

June 2006

Congratulations to Our 2006 Graduates!



...**Amber Dean Schueltz**, a graduating Junior (completing her Senior year via internet from Brigham Young University) is the daughter of Lonnie Joe and Mary Ann Schueltz, and sister of David Ray. She attended Kindergarten in La Luz, moved to Weed in 1995, and attended Cloudcroft School where she graduated May 20, 2006. While attending school, she was a member of the choir, a member of the production Kats, and played basketball her freshman year. She designed and maintained the school's website this past school year. She has worked part time at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly for the past 2 years. Her favorite food is hamburgers and Dr. Pepper; favorite color, blue; favorite flower, rose; favorite subject, computers; favorite teacher, Jean Davis; favorite singer, George Strait; favorite guy, her dad. She likes hanging out with her friends, puppies, cowboys and good-looking pickup trucks.
...**Josh Comino**, son of Paul & Kim Comino, who plans to attend NM Tech in the fall.
...**Tye Cleave**, son of Bernard & Susan Cleave

Weed/Sacramento Fire Department

- Evelyn Miller



Many thanks to all our fire people who were out on May 4 searching for remnants of the meteor that many people reported seeing. We are so grateful that there were no fires. On May 16, there was a lightning-caused fire in the Pinon Draw/Long Canyon area. It burned only one acre thanks to the Forest Service folks. Another lightning strike occurred in Ben Williams Canyon and burned only one-half acre. These two fires were on the area that the USFS burned last year. On May 20, a lightning strike fire was spotted in Prather Canyon. The USFS, with four slurry drops, and a group of firefighters from Weed/Sac, Mayhill, Mescalero and Fort Apache were able to contain the 10-acre fire and were out of the area by May 23.

We have a wonderful, awesome volunteer group! We would also like to thank everyone in the community who helped feed our volunteers.

Our Sympathies are Extended to

...Debbie Adams and family on the death of her mother and to the families of Henry Pruitt, Bill George, and Vera Peters.

Creativity = Fun! Fun = Creativity!



Don't forget to take advantage of our local artist, Cyndy Nesbit, who is sharing her knowledge and skills with us in weekly classes. Some students have been coming regularly for quite a

while. Some "never done this before" beginners have jumped in and fit right in. Each week is usually a painting started and completed, with the next class being a new learning experience. So you need not come every week to learn something. Class is 3-5 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Weed Café. \$20 per class. For \$5 more, Cyndy will furnish all the supplies needed so you can experience painting in watercolors before you are out a lot on supplies. Talent is not required, in fact it doesn't have anything to do with the great time we have and things you learn! If you have questions, contact Cyndy at cnesbit@pvt.net or 687-3486 or ask at the Cafe the next time you are in. The regular students are enthusiastic and will gladly share with you!

Game Night

- H.B. Newell

The first game night was deemed a success by the 35+ people who attended. The laughter was LOUD and Bingo players requested a "certain" table of folks to be quiet 'cause they couldn't hear the calls! Everyone had a good time! Call your friends and neighbors, and let's make the second one even better (June 9). Hot dogs, 50¢; chili dogs, 75¢; brownies, 25¢; soup, 50¢; salads, 50¢; chips, coffee & tea, free. If you like laughter and fun, come join the crowd! See ya there!

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

Happy Anniversary to:

...John Henry & Bonnie Foster, 6/9
...Francis & H.B. Newell, 6/11
...Red & Carrie Stanbrough, 6/16
...James & Cindy Livers, 6/17
...Wendell & Cathy Jordan, 6/27
...Jeff & Debbie Petersen, 6/30

Happy Birthday to:

...Tamara Green, 6/1
...Mary Ann Schueltz, 6/2
...Don Freeland, 6/4
...John Henry Foster, 6/9
...Bob Davis, 6/11
...Raymond Sanford, 6/13
...Lavada Wilde, 6/14
...John Rauch, 6/15
...Carrie Green, Ron Byerly, & Chris Pate, 6/16
...Gary Gardner, 6/20
...Sonia Pfaffenberger, 6/22
...John Stephenson, 6/25
...Steven Toth, 6/27
...Julie Mikkelson, 6/29

Comings and Goings

...Bonnie Nunn moved to Colorado to be near family after two years in the Sacramento Mountains. She will be missed by her many friends here.
...Barb & Dub Schuessler enjoyed a visit from Barb's son, Jeff, and his family over the Memorial Day weekend.

...Jim & Claudine Walls and James & Marylou Ottis had a house full of guests over the holiday weekend.

Get Well Wishes to:

...Jeff Winkel, Jeff Duncan, Patricia Manning, Kendra Mydock, Marylou Ottis, and Russ Wright

We're happy to report that all these folks are now home and doing well!

Thank you to:

...Betty Olson and Mountain Dove Realty for painting the stage in the Old Weed Gym in preparation for the Weed Bluegrass Festival

...James & Marylou Ottis and Ken & Pat Hammett for print cartridges for the Hitchin' Post.

Thank you from Jeff & Louise Winkel

...Louise and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your prayers and offers of support during my recent surgery. Through your efforts the successful outcome was never in doubt. I could actually feel and believe that things would go well. Your support could be summed up in two ways: In modern vernacular it would be NO FEAR. I had a much firmer feeling, more like "I shall fear no evil, for thou art with me". It is said that it takes a community to raise a child, we also know that the strength of community support can bring about strong recoveries. Again thank you all. We are truly blessed to have friends and neighbors like you.

More From the Sac/Weed Fire Department

The Sac/Weed Volunteer Fire and Rescue thanks all the people who provided sandwiches, water, shuttle service, or fuel during the recent fires. Your help was greatly appreciated. If anyone else would like to help in the future, please call Barb Schuessler 687-2513 or Evelyn Miller 687-2170. Thanks!!!!!!!

Piñon News

- Margaret Merritt

Another month gone by and no rain to measure; but, blessedly, also no catastrophic fires to report. A couple of blazes were found and quickly doused by our Sacramento Mountains fire personnel. Thank you so much!

The Piñon Cash and Carry is quiet these days. Proprietors Sam and Laura Henderson are on the road to town a lot while Heather Lewis and crew keep the doors open and service available. The parked, clean, 4-wheeler says Heather is in.

Many Piñon folks are busily keeping feed and water available for domestic livestock, and also making provisions for upcoming game hunts.

The Extension Club had a well-attended business meeting May 11. We discussed possibly re-doing our doors so the heating/air conditioning would work better. We're proud of our facility. The next meeting is June 15. Since our Extension agent from Roswell could not attend the May meeting, plans are to double up on our demonstrations in June.

'Til next month: thankful for sunshine and pray for rain.

Things to See and Do in the Area

National Trails Day, June 3. Cloudcroft. Register on line at www.nmtrailstotrails.org or send entry to and make checks payable to: New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Association, P. O. Box 44, Cloudcroft, NM 88317. For more info, call Jerry Johnson at 434-3787.

Fee: \$25, includes a T-shirt. No fee for participants under the age of 18.

"A Cowboy's Christmas Carol" melodrama is scheduled for June 9-11, 16-17, and 30th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Open Air Pavilion in Cloudcroft. Admission is free. Donations accepted.

Chimney Springs Bluegrass Festival, June 23-25. For more information contact Marsha Slane at 687-3520.

Renaissance Fantasy Faire, June 10-11, Cloudcroft. Call Rhonda Napoleon at 505-682-3338 for more information.

Western Round-up, June 16-18, Cloudcroft. Friday night: BBQ, pie auction, and entertainment; Saturday: Western Round-up Parade at 11 a.m., Street Dance 7 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Dates to Remember

...June 6, Bookmobile, 1:15-2:30 pm, Weed Café area

...June 9, 6 p.m. Game Night, Weed Community Center

...June 14, Flag Day. Fly it proudly!

...June 17-18, Cherry Festival, High Rolls

...June 18, Father's Day

...June 21, First Day of Summer

...June 26, Weed Community Meeting, 6 p.m., Community Center

...July 15-16, Weed Bluegrass Festival

Retirement??

Dulaney Barrett, pastor of Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church, who retired and flunked, is going to try it again. June 11 will be his last regular day in the pulpit. After that, he will do the monthly communion service and give help to the next pastor, lay person Joy Garrett. We can't decide who needs the most prayer...Joy, or the Church!

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.

Sacramento Mountain United Methodist Church - Dulaney Barrett, Pastor. Regular Sunday worship service at 10 a.m., Sunday School at 11 a.m.

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.

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.

Water Matters

There have been two good meetings this past month....they seem to get more interesting all the time.

At the regular South Sacramento Water Group meeting on May 11, State Senator Vernon Asbill led a discussion of the ongoing hydro-geological mapping study. You may recall that Sen. Asbill was instrumental in corralling \$903,000 from the last legislative session to fund the study. Dan Abercrombie of OSWCD and Jeff Rawlings of New Mexico Tech gave presentations on the study. A good discussion was had by all.

At the special meeting on May 21, the major topic of discussion was the proposed mining of water in the Salt Basin to the south of the Sacramento Mountains. Estevan Lopez, Director of the Interstate Stream Commission attended, along with Bill Hume, Gov. Richardson's policy advisor, and Tanya Trujillo, General Counsel of the Interstate Stream Commission. Again, the discussion was lively and one can't help but think that our state officials had to be impressed by how articulate, well informed, and wise our mountain folk are.

The June 8 meeting should prove to be as good as the last two. David Chace, hydrogeologist from Sandia Labs, will be presenting information from his studies of the Salt Basin. He has been working on behalf of Last Chance Water Company, one of the entities that wants to mine water from the Salt Basin and sell it to cities in New Mexico and possibly Texas as well. David has been studying that area for several years, and has more data than anyone about the water there. Since Last Chance has refused to permit him to release his data to the public, we're all waiting to hear what he can say about it.

In a recent letter to Rep. Terry T. Marquardt, Russ Wright wrote (sic):

"It was good to see you in attendance at the meeting of the South Sacramento Water Group last Thursday. As I'm sure you could tell, this is a dynamic, grass roots organization of Sacramento Mountain communities and citizens, all of whom share a concern over the preservation of the precious watershed here in the mountains that sustains our families, businesses and communities, and which is also the source of water for Alamogordo and the other communities in the basins surrounding the mountains. You may not know that the organization exists because of an initiative of the office of the governor. SSWG participants are rightly proud that they have found a unified voice within the mountain communities that is being heard in Santa Fe and around the State on the issue of water.

"It was astounding to many in the room that you would come to that particular forum and voice your pride over your "accomplishment" in the recent legislative session in Santa Fe -- that is, the passage of your bill to pipe water from the

Salt Basin to "Santa Fe and other cities." Did you notice the audible gasp in the room in response to your comments? I'd like to try to explain the reaction you received, and urge you to educate yourself about the concerns that are shared by the communities and citizens living in and around these mountains.

"First, a number of speakers at the meeting stated that while we know very little about the geology and hydrology of the Sacramento Mountain watershed, we do know that this watershed is the source of water in the Salt Basin, and the other basins surrounding the mountains, including Alamogordo. Second, it is widely accepted that in order to preserve and protect the watershed two things must happen: (1) the forest, seriously overgrown by years of mismanagement by the US Forest Service, must be thinned; and (2) we must get solid scientific information about the watershed so that we can manage the precious water resource rationally and for long term sustainability. I welcome your comments on any of these points, although I suspect you would agree.

"You acknowledged your awareness of the legal protests which have been lodged against the three permit applications to mine water from the Salt Basin. However that you would sponsor a bill furthering the mining and export of water from the Salt Basin suggests that you are dismissive of the concerns of those citizens who have lodged those protests. Perhaps you are not aware that among the many individual protestants is the Sacramento Watershed Restoration Corporation (SMWRC), a non-profit grass roots organization that counts more than 400 individuals and businesses among its members from in and around the Sacramento Mountains. This organization and its members seek to ensure that if water is ever taken from the Salt Basin, it is done with solid scientific information underlying the decision, and that those in and around the Sacramento Mountains who hold residential, irrigation, and commercial water rights are protected.

"You stated that there is a 100,000 acre-foot per year recharge into the Salt Basin from the Sacramento Mountains. Other speakers, among them hydrologists and others who have studied the issue for many years, said that the recharge is much lower, or unknown. Everyone in the room, except you, seemed to agree that it is obvious that in a year like 2006, when snowfall has been essentially zero, there will be virtually NO recharge to the Salt Basin. You had no response, at least in public, to the numerous citizens who asked how you intend to work to protect the existing water rights of citizens in and around the mountains, and particularly, whether you believed it is logical to drain our water and then build a pipeline to "sell it back to us."

"We welcome a dialogue with you on this issue. We hope you will attend the SSWG meetings in the future, as the Salt Basin will doubtless be an issue of discussion from now on. In fact, you might want to attend the May 22, 2006 special meeting with representatives from the Interstate Stream Commission and the Governor's office, at which this will be the topic of discussion. The meeting will begin at 6 pm at the Mayhill Community Center in Mayhill."

- Sincerely, Russ Wright

Russ also sent a brief e-mail to Bill Hume, Gov. Richardson's policy advisor, thanking him for coming down to Mayhill for the special SSWG meeting on the Salt Basin last week. Russ asked Bill for his permission to print his reply in the Hitchin' Post because he thought everyone might be interested in reading it.

"Greetings Russell, I should thank you. I thoroughly enjoyed our discussion with you and your neighbors in the South Sacramento Water Group. It is refreshing, as a relatively new state official, to talk with such a group of forthright individuals, intent upon preserving their prerogatives and healthily skeptical of government types from out of town coming in to propose changes -- but still willing to listen and respond. We meant what we said about how we intend to proceed in exploring the potential of Salt Basin water, and we will do our best in the process going forward to deliver on it by keeping your organization fully informed and involved in mapping the route. We intend to try to schedule a trip in which we can actually go down and visit the Salt Basin and experience the lay of the land firsthand. Estevan has some prior experience in that regard, but all I have ever seen is an empty space on a state map. And, our thanks again to you for your kindness in chauffeuring us from Alamogordo International to the mountain fastness of Mayhill. It was a pleasurable ride -- right down to the deer and elk dodging on the return leg." Regards, Bill Hume

Farmer's Almanac June Gardening Tips

1-5 Poor period for planting. Kill plant pests. Clear fence rows. Clear land.

6-7 Favorable for planting peas, beans, tomatoes and other fall crops bearing aboveground. Sow grains and forage crops. Plant flowers.

8-9 Extra good for planting fall lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, collards and other leafy vegetables. All aboveground crops planted now will do well. Plant seed beds also.

10-12 Poor planting days. Cut hay or do general farm work.

13-14 Plant late beets, potatoes, onions, carrots and other root crops.

15-16 Poor days for planting. Kill plant pests, spray, fertilize, do general farm work.

17-18 Favorable time for planting late root crops. Also good for vine crops. Set strawberry plants.

19-20 Cut hay or do plowing on these barren days.

21-22 Good days for planting root crops.

23-25 Seeds planted now tend to rot in ground.

26-27 Plant tomatoes, beans, peppers, corn, cotton and other aboveground crops on these most fruitful days. Plant seed beds and flower gardens.

28-30 Poor period for planting. Kill plant pests. Clear fence rows. Clear land.

Lightning Kills! - Play It Safe

Thunderstorms are most likely to develop on warm summer days and go through various stages of growth, development, and dissipation. On a sunny day, as the sun heats the air, pockets of warmer air start to rise in the atmosphere. When this air reaches a certain level in the atmosphere, cumulus clouds start to form. Continued heating can cause these clouds to grow vertically upward in the atmosphere into "towering cumulus" clouds. These towering cumulus may be one of the first indications of a developing thunderstorm.

Lightning can strike as much as 10 miles away from the rain area in a thunderstorm. That's about the

distance you can hear thunder. When a storm is 10 miles away, it may even be difficult to tell a storm is coming. The first stroke of lightning is just as deadly as the last. If the sky looks threatening, take shelter before hearing thunder.

When you see lightning, count the time until you hear thunder. If that time is 30 seconds or less, the thunderstorm is within 6 miles of you and is dangerous. Seek shelter immediately. The threat of lightning continues for much longer period than most people realize. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash before leaving shelter. Don't be fooled by sunshine or blue sky!

The greatest number of lightning deaths and injuries in the United States occurs during the summer months when the combination of lightning and outdoor summertime activities reaches a peak. Unfortunately, those activities can put them at greater risk of being struck by lightning. Those involved in activities such as boating, swimming, fishing, bicycling, golfing, jogging, walking, hiking, camping, or working out of doors all need to take the appropriate actions in a timely manner when thunderstorms approach. Where organized sports activities are taking place, coaches, umpires, referees, or camp counselors must stop the activities sooner, so that participants and spectators can get to a safe place before the lightning threat becomes significant. Those in charge of organized outdoor activities should develop and follow a plan to keep participants and spectators safe from lightning.

Inside homes, people must also avoid activities which put their lives at risk from a possible lightning strike. In particular, stay away from windows and doors and avoid contact with anything that conducts electricity. People may also want to take certain actions well before the storm to protect property within their homes, such as electronic equipment.

If a person is struck by lightning, medical care may be needed immediately to save their life. However, with proper treatment, including CPR if necessary, most victims survive a lightning strike. With common sense, we can greatly reduce the number of lightning deaths. Get to a safe place when thunderstorms threaten, stay there longer than you think you need to, stay away from windows and doors, and avoid contact with anything that conducts electricity. **Have a safe and enjoyable summer.**

For Sale

- 1971 International Dump Truck - rebuilt engine and carburetor - runs well ! \$1,750

- "The Ultimate Toy" - D4 Caterpillar bulldozer \$4,750. 505-687-3104

From the Editor

News for the Hitchin' Post may be mailed to Patsy Ward, Editor, P.O. Box 565, sent via e-mail to patrice@cavemen.net, or by contacting reporters Joy Garrett, 687-3862; Margaret Merritt, 687-3580; Evelyn Miller, 687-2170; Barb Schuessler, 687-2513; or Elaine Wright, 687-3073. **Deadline is the 25th of each month.** The Hitchin' Post is available by e-mail, at the Weed Café or the Weed Store, or on line at www.mountaintimes.net. If you want your personal information excluded, please let us know.

Thanks to everyone for your contributions, whether it be news articles or printing supplies! The newsletter wouldn't be possible without **YOU**. Ed.

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