they are helping almost a hundred elementary aged children with the different sports that kids love.

The revival that we have experienced has touched many folks with a fresh touch of God's Spirit.

As I began to think about this week, I began to remember that revival could only come to the people who have previ-

ously been "vived". And I began to think about the where the revival must take place...in the church.

When the church experiences revival, then there is power to work to get others "vived".

The Bible tells us in Psalm 19:7, "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." We all need reviving at one time or

another in our Christian faith.

While the Lord is always good to us, sometimes we forget "the hill from which comes our help." There are times that we need to come back to the foot of the cross. Jesus doesn't hang there any more, but we need to remember that He did hang there to provide the sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins.

Just as a married couple might renew their vows at special times in their lives, as Christians, we need to renew our vows to the Lord Jesus Christ.

His commitment to us is eternal and everlasting. Alice and I renewed our marriage vows before our family when we had our golden wedding anniversary.

There were other times in fifty-three years when we renewed them as well. Each time we realized that we needed to renew what we were committed to...devotion and love for one another.

Renewal of our spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ gives us help for today and hope for tomorrow.



CHARLES CLARY
CLARIFICATIONS

Beginnings and endings

Q: Is it acceptable to pray for someone you love to die? My mother-in-law has completely deteriorated physically and mentally, and has been in hospice care for about 18 months. As far as I can tell, she's not in acute pain but she can't communicate and seems so sick and uncomfortable.

She was a wonderful, loving person and I don't think she would want her family's emotional and financial resources depleted any more than they already have been. We've all been ready for the end for at least a year, but each time she gets a cold or fever that might mean the end, she recovers.

When I pray for God to take her, I feel sort of guilty. Am I wrong? - L.

A: I join you in praying

for a good death for your dear mother-in-law. I understand how you might feel guilty for praying such a prayer, but I believe your guilt is unnecessary. Your prayer is one of compassion, not a prayer to save the family money.

You are praying for God to take your mother-in-law home to a place in heaven where souls behold the radiance of the Lord and are freed from all pain because they are freed from their bodies in the act of dying.

The main responsibility of all physicians and caregivers is to recognize the time when therapy ends. Therapy is any clinical (not experimental) procedure that offers a chance for remission or cure. When therapy is no longer possible, palliation must continue.

Palliative care is the management of pain and is an important part of the care of patients receiving actual therapy. However, when therapy ends, the treatment of pain must continue to the end of life.

It is hard to let someone go whom you love dearly, but death is part of God's plan, and the time of death is totally in God's hands. I urge you to continue to be compassionate and hopeful when you visit your mother-in-law. At the end, when she's clearly near death, it would also be a

loving act to tell her it's all right to let go and go home to God.

As for you and your family, I pray for comfort and courage in this difficult time. May you keep in the deepest and best part of your soul the belief of all faiths that we will not be separated forever from those we love. God bless you.

Q: After God creates the world in Genesis, the Scripture reads, "And God said it was good." But you'll note that it never says it is "perfect." If we then skip over

to Paul's writing in Romans (8:22): "We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail (birth pains) together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves." And then in (8:19),

"...for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own, but by the will of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God."

It seems to me that adding these pieces of

Scripture, from the Old and New Testaments, gives a strong reason for believing that God will save His imperfect creation, as well as the people in it, from death and destruction. What do you think of that analysis? May the Lord bless you and keep you. Peace! - Rev. H.K., Kaukauna, Wis.

A: Nice work. I love your wonderful insight that God declares the newly created world to be good, but not perfect. You surmise that God will therefore return to bring perfection out of mere goodness some day. I join you in that hope and prayer for a messianic time where God's chosen messenger will come to us (my version) or return to us (your version). Either way, it will be (to mix a metaphor) a hell of a day!

There is, however, another textual possibility you may have overlooked. In the first words of Genesis, we read, "In the beginning of God creating this world..." What this means is that our world, may be just one of the worlds God has created and destroyed on the way to the ultimate perfection of the universe. If this interpretation is true, God could still allow us to be destroyed, but then continue the work of creating until the end time. Peace back to you, my friend.

To those left behind

Q: My uncle had a lot of mental problems most of his life, and they finally overwhelmed him and he killed himself. It's been very hard on his family, but one of the hardest things is that someone at the visitation told them that suicide is the unforgivable sin. Is it? - Mrs. M.F.

A: Whenever I answer a question about suicide, I'm always aware that someone who's thinking about ending their life might be reading it, and would misunderstand my answer. Let me be clear: Suicide is never God's will, and the Bible's command telling us not to commit murder includes not murdering ourselves (see Exodus 20:13).

Nevertheless, God knew your uncle's mental distress and confusion - and no, suicide is not the unforgivable sin that Jesus mentioned. Suicide is serious (as I have said) - and it's especially so when the person has never faced his or her need for God, and turned to Jesus Christ for forgiveness. But God alone knows their heart, and He alone - not us - is their judge.

What is the unforgivable sin? Jesus defined it this way: "Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not

be forgiven" (Matthew 12:31). We blaspheme against the Holy Spirit when we declare that His witness to Jesus Christ is false, and we reject it.

Ask God to make you more sensitive to those around you who may be going through hard times, and may even be wondering if life is worth living.

Then ask Him to help you point them to Jesus Christ, who loves them and can give them hope - for today, and for all eternity.

Q: I've felt guilty since my husband's death, because I'm sure he had some definite ideas about his funeral, but I never pushed him to find out what they were, and so I didn't carry them out. I'm even reluctant to meet him in heaven because I'm afraid he'll be angry at me. Is my fear foolish? - Mrs. J. McC.

A: I don't know that I would label it foolish - but it certainly is unnecessary! In heaven, all the sins and hurts of the past

will be erased, and they'll no longer have any hold over us. In other words, in heaven your husband will be perfect - and so will you!

The Bible says that in heaven "we shall be like (Christ), for we shall see him as he is" (1 John 3:2).

One reason I wanted to reprint your letter, however, is because it points out an important practical issue.

It is this: We should do everything we can to avoid causing problems for those we leave behind.

Even if we have very little, it's still important to have a valid will, and also documents that express our wishes concerning our healthcare. The Bible says, "Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40).



BILLY GRAHAM
MY ANSWER

Robert Burns

Robert Burns, 58, of Ruidoso, NM was a beloved son, brother and friend who passed away unexpectedly on July 21, 2011. He had moved to Ruidoso 5 years ago from Phoenix, AZ.

Robert is survived by 1 brother and 3 sisters. Edward Burns of Prescott Valley, AZ; Susan Waibel of Prescott Valley, AZ; Janis Burns & her husband Tim Frein of Los Osos, CA; & Carole Caughron & her husband Gary Caughron of Capitan, NM. Robert is also survived by several nieces & a nephew.

Funeral services for Robert will be held Saturday, August 6, 2011 at 2:00 pm at Canaan Trl Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donation be made to the Ruidoso Senior Center as this was where Robert worked as a volunteer.

Physician Assistant Joins Lincoln County Medical Center

Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) welcomes Jennifer Wilson, PA-C, to our growing team of providers. Ms. Wilson is a board-certified physician assistant who recently completed a rotation in general surgery at LCMC. She will assist Dr. Tom Lindsey with general surgery patients at Lincoln County Medical Center and Lincoln County Surgical Clinic.

Ms. Wilson completed her undergraduate degree in Physiology, with a minor in Chemistry, from the University of Arizona in Tucson. She earned a master's degree in the Physician Assistant Program from the University of St. Francis in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Ms. Wilson is conversational in Spanish.

The Lincoln County Surgical Clinic is located at 205 Sudderth Dr. in Ruidoso. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you need general surgery services, please ask your primary care provider for a referral or call our office at (575) 630-4200.

Lincoln County Surgical Clinic is a department of Lincoln County Medical Center.

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LINCOLN COUNTY

OUT ON THE PRAIRIE



DANA TERLECKY/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Two young antelope hide from the 97-degree heat at the Carrizozo Golf course along with their mother and the rest of the small herd, despite the presence of golfers 50 yards away.

FSA deadline approaches

New Mexico USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Salomon Ramirez reminded farmers, ranchers, and landowners on July 26 that the Aug. 1 deadline to nominate candidates for the local FSA county committee was fast approaching.

Elected county committee members serve a three-year term and are responsible for making decisions on FSA disaster, conservation, commodity, and price support programs, as well as other federal farm program issues.

"County committee members are a valuable asset because they are local producers who participate in FSA programs themselves and have a direct connection to farmers and ranchers in the community," Ramirez said. "I would like to see a high level of participation in this year's

nomination and election process."

Producers may nominate themselves or others as candidates.

Organizations that represent minority and women farmers and ranchers also may nominate candidates.

Nominees must participate in a program administered by the FSA, be eligible to vote in a county committee election, and reside in the local administrative area in which the person is a candidate.

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must sign for FSA-669A.

The form and more information on the county committee elections are available online at: www.fsa.usda.gov/elections

"It is important that the county committee reflects the demographics and agrity-cultural interests of the community these individuals represent," Ramirez

said. "I strongly encourage all producers, including women, minorities, and beginning farmers and ranchers to participate in the nomination and election process."

County committees are comprised of three to five members elected by local producers.

All newly elected county committee members and alternates will that office on Jan. 2, 2012.

Nomination forms must be postmarked or received by the local USDA service center by Aug. 1, 2011.

The service center for Lincoln County is located at 3501 Mesa Village Dr., Alamogordo, NM 88310. They may be reached by telephone at (575) 437-3100.

For more information about county committees, please contact your local county FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Hantavirus returns to New Mexico

The New Mexico Health Department announced today that a 23-year-old man from McKinley County has died from Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS). This is the fourth case of HPS in New Mexico this year.

"We extend our sympathy to this gentleman's family and friends," said Cabinet Secretary Dr. Catherine Torres. "I am advising all New Mexicans to follow our prevention guidelines to keep themselves and their families safe, as HPS can be a serious and sometimes fatal disease."

Early symptoms of Hantavirus infection are fever and muscle aches, possibly with chills, headache, nausea, vomit-

ing, diarrhea, abdominal pain and cough which progresses to respiratory distress.

These symptoms develop within one to six weeks after rodent exposure. Although there is no specific treatment for Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, chances for recovery are better if medical attention is sought early.

"People need to be very careful when they are involved in activities which may put them in contact with rodents or their droppings," said Dr. Paul Ettestad, the department's state public health veterinarian. "It is important to remember that the best defense against Hantavirus is to avoid disturbing areas of rodent infestation."

People can become infected and develop disease from HPS when they breathe in airborne virus particles that have been transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings or saliva.

To protect yourself, avoid contact with mice and other rodents. Other important steps are to air out closed buildings before entering, set up traps to eliminate existing rodents, clean up any nests or droppings found with disinfectant, put hay, wood, and compost piles as far away from your home as possible, and don't leave food and water where rodents may get into them.

The three previous cases this year are a 51-year-old woman from McKinley

County reported in January and a 35-year-old man from Torrance County reported in May, both fatal; and a 39-year-old man from McKinley County in May who recovered.

In 2010, there were two cases, both from McKinley County and both recovered.

In 2009, New Mexico had four cases of Hantavirus, none fatal, from Santa Fe, Taos, San Miguel, and Rio Arriba counties.

In 2008, New Mexico had two cases of Hantavirus, both fatal, from Taos and Otero counties.

For more information about Hantavirus, check out the Department's website: <http://www.health.state.nm.us/ERD/HealthData/hantavirus.shtml>

LINCOLN COUNTY BRIEFS

Corona days

Friday, July 29

9 a.m., cowboy church will be held at the arena on Ker Avenue.

11 a.m., kid's playground opens at the arena.

2 to 5 p.m., jam session outside the corona museum on Main Street.

5:30 p.m., hamburger fry at the senior center, also on Main Street.

7 p.m., George Duda is a guest speaker at the auditorium at the high school on Franklin Street.

Saturday, July 30

9 a.m., there will be a veteran's memorial ceremony at the cemetery on Highway 247 before mile marker 2.

10 a.m., a parade down

Main Street features floats by Corona classes of 1931, 1961, and 1971, along with the Holloman and Marine Color Guard, American Legion Auxillary, Duran, White Oaks, Carrizozo, and Corona Fire Departments, Corona EMS, Library, and many local residents. Loretta Proctor is the Grand Marshal of Corona Days, back for her 80th class reunion.

11 a.m., Future Farmers of America (FFA) is hosting a brisket lunch at the Corona high school cafeteria.

1 p.m., the ranch rodeo starts at the arena.

6 to 9 p.m., chuck wagon dinner at the high school cafeteria.

8 p.m., dance hall at the auditorium.

Back in the Kool-aid days of childhood

It was about now, in the middle of a long hot summer, that I would start to miss school. Not school for the education, but school for the friends and the activities.

Rural living for us as kids was defined by isolation at the ranch in the southern Colorado Mountains.

No one went to town once school was out in May, except maybe Mom

who made her once a month trek to the grocery

store. Our return to civilization didn't happen until after Labor Day when the school bell rang

once again.

The decade of the '60s took me from 8 to 18 and was jammed with life lessons and foundational principles.

All the things I had but didn't know were important would not become apparent to me until I

was old enough to mourn their loss, value their exis-

tence, and understand the lessons that came with them.

It was before we knew sugar wasn't good for us and Kool-Aid was our year-round beverage of choice either in the liquid form or frozen into popsicles in the summer. The alternative was the gallons of fresh raw milk that completely filled the top shelf of our refrigerator.

Summer days ran together in an endless manner that changed only in the way I changed. As a pre-teen, I began each day with figuring out what to do to keep me busy so the chore list from my mom wasn't increased. Saying "I'm bored" was a sure way to win half of a day of weeding the gigantic garden, cleaning stalls or some like sentence.

Hay meadows and a

nearby cold, mountain creek provided an enchanted play world for all of us — three brothers, two summer resident kids and the occasional visiting cousin or two.

When I reached the age that I knew boys didn't really have cooties and that being a teenager made everyone else so very hard to communicate with, I was still in isolation.

I found solace in spending the days wandering the hills on my horse, talking to my faithful Australian-shepherd sidekick and daydreaming of a more romantic world that had no real definition.

I spent hours reading books and writing long letters, both of which took me to an outside world I didn't really know.

I'd only heard about the "hippies" and all that went

with what most people recall of that decade.

Vietnam was on the news and a world away. A stamp was five cents and so was a Hershey bar. I am vague on where I was when the Beatles hit the scene, but I remember where I was when JFK was shot.

Civilization in the form of the nearest town of a few hundred people offered lessons in what it was to be draggin' main and the finer details of a Chinese Fire Drill.

An icy Coca-Cola and a basket of French fries in town was the height of delight.

Duck tail haircuts, beehive hair, hip-hugger pants and mini-skirts were about as "with it" as we got. Go-go boots and shoulder-length hair with that perfect flip made you "cool."

The way-out kids wore Nero collared shirts and

sported peace sign necklaces.

"Gunsmoke and Rawhide", (yes, in black and white) were favorites but we didn't get that channel and had to settle for "Wagon Train" and "Bonanza" on the one we did receive. "Big Valley" made its debut mid-decade, as did "Days of our Lives", back when a half-hour sufficed for soap opera drama.

There isn't a '60s memory that doesn't include late night radio from Oklahoma City. KOMA brought the latest and greatest in the world of Rock and Roll to every country kid in several states between there and the Rocky Mountains.

The Beach Boys, Righteous Brothers, Mamas and Papas, the Supremes, Simon and Garfunkel and so many more. And, of course a few slow dances with Bobby Vinton.

The window to a world I was yet to know was as simple as a nine-volt battery in a transistor radio.

Julie can be reached for comment at jcarterm@gmail.com



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Lincoln County Fair to begin



JULIE CARTER/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS



JULIE CARTER/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Crafts are on display from artistic competitors in the 2010 fair.

Last year's fair saw creative marketing as contestants displayed livestock in the competitions.

Though Capitan may not have its new fairgrounds yet, the Lincoln County Fair will be there, ready and waiting.

Beginning on Wednesday, Aug. 3, the fair will feature animals, trade skills, crafts, and the arts from residents in a celebration of life in Lincoln County.

For more information on the fair schedule or on how to enter an exhibit, contact the Lincoln County Extension Office at (575)648-2311.

2011 Lincoln County Fair Schedule of Events

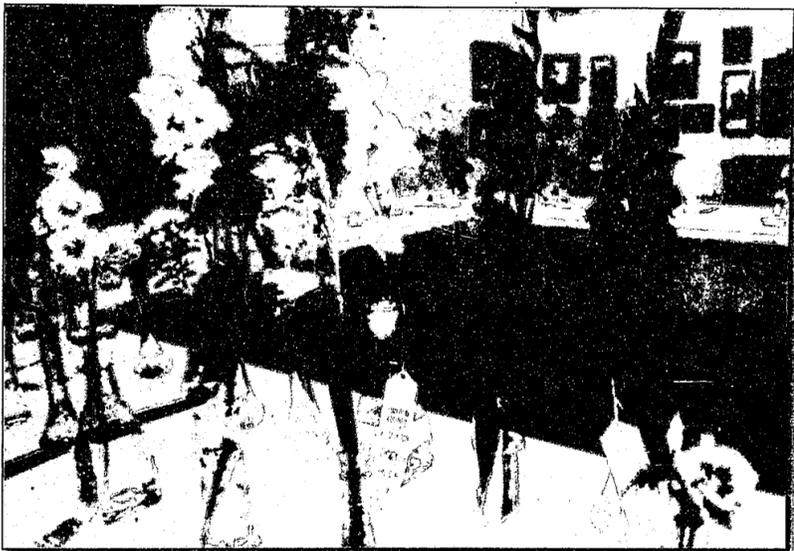
Wednesday Aug. 3
9 a.m., dairy goat show
1 p.m., 4-H cake & pie entries due
6 p.m., swine show

Thursday Aug. 4
9 a.m., dairy heifer show
2 p.m., meat goat show
5 p.m., lamb show

Friday Aug. 5

9 a.m., breeding beef cattle show (market steer show immediately following)
6 p.m., buyer's dinner
7 p.m., junior livestock sale begins

Saturday Aug 6
9 a.m., exhibitor's breakfast
10 a.m., awards
11 a.m., stick horse race, followed by lead class and pet show
3 p.m., indoor & livestock exhibits released



JULIE CARTER/FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Flowers adorn awards won in the 2010 fair.

7th Annual
Chamber Music Festival
Spencer Theater • Ruidoso
Saturday, July 30, 2011

SATURDAY, JULY 30

2:00 pm
Di Wu, Pianist
(Prize winner at the 2009 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition and winner of the Juilliard School's Petschek Award)
www.DiWuPiano.com

8:00 pm
Linden String Quartet
(First prize winner of the 2010 Concert Artist Guild Competition)
www.lindenquartet.com

Di Wu will join the Linden String Quartet in the second half of this concert to perform the Dvorak Piano Quintet in A major, Op. 81

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Mescalero man struck, killed

DUANE BARBATI
Alamogordo Daily News

ALAMOGORDO — The Otero County Sheriff's Department released Wednesday the name of a 61-year-old Mescalero man killed after he attempted to cross U.S. Highway 70 east of Tularosa, a sheriff's department spokesman said.

Sheriff Benny House said deputies responded July 20 to the area just east of Tularosa on U.S. Highway 70 around 4:40 a.m. and located Burton S. Kayitah lying in the east-bound lane of U.S. Highway 70 near Old Mescalero Road.

House said a field deputy from the Office of the Medical Investigator pronounced Kayitah deceased at the scene.

He said deputies learned through their investigation a 60-year-old man was traveling in his four-door maroon Chevrolet automobile east on the highway and struck Kayitah.

House said deputies learned Kayitah was walking westbound in the traffic lane.

He said the driver of the Chevrolet attempted to avoid hitting Kayitah, but Kayitah was hit by the front of the vehicle.

The Tularosa Police Department responded and

assisted deputies at the scene of the accident, House said.

He said deputies determined through their investigation alcohol and drugs were not involved in the accident.

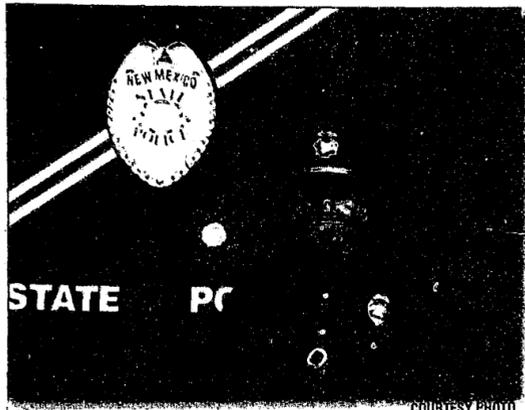
"No law enforcement action was taken against the driver of the Chevrolet car," House said. "It was an accident that occurred in the early morning hours. The roads are poorly lighted in the area. It's not uncommon for pedestrians to be walking in the area. It is uncommon for a pedestrian to be walking in the area at that time of the morning. It was a tragic and unavoidable accident.

The driver did everything possible to avoid the accident."

He said he wants motorists to be cautious when traveling in those areas.

"People need to be reminded when traveling and approaching these incorporated areas, such as Tularosa and smaller communities, to use extra caution," House said. "It's not uncommon for people to be out walking or on bicycles near the roadways. They just need to exercise vigilance when they're traveling in those areas."

Contact Duane Barbati at dbarbati@alamogordo-news.com.



New Mexico State Police Officer Chad Casson is the District 8 Officer of the Year for 2010.

Casson honored

HAROLD OAKES
hoakes@ruidosonews.com

The New Mexico State Police recognized Officer Chad Casson as the District 8 Officer of the Year at a ceremony held at the Department of Public Safety in Santa Fe July 20.

"Officer Casson rarely generates complaints from the public, yet he routinely leads the district in several categories pertaining to officer-generated activity," District 8 supervisor Capt. Keith Duncan wrote in recommending Casson for the honor in January.

Duncan said Casson made 19 DWI arrests, 101 criminal misdemeanor arrests, 17 felony arrests and issued 906 citations, all without the use of radar in his unit, in 2010.

"Due to his high level of activity, Officer Casson is routinely subpoenaed to appear in traffic related trials as well as administrative hearing and to my knowledge he has yet to fail to appear to any trial or

hearing and his testimony routinely renders a favorable decision," Duncan wrote.

District 8 includes Lincoln and Otero counties.

The Department of Public Safety named Robert Shilling as state police chief, named Pete Kassetas as deputy chief, promoted six to major, promoted four to captain, promoted four to lieutenant and promoted five to sergeant during the ceremony.

Officer Milton Jenson of District 12 received the Officer of the Year award, Jesse Williams was named Agent of the Year and Judy Maes, of the Espanola office, was named Civilian of the Year.

The Department of Public Safety also recognized officers and civilians of the year from each of the 12 districts and the Investigations Bureau at the ceremony.

Shilling presented Officer Bryan Waller of District 1 with the Medal of Valor award.

RUIDOSO POLICE BRIEFS

July 19

9:38 p.m. — Officer Tillman Freeman responded to the 2900 block of Sudderth Drive for a report of a vehicle burglary.

Freeman reports a purse was stolen from an unlocked vehicle.

July 21

3:44 p.m. — Officer Josh Snodgrass responded to the 100 block of Roswell for a possible battery report.

Snodgrass reports that he determined that there was insufficient evidence of a battery. The disagreement was reportedly between a 16- and a 17-year-old girl and involved one of them supposedly spreading rumors about the other.

Snodgrass arrested Savannah J. Wade, 20, on a Municipal Court warrant.

July 22

2:41 p.m. — Officer James Urban responded to the 1100 block of Mechem for a report of a breaking and entering.

Urban reported that a meter reader alerted the police to broken windows in the home.

Urban and Sgt. Dale Harrison entered through a window and determined the house was empty. Urban is attempting to locate the owners of the property.

July 23

3:23 p.m. — Urban responded to the 100 block

of Poir Drive for a criminal damage to property report.

The victim reported someone had thrown a rock through the window of the vacation home during the past two or three weeks.

July 24

7:22 p.m. — Corp. Aaron Frost responded to Lawrence Brothers IGA for a report of larceny.

Frost reports that off-duty Animal Control Officer Robert Simpson was in the area when dispatch alerted the officers and was able to identify the suspect vehicle and direct officers to the vehicle.

Frost stopped the vehicle at 1092 Mechem Drive and reported that the driver admitted being at Lawrence Brothers, where

he bought groceries. He had a receipt.

The driver gave permission to search the vehicle and Frost reported finding an unopened bottle of Crystal Palace Vodka in the passenger floorboard.

A Lawrence Brothers' employee arrived and identified the passenger, Steven Spall, 60, as the shoplifter.

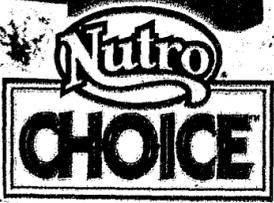
Frost arrested Spall for shoplifting, then learned that Spall was on probation.

Magistrate Judge Lorena LaMay ordered Spall held on \$3,000 cash only bond.

Spall reportedly told Frost that he had no money to post bail and said that his wife had died the previous Friday and he needed a drink.

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Lucina,

I am so pleased at how you handled and portrayed my story and I am simply amazed at the accuracy you exhibited throughout the article! Great job, thank you for all your efforts.

Michael Francis
Lincoln, NM

Julie:

Absolutely perfect article!! You told my story and the stories of a thousand (or more) ranch raised kids. I'm nearly in tears... and I'm TOUGH! To be thought of as "A good Cowboy" in the circle of good cowboys, is the highest compliment a "button" can achieve. Thanks for the reminder.

Chuck Cusimano
Springtown, TX

Julie,

I recently read your article "Be Kind to a Rodeo Cowboy" in the *Ruidoso News* and I feel you pretty much told it like it is, in other words "it don't get no better than this!" It's about time someone saluted the cowboys who are some of the toughest athletes in the country who could use a little (if not a lot) more at the pay window.

Give me a rodeo anyday over a boring football, basketball or baseball game. That may sound un-American to some but I know what I like and rodeo and bull riding are my pick for sports. To me rodeo is America's number 1 sport. Thanks for a good read.

Fred Resler
Bosque Farms, NM

Dear Lucina:

I wish to thank you very much for your write-up on me in *Vamanos*, Fri., June 17th.

It was very special for me and meant a lot to all involved. Many people came into Tanner Tradition to meet and visit with me for the 3 days of the Art Expo. They also purchased items from the store so the article was a boost for all of us artists there and the owners of the business. In this season of not-so-great-an economy, there was more visiting and conversation than sales - but to me, that is also very important. It leads to new friendships and connections that often go far into the future!

Barbara Youngblood-Carr
Austin, TX

Terrance Vestal:

Thanks to the Editor of the *Ruidoso News* for meeting with us HEAL folks. You are an important part of our community, Terrance.

Coleen Widell
Ruidoso

Thank You Dianne:

Kyle and the Franklin and Youngkin families thank you so much for the beautiful and caring articles. You did a beautiful job.

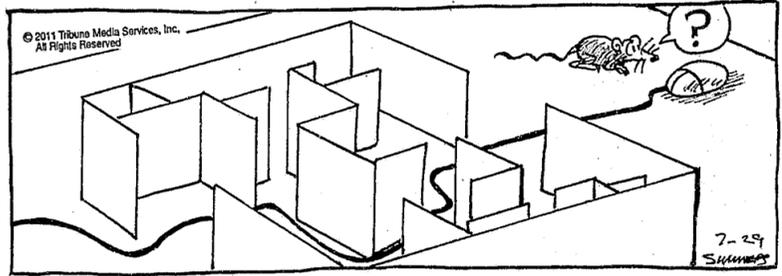
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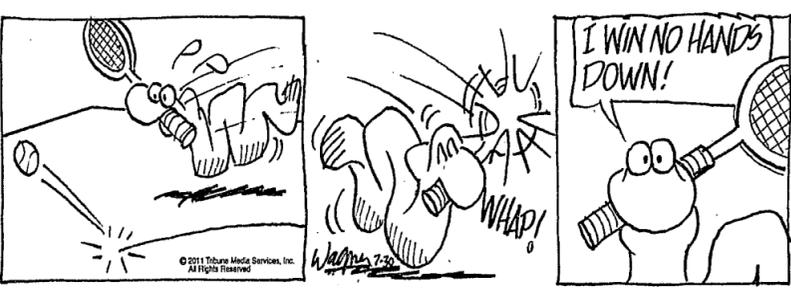
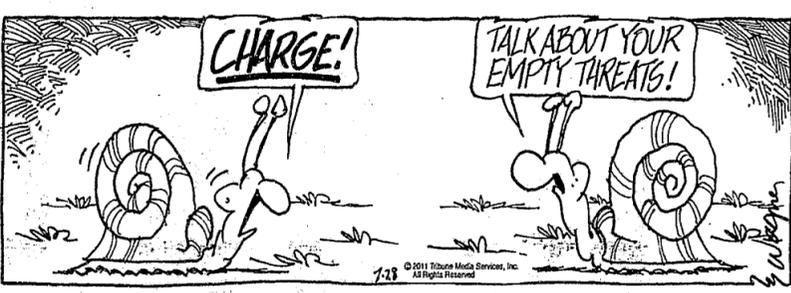
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JUMBLE word game instructions and letter racks.

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

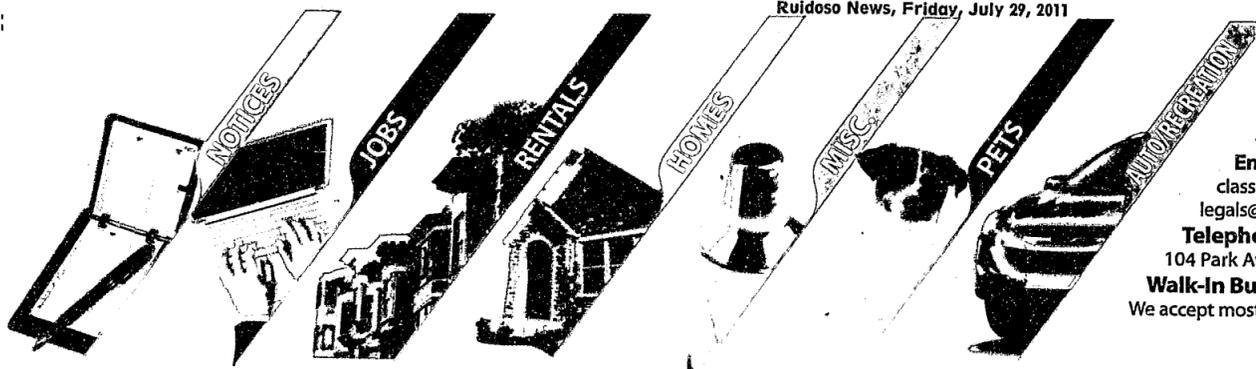
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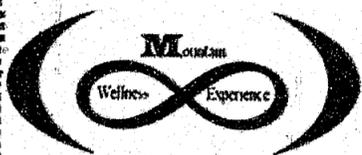
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Health and Wellness Fair on Friday, July 29th at ENMU-Ruidoso from 9am to 5pm. An opportunity to obtain information from many exhibitors in the health field.

Sanctuary on the River in Ruidoso and **High Mesa Healing Center** in Alto will host Open Houses on Saturday, July 30, 2011 from 9am to 5pm.

Demonstrations and Workshops

- Artist, **Gary Bachers**, There is Silence... and from His Silence His Art Speaks (Friday and Saturday both, 9-5!)
- Harold Finkelstein**, Releasing the Spirit, the Significance and Importance of Zuni Fetish Carving – 11:00 and 2:00 seatings
- Kana Laymon**, Upcycled silver and glass art
- Elliot Topper**, 10 – 11:00 playing sitar, joined by **Sawyer Ward** playing harmonium and autoharp till 1:00
- Mike Sunjka**, Guitarist, Music for Great Times, 1:00-4:00

Drawings for gift baskets throughout the day - Lemonade and cookies to enjoy

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Meet the artist Friday and Saturday 9AM-5PM

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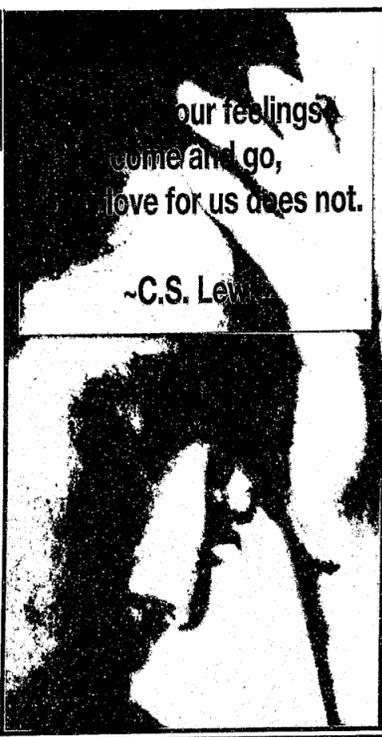
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Ruidoso News, Friday July 29, 2011

Garage/Yard/Estate Sales 628

Garage Sale Furniture, king bed-room suite, glass top matching end table, green-ware, & more. Fri 12 McBride

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Auto For Sale 917

Chevy Cavalier '05 4dr, fwd, stk #5357, we finance, call now!! 915-629-0079 Barnett

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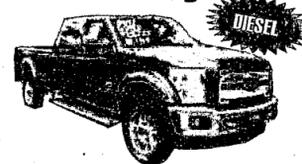
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Stock #7K092

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