

ELDORADO VISTAS

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 5
May 2004

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Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradocommunity.org

Call of the Wild *Spring Comes to the Community Preserve*



Dan Drobni's

ELDORADO'S COMMUNITY PRESERVE is a unique asset. At over six square miles of undeveloped land, it is almost as large as the whole developed part of Eldorado, and extends along the west side of 285 from near I-25, south across the Galisteo River at Cañoncito almost to Lamy. No other community in the 285 South Corridor—and few anywhere in New Mexico or the entire U.S.—has such an amenity for its members.

The Community Preserve was established when the Eldorado area was platted in the 1970s. Santa Fe County required the developer, AMREP, to set aside a large portion of the hilly terrain as undeveloped, in exchange for allowing denser development on the flatter portions. In the 1980s, AMREP gave up plans to develop a few prime hilltop lots and deeded the whole preserve area to Eldorado, only for as long as it remains undeveloped and used exclusively by ECIA members for recreational purposes.

A detailed brochure and trail map is available at the ECIA office. The brochure, along with the trails and signage throughout the preserve, is produced and maintained by the ECIA Conservation Committee. The committee sponsors hikes and outings throughout the year. (Check pages 4 and 5 of *Vistas* each month.)

Anyone planning a hike for themselves should carry the map and follow standard wilderness hiking precautions, such as sturdy shoes, water, and protec-

tive clothing. Hikers should use caution, as most of the trails are shared with horses and mountain bikes.

Four trail systems, with numerous branches and cutoffs, are maintained through the preserve. The most easily accessible and most used is Trail 1. The trailhead is accessed from a road on the south side of the Chevron station. It leads across a cattle guard, a short way east to a parking lot. The main branch of the trail is a short but steep climb to the top of Bishop's peak, with a rewarding view of Eldorado westward. Extensions along the ridgeline offer other rewarding views with a choice of cutoffs back to the trailhead.

The three other trails are accessed from County 51 (Ojo de la Vaca Rd.), which is reached from Old Las Vegas Highway southeast of its junction with 285. Two parking areas just south of the cattle crossing allow parking for the Trail 2 system, which offers the easiest hiking through a varied terrain of meadows, hills, woods, and creek.

The trailhead parking for Trail 3 also serves the southern section of Trail 2. Trail 3 offers some short loops with moderate to steep climbs through wooded areas and good views. An extension of Trail 3 links back to Trail 1 for a hike just about as long and strenuous as could be desired.

Trail 4 offers some of the longest, most strenuous, and most rewarding hikes, and is reached from a trailhead several miles south on County 51, across the Santa Fe

**ECIA Board
Work Study
Meeting,
Community
Center, Mon.,
May 17, 7 pm**

A scenic overlook

JOE ARMBRUSTER, ECIA



Share your comments with us!

For policy and
deadline, see
below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. **Deadline:** Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity.org. Please include "Attn: Vistas" in your message.

Mission Statement

The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Meet Your Board

EVER WONDER WHO those civic-minded people are who volunteer for the ECIA Board? Well, don't be shy! Come and meet them at the Annual Meeting of Members of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association. Be there Monday, May 3, at 7:00 pm at the Community Center.

This annual meeting takes place to conduct official business of the association, such as establishing a quorum and announcing the newly elected members of the ECIA Board. The board cannot work in a vacuum; they need feedback from the community. Please plan to give opinions relevant to issues within the community during the open forum period.

THE HIGHLIGHTS:

- ▼ Possible appearance by **Jack Sullivan**, our County Commissioner
 - ▼ Recognition of Committee Chairpersons and accepting their annual reports
 - ▼ Recognition of departing board members
 - ▼ Financial summary and results of latest CPA audit
 - ▼ Announcement of new board members
 - ▼ Community forum for members to speak out
- The board looks forward to seeing everyone at the meeting. A community works best when all members participate.

*"I am of the opinion that my life belongs
to the community, and as long as I live it is my
privilege to do for it whatever I can."*

—George Bernard Shaw

*"Responsibility does not only lie with the
leaders of our countries or with those who have
been appointed or elected to do a particular job.
It lies with each of us individually..."*

—The Dalai Lama

*"Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

—Margaret Mead

*"In every community there is work to be done.
In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In
every heart there is the power to do it."*

—Marianne Williamson

KEN MCPHERSON



Pool Opening

THE POOL OPENS MAY 29TH! You and your kids are probably counting the days. Well, not much longer now. If you want to get in, use your white plastic pool passes. New pool cards are available for \$5.00 and replacement cards are \$10.00.

POOL HOURS:

- ▼ General Swim: Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
- ▼ Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday – 10:00 am – 8:00 pm

Lap Swim:

- ▼ Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 8:00 am – 10:00 am, and again from 6:00 – 8:00 pm
- ▼ Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 8:00 am – 10:00 am
- ▼ Pool phone number: 466-2511

ATTENTION RENTERS!

Before you are allowed access to the pool, the owner of the home you are renting must submit to the ECIA a letter authorizing you to use the pool.

LIFEGUARDS

If any certified lifeguards are interested in working at the Eldorado pool this summer, contact **Bill Donohue** at 466-4248.

ASSOCIATION FEES

Don't forget, your association fees must be current to have access to all amenities.

—Bill Donohue

Call of the Wild

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

railroad main line and through lower Cañoncito. Terrain is varied, including both meadow and steep wooded slopes. A side trail leads to the spectacular Hidden Canyon area, which includes a creek bed and waterfall (dry most of the year).

The spring season is probably the overall best for hiking, with scattered wildflowers, fresh foliage and grasses, and reasonable mid-day temperatures. But even on hot summer days there are cool shady areas. Fall brings foliage colors, and winter snows provide a special beauty. So get out and take a hike. Enjoy one of Eldorado's most valued amenities.

—Dan Drobnis

From the ECIA Code Enforcement Officer

LARGE ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, such as studios and garages, shall be located close to the dwelling house, and shall be architecturally integrated therewith.

- ▼ These large buildings shall be close to dwelling house (*historical intent was within 15 feet*).
- ▼ Shall be architecturally designed in style and materials similar to dwelling house, and height shall not exceed that of primary dwelling.
- ▼ Shall be linked to the dwelling house with a ramada, wall, gate, fence, breezeway, courtyard, or similar integrating structure.
- ▼ Shall be of a color to match the dwelling house.
- ▼ Shall observe all property line setbacks.
- ▼ Total square footage of secondary building shall not exceed 600 square feet.

Small accessory structures, such as storage sheds and greenhouses, shall be located so as to minimize their visual impact on the surrounding neighborhood, and shall be obscured by screening in some

reasonable manner, for example by the dwelling house and/or with plantings or fencing.

- ▼ These small buildings shall be no larger than 120 square feet and not exceed 8 feet in height.
- ▼ Shall be obscured by screening in some reasonable manner (dwelling house, fencing and/or plantings).
- ▼ Obscure means to make inconspicuous or unnoticeable, or to conceal physically.
- ▼ Such screening must be specified at the time of application and completed within six months.
- ▼ Color of walls and roof should match the colors of the house. Roof must be low-reflective.
- ▼ All property line setbacks must be observed, (except in the case of plantings used for screening these small buildings).

Don't forget to submit your application by noon on the Monday of the week of the Architectural Committee meeting. The committee meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

—Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR

Calming Traffic In Eldorado

ELDORADO IS PEACEFUL most of the time. But when drivers speed (particularly on our paved roads), cross over double lines and, in the process, make noise more suited to a NASCAR event than what we expect on our quiet residential streets, many of us get upset.

Most motorists drive carefully and follow the speed limits posted in Eldorado but a small group of scofflaws do not, and therein lies the focus of the Traffic Calming group of the ECIA's Neighborhood Watch Committee. The problems the committee has identified are not necessarily new. At our morning and evening "rush hours" too many drivers are speeding, some illegally crossing double lines and most are making excessive noise in the process. At other times, contractor's trucks regularly break the speed and safety laws on our roads and ATVs visit our streets, often from distant parts of the county.

Sheriff Greg Solano has recently put into effect a "Quadrant System." That system is supposed to assign specific officers to our quarter section of the county, officers we can communicate with, who will get to know us and help us with any traffic or crime problems we identify.

The sheriff's new program has yet to be fully implemented, but the Traffic Calming Committee is urging that it get under way fully and completely, as soon as possible.

The sheriff's program calls for:

1. A citizens' reporting system: Call the sheriff's department if you see successive illegal actions by the same drivers. After three reports of the same license number, the sheriff will send a deputy to the person's home with a friendly message, "Drive in accordance with the law, we are looking out for you."
2. A mobile Traffic Monitor to be set up regularly on our avenidas. It will show the speed of cars, indicate the legal speed and leave it to the driver to determine if there is an appreciable difference.
3. Regular, effective patrolling by the Eldorado Quadrant deputies to catch drivers who break our traffic laws.
4. A section in the sheriff's website (accessible as a link from www.EldoradoCommunity.org) that will give the "calls for service" statistics for the Eldorado Quadrant.

The sheriff will introduce the deputies he has assigned to the Eldorado Quadrant at a meeting in the Community Center May 13th at 7:00 pm. All who value safety in the community are urged to attend and offer their suggestions on how to make Greater Eldorado a "calm traffic community."

—Frank Schober

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Fire and Rescue
466-1204
Animal Control
424-2050

ARTIST: Grace Burleigh



**Flea Market
May 8th**

Saturday, May 8, is the ERA's Spring Flea Market at the Community Center. Set up begins at 7:00 am, selling at 8:00 am, and closing time is 12:30 pm. No reservations necessary. Space is on a first come first served basis. Cost

per space is \$7.00 for Eldorado residents, and \$10.00 for sellers from outside the community and commercial sellers. Bring what you'll need for your setup, and please, **no food or weapons may be sold**. Sellers need to clean up their area and take unsold items with them. Donuts and coffee will be served early with hot dogs being served late morning. Information? Call 466-3256 or 466-4877.

Conservation Committee Offers Hike

Ray Burkard will lead a guided hike in the Community Preserve on Sunday, May 16, 9:00 am. Meet at the Community Center to carpool. Bring hat, water, and a snack. The hike will be on trail 401, a loop of 4 miles, through the preserve's most diverse terrain. We especially encourage newer residents to join us and learn about this great Eldorado amenity. Any questions, call Ray at 466-9211.

Senior Van Service Expands

The Senior Van volunteers have agreed to expand van transportation to Monday through Friday for Eldorado seniors who need to get into Santa Fe for appointments. The riders will need to have a senior card, but that's easy to get at the main Senior Center in Santa Fe. (We are sorry that we cannot take wheelchair-bound seniors, as the van does not have a lift.) One should call a couple of days ahead to schedule to be picked up. Call **Nancy Steadman** at 466-0347, **Therese Janowski** at 466-1397 or **Patty Adam** at 466-1949.

Arts & Crafts Extravaganza Weekend

The 13th Annual Eldorado Studio Art Tour, scheduled for May 15 and 16, will feature 80 Eldorado artists this year, making it the biggest in New Mexico. The variety and accomplishment of the members of the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association will once again draw many visitors to the community. The opportunity to visit artists in their studios is always a big draw. This year's event will feature some first time participants as well as those who have been participating every year. The Art Tour is a wonderful opportunity to collect arts and crafts to suit any taste, and at the same time, get to know the creator of the artwork.

In an effort to keep the list of studios at a reasonable number, many artists have joined together to share studios. Thus it will be possible to see 20 to 30 selected artists at 10 to 15 stops. Again this year, each artist will be represented at the Preview Gallery held at the Avenida Vista Grande Fire Station. The gallery is open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm both Saturday, May 15, and Sunday, May 16. All the studios will be open during the same hours. Brochures with maps will be available at the Preview Gallery as well as at the Agora Shopping Center.

Watch for signs with numbers of the studios as well as the signature flags flying at the entrance to each studio.

For information contact co-chairs: **Joretha Hall** at 466-6245, **Toni Beldock** at 466-3917 or **Janet Amtmann** at 466-3256, or visit our website at www.eldoradoarts.org.





ARTIST: Linda Diemand

Book Event at Library

Olive Gallagher will present her new book *A Simple Path to The Good Life* May 20, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Vista Grande Public Library. Gallagher is the syndicated columnist of "The Inner Bottom Line," a column addressing personal choices and ethical dilemmas. According to Gallagher, "It [is] our choices that determine the value of our lives. And it will be The Inner Bottom Line that we alone will face as a measure, a tally, of the worth of that life." **John Gray**, author of *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* declares, "Gallagher, in a warm, humorous and conversational manner, helps us to discover our own values to effectively face life's endless challenges." Born in Los Angeles, Olive Gallagher now resides in Santa Fe.

Community Pavilion

A committee is considering what it will take to build and maintain a community pavilion for Eldorado. The location under consideration for the pavilion is near the Community Center, and it will hopefully play host to 40 performers plus small and large audiences. Potential uses of the pavilion include community theater, band concerts, school events, visiting artists, weddings, ECIA-sponsored holiday events (e.g., 4th of July) and other cultural events. The pavilion is visualized as something that will improve and grow with time, not unlike our hike/bike trail system.

May Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting or event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's *Vistas*. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. **Type of Event**
2. **Location**
3. **Date & Time**
4. **A Resource Person** (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number. Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

ECIA Annual Meeting	Mon., May 3, 7 pm	RR
ERA Spring Flea Market	Sat., May 8, 8 am at the Community Center parking lot	
Sheriff's Open House	Thurs., May 13, 7-9 pm	RR
Eldorado Pool Opens	Sat., May 29 (for hours, see page 2)	

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Neighborhood Watch		Frank Schober	310-8593	call
Road Committee	Mon., May 3, 6-7 pm	Allen Larson	466-4792	CFR
Finance Committee	Tues., May 11, 10-noon	Gisela Knight		CFR
Architectural Committee	Tues., May 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
EAW&SD*	Wed., May 12, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols		CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., May 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., May 19, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CR
ECIA Board	Thurs., May 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., May 24, 7-8 pm	ECIA	466-4248	F
Architectural Committee	Tues., May 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., May 25, 7-9 pm			CFR

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Book Club/Pot Luck	Sun., May 2, 6-9 pm	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., May 4, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Book Club	Sat., May 8, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	
Library Book Club	2nd Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib
Search & Rescue	Thurs., May 13, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Call for date	Clay Williard	466-3909	
Arts Assoc. Program	Wed., May 26, 7-9 pm	Arlene Siegel	466-3274	LR

WEEKLY MEETINGS

AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 am			CR
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Bridge (Men's)	Thursdays, 1-4 pm	Bill Kapoun	466-8497	LR
Boy Scouts Troop 414	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Paul Tuck	466-4815	
Community Band	Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm	Peg Johnson	466-1459	School
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR
Wireless Assoc.	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Wed., 1-3 pm	Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	

*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District

**Reservations Required

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.eldoradocommunity.org

Taking Care of Our Water



KEN MCPHERSON

Ray Nichols,
President of EAW&SD

ELDORADO AREA WATER and Sanitation District President, **Ray Nichols** was interviewed by **Gretel Underwood** on April 3, 2004.

GRETTEL: Tell me a little bit about your background.

RAY: I was born in Lynn, Massachusetts. I grew up and went through public school in Swampscott, Massachusetts. I went in the service at the end of World War II. After I came out, I went to the University of Colorado and got a degree in electrical engineering. I went to work for Western Electric and then worked for AT&T Technologies.

G: What brought you to New Mexico and Eldorado?

R: I wanted to live in an area with mountains and low humidity. So I got out the map and put a dot on the map. I figured I'd start in Santa Fe and move in ever-widening circles until I found something...and I ran into Eldorado. That was in 1988.

G: Tell me about the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District and your role in it.

R: The Water and Sanitation District came into being in 1997 and is a governmental entity at the state level. This is the only governmental agency that is concerned with the Eldorado area and the Eldorado area only. I am the president of the district.

G: Where is the process to take over Eldorado Utilities right now?

R: We started selling our bonds in January, got the money, and in February we filed for condemnation.

G: Will you explain "condemnation"?

R: Condemnation is essentially a take over of the water system. It might be considered a hostile takeover because Eldorado Utilities didn't want to sell to us. Now they are willing to sell to us, but for a lot more money than they were willing to sell to Utilities, Inc. Their appraisal says the system is worth \$29 million, but they were prepared to sell the system to Utilities, Inc. for \$6.2 million.

G: What happens if the District prevails?

R: When we meet with **Judge Hall**, he will be asked to sign an order of permanent entry. If he signs that order, we get the keys to Eldorado Utilities. We have in place a very good contract with Operations and Management International that specializes in operating water systems. We've had that contract for about a year. They are being patient with us, but they're ready to move in and start operating the system. We are trying our best to make it a seamless transition.

G: What are the benefits of a community-owned water system?

R: Water is a precious commodity and it's important to have local control to be sure that we have long-range planning. A private company could provide long-range planning, but invariably their prime interest is meeting their stockholders' needs and that may not include investment for the long haul. We are a non-profit. We intend to protect the interests of existing customers, which is one reason we're not anxious to expand the customer base as Utilities, Inc. was planning to do. Our efforts will be directed toward finding additional water, conserving water, maintaining real estate prices and keeping the community viable.

G: When you are not working on the water issue, what activities do you enjoy?

R: During the last couple of years, with this condemnation issue, there hasn't been a lot of time for that. I like woodworking. I used to play tennis as much as I could. I like to follow international politics.

—Gretel Underwood

Who? The Great Horned Owl

YOU MAY HAVE SPOTTED a Great Horned Owl (GHO) or two here in Eldorado. While it is unknown how many are residents year-round, there have been numerous sightings.

GHOs are monogamous and usually mate for life. Their average territory size is one-third to two square miles. They are spectacular to see in the air, with wingspans close to four feet. They are 22 inches tall and weigh about 3.1 pounds. The female is slightly larger. Our southwestern adult has a bit more gray and less reddish color but there are many color variations. GHOs reside over all the US, most of Canada and in many parts of Central and South America.

There has been a pair near my home for at least three years. I stopped hearing their calls around February 3, about when nesting begins. It is supposed that they nest early so that the young fledge just when prey species are most abundant. Nests are existing stick nests, a niche in a branch, top of a stump, and sometimes the ground. Their voices are distinct, the female's being slightly higher pitched and not quite the generic Who-Who-Who. Two or three eggs are laid asynchronously and brooded by the female for 35 days. The young are atricial with closed eyes, sparse down, and unable to lift their heads. As they grow, both parents bring food, and the youngsters fledge at about 45 days and stay with the parents while learning to hunt. Last year I watched as three babies sat on the ground in my front yard, quite big, but still sporting fluffy baby down, no pointed feather horns, and looking

distinctly awkward. Their voices were screechy and they flew off slowly and quietly.

Owls are adapted to hunt in the dark but may also hunt at dusk and dawn. They have large eyes in the front of their head. They have superb hearing via ears that are slightly asymmetrical, and they have silent flight feathers. The forward edge of the first primary feathers is serrated rather than smooth. This disrupts the flow of air, resulting in noiseless flight. Additionally, their outer toes rotate so that they can securely grab prey as they swoop and lift it from the ground.

GHO gulp their prey whole, possibly to avoid conflicts with other carnivores. About 8 hours after a meal, a pellet is ejected. This contains bones, fur or exoskeleton. Quite a few of these pellets, about 1 inch in diameter, have shown up on my garage deck, along with rabbits' feet and a rabbit skull.

In the daytime, when not nesting, GHOs roost on branches near the center of thick trees (especially junipers around here). They usually hoot as they make their way to the top of the tree at dusk. Sometimes crows and ravens mob the tree when they discover the owl. Just at dusk, I have twice watched a GHO swoop down to within a foot of my large Airedale terrier. Maybe this was a territorial warning!

—Pam Henline



Blue Ribbon Quilts of New Mexico Exhibit

A TWO-DAY GRAND OPENING of the free exhibit "Blue Ribbon Quilts of New Mexico" is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 15-16, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Vista Grande Public Library in Eldorado. The exhibit includes thirty quilts from twenty-five competitions, along with some heirloom pieces. Most of the quilts have won multiple awards.

On Monday, May 17 at 1:00 pm, the general public can enjoy a guided tour and learn how a quilt becomes award-worthy. At 2:15, a workshop primarily for quilters will give hands-on judge's tips. **Gail Cunningham** of Las Cruces, the state's only certified quilt judge and **Jean Stokes** of Eldorado, curator of the exhibit, are the presenters. There is a \$5 fee for each of the Monday programs. To register, call 466-0065.

An orchid from Tropic of Capricorn and a "bounty of beads" from the Beadweaver shop are door prizes (to be drawn May 17). Free information on organic xeric gardening will also be offered. The "Blue Ribbon Quilts" exhibit (without heirlooms) continues through June 16 at the Vista Grande Public Library.

For information and program registration, contact Jean Stokes at 466-0065.

—Jean Stokes

Previous quilt show



PRESRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 569
Santa Fe, NM



Security
204-2945

Let the Games Begin

ANDY WINNEGAR



The East Field was recently leveled for spring soccer and baseball practice. Although the drought has prevented replanting, the field will provide a smooth surface for spring workouts.