

Christmas at Arlington National Cemetery



Rest easy, sleep well my brothers. Know the line has held, your job is done. Rest easy, sleep well. Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held. Peace, peace, and farewell...

Readers may be interested to know that these wreaths -- some 5,000 -- are donated by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. A wonderful guy. Also, most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out. Making this even more remarkable is the fact that Harrington is in one the poorest parts of the state.

Newsletter Sponsor

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Ken and Pat Hammett. Thanks for the donation! Deadline for news is the 25th of each month.

Hanging of the Green, Mayhill Baptist Church (MBC)

The people of the MBC invite you and your family to join them for a special evening of singing, candlelight, fellowship, and decorating as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

The Church is beginning the Christmas season with its first "Hanging of the Green."

Beginning at 5 p.m. on December 3, the annual dinner will be served, and at 6 p.m. the "Hanging of the Green" celebration will begin.

As part of the evening celebration, the Holloman Air Force Honor Guard will join us, and the MBC choir will sing in the Christmas season.

Meat will be provided for the evening meal. Please bring a vegetable or dessert to share; and, if you would like, bring an ornament to help decorate the Christmas tree.

For more info, please call 505-687-3754.

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

The South Central Sacramento Mountain Faith Communities will celebrate the birth of Jesus with a worship service on December 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the Bishop W. Angie and Bess Owens Smith Chapel, Sacramento Methodist Assembly. For those who make reservations, the community meal will be served in the Sacramento Methodist

Assembly Dining Hall immediately after the worship service.

For reservations call 505-687-3414 or 1-800-667-3414 by December 19. Adults, \$8; children ages 5 to 12, \$5; family (2 or more children, \$25).

Sponsored by the Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Assembly, Weed Baptist Church, and the Weed House of Prayer.

Weed Community Christmas Party

Friday, December 22, 6 p.m., Weed Gym, potluck dinner. Meat and drinks will be furnished. On the 21st, at 1 p.m., we'll get together to decorate the gym. Please come help.

Piñon Community Christmas Party

Friday, December 15, 6 p.m., Piñon Community Center, potluck dinner. Come join the fun.

Community Christmas Cantata

Be sure to reserve Sunday, December 17 at 4p.m. for the beautiful cantata, "Mary Did You Know," held at the Cloudcroft Methodist Church at 4 p.m.. This moving program is under the direction of Bob Meyers, the band director at Cloudcroft High School. Everyone is invited, and there is no charge.

Weed Christmas Corner

Many thanks to everyone who helped decorate the corner and Weed proper. Decorating has extended up the street and includes the Rogers', Goss', Maberry's, Café, and Post Office. We hope you enjoy looking at the decorations as much as we enjoyed putting them up.

Dates to Remember

...December 7, Pearl Harbor Day
...December 21, first day of winter
...December 22, Weed Community Christmas Party
...December 25, Christmas Day (Post Office closed)
...January 30, Weed Community Meeting, 6 p.m.

Upcoming Events

...December 23, Santa Land, Cloudcroft Zenith Park. Bonfire, marshmallow roast, hot chocolate & cider, holiday music, and games. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive with candy & cookies around 6:30 p.m. And, of course, the Snow Faeries will be there.
...December 15, Brenda Lee - A Christmas Concert, Inn of The Mountain Gods, 8 pm. Brenda performs all the great hits from her legendary career as well as all the Christmas favorites you know and love. Tickets and show package are available at the Inn of the Mountain Gods Concierge Desk at (800) 545-9011.

Journey to Healing Seminar - Russ Wright

Put the December 17, 3 p.m., session on your calendar now. It will again be at RavenWind, and will be another great one.

Presenter: Rosemary Cascio, C.H.

Rosemary owns and runs The Herb Stop in Ruidoso. She has been in this business for years and initially learned her trade from her Grandmother. She regularly gives classes leading to certification at her Ruidoso store. If you have not been there, stop by. If you want herbs and expert consultation, the Herb Stop is the place to go. Rosemary and her staff are fantastic. Address 2117 Sudderth Dr.

www.herbstop.com; ruidosoherbstop@hotmail.com

We are on a streak of really excellent gatherings. If you have heard of someone you would like to come, let me know. 505-687-3073

Belated Happy Birthdays

My computer had a mind of its own last month and spit these out. Darn computer! Sorry - Ed.

...Amanda Schuhen, 11/15
...Jim Walls, 11/19
...Cal Blodgett, 11/21
...Noel Akers, 11/23
...Craig Foster & MaryLou Ottis, 11/25
...Claudine Walls, 11/26
...Wendell Jordan, 11/28
...Norma Sadauskas, 11/29

Anniversaries, Birthdays, Comings & Goings.

Get Well Wishes

Happy Anniversary to:

...John & Jan Rauch, 12/18
...Sergio & Mary Murillo, 12/18
...Robert & Sonia Pfaffenberger, 12/29

Happy Birthday to:

Buddy Raymond, 12/2
Chris Mydock, 12/5
Jim Davidson & Al Alvarez, 12/8
Karen Braziel, 12/10
Michael Jenkins, 12/13
Kathy Elkins, 12/14
Jennifer Stone & Terry Rodgers, 12/20
Birgit Davidson & Cindy Livers, 12/22
Jane Collins, 12/23
Joshua Comino, 12/24
Don Brown & Daren Schuhen, 12/25
Marie Rodgers, 12/26
Cathy Jordan, 12/27
Robin Bagwell, 12/28
Debbie Stone, 12/29

Get Well to:

...Pansy Northrup
...Craig & Pat Foster

Goodbye and Hello to:

On November 15, the SMA said goodbye to Carla Kinsey who moved to Kansas to be with her family. We will miss her bright smile when we go in the Office. Teri Alvarez has been hired...not to take Carla's place, but to make her own...and she is well on the way!

Welcome to:

...Ron & Joyce Smith
...June Bronson, Louise Winkel's mother
...Anita Self who bought property here and will be working on her retirement home until the BIG DAY arrives. Anita is an RN at the WIPP site.

Adult Education Courses

Adult Education Courses will be given in Sacramento starting in January, 2007 for interested individuals. Participants will get a high school diploma from the State of New Mexico and you will have a graduation ceremony at NMU in Alamogordo. All classes and ceremonies are free of charge. If you have an interest contact Sandra Hunt at 687-2800.

USPS

- Debbie Stone

We at the Post Office wish you and yours a happy holiday season and thank you for your continued support! The Post Office is open Monday thru Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Call us at 687-2348 if you need help or have a question.

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 first Sunday of the month.

Water Matters

- Russ Wright

The following is a copy of the Year of Water agenda items that are going before the legislative in January that we got from Senator Asbill at the last meeting of the South Sacramento Water Group.

Governor Richardson's Year of Water Legislative agenda includes:

Office of Water Infrastructure: To help make sure water projects are successful and municipalities get the service they deserve, Governor Richardson will push to create a New Mexico Office of Water Infrastructure. This office will help streamline state bureaucracy by consolidating the state's water duties and give communities a one stop shop for their water infrastructure needs. Add to focus immediately on one recognized water-saving strategy, the Governor will allocate \$10 million for a statewide leak detection and repair program.

Eastern Navajo Water Project: \$15.3 million investment in extending reliable and clean water supplies to Indian and non-Indian communities in the Eastern Navajo checkerboard area. Today, almost 40% of the population of the eight easternmost Navajo chapters do not have easy access to safe drinking water. This funding will help extend water infrastructure to these areas and keep citizens and their children healthy.

Indian Water Rights Settlements: Governor Richardson will allocate \$12 million in state funds this year to act as the state's down payment on settling the longstanding Indian Water Rights Settlements. These monies in the Indian Water Rights Settlement Fund will be added to each year to ensure that when the time comes, New Mexico's share of settlement dollars will be in place. This will help demonstrate to the Federal government that New Mexico is committed to doing its part to resolve these issues.

Ute Pipeline: \$5 million investment in a long-planned pipeline to provide a sustainable water supply for communities across eastern New Mexico. This pipeline will serve communities throughout Curry and Roosevelt Counties, including the cities of Clovis and Portales.

Salt Basin Assessment: The Salt Basin, which lies beneath Otero Mesa, contains potentially hundreds of millions of gallons of sustainable fresh water supply within pipeline reach of the growing communities of south central New Mexico. Governor Richardson will invest \$2.2 million dollars to put the assessment and potential sustainable development of the resource on the fast track. "This effort will also again show why protecting Otero Mesa and its pristine water resources are so critically important," said Governor Richardson. "These three projects, which cover large parts of eastern, southern and western New Mexico, are the kind of big, regional projects New Mexico must design and build to ensure a secure water supply."

Investments in Water Infrastructure: To provide a permanent revenue stream to fund these projects and to help other needy New Mexico communities, Governor Richardson will also invest \$25 million dollars into the Water Trust Fund. These monies will generate a revenue stream to be distributed to cities and towns across the state to help them extend needed water infrastructure to their citizens.

Water Innovation Fund: Governor Richardson will invest \$20 million into making the best Water Innovation Fund projects a reality. This includes proposals in the planning stages concerning brackish water development, bio-diesel projects and residential water recycling.

River Ecosystem Restoration: Governor Richardson will propose a \$7.5 million river ecosystem restoration package. These funds will be used to restore and protect waterways all across the state. The Governor made his water announcement today beside a recently restored stretch of the Santa Fe River south of the Santa Fe airport. "The stretch of the Santa Fe River behind me is a perfect example of what we must do," said Governor Richardson. "By working together, the state, local government, private citizens and environmental groups have literally brought this river back to life. The restoration funds I announced today will help similar projects take root across the state."

Other Projects: Governor Richardson also supports mandated water conservation standards in building codes and a \$5 million dollars investment in the Strategic Water Reserve to help the state meet compact obligations and protect in stream water needs. The Governor also proposed investing \$1 million dollars to help farming families protect their agricultural heritage - and water supplies - through the purchase of conservation easements. He will help traditional acequias users with \$500,000 in technical assistance funding, and he will initiate measure to adopt a project suggested by Think New Mexico to lease unneeded irrigation water from farmers during drought years. "These infrastructure, agriculture, ecological and conservation projects are vital to helping a growing state protect its most precious resource," said Governor Richardson. "These are major initiatives I have determined to include in my Year of Water agenda. Additional projects and details will be added as we refine the program."

Christmas Sale At RavenWind,

Save 20% on Madlyn Rose Ultimate Skin Care Products. Your skin is a living, highly absorbent, responsive and vital organ which, when treated with care and nourishment, promotes good health. RavenWind uses Madlyn Rose Ultimate Skin Nutrition products. These are truly all natural products, free of any petroleum oils, parabens of any kind, dyes, bleaching agents, sodium laurel sulfate, synthetic fragrances or BHT. Learn more about these fantastic products by calling 505-687-3073 or at www.madlynrose.com.

Sacramento Mountains Radio Club

The Sacramento Mountains Radio Club had its election of officers in November. The installation of new officers will be at the December 9 meeting, with a pot luck luncheon afterward.

New officers are:

President: Linda Steinhoff

Vice President: Jerald Smith

Treasurer: Hans Steinhoff

Secretary: Bob Cook

Note from England

We visited Weed on vacation about 10 days ago, had lunch in the Café and walked about and talked to several residents and took a lot of photographs. We really enjoyed our time in your township and having read

and enjoyed the Hitchin' Post we thought it would be good to write.

With warmest good wishes

Jean & Neil Merritt
Old Victoria House
North Creake, Fakenham
Norfolk NR21 9JJ
U.K

PS Hope the lost cat seeking a new home has happily resettled. It seemed just too far to take him(?) to England

Piñon News

Welcome to peace and quiet mountains-wise this week. Just ordinary delivery trucks, tourists, and local citizens on their daily businesses.

Hunting season is temporarily off, that is unless you are a bear hunter. For awhile there, camouflaged folks hoping to surprise deer and elk (tough job!) and still be visible to fellow hunters were all around us. That is except that when they were at Sam's & Laura's Cook Shack. Smells of good food, laughter and music, and pickups hauling trailers with guns were everywhere. Friendly, well-behaved group happily hanging up horned beasts.

We welcome hunters and reminisce on "back when" even when our active days of game chasing are fading. Game meat is delicious when the cook understands the process the hunter began.

That wide sagging cable on Piñon Creek is now a memory. New Mexico State Highway crew came by this week, repaired and replaced whole water gap in record speed just as I expected and was promised. "As soon as we can" Billy Davis said. The roads are clear for travel in all directions from Piñon. Maybe not faultless and pristine yet, but consider the hard-working folks who keep us going. Be thankful for the grass and ground water.

Damage we have, yes. Water gaps still out in up-until-now-desperately-needed areas. A brief Thanksgiving break for family time, then more water gaps to replace. Cattle working and shipping is nearly done, just as we planned, between hunting seasons. Now we position cattle and other livestock where we hope to keep them until Spring 2007. Before snow fly! Thanks be to HIM for many gifts.

We have guests in Piñon from California. Lynda and Michael Malys are hosting Bob and Nancy from that sunny state. They enjoy our evening quiet and bird-song mornings. No fog.

Cook Shack news from Sam Henderson is "quiet and neat." Waiting for next season which begins in early December. Getting equipment organized to house hunters. Sam is readying his coolers for care for the game meat harvested. Nice service. Ice machine is a convenience for Piñoners.

One local experienced hunter took off the days to hunt deer. Found plentiful doe and some bucks, but returned home empty handed.

House remodeling and improvements going forward locally. For awhile, saws were buzzing while dust collected and hammers banged. Not much noise attached to repairing heaters, so its quieter now. Tile layers don't make much fuss either. They just kneel a lot.

We have new neighbors to the West. Not had the opportunity to meet them yet. The Piñon

Christmas Party would be a good time. The party will be a potluck, held on December 15, 6 p.m., in the Piñon Club House. Fun, games, and gift exchange. Everyone is welcome.

Farmers' Almanac December Gardening Tips

- 1 A poor time to plant.
- 2-3 Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.
- 4-6 Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground.
- 7-8 Most favorable days for planting beets, onions, turnips and other root crops where climate allows. Plant seedbeds and flower gardens.
- 9-13 A most barren period. Kill plant pests and do general farm work.
- 14-16 Favorable days for planting root crops, fine for sowing grains, hay and forage crops. Plant flowers.
- 17-18 Plant carrots, beets, onions, turnips, Irish potatoes and other root crops in the South. Lettuce, cabbage, collards and other leafy vegetables will do well. Start seedbeds.
- 19-20 Do no planting.
- 21-22 Plant sweet corn, beans, peppers and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.
- 23-24 Good days for killing weeds, briars and other plant pests. Poor for planting.
- 25-26 Plant peppers, sweet corn, tomatoes and other aboveground crops in southern Florida, California and Texas. Extra good for cucumbers, peas, cantaloupes and other vine crops.
- 27-29 A poor time to plant.
- 30-31 Fine for planting beans, peppers, cucumbers, melons and other aboveground crops where climate is suitable.

Christmas Pledge

Halt The Holiday Hustle

Believing in the beauty and simplicity of Christmas, I commit myself to the following:

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my LOVE for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true spirit of Christmas.
5. To initiate one act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.



Jesus is the Reason for the Season
Remember to put Christ in your Christmas

Wishing You a Joyous Christmas
and a
Happy New Year