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# TALON 2011

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FREE  
twice  
a month

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## Make two wheels your mode of transportation

### Ride to work or school week of May 16

More than 50 million people ride them, and some 20 million are sold each year. Bicycles remain a popular mode of transportation, yet enthusiasts say if more people rode it would be better for our world.

Pledges are being made at bicycle shops across the nation from people who want to save the cost of fuel and go green. Nearly 700,000 people have pledged to "change the world and go bike," according to the website *1world2wheels.org*.

This is the time to think about biking, at least in distances less than 2 miles from your home, because this is National Bike Month. The League of American Bicyclists is encouraging folks to trade in their cars for at least a week or even a day from May 16 to May 20, during National Ride Your Bike to Work Week and National Ride Your Bike to Work Day on May 20.

"The folks at Farmington Walk and Roll would like to challenge the entire county to get involved and bike at least once during Ride Your Bike to Work Week. We would take it step further and ask families to hop on their bikes and ride their children to school," said Debra Mayeux, champion for Farmington Walk and Roll, the city of Farmington's Safe Routes to School program.

"Bicycling is a great family activity. It also is a great start to your day," Mayeux continued. "It gets your blood pumping, and we know that exercise before work or school not only energizes you, it also helps prepare your brain for the day ahead of you."

Local bicycle shops, Cottonwood Cycles and Frontier Sports, promote the "lifestyle" of bicycling. Cottonwood Cycles hosts weekly activity for both bike enthusiasts and families. "We try to get people out on the trails," said Ralph Winebarger, owner of Cottonwood Cycles. "We've got a lot of awesome trails out here. You can get out and enjoy the scenery and the mountains."

The trails are just part of the history of cycling in San Juan County. The city of Farmington hosts the longest running mountain biking event – the Road Apple Rally – each year in October. The area is bicycle friendly developing not only trails in each of the cities, but also offering bike lanes in the roadways to encourage bicycling. A local bike club, Velo de Animas, has many members who participate in professional competitions.

Aztec Mayor Sally Burbridge is a founder of Aztec Trails and Open Space, which continues to develop a riverside trail along the Animas River. Should that trail be completed, Aztec will have a comprehensive trail system, connecting the downtown area to outer lying areas of Aztec. It would be for both pedestrians and cyclists.

"The really bigger picture in this trail plan is that the backbone of the trail system actually forms a type of triangle that connects the town. ... It provides another way to get to the places around town without hopping in the car," Sally said.

The trails could help accommodate bicyclists as would

creating bike lanes through the city, said David Gilkey, owner of Frontier Sports. "A lot of people shy away from bicycles because of cars," trails and bike lanes could assist in swaying that fear.

Aztec Trails and Open Space has its monthly meetings at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Cottonwood Cycles in Aztec, where Ralph also has a coffee bar in the back of the shop. He said the coffee is complimentary for customers, who can find a variety of cycling-related items and several lines of bikes including Trek, Santa Cruz and Turner in the shop.

Ralph also supports the area mountain bike trails providing maps to folks looking for a good ride. "When you ride your bike your brain releases endorphins. It's a natural high," he said. That "high" can be achieved in short trips to the store or work and that is the message of National Bike Month – get out and ride.

"I'm about keeping people on pedals," Dave added. He not only wants to keep people on bikes. He wants to keep even the oldest of bikes on the road. "I'd like to see bikes recycled and people riding them again."

Another aspect of the message is that bicycling is one of the greenest forms of transportation. It saves gas, according to *1world2wheels.org*, a site developed and promoted by Trek Mountain Bikes. "The U.S. could save 462 million gallons of gasoline a year by increasing cycling from 1 percent to 1.5 percent of all trips."

Dave added that the average cost of operating a vehicle is \$800 per month, while riding bicycles is just like "living off the grid. You might consider a greenhouse being off the grid, a bicycle is kind of like that too. It's off the grid – there's no driver's license, no insurance."

Cycling also is a healthy activity that helps people lose weight and keep it off. It also combats childhood obesity, according to Debra. "In 1964, 50 percent of kids rode to school and the obesity rate was 12 percent. In 2004, 3 percent rode to school and the obesity rate was 45 percent," according to *1world2wheels.org*.

"I hope that people will take advantage of the nice weather in late May and participate in National Bike to Work Week that is May 16 to May 20," Mayeux said. "People in every county can get out, celebrate green transportation and exercise with a nice bike ride."

Dave hopes that society is on the forefront of a new age, in which bicycling makes a resurgence. "History has a tendency of repeating itself, and I think bicycles are due for that," he said.



Dasha Barnes, of Farmington, practiced her cycling skills during Big Brothers/Big Sisters of San Juan County-sponsored bike rodeo at McKinley Elementary.



The San Juan River is in the middle of water rights dispute between the Navajo Nation, federal and state governments, local entities and area residents with water rights. Photo by Debra Mayeux.

## Ditches join water rights dispute

### Attorney says residents need to speak out

By Debra Mayeux

A 35-year-old dispute over water is rearing its head once again as those people and organizations holding rights to San Juan River water oppose the Navajo Water Rights Settlement.

The Navajo have claimed ownership to 56 percent of the water flowing from the San Juan River since the 1800s, but the state issued water rights to the same water in the 1940s, superceding the Navajo rights. Then, when the Navajo Dam was constructed to manipulate the river's flow and create Navajo Reservoir, the federal government claimed rights to the water.

The water has been battled over for decades, but after an agreement was reached in December of 2010, between former Navajo President Joe Shirley Jr., and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, questions of ownership once again were raised.

To date, the San Juan Agricultural Water Association, 23 ditches and the cities of Aztec, Bloomfield and Farmington have spoken out against the settlement.

"This water rights adjudication has been going on for 35 years without much action," said Victor Marshall, an Albuquerque attorney representing the ditches and the water association. "Everybody is pretty much asleep, but people need to wake up between now and Sept. 16. Their water rights are in play and at risk right now."

Marshall spoke to area residents at a May 11, 2011 meeting to explain the dispute process, so they may retain their water rights. The meeting, at Bloomfield High School, was hosted by the San Juan Agricultural Water Association, which has been monitoring water rights in the San Juan Basin for years.

Under this Navajo water settlement; the Navajo

*Continued on page 25*

## It's good to have friends but our Aquatic Center needs more of them

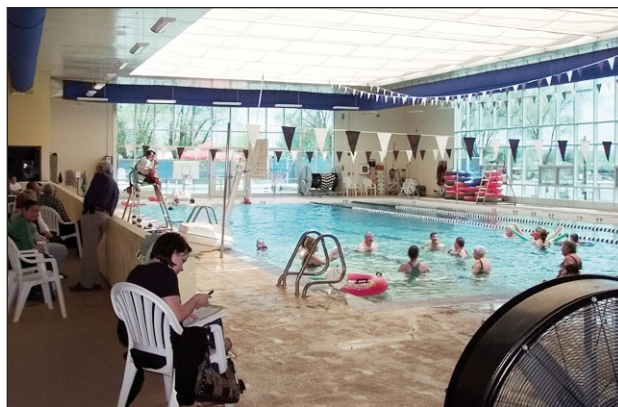
by Gary N. Lepire

### Get involved if it really matters to you

The Bloomfield Aquatic Center is facing a closure crisis. A \$1.5 million deficit may well put an end to a quality of life asset that serves the municipality well, not to mention those of our Tri-City area who frequent the facility. Seniors, as well as handicapped individuals, could well find themselves high and dry if this deficit is not corrected. These patrons in particular suffer a pool closure issue as something that threatens their health, since there is far less traumatic physical resistance in an aquatic environment as opposed the terrestrial resistance most of us take for granted as we stride upon a treadmill or assume the more demanding challenges of the weight room in our fitness center.

Moreover, our youth, who find positive direction at this facility could well find themselves with far less of it. With entirely too much idle time, engaging the old cliché: "idle hands are the devil's workshop." It could well prove to be an expensive truth for all.

I can only imagine the nightmares of our Fire Chief George Duncan (and crews) in having to respond to more fire emergencies because "idle" hands decide to play with matches. I can only imagine how our Police-Chief Mike Kovacs (and crew) find themselves responding more frequently to juvenile crime that resulted from the increased drug use (idle hands) induced by a pool closure. It seems to me that our emergency services per-



sonnel already have their hands full in dealing with their normal duties without facing the consequences of "idle-hands" that double their workload. Additionally, "idle hands" don't seem to have a problem tagging (graffiti) any available target; it only ensures further financial burdens on a municipality that can ill afford it, just to cover what "idle hands" and a can of spray paint can truly cost. Juvenile drug and alcohol abuse, as well as the ensuing behaviors, should be enough to make any tax-payer (or the City) think twice about a pool closure.

City Manager David Fuqua tells me that the City itself would like to avoid the closure and needs to hear new ideas and recommendations on how to avoid it. "Friends of the Pool" (F.O.P.) headed by John Renner is an

organized group of concerned residents, dedicated to preventing a pool closure, who regularly meet to brainstorm and appear before the City Council. They are aware of the potential ensuing problems a pool closure, as outlined herein, may cause but they need much more community support if they are to prevail. Point of contact for this organization is John and Shirley Curtis (632-2997) who will welcome any calls from others who want to help.

Bloomfield Parks and Rec Director, Bob Carman as well as Aquatic Director, Steve Gromack, both agree that decisions will be tough yet, they agree on a few points like: As a last resort in tough economic times, staff lay-offs are particularly unattractive when comp-time and shorter operating hours during the winter may serve to provide some minor savings. Dropping indoor pool temps by a degree or two, and combining responsibilities of all staff (each wearing two or more hats) so as to allow them to fill-in are pretty good options. Other ideas recommended included lessons for SCUBA diving, incorporating home schoolers in the school programs, and even raising fees (and/or) tax hikes.

If the City can't find solutions, this facility will close and then how do we even efficiently utilize that property? Tough decisions are around the corner for all concerned so, while the debates continue: "Get involved if it really matters to you" because "It's good to have friends but our Aquatic Center needs more of them."

# TALON NOTES

For TALON info,  
call Candy 334-1039



## AHS 1991 Reunion

AHS Class of 1991, 20 Year Reunion, July 9th, 2011, 2 Official Events: Family Picnic and Dinner Party.

For more details check out our Facebook page "Aztec High class of 1991 20 year reunion" or send an email to [Aztec1991reunion2011@hotmail.com](mailto:Aztec1991reunion2011@hotmail.com). We'd love to see you all there. Teachers/Office Staff/Administrators: If you were an employee in the Aztec School System during our school years (approx. 1977-1991) we would love to reconnect with you as well. Please get in contact with us for more details.

## Aztec Recycling Center

### New Hours

- **Tuesday - Friday:**  
**10 am to 4 pm**
- **Saturday:**  
**8 am to noon**

## MARK YOUR CALENDER!

### Relay for Life of Aztec NM TEAM FUNDRAISERS

### HUGE YARD SALES

at The Hiway Grill  
(401 N E Aztec Blvd, Aztec)  
Parking Lot

**Sundays • 12:00 – 4 pm**  
**May 15, May 22 and May 29**

#### DROP-OFFS:

Please only drop off donated items on one of the yard sale days.

Teams involved in the yard sales include: Hiway Grillers, Pammie's Pearls, Lynda's Girls, Lynda's Girls Too, Team Righteous, and Key Club Cavaliers.

Any other Relay teams interested in participating, please contact Team Development Chair Chelle Maurer at 330-5151.

*Proceeds benefit Relay for Life and The American Cancer Society.*

## A tribute to Beverly

On May the first of the year 2011 at the dawn of the day, Beverly Ann Padia went to heaven to be with Jesus and our Saviour.

I knew Beverly early in my life, you see I was like family and grew up around the Padia's. Beverly's grandpa Juan and grandma Eloise were my God parents; they baptized me. We always had Thanksgiving Dinner at the Padia's. Beverly's Grandpa used to say turkey for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year. "Turkey time."

On White Ave. very special people lived there. Sonny Nixon, Jimmy Ransom, and Beverly who are all deceased, only Delbert Bible is with us.

I always had a place in my heart for these special people. I met a great number of these special people as telephone Pioneer Volunteer. We did the Special Olympics and the annual Christmas Dinner for the handicapped at McGee Park.

When I became a grown man, I didn't see Beverly as much as I should. But when I did see her she had a big smile and said, "Hi Louie!"

In saying goodbye, God bless you and thank you for the honor of being one of your pallbearers.

*As always, Louie Sandoval*

**Call 334-1039 to get stories, ads, etc. in TALON**

## AHS Class of '01 - 10 yr reunion

It will be **July 15-16th**. Activities planned include: Friday night - Meet and Greet at Hiway Grill; Saturday Lunch - Family Picnic and Activities at Minium Park; Saturday Dinner - Dinner and Dancing at Hidden Valley Golf Club. Registration is \$50 per adult. Registrations will be due July 1st.

Look for more info on our Facebook page; search "Aztec High Class of 2001," or you can email [aztehighclassof01@hotmail.com](mailto:aztehighclassof01@hotmail.com).

### Bloomfield High School Class of 81's 30th year reunion - June 10th & 11th.

Call Rachel Mauzy at 505-215-3851 or Dorothy Haws at 505-402-3806 for more information.

## Laser Tag

Almost all of you have asked about Laser Tag at Big Bounce at one time or another. After a lot of thought and much planning, we are happy to say that Farmington will have a new play destination on June 1 2011. We have leased the 11000 sq. ft. building next to Arby's at 1835 East Main. We are in the remodel stage at this time.

We will continue with our other operation Big Bounce on 20th St. and continue to offer you the great service you've come to expect. We have set our age limit at Big Bounce at 12 years old in most cases. This has left a void for those who are older who are looking for exciting things to do in Farmington. We are now going to fill that void by bringing laser tag, birthday parties, company team building, Laser team leagues, a fast food grill and other entertainment to you at our new location.

This is going to be exciting fun for the whole family, however we recommend laser tag for kids 7 to 107 at heart. You will play under black light, strobes and flashing lights to space age music. The game is played with laser guns and vests. It is all computer controlled with a scoreboard for each team and a score sheet after the game is over to tell which team and individual won the game. You can bring your own team or be placed on a team for each game you wish to play.

The course is a 4000 sq. ft. intertwined maze set to a space age theme. New Mexico has never experienced what you are about to at The Laser Zone. Come enjoy lunch or dinner, play a game or two of laser tag and have a great time. Our new web site [www.thelaserzone.com](http://www.thelaserzone.com) will soon be up and running so keep up to date on what is happening. You will also be able to follow us on FaceBook, Buzztown, Twitter and Myspace.

We hope to see you soon. Be one of the first to book your birthday party at The Laser Zone.

*Thank you, Ron and Reida Baca owners, The Laser Zone, Big Bounce and Teddy Connection*

## Spring cleaning SOS!

Calling all folks who are interested in the Angel Garden, civic organizations, and clubs! We are scheduling a 2nd tentative work day for Saturday May 21st at 9:30, at the garden 901 N. McCoy Avenue. The weeds are growing UP, and we need to tidy the garden. We will provide as many tools as possible. Bring water, sunscreen, and a hard-workin' attitude!

Contact Ginny Jones at 334-3502 or 860-9381 or Carol Hatfield at the school 334-6831. Thanks in advance!

**City of Aztec Pot Hole Hotline 334-7660**

## •The TALON Regulars•

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Susan Barnes, Natural Health            | 327-1914   |
| Bert Bennett, Fire Department           | 334-9271   |
| Mike Heal, Chief's Corner               | 334-7620   |
| Book Nook, Library Staff                | 334-7658   |
| Superintendent's Corner, Kirk Carpenter |  |
| Marriage Matters                        | 327-7870   |
| Gary Lepire                             | 634-2040   |
| John Rees, Bird Talk                    | 632-8335   |
| Oil & Gas Basics, Susan Franzheim       |  |
| Bruce Salisbury                         | 334-2398   |
| Cindy Iacovetto, Senior Center          | 334-2881   |
| Nick Garcia, The Big C                  | 334-2434   |
| Sustainable Living, Elisa Bird          | 334-1840   |
| Water, Robert Oxford                    | 330-2284   |
| Recreation w/ Ryno, Ryan Lane           | <a href="mailto:tryanlane@gmail.com">tryanlane@gmail.com</a> |

These folks share their time on a regular basis to write in their field of interest. If you have subjects and tidbits they might be interested in, give them a call. If you would like to try your hand at writing, give us a call at 334-1039. Many others have submitted stories, poems and information on an occasional or one-time basis. Thanks to everyone, it sure makes for good reading.

## Don't Be Left Out Next (preferred) Deadline: May 24th

You are encouraged to send your articles, photos, ads, etc. in early (but send in even if past deadline, if there's room it could run).

The Aztec Local News, 334-1039  
PO Box 275, Aztec 87410  
Drop box at Zip and Ship  
Send via email: [aztecnews@sisna.com](mailto:aztecnews@sisna.com)

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*The Aztec Local News (TALON) is published semimonthly, on the 1st and middle of each month. As a community-input newspaper, serving the Aztec, Bloomfield, Cedar Hill, Center Point, Flora Vista, La Plata, Navajo Dam, and Blanco areas, we welcome stories, news, events, poetry, photos, etc. from area residents.*

*6500 copies of The Aztec Local News are delivered to over 150 locations in the area for free pickup and mailed to those who prefer the convenience of a subscription.*

Editor & Publisher: Candy Frizzell, 334-1039  
Writers: Katee McClure, 330-4616, Debra Mayeux, 320-6512  
Advertising info: 505-334-1039  
Cartoonist: Catherine Downing  
Distribution: Lee Potter, Stephanie Sandoval, Melody Ahlgrim  
Proofreaders: Gina Martinez, Linda Lawson, Debbie Israel

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The Aztec Local News is a compilation of articles, poems, stories, opinions, etc. written by area residents. The opinions expressed in these articles are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily reflect those of TALON.

If information is presented as fact and it is relevant to you, verify it. Although we strive for correctness and honesty, this community paper does not have the resources to check all incoming info. Be aware also that what's in TALON, ends up on the internet..

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## A Time to Remember

Memorial Day is a day for remembering. We remember, and honor, the war dead and others in the military who served the nation. However, the day is also a time to remember friends and loved ones whose absence still pains us, no matter how long it has been. It is important to remember.

Remembering does not necessarily mean that we are stuck in the past, but it means that we learned from the people and events that have gone before us, as we live in the present and look forward to the future.

We are fortunate to live in a community that values those who have gone before, and that is especially important for a community cemetery like Aztec's. From the first burial in 1890 to the present, the upkeep of the Aztec Cemetery has been the responsibility of families of those buried there. If you happen to be in the vicinity of the cemetery in the days prior to Memorial Day, you will notice that there are many families who take their responsibilities seriously.

The Aztec Cemetery is not a perpetual care cemetery; in fact, it is often difficult to find someone willing to cut weeds hour after hour. Therefore, in order to "keep up," the community spirit must prevail and everyone must contribute. When everyone does "pitch in," the results are amazing and efforts are greatly appreciated. So, THANKS to all of you who remember and contribute on Memorial Day.

Questions concerning the cemetery should be directed to Joe Price at 505-793-2895. Donations may be made to the Aztec Cemetery Association, c/o Joe Price, 820 La Plata Dr., Aztec, NM 87410.

## Birthdays this Month

Happy birthday to Dalton Wilmer, Amberlynn Abernathy, and Kaitlyn Loper.

Happy Anniversary to Sandy and Peter Vandendriessche!

**Joshua Wayne Ray**  
**Happy Birthday on**  
**May 24th!**

**TALON is a**

community-input newspaper.

**THANKS to Everyone!**

Independently owned since 1993.

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**All 2011 AHS Grad's Invited**  
 For information call  
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 Anna Strauss 419-0648

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**City of Aztec  
 Pot Hole Hotline  
 334-7660**

## ing children

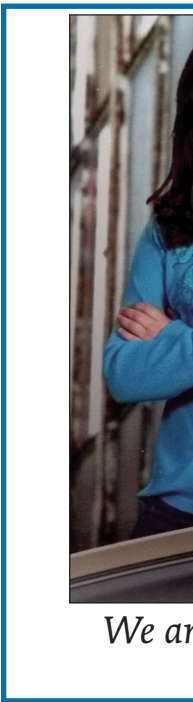
messages, Web site visits, social networking sites their children have been involved with while they are surfing the Internet.



**from MOST**  
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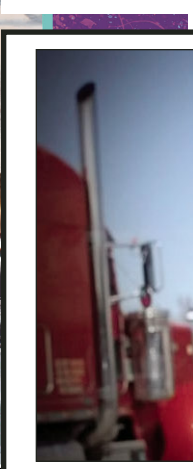
## Court No

Letters from the Rights Settlement out to (hopefully) received your letter out and return to September 16, 20 water right owner Elledge Ditch and contracts to have sent them to opposite right owners should participate, show Mr. the form to the lo Also appearing



## Bell lany

VFW Post 614 was purchased to Post member John bell will be used attention when the group. John was v memories of the t For years the sn was also a part of lanyard" and has s one out there know in their old box fu the Aztec VFW at call Dick Clark at



**Wishing D  
 Happy 4th  
 Lots of L  
 Je**

# Superintendent's Corner

by Kirk M. Carpenter, Superintendent Aztec Municipal Schools

Okay I think spring is finally in the air as it has warmed up nicely. We have the outcome of the audit I referred to earlier and we have also tentatively set our budget for the next school year so I wanted to update you on both those items.

## Audit

The audit was done to ensure information was and is being reported accurately and taxpayer dollars are being protected. There were 8000 new units created across the state due to many factors, but the main three that the PED looked at were increases in Developmentally Delayed (DD) Pre School students, increases in overall special education students and funding factors and finally a substantial increase of Teacher Education and Experience. As I mentioned earlier this month each one of the areas listed above generates a lot of funding for districts across the state and because of the huge increase in the number of units, it greatly reduced the overall unit value for everyone across the state.

Aztec was selected due the increase in our four year old DD students this year compared to the 2009-2010 School Year. Last year we had twenty-nine four-year olds and this year we had forty-two and because of this increase we were selected to be audited, even though we only had a three student increase in our overall numbers in the pre-school programs. I had full confidence that we would come through the audit without any compliance issues and we did exactly that. In fact Aztec was one of eight school districts from across the state to receive a clean audit. At the conclusion of the audit, the Secretary of Education wrote: **"Based on a review of records and additional accountability measures established by the Departments' auditing team, eight school districts were cleared of all issues regarding special education, special education services and expenses for teacher training and experience. In the majority of cases, these districts exhibited exemplary data quality, accurate record keeping, strong accountability and no compliance infractions."** These districts include: Aztec, Des Moines, Los Alamos, Maxwell, Portales, Rio Rancho, Santa Rosa and Silver City. In further audit findings there were thirteen school districts cited for minor compliance issues, four school districts cited for major compliance issues and nine school districts selected for additional audits based

on the initial findings resulting from the audit. I am thankful that we have such a great Exceptional Programs office staff and pre-school teachers that not only do their jobs, but as you can see from the results of the audit they do it very well.

## Budget

We will not finalize our budget process until our June board meeting, but I wanted to give you a look at some of our challenges. We continue to make cuts to our budget, but yet our numbers are staying the same or in some cases even growing a little bit. Our operational budget got cut \$716,000 from a year ago, but with other related impacts to our budget we had to account for about \$951,000. The impacts we had to deal with included: 1) Level changes for teachers and educational assistants 2) Increase in sub pay by five dollars a day - We are the lowest paying district in the county and need to address this need 3) Increase in utility costs 4) Cuts in the transportation budget will result in our operational budget being used to help supplement the transportation budget for to and from travel for students 5) the truancy officer for the district will be partly covered with a grant and some operational funding. We plan to deal with this budget shortfall in the following manner; 1) Savings from the shift of 1.75% in the contributions to the Education Retirement Board from the district to the employees 2) Savings on property and liability insurance 3) Reduction of two teachers and one educational assistant position, but these will be handled through attrition 4) The district will save as a result of the increase costs for retirement costs being placed on the return to work employee and taken away from the district 5) We will have to use some of our savings from budget year 2010-2011. In addition to the cuts in our operational budget we also will see a reduction in our special education federal funding by over 7%. We are doing more with less and this will not change for next year, but rest assured that we will still give your child the best education possible.

Graduation for VNHS graduation was on May 14th at 10am at the Boys and Girls Club and for AHS it will be on May 20th at 7pm at Fred Cook Stadium.

**Congratulations to the class of 2011 and now go out there and make us all proud!!!!!!**



# What the Blazes!

by Bert Bennett

## Value of a Volunteer

I was reading an article in the *Paramedic and Firefighter News* on the value of a volunteer. It reports that a statistic from the Independent Sector, a research group (I think), announced that the 2008 estimated value of a volunteer hour is \$20.25 per hour. This is based on the average hourly wage for all non-management, non-agriculture workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with a 12% increase to estimate for fringe benefits. In the article they estimate that if your department responds to 500 calls a year, average 10 responders per call, and each call averages one hour, there is a direct value of over \$100,000.00 per year. Realistically most of our calls are 30 minutes or less and we send two or three members to a call, but we respond to about 1,000 calls a year. Using these numbers we are close to their numbers.

Using these statistics as basic for the value of volun-

teers, that would be us, the numbers would be close to right. With the economy as it is, a savings to the tax payers of Aztec, that \$100,000.00 dollars is a savings to us all. Now if the department had, say, 30 members would that figure be three times as much? Probably not, but it would be a lot easier for the ones out there doing the job. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!**

Now let's consider the other scenario, a paid department. Remember the \$100,000.00 for those 10 volunteers. That number would go up by at least 1/2 more and that would be for the firefighters only. Now let's add the cost of remodeling all three stations, or building new ones, so there are sleeping quarters for at least five firefighters per three shifts. Remember there will need to be different areas for our male and female firefighters. Next we would need officers, at least one Chief, a Captain or two and three or four Lieutenants and all of them will need more money than the firefighters. The higher the rank the more money, so now we are at about, say \$200,000.00, and we still haven't built or remodeled the stations. Oh yes, engines. The engines we have (four) were and are being paid from State Fire Funds. Wonder who pays for city owned trucks?

Question is - would we the citizens, or taxpayers, rather pay the million or so dollars, or thank our volunteers for the savings? To that end I still wonder why we can't find 10 or so citizens out of the two thousand plus adults in the Aztec Volunteer Fire District. Again **WE ALL, THE CITIZENS OF AZTEC, NEED YOUR HELP.** Please consider the options and come help. Remember these figures are from 2008!

## ALL VOLUNTEER • SINCE 1925 • ALL THE TIME

We need your help!! The Fire Department is down. It is now time for you, the citizens of Aztec, to come forward. Your neighbors need your help. If you are interested in helping your community, and are over 18, join the Fire Department now.

To join, come by the main station at 200 N. Ash, behind Blake's, any Wednesday night at 7 pm. The members will be more than happy to tell you all about your volunteer fire department. Your help is needed and you can make a difference!!!

## Vet Center Combat Call Center 1-877-WAR VETS

An around the clock confidential call center where combat veterans and their families can call to talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in their readjustment to civilian life.

The call center is staffed by combat veterans from several eras as well as family members of combat vets.

## 20th Annual!

# "More the Merrier" Bike Ride

Please help us to reach our goal of \$35,000!  
WHEN: Saturday, June 11, 2011. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Start times: (All distances are approximate)  
Both Mountain and Road Bike Rides begin and end at Lions Wilderness Park.

| Mountain Bike Ride           | Road Bike Ride               |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 8:30 ... 11 mile ride begins | 8:35 ... 20 mile ride begins |
| 8:40 ... 4 mile ride begins  | 8:45 ... 5 mile ride begins  |
| 10:00 1 mile kid's ride      |                              |

There will be a Kiddie course for tricycle riders set up at the event site.

- All participants/parents/guardians must sign waivers the day of the event.

- Helmets, water and snacks required in order to ride.
- Teens over 15 may ride without a parent provided they are accompanied by a buddy.

WHERE: Lions Wilderness Park, Farmington, NM  
COSTS: Tickets for the Bike Ride, Brunch, and Shirts will be available the day of the event.

- \$30 - One adult ticket for each of the following: Bike Ride, Brunch and T-Shirt.

- Children under twelve eat and ride free when accompanied by an adult.

ENTERTAINMENT: Jokers Wild  
The Childhaven Foundation hosts this event to benefit Childhaven whose mission is "Lifting Children from Crisis to Hope."

For more information or to register, contact Jamie Church, Development Director at (505) 325-5358.

# What Is Relay For Life?

Relay for Life is the signature fundraising event for The American Cancer Society (ACS). It is a life-changing community event that gives everyone in Aztec a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay, teams of people camp out at Riverside Park and take turns walking around a track. The idea, if possible, is for each team to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, Relay is an overnight event.

The first Relay began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for ACS. Since then, Relay has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer into the world's largest movement with over 3.5 million people participating in over 5,000 communities.

But, it's more than just walking around a track. It's a night of community. A night that brings people together, all with the same hope and driven purpose to make a difference in the fight against this terrible and far-reaching disease. It is a night that we cry together, laugh together, pray together, heal together, play together, and come together in a common unspoken understanding of the effect this disease has had on so many of us. We celebrate, remember, and fight back together and know that we are making a difference and we are helping save lives.

This year's **Relay for Life of Aztec NM is scheduled for 6:00 pm, Friday June 24 to 6:00 am, Saturday June 25 in Riverside Park.** There will be meaningful ceremonies, a survivor/caregiver lap, meditation garden, luminaries, live music, scrolling honor/memory wall, silent auction, and all night long activities, entertainment, and competitions. It is shaping up to be a fun and worthwhile community night.

The theme is sports with "We are the Champions." Teams can pick which sport they want to represent by decorating their team site. Teams are encouraged to fundraise before and during the event. We can help you with ideas.

We are looking for more teams of all ages and from all walks of life. You can choose to stay all night or not. The important thing is that you are involved. Come join us in one of the most rewarding events of the summer and spend time saving lives.

Sign your team up (or make a donation to a team) at [relayforlife.org/aztecnm](http://relayforlife.org/aztecnm) or call Annette Abend 947-5550, Chelle Maurer 330-5151, or Mariel Lynch 402-8389 for more info and help.

# They're back! Key Club Movies begin May 25th

The fourth season of Key Club Movies in the Park will begin with a "School's Out" movie on Wednesday, May 25th. Our special feature will be Tron: Legacy and as always, will be shown at Minium Park behind Safeway starting at dusk which will be around 8:45. The movies are always free and a concession stand will be available to raise money for the upcoming Aztec Relay For Life. Come on out and join the fun, but don't forget chairs, blankets, and jackets as it still gets cool in the evenings. For the regular summer season, the Key Club plans the Friday movies every 2 weeks beginning on June 3rd. Check out the schedule and movies in the next Talon.

# Get Yer Cowboy On - YEE HAW!!

by Katee McClure

On **June 4th**, the Aztec Restaurant will host its **Third Annual Cowboy Poetry Contest**. Now here is the interesting part - you don't have to be a poet to enter!

There are three categories for this exciting creative contest: Art, Songs, and, last but not least, Poetry.

If you don't think you have it in you to create something of the cowboy nature think again. Themes for this contest can include:

- Ranch work and those who perform it
- Western lifestyles • Landscape of the American West
- Cowboy values and practices • Humorous anecdotes
- Memories of times and people long gone
- Sarcasm regarding modern contraptions and/or ways
- If you are shy about performing, have one of your outgoing friends or family member represent you.

The tradition of cowboy poetry goes back to the early history of America where cowboys would gather around the fire after a long day's work and entertain one another with songs and tall tales. Does it have to be truthful? Not necessarily. It can also have a contemporary theme. After all, we still have cowboys around today in these here parts. The most important factor is to just have fun.

Cowboy poetry isn't just for adults. Why not get the kids involved to showcase their creative side.

All artistic types are invited. Painters, sculptors, song writers, tall tale tellers and... Poets.

Stop by the Aztec Restaurant to pick up an entry form. Entry fee is \$25.00 which includes a full dinner. Ride "Em Cowboy!

# AFTER taxes – There's nothing like a Wine Glass Dash

by Gary Lepire and Brittny Squires Arnold

On April 16th, Wines of the San Juan hosted their 2nd Annual Wine Glass Dash in conjunction with their 8th Annual After Tax Spring Fling. 132 runners, walkers, individuals, and families gathered for the benefit run at Wines of the San Juan in Turley, NM. The race was scheduled to begin at 9:32 a.m., and was followed by the After Tax Spring Fling.

By 10:35 a.m., the racers began to finish the course and enjoyed fresh fruit, bread, cookies and ice cold water donated by local businesses: Fresh for Less Produce (Farmington), Bread (Durango, CO), and Farmers Market (Bloomfield). After the last participant, 82 years young Alma Bruce, crossed the finish-line with her encouraging companion Emily Rascoe, prizes and awards were handed out. For the 10k race, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards were awarded to Carlos Murillo of Farmington, NM, Nicholas Akins of Farmington, NM, and Joseph Lobato of Turley, NM. 5k race awards were given to Austin Kimsey of Durango, CO, David Gutierrez of Turley, NM, and Richard Ivie of Farmington, NM. Awards were also given to the winery's youngest and "wisest" male/female race participants. Prizes and awards were donated by Technical Compression Service, Browns Shoe Farmington, Vitamin Cottage, and Durango Joes Farmington.

At 11 a.m., the Jelly Belly Boogie Band took the stage and Smoken' Moe's of Ignacio, Colorado began preparing delicious bbq sandwiches and side dishes. San Juan Soda Company served up the best hot fudge sundaes in the west! Winery owners and operators, David and Marcia Arnold were pleased to host the event, saying, "We were blessed with good weather, it was a wonderful spring day with no wind," and, "Thank you to the race participants and sponsors that made this event successful," respectively.

The proceeds from this year's run were scheduled to be donated to Ducks for Bucks, a local organization that gives financial support to families with children affected



Winery 5K/10K runners at work

by the fatal disease, Niemann-Pick. However, on April 10th, there was a tragic house fire in Kirtland, NM that left only one survivor, Wyman Overson. The fire claimed the life of his wife, Judith Overson and their pets, and left Wyman homeless without any worldly possessions. The participants were informed of this at the beginning of the race and were asked by Ducks for Bucks and Wines of the San Juan to choose to which cause their registration proceeds would be donated; Ducks for Bucks or the Judith Overson Memorial Fund. The total amount raised was nearly \$2200. If interested, donations for the Judith Overson Memorial Fund can still be made to Bank of the Southwest in her name. Donations for Ducks for Bucks can be made at [www.ducksforbucks.org](http://www.ducksforbucks.org).

The annual Ducks for Bucks event held in June at Wines of the San Juan is another family friendly fundraiser for Niemann-Pick Disease, and you and your family are encouraged to attend! A fun time was had by all in the relaxed atmosphere of the winery's gentle spring breezes and cordial staff. This time of the year there's nothing quite like kickin' back for a year well spent; "AFTER taxes – There's nothing like a Wine Glass Dash – Spring Fest."

# McCoy Family Technology Literacy Night

Children naturally love to listen to stories and play games. Stories and games give students opportunities for learning fundamental skills while expanding knowledge, develop higher level thinking, and make self-connections needed for the development of healthy reading.

Now, in the 21st century, students gravitate towards animated stories and interactive games. With grant money from ConocoPhillips, McCoy Elementary Kindergarten and First Grade teachers, Mrs. Hammond, Mrs. Martinez, Mrs. Marx, and Mrs. Shepardson purchased educational "Reading Buddies" for their classrooms.

These Reading Buddies are handheld portable electronic learning game systems by Leapster. Reading Buddy Leapster handheld games have interactive animated stories and games to help increase students' reading skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. Students have been using the Reading Buddy Leapsters in their classrooms throughout the year to help promote reading acceleration. Reading Buddies also helps with monitoring student progress and remediation interventions during small group reading centers. Students love working with their hand-held interactive technology Reading Buddies.

A Family Technology Literacy Night was held at the Aztec City Library. Students were given a chance to play games and share the educational Leapsters with their families. The Aztec Library gave information about the upcoming Summer Reading Program. New library cards were also available for students and families.

Families had a great time and refreshments were served. Thank you ConocoPhillips for awarding this grant to McCoy Elementary School. *The Young family*



Ginger Young, Jasmine King, Mattie McDermott



# NMSU's Holy Jolokia BBQ sauce is HOT!

by Justin Bannister, [jbannist@nmsu.edu](mailto:jbannist@nmsu.edu)

Time to fire up the barbecue, quite literally, with New Mexico State University's Holy Jolokia barbecue sauce. The sauce, produced by CaJohns Fiery Foods, is the latest in a line of spicy condiments made from the world's hottest commercially available chile pepper, the Bhut Jolokia. Sales from the barbecue sauce, along with Holy Jolokia hot sauce and salsa, benefit chile pepper research at NMSU.

"John and Sue Hard at CaJohns have really made us a special barbecue sauce," said Paul Bosland, director of NMSU's Chile Pepper Institute. "We've taste-tested it on chicken, steak and even tofu and it tastes great on each of them."

"The unique thing about this barbecue sauce is that a portion of the proceeds come back to the university," said Mark Gladden, development director for NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. "That money is put into an endowment to permanently support chile pepper research here at NMSU."

Holy Jolokia hot sauce was first released in 2009 and continues to be the best-selling product for CaJohns Fiery Foods. Like the other Holy Jolokia products, the barbecue sauce is available at NMSU's Chile Pepper Institute, online at [www.chilepepperinstitute.org](http://www.chilepepperinstitute.org) or at the Paradies Shops in airports and hotels across the Southwest.

Bhut Jolokias have a heat measurement of more than one million Scoville Heat Units, which is about 100 times hotter than the average jalapeno.

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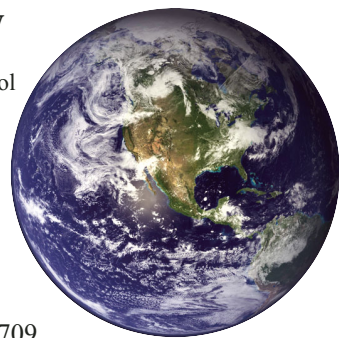
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