

July 2006

**WONDERFUL, WELCOME, RAIN, RAIN, RAIN**

The Lincoln Forest reopened June 30 at 8 a.m. after the area received a fair amount of rain the week of June 25. Stage II fire restrictions are still being enforced. Hiking and ATVs are allowed, but **campfires and charcoal grills are not.**

**Sympathy**

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Francis and H.B. Newell on the loss of their nephew.

**July Fourth, 2006**

**HAPPY 230<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!**

**LET FREEDOM RING**

It's the Soldier, not the reporter who has given us the freedom of the press.

It's the Soldier, not the poet, who has given us the freedom of speech. It's the Soldier, not the politicians, who ensures our right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

It's the Soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag. - Anonymous

**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Bluegrass Festival**  
**Weed, NM**  
**July 15-16**  
**Master of Ceremonies**  
**Frank Devine**  
**Saturday**  
**Open Mike, 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.**  
**Featured Bands 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.**  
**Sunday**  
**Gospel Music 9 a.m. - 12 Noon**  
**Featured Bands**  
**Daybreak Express, Vintage, Desert Willow,**  
**Triple L, Mountain Airs, Simple Gifts, and**  
**Capitan Gap.**

**Admission**  
**Still \$10 per person; children under 12**  
**free. No admission fee on Sunday.**  
**Craft spaces available**  
**For more information call 687-3680, 687-**  
**2348, or 687-4388 (AC 505).**

**COME ENJOY THE FESTIVITIES!**  
**SEE YOU THERE!**

**Work day for Bluegrass Festival is July 8**

**Bookmobile**

July 11, 1:15 - 2:30 p.m., Weed Café.

**South Sacramento Water Group**

The SSWG will hold its monthly meeting on July 13, 6 p.m., at the Mayhill Community Center. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

**Meeting With Otero County Manager**

A meeting with the Otero County Manager is scheduled for July 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Community Center to discuss needs for the Center, and we need your input. This will be a potluck dinner/meeting, so bring food to share.

The Center just acquired a new refrigerator, stove, and hot water heater. Thanks to Frances Goss for picking out the appliances, to Tom Ward for picking up and delivering them, and to Jeff Winkel, Francis Newell, Dub Schuessler, and Tom for installing them.

**Weed Café Extended**  
**Summer Hours**

<b>Monday - Tuesday</b>	<b>7 a.m. - 3 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday - Thursday</b>	<b>11 a.m. - 3 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7 a.m. - 3 p.m.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8 a.m. - 3 p.m.</b>
	<b>6 p.m. - 9 p.m.</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Closed</b>

**Saturday Night Dinner & Music**  
**Beginning June 24, there will be music every**  
**Saturday night, beginning with dinner at**  
**6 p.m. The only exception will be during the**  
**Bluegrass Festival when music night will be**  
**Friday, July 14. Reservations appreciated!**  
**Call 687-3611.**

**Game Night**

- H.B. Newell

The June game night was another success. Food with an enlarged menu, some folks just ran tabs. Salads, soups, and the great sweets were a hit along with our standby hot dogs. Laughter was a norm and bingo fun!



We will not have a game night in July due to the Bluegrass Festival, but August will be the same good food and fun. If you've come to game night and enjoyed it, invite your friends to the next one. See ya there in August!

**Weed Store News**

- Bernard Cleave

The new 10,000-gallon fuel tank is scheduled for delivery July 10. Fuel sales will be shut down for about 3 to 5 days. The shutdown time will depend on concrete at the new island set-up and fuel delivered to the new tank. Weather could also be an influence. HOPE IT'S RAIN!

As for the store- we plan to keep it open; however, the Fire Marshal may require a safety

barrier to include the front entrance and parking which MAY require closing.

Coordination between us, the contractors, and the Fire Marshall is going well.

### Weed/Sac Fire Department - Evelyn Miller

Thanks to all our volunteers and USFS people who go out whenever there is a fire call, and to our EMS volunteers for all they do for our community.

Our people were out with the Forest Service folks on June 7 looking for a reported fire. It was not found until the 8<sup>th</sup> by the airplane, and the USFS was able to put out the lightning-caused fire. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, a fire was spotted east of Piñon. The Weed/Sac FD assisted Piñon and the USFS in putting it out. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, there was an ambulance run. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, our folks were out again looking for the smoke the USFS spotted.

THANK YOU again to everyone who helped us feed our great volunteers.

### "Journey Towards Healing" Workshop

- Russ Wright

The next session is scheduled for July 16 at 3 p.m. in the home of Russ & Elaine Wright.

There is always a place for medical doctors in our lives, especially when dealing with serious medical problems. But I believe there are alternative and complementary means to better health, and I would like to introduce them to you.

### Library Column - Joyce Komraus

Here it is the middle of summer ("lazy, hazy days of summer") and with the heat, I can't think of a better way to relax in the "heat of the day" than with a good book.

With plenty of good books and authors, the selection should not be difficult. ( I am currently reading Sue Grafton "letter" books and I am on the letter "N". and some New Mexico history. )

So be sure to check out the books at Weed Community Library. It's open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

(Speaking of that, thank you HB & Francis for entering all the library information into the new computer!!!!). You are my heroes!!!!

### Anniversaries, Birthdays, Congratulations, Get Well, Thank You, Welcome, Etc.

#### **Happy Anniversary to**

...Obie & Pat Manning, 7/10

...Ray & Lynnet Post, 7/22

#### **Happy Birthday to**

...John Ham, Alix Miller, 7/1

...Kendra Mydock, 7/2

...Betty Olson, 7/3

...Jordan Hall, 7/7

...Ray Post, 7/16

...Junior Daugherty, 7/19

...Twyla Lewis, Mary Da Gage, 7/21

...Lori Edmondson, 7/23

...Julie Burris, 7/26

...Arden Lewis, 7/28

...Cyndy Nesbit, Bob Pfaffenberger, 7/29

...Heather Lewis, 7/30

### **Comings and Goings**

...Joy Garrett attended the wedding of her grandson in California. Happy as she was about the event and the chance to see family and meet new family, she was in agony over not being here for the Sunday before the 4<sup>th</sup>. Joy says, "such neat things going on at church. The Rio Grande Family Camp will be at the Camp and they always join us for worship. As a surprise for the Rio Grande Camp, we are attempting to sing their favorite hymn to them ...in Spanish! We have been working on it since February??? I now have a fresh appreciation for anyone attempting to learn a foreign language. And Susan and Dulaney's daughter Carrie will be visiting, singing AND doing the morning message! Darn Brian! What a weekend to get married!!!! "

...Doug & Evelyn Miller had a visit from their niece, Mary Jane Coder, and her daughters, Jessica (who graduated from Harlingen South High School, TX, last month), Dallas, and Meagan.

...Francis & H.B. Newell's youngest son and his family and dog, along with his wife's parents and their dog paid a visit the week of June 25.

Grandson Josh also visited. Busy household!

...Tom Ward's son, Brent, and his wife, Bernie, and children, Paige and Scott, visited Tom & Patsy the week of June 26.

#### **Get Well Wishes to**

...Virginia Urey.

#### **Congratulations! to**

...Cyndy & Dean Nesbit on their new granddaughter,



Hailey Shea, born June 9 in Dallas, TX to Sarah & Josh Turnedge. Hailey weighed 7lbs 7oz and is the most beautiful baby in the world according to

Grandma!

### Piñon News & Happenings - Margaret Merritt

June has been dry, warm, short grass and long water working hereabouts. Special care for water wells and water pipe lines for leaks and promptly repair same. Occasional clouds with a brief shower remind us that New Mexico does get rain. No tank water caught so far to my knowledge.

Merritt household has been busy hosting guests from Artesia, Houston, Missouri, and Michigan. The Malys family had relatives from California. There is lots to see and do around us.

The Piñon community has been busy at health care places. T.A. & Ruth Tanner, Sam Henderson, J.O. Coupland, and Mario Theaubant respectively.

Corpenry work is ongoing on the Elijah House (Oma Gayes former home). Disarray is apparent!

### Sacramento Mountains Radio Club (SMRC)

- Linda Steinhoff

The Sacramento Mountains Radio Club held its annual Hamfest on June 3 at Camp Chimney Springs, east of Cloudcroft. During the morning while others visited and looked over vendor new and other ham used equipment, Rick Sohl of Lincoln County came and gave the test for those who had finished the Technician Class course given at James Canyon Volunteer Fire Department during the same week.

Weed resident Julie Mikkelson, one of the class participants, took the test along with about 8 or 9 others. Julie passed the test, having no prior radio experience. We are all proud of Julie's accomplishments.

On May 29, the SMRC installed its new repeater on the James Ridge Look-Out tower on 16 Springs Canyon Road. The tower, which is approximately 100 feet high, sits high on the crest of the ridge with fantastic views to the east and south. The Guadalupe Mountains to the southeast are visible, even on a hazy day.

The repeater was installed a little more than half-way up. Jim Folan, of the James Canyon Volunteer Fire Department, again, climbed over the railings, being secured to the leg of the tower, began the task of affixing the repeater. With a number of club members there manning the haul lines and tethering it to the leg, the repeater antenna was up in a relatively short period of time.

Richard L. Smith, a club member, worked in the shack to install the power supply, rack and attach cables. Joe Shepard, on contract to the Forest Service for all their local repeaters, has been of immense help to SMRC.

Without the cooperation of the Forest Service in allowing the Club to install these repeaters, there would not be adequate coverage of the mountain and canyon areas to provide warning in the event of an emergency. In many areas, there are no signals at all, either with the county repeaters or communications between them and ham operators.

These ham operators, whether stationary or mobile, have already been used in Search and Rescue, and in reporting an accident as the first on the scene, thus getting help much faster than trying to find a resident up early enough to call the Sheriff's Office to report it.

The tower is staffed 7 days a week by Dale Holland of the US Forest Service. Dale and his wife, Mariann,e come down each year to watch over the forest for lightning strikes and illegal camp fires. Dale is a native Oregonian, and during the off season lives in Pendleton. Without these dedicated people who keep watch, our towns, homes, and way of life would be in jeopardy.

According to the State's Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), the Sacramento Mountains Radio Club is the fastest growing amateur club in the state. In just over 8 months, after officially organizing and filing for 501© (3) status, it has 31 members.

### Area Churches

**Mayhill Baptist Church** - Norman Green, Pastor. Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship services at 11 a.m. Children and youth Bible drill and adult and youth Discipleship training, 5 p.m. Evening worship service, 6 p.m. Children and youth Bible study and adult Bible study and prayer meeting, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Men's breakfast and devotional, Thursday, 7 a.m.

**Mayhill Church of Christ** - Marlon McWilliams, Pastor. Sunday Bible class, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:30 a.m. Evening worship, 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.

**Piñon Baptist Church** - J. B. Craft, Pastor. Sunday School for all ages begins at 11 a.m., with worship service beginning at 12 a.m.

**Piñon Church of Christ** - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Sunday Bible Class, 10:30 a.m.; worship service, 11:30 a.m.; Potluck, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday evening Bible Study, 7 p.m.

Vacation Bible School, July 9-11, 7 p.m. Teachers: Mike Joy for adults, and Amy Joy and crew for children. Everyone is Welcome!

**Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church** - Joy Garrett, Lay Minister. Regular Sunday worship service at 10 a.m., Sunday School at 11 a.m.

On June 3, at the New Mexico Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Joy Garrett was "assigned" to be the Certified Lay Minister of Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church. The former pastor, Dulaney Barrett, has "re--retired" and will serve as Joy's "Equipping Elder." Joy is already a top level Certified Lay Speaker. To become a Certified Lay Minister one has to take an additional 30 hours of education. Joy was in the first class for the new ministry of "Certified Lay Minister" offered in all of United Methodism. It was held at Sacramento Methodist Assembly.

The church has had a "build it and they will come" experience. Church members installed a children's area in the rear of the chapel and equipped it with children's materials. It has already been used about six times.

**Weed Baptist Church** - Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., with Worship Service at 11. Bible Study/Prayer, Wednesdays at 2 p.m. A potluck luncheon is held on the third Sunday of the month.

Vacation Bible School July 10-14, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Program Friday night at 7 p.m. Snacks and lunch provided. Children between the ages of 3 and 13 please plan to attend and bring your friends.

The Church will host the Fifth Sunday Sing on Sunday, July 30. 5 p.m. Bring a covered dish and join us. Meat, bread, and drinks will be furnished. Everyone welcome.

**Weed Church of Christ** - Ralph Skelton, Pastor. Bible study from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Sunday; worship service begins at 10 a.m. Sunday evening services are from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**Weed House of Prayer** - Don Brown, Pastor. Services are held every Sunday in the home of Jimmy and Frances Goss. Prayer and singing begin at 10 a.m.; sermon begins at 11 a.m. Prayer service is held each Wednesday at 10 a.m. A potluck luncheon the first Sunday of the month.

Wednesday Bible study class, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Farmer's Almanac July Gardening Tips

**1-2** A most barren period. Kill plant pests and do general farm work.

**3-5** Favorable for planting peas, beans, tomatoes and other fall crops bearing aboveground. Sow grains and forage crops. Plant flowers.

**6-7** Extra good for fall cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, mustard greens and other leafy vegetables. Good for any aboveground crop that can be planted now. Start seed beds.

**8-9** Seeds planted now will do poorly and yield little.

**10-11** Good days for planting beets, carrots, salsify, Irish potatoes and other root crops.

**12-13** Good days for killing weeds, briars and other plant pests. Poor for planting.

**14-15** Good days for planting beets, carrots, radishes, salsify, turnips, peanuts and other root crops. Also good for planting melons, cucumbers, pumpkins and other vine crops. Set strawberry plants.

**16-17** A barren period.

**18-20** Root crops that can be planted now will yield well.

**21-22** Poor days for planting. Seeds tend to rot in ground.

**23-25** First day is the most fruitful day to plant root crops. Last two days are favorable for corn, cotton, okra, beans, peppers, eggplant and other aboveground crops. Plant seedbeds and flower gardens on all days.

**26-30** A most barren period. Kill plant pests and do general farm work.

**31** Favorable for planting peas, beans, tomatoes and other fall crops bearing aboveground. Sow grains and forage crops. Plant flowers.

### **NOW HIRING!**

Holloman AFB BX. New store opening June 30. Wanted: Senior Store Associates, Cashiers, Food Service Workers, Laborer (Stockers). Apply on-line at [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) or call 915-562-8851, Ext. 100, for more information.

### **Miscellaneous**

The last aluminum cans round-up netted \$32 for the Weed Community Association treasury. Keep those cans coming, folks!

### **Orchids and Onions**

Orchids to everyone who doesn't overfill the dumpsters and helps pick up the trash of those who do. Onions to those who overfill and leave trash around the dumpsters.

Please be considerate of those who live in the area of the dumpsters and also of Fire Department equipment and volunteers who need to park in that area during fire season. They shouldn't have to park along the road because trash is taking up valuable parking space.

Please take large, bulky items to the Otero County Landfill north of Alamogordo. **If they're usable items, take them to the Weed Thrift Shop in the north end of the old Weed School.** It also helps if you break down all boxes so they don't take up as much room in the dumpster.

Please take pride in yourself and in our beautiful area.

### **Are They Listening? Maybe.....**

- Russ Wright

Thanks to all of you who are working to protect the water for the entire community. Your efforts are again bearing fruit. This is a hard road you are on and I ask that you not get discouraged by the setbacks we encounter and the nay sayers. These nay sayers may be correct and our efforts may turn out to be in vain. But if we do nothing, there is a 100% guarantee that our needs and concerns will be ignored. Your efforts could make the difference required to ensure a future for Weed, Pinon, Sacramento and the other mountain communities. Those of you who have made a difference during your lifetime know that without working hard and taking risks little of value gets accomplished.

Bill Hume is Governor Richardson's Director of Policy and Issues. He attended a recent meeting of the South Sacramento Water Group and heard the concerns of citizens in the

mountain communities about the proposals to mine water in the Salt Basin and pipe it to cities all over the State and even to Texas. Below are excerpts from his "Year of Water" remarks on June 16th to the Interim Water and Natural Resources Committee of the legislature. Mr. Hume sets out the governor's water policy for the future and points out the accomplishments of the administration in the water arena. Of particular note (and emphasized in bold type) are his comments about the Salt Basin. He has clearly recognized the concerns stated by the Sacramento Mountain Watershed Restoration Corporation and the South Sacramento Water Group shared them with this very important Legislative Committee. **"It is a particular pleasure for me to meet with the Interim Water and Natural Resources Committee. That is because your group embodies the concentrated strength, knowledge and resolve of the entire Legislature on matters involving the stewardship of water and the environment. As you know, those are topics very high in my interest and responsibility as well.**

You may have already heard, but Gov. Richardson intends to make the 2007 legislative session The Year of Water. About time, I say.

....So, next January, as we meet in session for The Year of Water, we can talk of new dedication, new vision, new focus for a new century of water stewardship to serve the needs of the people, flora and fauna of New Mexico. It will require a joint and collaborative effort between the legislative and the executive branches of government to flesh out and bring to life a meaningful program for the Year of Water. We will fill in the blanks together.

We will start our 2007 Year of Water early. We will begin this fall with an all-out drive to pass the Constitutional Amendment to make the Water Trust Fund a constitutionally protected permanent fund.. We already set aside \$40 million in the 2006 Legislature as seed money for this endowment. We will increase that amount - and we will find a dedicated source of revenue to enable that fund to continue to grow, independent of year-to-year budget imperatives. A healthy Trust Fund is one of the most powerful legacies we could leave in our Year of Water.

We will work together to refine the process of allocating water project capital outlay. The objective will be to better ensure that we get the greatest results possible in meeting our jointly set priorities.

Every New Mexico household should be entitled to an adequate supply of safe domestic water. We will tackle that imperative with a comprehensive strategy. The state will put in place the funding and the expertise to help small water systems develop adequate delivery systems and meet certified operator requirements. We will encourage small water systems to establish business plans and rate schedules sufficient to meet operating expenses and future maintenance. We will encourage regionalization of water and wastewater systems to achieve economies and system reliabilities of scale. This will be carried out by a team from the Office of the State Engineer, the Environment Department, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, and the Department of Finance and Administration.

Demonstration projects in this area are already in design or under construction. Design and implementation of the plan will require the cooperation and active participation of all members of the Legislature, as it will be a statewide initiative. Effective implementation of the plan will require that all of us with access to the purse strings of capital outlay agree to approach all water system aid through this uniform, statewide process.

...We must signal New Mexico's resolve to do its share to fund the really massive water projects that have so much potential for New Mexico's citizens:

--The Ute Pipeline Project. ....

--The Indian Water Rights Settlements. ....

-- The Salt Basin. After years of speculation and estimation of the available water resources lying untapped in this remote area of the state, the Salt Basin aquifer is going to get a serious analysis aimed at putting the water available there to beneficial use in New Mexico. But, unlike previous tapping of new water sources in New Mexico, the Salt Basin will be developed only after due diligence in determining the nature and extent of the resource. The potential effect on adjacent areas - such as the recharge areas of the Sacramento Mountains - will be thoroughly studied before any significant quantities of water are withdrawn.

The costs of developing this water, should it prove to be there in the quantities hypothesized by some, will rank up therewith the cost of the Ute Pipeline or the Indian Water Rights settlements. But the benefits to southern New Mexico will make it worthwhile - if the water is there.

We will do the research necessary to make that determination in continuing consultation with both those who live in the watershed and with potential users. We will put the issue out in the open squarely in the communities which could potentially be served by this resource.

The administration has had great success in bringing the supply and environmental considerations of water matters closer together. We will continue to build closer coordination among the ISC/OSE, Environment Department, Game and Fish and Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, so that all the aspects of all water issues are analyzed by all appropriate experts. I commend the cabinet secretaries and department heads who have cooperated to move this forward.

In regard to such collaborative work, I would like to mention briefly our planning and decision efforts related to the benefits New Mexico received in the 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act: 14,000 acre-feet of additional Gila water and up to \$128 Million in non-reimbursable federal funding. The water alone would increase the supply available to Southwest New Mexico by almost 50%. Together, it's almost a quarter-billion dollar package. At the same time we try to optimize these benefits to New Mexico, we must ensure that no harm is done to the unique and valuable Gila ecology.

....We have much to look back on with satisfaction in the water arena:

With the help of the governor's office and the Interstate Stream Commission staff, the water users below Eagle Nest Reservoir agreed on a new arrangement for allocating water deliveries and storage rights in the lake....

The Pecos Settlement implementation is proceeding toward a positive conclusion, with the expectation that the major portion of the state objectives can be covered by funds made available last session. We have purchased some 6,500 acres of farmland - about 54 percent of the required 12,000. We have another 3,300 acres under negotiation (another 28 percent) - leaving about 2,200 acres yet to be negotiated. In addition, we have about 14,460 acre feet of capacity constructed in the augmentation well field, putting us at 92 percent of the 15,750 acre-foot minimum requirement to complete the implementation phase of the settlement.

The state has been generous in providing funding to fix this regional problem; the region will have to assume a greater portion of continuing costs in the future.

The projects funded in the past two years by the Governor's Water Innovation Fund are moving through various stages of completion....

We have opened lines of communication between the state water agencies and New Mexico Pueblos for discussion of water matters of mutual concern....

Though it has proceed in small steps largely unnoticed, implementation of the State Water Plan continues...

The initiation of Active Water Resource Planning is proceeding in key basins around the state. Regulations to enable prudent limits on domestic wells are in the final stages of preparation.

The maintenance of the pilot channel through the long silt delta above Elephant Butte Reservoir has been a continuing project....

In addition, research and negotiations continue in the lower Rio Grande to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Rio Grande Compact....

The State Engineer's Office and Interstate Stream Commission are getting proactive in water management matters with the goal of determining and protecting the rights of senior water users, while developing new sources of supply and facilitating movement of water from old uses to new among willing buyers and sellers.

Water is the common denominator and the ultimate limiter of human activity in New Mexico. The Richardson Administration is working to make more efficient use of what we have, even as we adopt different strategies to increase the available supply. With consultation and cooperation between the administration and the Legislature in the upcoming session, we will make it a Year of Water that we will all look back upon with pride and satisfaction.

We won't put all outstanding issues to rest - but working together, we can lay a solid foundation for New Mexico's next century of water stewardship for our people and our environment.