

Let's Celebrate!

A birthday celebration is planned for Carrie Green on June 2 to celebrate her 90th birthday. It will be a covered-dish dinner in the old gym at 5 p.m., with a dance to follow. Everyone is welcome. Please come and share this milestone with Carrie.

Weed Compactor & Roll-Off and La Luz Convenience Station Under New Management

According to the La Luz Convenience Station Supervisor, the right-side door of the compactor has been locked in an effort to keep other-than-household trash from being left on the hydraulic hoses. The left-side door is still in use. If there is a lock on both doors, it means the compactor is full. If the compactor is full and there is room in the roll-off, please deposit your trash there. If the roll-off is full, please take your trash home and bring it back another time. The containers are emptied on Wednesdays.

As a side note, the roll-off is for miscellaneous trash such as mattresses, furniture, plastic furniture, etc...

In the future, the Authority will offer residential tree waste pickup service for trunks and limbs up to 6" in diameter and in sections no more than 4 feet long, plus needles and leaves on a scheduled basis in Otero County. Stack material on **your property** in one pile along a relatively level stretch of road, keeping piles clear of overhead power lines, poles or fences and drainage ditches. Piles **should not** include household trash, lumber or construction trash, dirt, rocks or large stumps. Service is provided every 9-12 weeks on a rotating schedule which is available at the Authority office.

Computer equipment disposal can now be taken to La Luz for disposal at 33 Gravel Pit Road as well as ALL BATTERIES; cardboard; carpet padding; large household appliances; newspapers and newsprint; plastic containers and bottles; old paint and used oil; scrap metal; old water heaters; and tires. There is a small fee for tires.

Do not place construction materials in roll-offs or trash compactors. These materials may be delivered directly to Mesa Verde Enterprises, Inc at 396 La Luz Gate Road in La Luz. Call 434-6171 for more information. Open Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., and Sat. 7:30a.m.-4:30p.m. Call 1-800-867-7666 to report illegal dumping.

Above information provided by Debra Ingles of The Lincoln/Otero County Solid Waste Authority, 1-877-548-8772.

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Comings & Goings, Get Well Wishes, Etc.

Happy Anniversary to:

...Terry and Marie Rodgers, 5/5
...Chris and Kendra Mydock, 5/13

...Jeff and Louise Winkle, 5/21
...James and Mary Lou Otts, 5/23
...Craig and Pat Foster, 5/27
...Ken and Pat Hammett, 5/28

Happy Birthday to:

...Christa Joy, 5/8
...Lester Burton, 5/9
...Pansy Northrip, 5/12
...Charlotte Gage, 5/18
...Katherine Stephenson, 5/19
...Barbara Schuessler, 5/22
...Brenna Goss, 5/26
...Pat Manning, 5/27
...Obie Manning, 5/29

Comings & Goings

...Barb Schuessler had a surprise visit from her daughter, Kim, who arrived on April 17 and left on April 22. Dub was in on the surprise and carried it off beautifully.

...Doug Miller spent a couple of weeks in Texas. Evelyn and the dogs batched it.

Dates to Remember

May 1, Bookmobile, Weed Café, 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.
May 5, Rabies Clinic, Weed/Sac VFD, 9 - 12
May 5, Reopening of Weed Library, 10 a. - 2 p.
May 18, Game Night, Weed School, 6:30 p.m.
May 20, Gospel Sing-a-Long, Weed Gym, 2 p.m.
May 21, Community Meeting, 6 p.m., Weed School
May 26-27, Mayfair, Cloudcroft
July 2-22, Weed 12th Annual Bluegrass Festival
August 10-12, Alamo Squares Square Dance Festival, old Weed Gym. Weed Community to serve breakfast to dancers and visitors on the 12th.

Library News

The Michael Nivison Public Library is 10 years old. To celebrate, the following event is scheduled for May 26, 12 Noon - 2 p.m., at the Library in Cloudcroft: a book signing by local authors Joanne Ramsey, Ken Bonnell, and Harry Hogue and discussion of their writing careers. Please take this opportunity to meet them.

Also, May 5 is the re-opening of the Weed Community Library, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. See you there!!!

May Observances

Clean Air Month
Creative Beginnings Month
Get Caught Reading Month
May 1-7: Eat Dessert First Week
May 6-12: Be Kind to Animals Week
May 13-19, Reading is Fun Week
May 3: National Day of Prayer
May 5: Cinco de Mayo Celebration
May 13: Mother's Day
May 19: Armed Forces Day
May 28: Memorial Day (observed)
May 30: Memorial Day (actual)

Piñon News

- Margaret Merritt

April is the month of showers and flowers - so pundits say. April 2007 in Piñon has been one of a kind. Trees and flowers bloomed in warm February. April brought frost and freeze, so we will see if out plant life bears or just grows this year.

Last year's pecans are finally falling. Too high to climb/shake, so winds and coming 2007 blooms are harvesting 2006 crop. Small, delicious, and meaty. Quail and doves and other creatures are thriving on crop. Quick harvest/sharp eyes get some for me.

Early April found Piñon deserted except for a few folks locally. That is until we were invaded by a fleet of official cars with unusual markings or, in some cases, no markings at all!

Half our population was gone to help care for our newest citizen, Gary Ann Gage, who was born in Roswell and immediately flown to Lubbock for needed care. Our baby is now home, doing well, and under all our loving eyes. Thanks to God!

Piñon Cash & Carry phone rang. "This is Otero County dispatcher. What is going on at Piñon? We hear gibberish but no words. Can you help?" "Maybe that explains the fleet of strange cars going through here, fast." Explanation: the telephone crew replacing bad electric poles found human remains and called authorities. Authorities responded en masse, immediately, efficiently, and were in a cell-phone-free zone. They tried their equipment and finally came to a land line phone to report.

Bobby Melton and Innes Lewis are still working on the project to repair 2006 flood water damage for me. The project is amazing and far enough along that a rain now would be a test but not a disaster. I am so pleased with the "impossible" problem as a solution appears.

Memorial Day is approaching, and plans are underway to open the Piñon Extension Club building for the folks coming back to the Sacramento Mountains to care for/visit graves of friends and loved ones. The Club will extend hospitality from 7:30 a.m. until 7 p.m. We provide open doors, restrooms, ice, tea, coffee to all who come. Menu is covered dish style until folks quit visiting inside or outside. Convenient parking lot. Welcome. Piñon Cemetery is worked, decorated, and loved. This year brought much water damage to graves. Some cave-ins, some tilting head stones. Folks buried here date from 1890s, so many hands can find a job to keep stones up and weeds down.

Home schoolers had their Recitation Day when the Bookmobile came in April. We heard about the history of the U.S., Africa (and a hyena that swallowed a one-use camera that was developed by a quirk of fate - good story!), and a plane in Alaska that was safely directed to a landing by quick thinking students (home schooled - tiny town), who formed a circle of letters by hand-holding people to point the pilot to the nearest airport. The kids hastily rounded up the whole village to supply bodies for the letters for the pilot who hovered overhead having dropped a paper saying "low on gas - direction to airport." Ingenious kids, lucky pilot. Big city folks don't have all the fun!

The Piñon Extension Club was the scene of beloved Lorena Hatch's visit to Piñon with her

daughter, Bette Goode. Lorena and Leroy spent the whole of their 80+ years in southeaster New Mexico. He as a ranch hand, rider, Deputy Sheriff, friend, and Public School employee. She as a housewife, friend, helper, mother, and hostess supreme. Lorena and Bette came back to visit friends and replace flowers on Leroy's grave. Friends who gathered to visit here were Buster Stevenson, Marjorie Fleming, Lessie Porter, Margaret Merritt, Elaine Fleming, Nedra Havens, James Fleming, Jeannette Coupland, Twyla Lewis, Jincy Gage and her daughters Marian DA and Gary Ann, and Kelly Hibbard with James, John, Joseph, Jacob, Jessie, Amanda, and Sara. Lorena enjoyed a covered-dish lunch with all of us but especially with the little people she has enjoyed so much. Her hot cocoa is famous and was always available. Parting was sweet sorrow.

This 'n That

- Joy Garrett

I just got back from a week's VIM trip to a little town just east of Lake Charles, Louisiana. VIM is a ministry of the United Methodist Church that either builds new homes or rehabs already existing homes for people who are in dire need of one or the other and have no way to pay for the work. In LA, we rehabbed a house that had survived many years of neglect and two back-to-back hurricanes ... Katrina and Rita. A group before us had put on a new roof. We worked on the inside doing drywall, painting, fixing precarious ceilings, fixing the front door so that it would lock, and installing an ornery commode! We stayed in a Methodist Church in Lake Charles sleeping on the floor and showering in a little shower house out back. It was a week full of hard work, great fellowship, hard work, lots of laughs ... and did I mention that we worked hard? We left at 5:30 Saturday morning and drove straight thru to Alamogordo. I picked up my car and came on home ... Be it ever so humble! The group I went with is mostly from Grace UMC in Alamogordo. They are already planning on a project to Logan, NM in August. Looking for warm bodies...if you are interested give me a call at 687-3862 and I will get the information to you. You have lots of fun ... many of those "you had to be there moments".... and oh yeah, you work hard!

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. Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Worship service, 11:30 a.m.; 12:30 potluck.

Piñon Church of Christ - Bible Study, 10:30 a.m., Worship Service, 11:30 a.m.; potluck 12:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 7 p.m.

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

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

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. Wednesday Bible study class, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. A potluck luncheon is held the second Sunday of the month.

Community Yard Sale

If you would be interested in a community yard sale, please call 687-3680, 687-4388, or 687-3742.

Farmers' Almanac May Gardening Tips

1 Excellent time for planting corn, beans, peppers and other aboveground crops. Favorable time for sowing hay, fodder crops and grains. Plant flowers.
2-3 Plant carrots, beets, onions, turnips and other root crops at this time. Cabbage, lettuce and other leafy vegetables will do well. Plant seedbeds.
4-5 Do no planting.
6-7 Plant late beets, potatoes, onions, carrots and other root crops.
8-9 Kill plant pests on these barren days.
10-11 Favorable time for planting late root crops. Also good for vine crops that can be planted now. Set strawberry plants.
12-14 Poor planting. Fine for cultivating or spraying.
15-16 Root crops planted on first day will yield well. Second day good for planting beans, corn, cotton, tomatoes, peppers and other aboveground crops.
17-18 Any seed planted now will tend to rot.
19-20 Most favorable for corn, cotton, okra, beans, peppers, eggplant and other aboveground crops. Plant seedbeds and flower gardens.
21-25 A barren period. Good for killing plant pests, cultivating or taking a short vacation.
26-28 Excellent time for planting corn, beans, peppers and other aboveground crops. Favorable time for sowing hay, fodder crops and grains. Plant flowers.
29-30 Excellent for planting aboveground crops, starting seedbeds and planting leafy vegetables.
31 Do no planting.

Health Corner

Dealing with Airborne Allergens by Janet Cliff
Allergies, (ah-chool!) allergies, what to do about them? The simple answer: avoid them. But how? First, one needs to understand these plants that need wind for reproduction and thus, are the most likely culprits for allergies affecting the sinuses. It is uncommon for people to develop respiratory allergies to plants that require bees, hummingbirds, runners, etc. for reproduction. In addition, plants that have "ugly" flowers, so ugly that you probably wouldn't consider it a flower, are high allergen-likely plants (e.g., ragweed). Plants that disperse pollen or spores, such as junipers or mold, are problematic. Juniper/mountain cedar

(which isn't a cedar) is the number one cause for hay fever in the United States. In this region, juniper pollen is highest in February/March and has a second season in July although usually not as strong then.

One easy way to determine what pollens you are allergic to is to go to pollen.com and type in your zip code. It'll tell you which plants are producing pollen in your area and how much. Keep a diary of when you react (even time of day can be important information, if that's noticeable) and to what degree. This will help you determine what to avoid. Regularly visiting this site can also be helpful in planning vacations.

Whether you know what exactly to avoid or not, some basics will help. Assuming your airborne allergen is outside your house (e.g., if you've had mold in your house, you'll need to completely remove all materials that had been contaminated), avoid going outside on those days when the pollen will be high. Obviously, it'll be high when it is in peak season, but also when the wind is blowing. The stronger the wind, the more pollen/spores in the air. If it's raining, even if the plant's pollen is in season, the pollen is unlikely to be dispersed.

If you or someone else goes outside, minimize the amount of pollen brought inside. The sooner you do this the better. Your clothes, nostrils, and hair, for example, will be covered with pollen. If you have good olfactory senses, you'll immediately smell the pollen on anyone/thing that has been outside. Take off the clothes and wash them. Take a damp rag to your pet and wipe her/him down. Wet your finger and put it in your nostrils to clean them out. If allergens also bother your lungs (if you repeatedly have bronchitis during a certain time of year, this is likely), have a glass of water to wash the allergens caught in your throat so they don't irritate your lungs, bronchial tubes, etc. Cleaning your nostrils and/or your throat can easily be done whenever you go somewhere. Just find the bathroom as soon as you enter the building. Finally, don't dry your laundry on an outside clothesline.

For people suffering from allergies affecting the respiratory system, the most critical room is the bedroom. A typical person spends more time in this room than anywhere else. When you take off your allergen laden clothes, don't take them off in the bedroom. Otherwise, you'll be spreading the allergens throughout the room. Similarly, don't take a nap on the bed with allergen laden clothes. Before going to bed, take a shower to rinse the allergens out of your hair. You don't need to wash, rinsing will be fine. Without this rinsing, you'll spend the whole night breathing in the allergens that have gone from your hair and onto your pillow. If you share your bedroom with someone, be sure the other person removes her/his allergen laden clothes elsewhere and showers before going to bed.

Airborne allergens also come through windows. Keep them shut. If you need the air circulation, a window filter will provide it without also providing the allergens. The cheap way to do this is buy a furnace filter that fits your window. Sometimes you'll need a piece of cardboard to fill in the gaps. The advantage to this method is it's cheap and readily available. The disadvantage is the challenge of moving the filter in and out (for when

the weather turns chilly, stormy, etc.) and you won't be able to reuse the filter the following year. One can buy a specifically designed window filter. It's more expensive, adjusts to fit various sized windows, is easy to install and remove, and after hosing off, can be reused.

Besides alleviating the sneezing, watery eyes, etc. from airborne allergens, it's a good idea to keep your contact to a minimum to reduce further complications, most commonly, infections resulting from the mucus building up in your sinuses. But complications can also occur in the lower respiratory system and on the skin. Eczema is an allergic reaction. Depending on your severity, you might want to consider air filters, especially in the bedroom, a face mask, and medical care-both conventional and alternative. All of these methods are more expensive than simply rinsing your nostrils and hair. Finally, if you've determined you're allergic to junipers, for example, cut down the male ones near your house. Even if you lock your windows, pollen will get into your house. Junipers are a sex specific plant. The females are easy to recognize as they have berries, which the animals eat year round, and you cannot be allergic to its pollen as it doesn't produce pollen. (It would be the equivalent to women producing sperm. It just ain't gonna happen.) Don't worry that if you cut down the males, the female junipers won't reproduce the berries. Pistachio trees are also a sex specific plant (and thus highly likely for you to become allergic to). Very few of the trees in the orchards in Alamogordo are males and those female pistachios are reproducing quite nicely with that small number. If you are severely allergic to junipers, the smell of the sap when cut may bother you. In that case, get someone else to cut it.

A bit of good news for here is that at higher elevations airborne allergens do not remain airborne as long as they do at lower elevations. But the real good news is several easy and inexpensive ways exist to avoid outdoor airborne allergens regardless of elevation. The bad news is with global warming, pollen rates, especially ragweed, are expected to skyrocket according to the National Wildlife Federation. Finally, how do I know how to deal with airborne allergens? I was diagnosed with severe allergies-and not just to airborne allergens-in 1998. Good luck.

11 Rules from Bill Gates

Bill Gates gave a speech at a High School about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talked about how feel-good, politically-correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world. Love him or hate him, he sure hit the nail on the head with this. (These rules also apply to adults. Ed.)

Rule 1:

Life is not fair - get used to it.

Rule 2:

The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3:

You will not make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4:

If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5:

Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they called it opportunity.

Rule 6:

If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7:

Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they now are. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites your parents' generation created, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8:

Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This does not bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9:

Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off, and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10:

Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11:

Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

If you can read this - thank a teacher.

If you're not in jail or on the street - thank your parents.

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