



TALON 2007

FREE
twice
a month

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Homeless in Aztec?

by Laura Ryan

As it nears Christmas, let's think about what it's really about. Giving? Loving? Compassion? Consumerism? As I sit in by my cozy fire, looking at the thermometer (40 degrees outside – and it's midday) I feel a twang of guilt. Why? Because I know there are homeless people living in Aztec. I know because I have been talking with a married couple for the past 4 months, as I pass them walking my dog... and they are camping in a tent (and possibly there are others that I don't know about). Yes, a tent, in this weather.

We have many interesting conversations. Yes, they've had eventful lives and, for what ever reason, Sam (not his real name) told me he was laid off from his last job, and has been seeking employment ever since. His wife has certain health issues that would prevent her from doing any heavy duty/heavy lifting jobs, something that she had worked at in the past. However they've been seeking a home and employment ever since. Apparently, they have been let down on many occasions. Meanwhile they still are living in a tent. And it has not always been pleasant for them; they have been verbally abused, had objects thrown at them, and dogs set on them. "We've done nothing to harm these people, so why do they treat us in this manner?"

Their only other option is to go to a homeless shelter. They are not comfortable with this as they do not drink, nor do drugs; but the main reason they don't wish to use homeless shelters is that they are a married couple. This

Home Sweet Home?

means a lot to them; they survive on each others' love. They do not want to be split up. And there is no facility in this area that will take in married couples and let them stay together. And anyway – there is no homeless facility in Aztec – so how would they even get to Farmington if they chose to? They have no transportation.

This is a tragedy in this day and age. I had the opportunity to meet with Tara from the Aztec Chamber of Commerce last week. We were at the KWYK (94.9) radio studio, both for different reasons, early one morning, and we realized that we both knew the homeless couple. While music was being played, we began talking, and Dana (the DJ) asked us if we minded relaying this story on the air. Tara did a wonderful job! It's scary on live radio – especially if one has a 'foreign' accent as I (supposedly) have – some times I wonder if anyone can understand me! She offered the Chamber of Commerce phone number, 334-9551, as a contact number for any one that could help. Tara also mentioned that she had taken them grocery shopping and was appalled in the manner that they were being treated; other shoppers would shy away from them as if they were vermin. They are human beings – the same as you and me! If we as a community could find it in our hearts to give them a break, then they could re-enter society.

What we as a community really need is a safe place for the homeless to stay during inclement weather situations. Meanwhile, they really could do with two WARM (below zero) sleeping bags (soon please) that can zip together, some warm hats, socks and gloves, and food. But we really need a place where they can stay...they love their tent (in good weather conditions obviously) – but surely there is an empty building where they can stay when they need to find shelter... and they are good people. A very fine friend of mine invited them to a Thanksgiving meal at her house. They are a pleasant, intelligent, but desperate couple. Surely we (the people from Aztec) can help. I hope so.

Local family in need

Recently, you might have heard of a local family that has had some medical hardships.

Blaine Gillingham, 31, of Aztec, has been fighting a mysterious illness since Oct. 12, 2007. Blaine is very grateful and would like to thank everyone who has donated their time, money and energy to him and his family, including those who walked at the walk-a-thon that Presbyterian Medical Services hosted in his honor. His wife, Amy, and their four children, Morgan, 13, Sierra, 11, Jayce, 5, and Rylee, 2, would also like to thank the community for its support and donations.

Blaine was first hospitalized at San Juan Regional Medical Center on Oct. 27, where the doctors found three lesions and an inflammation of the brain stem. Not being able to determine the cause or make a diagnosis, Blaine was flown to the Neuroscience ICU at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque on Nov. 5, where he has been to date.

Among the set backs of blood clots, low blood pressure, vision loss, and most recently, installation of a pace maker, he has made some progress. He has regained some use of his legs, has been able to breath on his own with the help of a tracheotomy, and has been moved out of ICU into a sub acute floor.

The lesions on Blaine's brainstem have not subsided, but his progress is notable and hopes of moving him to a rehabilitation center in the future are high. Blaine is ecstatic at the expectation of coming home to be near his children, family, and friends while in rehab. However, like it is with most institutions such as these, you must have insurance or a substantial down payment in order to enroll in services.

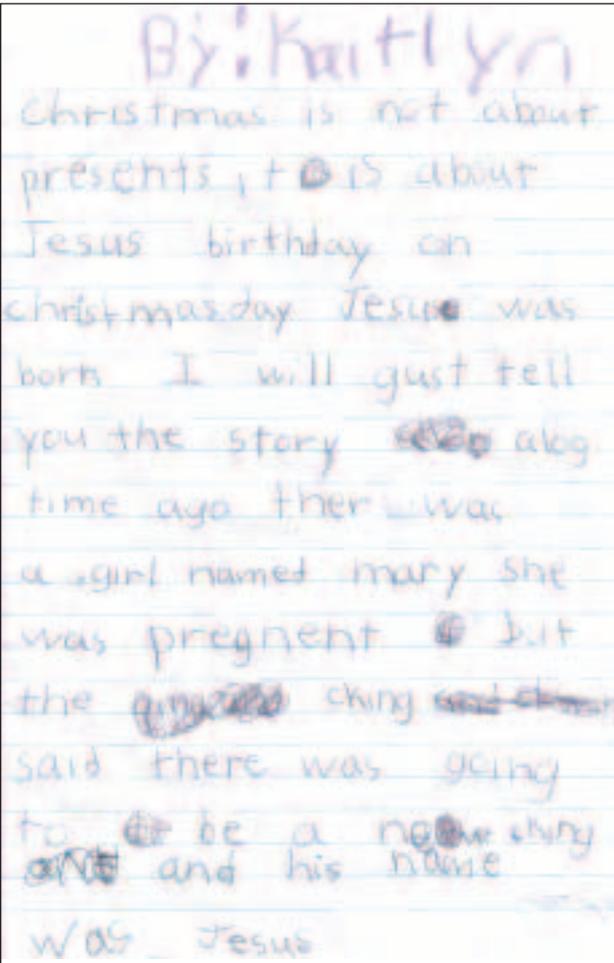
Although the family's spirits are high, there is still a long road to recovery and any donations made to bring Blaine home are greatly appreciated. If you would like to help this family, please contact Roxana Toney at 325-0238 or contributions can be made in Blaine Gillingham's name at any Wells Fargo Bank.

2007 Deck the House or Business

The Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce is hosting "Deck the House," a lighting contest. Anyone in the Bloomfield area who would like to enter can bring a completed entry form to the Chamber office, 224 W. Broadway, Bloomfield, NM 87413

Deadline to enter is December 16th

Judging on December 18th, between 6-9 pm.
For more info, call the Chamber at 632-0880.



Free community Christmas Dinner in Aztec!

Are you dreading Christmas Day because you are spending it alone? Have you lost your job and are wondering how to provide a holiday meal for your family? Is your home in the midst of remodel or repairs? Is cooking a big dinner while you recover from illness just too much? Or have you been thinking you'd just like to do something different this Christmas? No matter what situation you find yourself in, your neighbors here in Aztec care about you... and have a solution to offer! A free Christmas Dinner will be served on Tuesday, December 25, at the Aztec Senior Center, 101 S. Park Ave., from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - or until the food runs out!!! This event is open to everyone - individuals, couples, families, young, old - everyone!

Would you like to help? There are opportunities ranging from bringing a group by to sing carols to decorating the Sr. Center, from roasting a turkey to buying holiday napkins. The choice is yours! Food donations are needed from folks willing to purchase and roast a turkey, or prepare mashed potatoes, stuffing and non-refrigerated pies and desserts. Purchased donations of relish trays, rolls and butter and cranberry sauce are needed as well, along with paper goods. To donate any of the above, call Gayle at 334-8691 as soon as possible. Be sure to leave a contact number!

Do you prefer a more active role? Volunteers are needed to post flyers in downtown businesses, set up and greet, serve food or assist with warming food in the kitchen, restock and clean tables, and do a final clean up at the Sr. Center... to name a few possibilities. If you'd like to assist with any of these, call Laura at 333-2409 and be sure to leave your name and number.

Finally, if you plan to attend, please call one of the numbers above and let us know. That will help us get an idea of how many folks to prepare for; however, if you just want to show up on December 25, that is ok too! We hope you will join us!



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY December

Happy December birthdays to Blanche House, Nadine Robison, Lori House, Linda Smouse, Darryl House, Helen Aunkst, Bret Alexander, Rusty Greenleaf, Seth Wells, Miranda Dotson, David Lawson and Pam Quinn.

Happy Anniversary to Larry and Kilie Likes; Chuck and Connie Robison; Steve and Linda Smouse; Freddie and Georgia Brandenburg

TALON NOTES

For TALON info, call Candy 334-1039



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NEW HOURS
Sunday 1:00pm - 4:00pm
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Wednesday 10:00am - 5:00pm
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Saturday 10:00am - 5:00pm

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What is sustainable living?

A talk by Katrina Blair of the Turtle Lake Refuge in Durango Monday, January 7th, Aztec Library

If you have been seeing the words "sustainable living," and "green living" and have been wondering what this is all about, or if you want to know more about sustainable/green living, how it applies to your life, or how you can implement sustainable/green living practices into your life, please come to a talk on Sustainable Living at the next Sustainable San Juan meeting, Monday, January 7th, Aztec Library, 6:30 pm. Well known Katrina Blair of Turtle Lake Refuge will be giving the talk.

For more information, contact Sustainable San Juan - 334-1840 or sustainablesanjuan@yahoo.com
Sustainable San Juan - your local response to sustainable/green living.

Mail • Email • Opinions

A pool for Christmas?

All I want for Christmas is a swimming pool and fitness center - well maybe for a future Christmas! While I am wishing, think I will ask Santa Claus, maybe he could help!

It would be so nice not to have to drive to Bloomfield for water exercise - Bloomfield has a beautiful warm water pool (and a great recreation center).

Why not combine an Aztec recreation center and swimming pool with the Performing Arts Center that has been proposed at the Old Courthouse ground? The high school students could even have a swim team.

My three children worked summers at the old pool as life guards as did a lot of other students.

Sincerely, Jean Everitt

Are you interested in running for an Aztec City Commissioner or Municipal Judge?

- Q: When is the election and what type of election is it?**
A: The City of Aztec will be holding a "Regular Election" on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Q: Where is the election to be held?**
A: In the Aztec City Hall Commission Room, 201 W. Chaco.
- Q: What is the purpose of the election?**
A: The City will have two (2) Commissioner positions and one (1) Municipal Judge position up for election
- Q: I may be interested in running for commissioner or judge; how do I go about getting more information?**
A: One of the first things to do is obtain a "Candidate Packet" from Becky Howard, Aztec City Clerk. It is recommended that you call her at 334-7603 to set up a few minutes to meet with her to go through the important filing documentation contained in the packet. If you are pressed for time and can't meet with her, just stop by her office at City Hall and pick up a packet. You can always call her later with questions.
- Q: What determines if I am qualified to run for Aztec Commissioner or Judge?**
A: You will need to submit a "DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY" form to the City Clerk in her office on Tuesday, January 8th between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The form is located in the candidate packet and describes the following requirements:
- the candidate shall be a resident and registered voter of the city of Aztec;
 - the candidate's address shall be a physical address or rural route number, not a PO Box;
 - if a candidate has been convicted of a felon their elective franchise must have been restored by a pardon or a certificate signed by the governor restoring their full rights of citizenship.
- You will also need to obtain a certified copy of your affidavit of voter registration from the County Clerk's office which needs to be attached to the Declaration of Candidacy dated no sooner than December 5, 2007.



Dear Editor

December 10, 2007

I was pleased to read that Aztec City Commissioners Mesch, Burbridge, Crowley and Marcum wisely voted to table the action to provide water to the Aztec Heights PROPOSED golf course. None of these commissioners were on the commission when Aztec spent \$100,000 dollars or so on the Ancient Trails golf course idea in 1999 which was certainly not well thought out. The City even got sued and had to pay off for this course mistake. Mayor Arnold, who was on the commission in 1999 was the only vote to "not table" the current water grant request. The commission must take time to do it right for the sake of the residents of Aztec.

Apparently, the information provided the commission was not complete enough to make a sound decision at the December 4th commission meeting. Hopefully, meaningful questions will be asked and accurate answers provided before the commission again hears this request for 500 acre feet of our precious water.

My concerns relate to how obligated our senior water right waters would remain committed for a golf course. The City residents own these rights for our domestic needs. If the City becomes short on water, does the City have to go forth and purchase more rights instead of shutting the water off to the Aztec Heights golf course? Green golf course owners do not want to give up their green.

Perhaps the win/win situation is for the Aztec Heights developers to go forth and purchase senior water rights for their sole use and leave our water rights available for our domestic use.

Please, let us all remind our Commissioners to HAVE THE FACTS before obligating large amounts of our limited senior water rights to any group. The reported 500 acre feet of water could provide water for at least 1600 new homes. We are told by City Staff about how desirable it is to come to Aztec and subdivide vast new areas for homes. Some staff at City Hall certainly would do a better job for us if they start providing facts to US and to the Commission.

Saying "no" to the developer may be the responsible vote when all the facts are known.

Warren J. McNall

•The TALON Regulars•

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Bert Bennett, Fire Department | 334-9271 |
| Laverne Clark, Curator's Corner | 334-9829 |
| Ramona Durham, Let's Talk Herbs | 334-0344 |
| Susan Franzheim, Oil Gas Basics | 970.563.1000 |
| Mike Heal, Chief's Corner | 334-7620 |
| Book Nook, Library Staff | 334-7658 |
| Sandy Martin, Aztec Bitz | 334-7144 |
| Marti Kirchner, SJCE | 334-3831x200 |
| Norma Emanuel | 801-5792 |
| John Rees, Bird Talk | 632-8335 |
| Deborah Ward, Senior Center | 334-2881 |
| Greg Schiller, Computer Talk | 402-7594 |
| Harley Sills, Harley's Humor | 334-2587 |
| Tom Welts, General | |

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 Deadline: December 21

You are encouraged to send your articles, photos, etc. in early (but send in even if past deadline)!!
The Aztec Local News, 334-1039
PO Box 275, Aztec 87410
Drop box at Zip and Ship
Send via email: aztecnews@sisna.com

INDEPENDENTLY OWNED SINCE 1993

TALON
The Aztec Local News



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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.

7000 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.

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Water Right Issues: Statewide and Locally

I attended the legislative hearing on Monday, Nov. 26, 2007 in Santa Fe where the State Engineer, Mr. John D'Antonio, and D. L. Sanders, his chief attorney, had to answer four pages of questions the legislative committee had put before him. The questions and answers had to do with water policy and the progress, or non-progress on the 12 ongoing adjudications. The committee wanted more progress and why the State Engineer is not presenting a plan and asking for 7-10 million dollars a year to complete these adjudications. By having this money adjudications going on at the same time with a separate judge over each one wanting a certain schedule to be met, seems to be the problem.

The State Engineer wanted 4 more attorneys and 3 more engineers but this did not go over well with the leaders of the committee. The attorney for the State adjudication here in this basin announced she had gotten two more attorneys helping her and the La Plata section should proceed quicker now and may be completed in two years. It appears the State may move to the San Juan River section next. The hearing here was held Nov. 29, 2007 at the courthouse up on Crouch Mesa and Judge Sanchez denied both motions by Victor Marshall, Attorney for the San Juan Agricultural Water Users Association (SJAWUA) and the Hammond Conservancy District, that asked that all water users be joined in the case and a request for discovery on the Hydrological Determination prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, necessary for

the Navajo Settlement to go forward. The Federal government cannot contract storage and the delivery of water out of Navajo Reservoir without the determination that water is reasonably available to satisfy the water required for the Navajo Settlement to occur. The Judge's decision was apparently based on the basis the Navajo Water Settlement has not been filed with the Court therefore he has no jurisdiction to allow discovery on it.

The La Plata River ongoing adjudication will have a State meeting on Jan. 9, 2008 between 4:30 and 7:30 pm in La Plata. This meeting called by the State is apparently to explain the volume of water to be part of the Consent Orders and also stock watering and minimal domestic use around the house.

I have obtained copies of some of the water issues presented at the CLE water law seminar in August at Santa Fe. I also attended a seminar in Albuquerque on Nov. 27, 2007 on water right transfers and marketing of water rights. This seminar was interesting in that David Benevidez, attorney for the Acequia Association, talked about the new 2003 ditch water laws that allow ditches to prevent transfers in and out of their ditch and ditch water banks. His perception of transfers out of ditches is the ditch may need to be compensated for economical loss to the other users on the ditch as they are detrimentally affected by a transfer and loss of assessments of that user. This is very contentious and a Court case is now on appeal to see if the new law is constitutional.

Robert E. Oxford, Aztec, 505-334-9270

Mount KIA/MIA a very personal mountain

Hello Candy;

I want to share with you, and with all of America the fact that Mount KIA/MIA is a very personal memorial for those who have lost someone as killed or missing in action.

The mountain/memorial is so far from Washington, DC, that people feel free to call it "Johnny's mountain," or "Irvin's mountain" or the like. It seems appropriate somehow!

John Sadler was a teenager when he was killed in action in Korea. His family and his sisters (six of them) have forever remembered him and are among those people who worked so long and hard for the naming of Mount KIA/MIA. [I am attaching a photo and information on John Sadler.]

As the snows fall on our mountain this Christmas season I know that lots of people are saying a special prayer for the killed in action / missing in action and looking forward to a trip to Colorado where they will touch the mountain, even as it touches them.

I am sure that the Woolman family over in Farmington feel comfortable with calling the memorial "Doug's Mountain" for their brother who died fighting in Korea. The family of Glen Rickelton too, quite likely refer to

"Glen's Mountain" (or perhaps) "Rick's Mountain" since he was always referred to as Rick while flying jets for the US Navy until his death in combat in North Korea.

We could have offered the photo and bio of a local hero, but I think it important to remember that those who die for America are not just our friends and neighbors but men and women from all over America and from all walks of life. Thank you John Franklin Sadler for caring about America.

Bruce L Salisbury Copyright December 2007

John Franklin Sadler
Johnson City, Tennessee

Born February 4, 1933
Corporal, US Army
Service Number 25344519
Died June 10, 1952 in Korea

Corporal Sadler was a member of the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment Combat Team. His regiment was sent to Koje Island to suppress an uprising of Red Army prisoners of war. He was stabbed by a prisoner with a home made spear that severed an artery in his right leg. He died on June 10, 1952. Corporal Sadler was awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.



Dear Editor, Kokopelli neighborhood invasion?

By Warren J. McNall

ATTENTION: Mayor Arnold, City Manager Velasquez and Aztec School Superintendent Dr. Paul. You all have a great opportunity to escape the "Star Chamber syndrome" and become very open and transparent about the ESTABLISHMENT of the new Aztec School athletic fields 700 feet east of Kokopelli Subdivision. Get out in the open and communicate up front with your bosses; US, the citizens! TALON articles would be useful in keeping us informed, now.

And by the way, Webster's dictionary defines a "Star Chamber thusly; "English court or tribunal abolished in 1641 notorious for its secret sessions which were irresponsibly arbitrary and oppressive..... (the room where meetings were held had stars painted on the ceiling)." Let's open up local governments and have a real public meeting on these athletic fields! It is very important to our community to do it correctly!

The athletic field symptoms of a Star Chamber most recently began Nov. 20 at an Aztec City workshop with no residents present. (See attendance summary in the Dec. 1 issue of the TALON) A decision may have been made without official Aztec City Commission action to accept location change of the proposed athletic fields from the North Oliver site to City lands 700 feet east of Kokopelli Subdivision. One symptom of a Star Chamber tied to this decision related to the workshop announcement, which stated "...to discuss the Aztec School Athletic Fields." Nothing was stated about moving the fields to another location and a statement about relocating should have been made. I believe the City did not want our involvement.

Some of the athletic field location issues that should concern all of us include safe user access route, lighting, provisions for costly sewer and water and the need for vehicle control on the perimeter of the granted area (88.82 acres). Will the access be down the recently rumored Anazazi Drive in Kokopelli or down the narrow sub standard Blanco Street? Or will a new road come off NM 173 via US 550 and through a very dangerous

unregulated intersection? Will the light towers "blind Kokopelli," one of their major concerns, and, what about the PA system? Throughout our town, we can hear the Aztec Speedway announcer till midnight or so during the summer. Do we want this blast from our athletic fields? Who knows and what are they telling us? Nothing.

A returned phone call from Dr. Linda Paul helped understanding the multimillion dollar athletic field project. The proposed lands for the project were south of the Aztec Airport with access from Oliver Drive. This area apparently was not carefully chosen by the school district when the bond issue vote was taken and another site was sought, namely; Aztec city lands where the so called "abandoned" motor cross track is located.

Here is how I understand the athletic field situation. The Aztec School District wants to acquire 88.82 acres for the project. The district needs fee title to the land and the paper work is in the mill to offer the city a purchase price and agreement for the lands. The City Commission action after reviewing the offer can be done in closed session and as it stands, no real citizen input has been received. If the Commission approves the purchase agreement, then the School Board takes over.

The project seems to be on "fast track" with Dr. Paul hoping that the purchase agreement can be approved prior to 2008. If total approval occurs, then the School Board is in charge of who, what, when and where with the City having less involvement.

So, even though this land transfer sounds proper, real concerns must be considered before passing the land to the schools. At one time, the City planned a golf course on that site....how about the future? The proposed truck bypass will graze the east side of the proposed area or will the athletic fields force the bypass to move west very near Kokopelli? Will the project cost the City lots of bucks?

For sure, placement of sports fields on the Aztec land will help erase the ugly scar the City has permitted at the so called "abandoned" motor cross track. Green

Don't Miss the many nights of Fantasy of Lights!

From November 23 through
New Year's Eve, December 31

Gather family and friends for a drive
through Riverside Park in Aztec to oooh
and ahhh over the growing collection
of lighted displays.

Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 to 9:00
Friday and Saturday, 6:00 to 10:00.
Dec. 28 and 29, 6:00 to 9:00.

Suggested donation - \$4.00 per vehicle

Fantasy of Lights is a non-profit organization dedicated to
improving public parks and providing service and
support to the youth of our community.

Christians be quiet!

In response to "Dearest Children" in the December 1-15 issue, I would like to commend the "unknown" writer for many great service ideas for Christians i.e., writing letters to soldiers, visiting nursing homes, etc., but I do have several comments in response to this letter.

First, writing a letter and signing someone else's name is called forgery. The letter is obviously intended to be from Jesus to His children. The only Word of God that we need is the Bible. "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2Timothy 3:16-17. It would have been better if the person writing this letter had used their own name instead of forging another's.

Second, what I read between the lines is "Christians, be quiet." Do not speak out against evil. You do not have the same rights as Michael Newdow who is trying to get "under God" taken out of the Pledge of Allegiance. You do not have the same rights as those who are trying to take Christ out of Christmas. You do not have the same rights as those who believe that killing innocent babies is acceptable, etc.

I disagree. Not only do we as Christians have the right, but we have a responsibility to speak against evil. I believe that had we spoken up years ago in regards to divorce and abortion, America would not be in the shape it's in now - One out of every two families destroyed by divorce and millions of precious children murdered through abortion. To sit back and say nothing allows evil to prevail. "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." Acts 4:29 "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:26-28 We as Christians should be speaking the truth in love and standing up boldly for righteousness as well as serving and living out the Word of God in our behavior. I, for one, will not "Be Quiet" and pray that true believers of Christ will stand up and speak out as the Lord leads.

In Christ, Dorothy Stamper

Need a ride?

The Farmington Red Apple Transit has bus service to Aztec, Bloomfield, Flora Vista, Kirtland, McGee Park, the Farmington airport, and Animas Park.

**Red Apple Transit Dispatch:
325-3409**

grass is always preferred over dust clouds and racing motors.

It is time to tell our City Commissioners and School Board Members to begin following the suggestions found in the DAILY TIMES editorial of December 2, 2007 that stated "It's about public accountability, folks. Accountability. That means the taxpayer is the boss. If the boss asks questions, you are obligated to answer. End the good ol' boy way of doing things. End the secrecy. End the fight."

The formula for a successful project means lots of "open" input from us, the bosses! Let it begin and lets not "hurry" to approve just because Dr. Paul says our tax dollars are in the bank to begin the project. Please do it right for US!

City of Aztec Commission workshop December 4, 2007

By Norma Emanuel

The Commission Workshop entitled "City of Aztec Comprehensive Plan" was called to order by Mayor Mike Arnold at 4:04 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Arnold, Commissioner Sally Burbridge, Commissioner Diana Mesch, Commissioner Jim Crowley, and Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Marcum joined the workshop a short time later.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD: George Jewitt, Phyllis Gilkey, Donna Wallace, Jessica Anderson, Virginia Jones and Gene Dugeon.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager David Velasquez, City Finance Director John Gallegos, City Planner Lynne Kruger, Steve Christensen, Mike Heal and former City Commissioner Jack Scott.

Lynne began the workshop inquiring where the commissioners would like to start: Goal One, the Land Use Ordinance, or the Sub-Division Ordinance. It seems that the Land Use Ordinance has been the primary concern, and Mayor Mike suggested that they start at the beginning. Lynne referred the commission to a short handout which outlined the "primary differences between the zones that have been created."

VLDR-Replaces the A-1 zone. The lot size requirement is reduced from 5 to 2 acre minimum, and removed the "lot of record" requirement.

R-1 will continue as a low density zone, will require less square foot for development, and simplifies the development requirements.

R-2 is newly structured. The zone allows for duplexes and with Conditional Use approval will allow for 3 or 4 family homes, town homes and condominiums.

R-3 is a new zone which allows for greater density, requires additional lot requirements for additional dwelling(s) to maintain air, space, privacy and light.

RMD will replace the Mobile Home District, reduces setback requirements, and allows stick built homes.

O-1, the content remains the same, and requires site plan approval, including landscape.

C-1's remains the same, yet allows for eating and drinking establishments, Green Space Ordinance requirements, and also requires site plan approval, including landscape.

HC is a new zone, for highway development. This zone includes 516 and 550, allows for eating and drinking establishments, and implements Green Space Ordinance requirements.

C-2 also remains basically the same. Allows for eating and drinking establishments, Green Space Ordinance requirements, and requires site plan approval, including

landscape.

MSC is a new zone to address specific needs for the downtown (Main Avenue). This zone relieves parking requirements and modifies uses to small to medium scale.

CP is a new zone addressing government owned or operated property.

LI is formerly the M-1 zone and the name change clarifies the scale of its uses.

MI is formerly M-2 zone, and retail trades have been removed from this zone.

UFO is a new overlay zone, to support utility development.

RM is a new zone for expanded development of existing camps and parks.

RN is also a new zone for the management and protection of significant areas such as wetlands, and low development parks.

RD is also a new zone geared toward larger scale development such as a golf course, the race track, camp grounds, etc.

FH is the same as Chapter 9, which is an overlay, not a zone. Its content is essentially the same.

PUD is no longer a zone, but is an overlay that requires separate approval for development, allows for a variety of appropriate uses on a given parcel and also allows for a variety of densities.

MUD is no longer a zone, but an overlay, which also requires separate approval for development, is utilized for three or more uses, and gives greater latitude in development/uses.

PDR is a new overlay zone for large scale development of recreational uses.

FW is a new zone designed for wetland protection and gives consistency with federal agencies.

CAO is a new zone designed for the protection of the airport, and outlines developmental standards for the zone.

MAO is also a new zone to protect aggregate sites.

Lynne went on to explain that there are "two entire chapters of the code book that have been brought into the Land Use piece of this, that's the flood, and the signs." "So those two Ordinances already exist." The ordinances before the Commission are for review, and look ahead for the next two decades. A lot of them lean toward recreational use, and hopefully will serve as a guide for the city, and to prepare us for future opportunities as they arise, instead of leaving the city unprepared should these situations arise. Lynne discussed the new map of the city, and said they are working on it now and will have it out soon. She noted that nothing was being

City of Aztec Commission meeting December 4, 2007

By Norma Emanuel

Mayor Mike Arnold called the commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Steve Christiansen led the invocation. After the Pledge of Allegiance, City Clerk Becky Howard called roll, all members were present.

The Items on the Consent Agenda were as follows:

- Commission Workshop Minutes Nov. 20, 2007.
- Commission Meeting Minutes, Nov. 20, 2007.
- Resolution 2007-742, Regular Municipal Election of March 4, 2008.

D. Memorandum of Understanding: Master Agreement Establishing Terms for the Transfer of Equipment Acquired through the Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program.

E. Contract Approval for the Environmental Requirements for the Animas River Trial Extension and Gabion Installation.

Items on the consent agenda were passed unanimously with one vote. The meeting then moved to Presentations.

Leanne Hathcock gave a presentation on Long Range Library Plans. Leanne gave a short explanation of the process required in order to receive funding from the state. She started the process about 6 months ago which involved a lot of staff training. One of the lessons she learned during this process was community involvement and rallying support for the library. The long range plan assessment included an inventory of the library. Other items of interest include were the libraries Technology plan, and the Digital Arts initiative.

Citizens Input: Debbie Klein, Fantasy of Lights. Debbie presented the commission with ornaments for this year and gave thanks to everyone including the police and general services. She informed the commission that volunteerism is down from 50-70 volunteers to around 20. Next year is Fantasy of Lights' 10th year, and Debbie wanted it made public that it would be her last year. She is hoping to become more of a volunteer where Fantasy of Lights is concerned and that she is "backing down" a bit. She feels people need to volunteer and take some of the responsibility, as Fantasy of Lights has "overgrown their workers." She mentioned that people are coming from all over the country to see Fantasy of Lights, and it has grown rapidly

The Commission then unanimously voted in Resolution 2007-741 in Support of the Aztec Public Library Community Assessment/five year Long Range

Plan/Three Year Technology Plan.

Business Item A. Resolution 2007-741 in Support of the Aztec Public Library Community Assessment/Five Year Long Range Plan/Three year Technology Plan.

Business Item B. Aztec Heights Development Water Service Agreement. City Manager David Velasquez opened with discussion of two previous agreements that were approved by the commission. The first was approved in 2003, and then another approved in 2005. Each agreement was met with resistance from agencies such as the EPA and the San Juan Water Commission. The current golf course issue concerns a proposed private golf course in Aztec Heights sub-division. Mike Nordstrom made comment that the backwash/wastewater was fine to use for watering a golf course. Diana Mesch noted that she had some "definite problems" with the agreement before the commission. The city has been offered \$65.00 per acre foot of water which is the same price offered in the previous agreements.

Much discussion ensued concerning a difference in backwash/wastewater being considered the same as raw water. Mike Nordstrom explained that the price for the water would re-set every five years. It seems the city's power would be used and this water would essentially be pumped up-hill.

Diana Mesch contended that "were looking at the city expanding and growing, as it should, which brings more people, and we need to be able to provide their water." Diana Mesch then asked Mayor Mike Arnold for a postponement "until we have more information." David Velasquez informed the Commission that the city would be looking to pay pumping cost, but could give no solid numbers for pumping costs, nor did the City Manager know how much water he (Nordstrom) would be taking. The physical impact/revenue generation was undetermined at this time.

Steve Christensen raised questions concerning regular wastewater being pumped for use. "If they have to use water other than wastewater they (Nordstrom) has to pay for it." There were also concerns about our pumps kicking on for them exclusively and that full pumping cost should be paid, but it was unclear how to determine who was pumping, as water would have to be metered. Questions were raised concerning the 36% of the city's water lost due to backwash, which has no return/no credit. It was later established that we are credited for

"down-zoned" except the agricultural zone, which is going from five to two acres. The map will be available at the library and at City Hall and if possible it will be available on the web site at www.aztecnm.com.

The Planning and Zoning Committee suggested that both the old map and the new map be posted for comparison. Lynne discussed the historic district and said she was hoping that next year she could get an inventory of homes that are potentially historic.

Mayor Mike Arnold asked about "moving a mobile home onto a permanent foundation" and Lynne explained that "that was more of the County Assessors call "and that the city required a permanent foundation on a lot, but not in a mobile home park. The ordinance outlines a manufactured home "as a structure constructed for movement on the public highways, after June 15, 1976, that has sleeping, cooking and plumbing facilities, that is intended for human occupancy, that is being used for residential purposes and that was constructed in accordance with federal manufactured housing construction and safety standards and regulations in effect at the time of construction."

Lynne went on to discuss that a big part of what she has drawn up are goals. There are twelve goals that give direction to the city in different circumstances. Goals include CITY INVOLVEMENT by implementing two more committees. Public participation is important. **Lynne will also be holding two public meetings, one on January 9, 2008 and the next on January 23, 2008 at the Civic Center in Aztec.** The second goal concerns the Land Use Planning. The third goal concerns the Natural Resources, Scenic/ Historic areas and Open Spaces. Lynne conveyed that these are "very, very vital in Aztec." Other goals, including: Air, Water and Land Resources Quality, Parks and Recreational needs, Housing, Transportation, Energy Conservation, and Urbanization. The Survey that was issued by the planning department via the city's utility bills was discussed. In light of the "great feedback" that was received, there are plans to do others possibly every three to five years.

There was discussion of Cottage Industry: a business or business-related activity that is carried on within either a dwelling or a building accessory to that dwelling, which employs no more than two non-family members and which has limited impacts on the surrounding properties. Deliveries and customer visitations are limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Outdoor storage is allowed if it is similar to what legally occurs in the neighborhood and accessory structures conform to the character of the neighborhood. Other situations were discussed, and Lynne explained that "if someone wanted to operate a paint shop, that would require a conditional use cause, it has a greater impact."

Some commissioners and staff felt that the goals and ordinances were long and Steve Christensen felt that they were "cumbersome." All agreed that more discussion was needed and Lynne again urged attendance at the meetings to be held in January.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. The second meeting will also be on a Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. I urge the citizens of Aztec to attend these meetings, give input, share concerns, and learn about what's happening with the City of Aztec Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan will be available to the public the week of December 10th, at City Hall, and the library. The current city zoning map, and the proposed city zoning map will be posted at City Hall and the library for public viewing and comparison.

Lynne Kruger urges citizens to become involved and invites anyone to come in and talk to her. You can come by her office at City Hall, or call (334-7600) and make an appointment to see her.

"flush" water, but we are not credited for backwash. Steve Christensen also stated that "tying into our pump is not going to be a really good idea."

Mike Arnold felt that the issue was an engineering problem because of the pipes involved. Former City Commissioner Jack Scott was unsure of the \$65.00 per acre foot fee, and felt that it should not be figured on pumping cost alone, and it should not be figured at the rate purposed seven years ago.

Jack Scott mentioned that the city supplying easements, and routes needed to be addressed. "The city can't just go and supply easements which have a value to a private entity across city land." Jack Scott recommended that the city "avoid this contract."

Diana Mesch recommended that we see "if we have any problems with the state engineer about the easement costs." Diana Mesch asked David Velasquez what effect this agreement may have on the contract the city held with Animas La Plata, and again the City Manager could not respond with any solid answers.

Questions concerning bad drought years such as 2002 were also asked. It seems that the reason this agreement was brought before the commission now, was so Mr. Nordstrom could go ahead with his development plans.

Mayor Mike Arnold made a motion to approve the water agreement, and the agreement was tabled with a 4-1 vote, all voting to table except for Mayor Mike

Continued next page

What the Blazes!

by Bert Bennett

Christmas Report

We are on our way to another busy Fire Department Christmas Program. The names are coming in, and there is still time to turn in family names, MONEY and new toys.

As I said last time, this program has been going on for about 28 years, more or less, depending on which one of the "old timers" you talk to. The department started by helping a family who had a fire on Christmas Eve. The following year they were told of a few families in need of a little help, so the members went out and talked some local businesses into donating toys and food. The next year the department received more names and that first family has snowballed into the 5-department program that we have today. From the very beginning, our program has been geared to the needs of the children. All the families we assist are families with children. As a time of giving we feel that the giving should be for the children. They are the ones who don't understand why others have and they don't. Our thanks come from the look in the eyes of the children, and their parents, when Santa arrives. There is no way to put that feeling, at that moment, into words.

The members of the department check every family, to the best of our ability, that is turned in either by phone or in person. Therefore we ask the different originations that collect and turn in names to please turn in all names and let us follow up. This will allow us to assess all those turned in equally by our standards.

As our program gets bigger it becomes harder and harder to fund it. We will need between \$5,000.00 and \$7,000.00 for this year. I am sorry to say if we can't find

Chief's Corner

By Chief Mike Heal

Hello Friends:

Can you believe that another year has come and gone? At this time of year I would hope and pray that each of you would have a very Merry Christmas. There are many out there that will have nothing unless we help. So look around and help someone in need...and if you can not help them please contact me so that I can ensure that they get Christmas.

Also during this season take some extra time to be with your children and grandchildren. Don't let the rush, rush of Christmas let you forget what really is important.

This time of year is also a good time to watch out for each other. Burglars like to ruin Christmas for you if you are not careful. Lock presents in your trunk out of sight while shopping, and make sure that you lock your car doors. At home lock your doors even if you are at home and watch your neighbor's home and report any suspicious activity to the Aztec Police Department.

The Aztec Police department will be participating in



Aztec Fire Dept.

more ways to keep the money coming in we will have to think about cutting back or eliminating the program altogether. It's hard to think about. But, if there is no money, there is no program. When the department started we had fewer families and could finance the program, also we had the manpower to put it all together. Now, without help in the form of manpower and funding we can't compete with the other programs out there today. We need help or we're done.

ALL VOLUNTEER ALL THE TIME

YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT IS STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN. IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, AND OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, COME BY THE MAIN FIRE STATION, 200 N. ASH AVE. ANY WEDNESDAY AT 7 PM. AND YOUR FIRE FIGHTERS WILL BE HAPPY TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT AND SIGN YOU UP IF IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN. (YOU CAN HELP WITH THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM). YOUR NEIGHBORS NEED YOU AND WE WILL TRAIN YOU TO HELP AND SERVE.

!!!!!!!Kudos!!!!!!!

To the Planning and Zoning Committee

For doing their Homework
Preparing for the Task at Hand
and Staying Well Informed!!!!
Remember: Knowledge is Power!

Aztec Police Dept.

extra seatbelt and DWI patrols soon so please buckle up and don't drink and drive.

I am sure the Aztec Fire Department will warn you about house fires, but be careful, we tend to over load electrical sockets with Christmas light displays which could start a house fire.

I guess what I am really trying to say is just be safe during this most wonderful time of year.

Until next time, please be careful out there and let's all help watch out for each other and drive safe.

As always, if I can help you in any way or answer any questions, please call me Mon-Fri 8am-5pm at 334-7620, e-mail me at mheal@aztecnm.gov or send me your thoughts to 201 West Chaco, Aztec, New Mexico, 87410.

Stay safe & God Bless You and God Bless America!

Green Living, Sustainable Living info at Aztec Library

Aztec Library has developed a wonderful bibliography on Green Living/Sustainable Living books/videos/magazines that are available at our three local libraries. Also available at the Aztec Library is a notebook of handouts on Green /Sustainable Living that can be Xeroxed right there at the library. The handouts were compiled and maintained by Sustainable San Juan. Also at the library is a display on Green /Sustainable Living for more ideas on implementing Green/Sustainable Living in your lives. For more info stop by the Aztec Library at 311 S. Ash (Ash and Llano) or contact Sustainable San Juan 334-1840 or sustainable-san-juan@yahoo.com

Sustainable San Juan – your local response to sustainable/green living and a proud user of the great Aztec Library.



March 4, 2008

Aztec Election Calendar

1. ELECTION

A regular municipal election for the election of City Commissioners will be held March 4, 2008 at Aztec City Hall, 201 W. Chaco. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

2. ELECTIVE OFFICES OPEN

At this election, persons will be elected to fill two Commissioner Positions (currently held by Mike Arnold and Diana Mesch) and one Municipal Judge Position (currently held by Barbara Aldaz-Mills).

3. ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Applications for absentee ballots are now available at the City Clerk's office. Any qualified voter (or a member of their immediate family) may obtain an application from the City Clerk's office. An applicant may also call the city clerk to have an application sent to them. (Becky Howard, 505-334-7603).

All applications must be completed and received by the Clerk before 5 p.m. March 3.

4. REGISTERING TO VOTE

Persons desiring to register to vote in the election (or anyone needing to update their voter registration information) must register/update with the County Clerk of San Juan County no later than Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008, prior to 5 p.m.

5. DECLARATIONS OF CANDIDACY

All Declarations of Candidacy must be filed with the City Clerk on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Merry Christmas to All!!



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Dec. 4 Commission meeting continued

Arnold.

City Attorney Larry Thrower suggested to continue instead of table the agreement and Mayor Mike Arnold made motion. The motion was seconded to continue discussion the first Commission meeting of January. The motion was passed unanimously, and discussion will continue next month.

During City Manager David Velasquez report he updated the Commission on the latest meeting with the State Engineer, Smith Engineering and Tera Con, concerning Reservoir #3. He stated that Tera Con would be at the proposed site this month doing soil analysis, but he could give no time frame for construction to begin except early spring.

Disclaimer: This Commission wrap-up is not an official record of the Aztec City Commission meeting. It is a synopsis of the proceedings. Official transcripts are available through the City Clerk's office.

*Note: Meetings are held the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month unless otherwise posted. **The next general meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18, 2007.***

A final agenda is posted 24 hours prior to the meeting. Copies may be obtained from City Hall, 201 W. Chaco, Aztec 87410.

The meeting room and facilities are fully accessible to persons with mobility disabilities. Those needing an auxiliary aid or service may contact the City Clerk's Office at 334-7600 prior to the meeting.