

# **Catron County News**



August 2023

\$1 US dollar or 1 silver dime

# Honoring the Great Western American Heritage

**Catron County Fair** is the showcase of the **Great Western American Heritage**. You will see how generations of cowboys and cowgirls hone the skills that are required for the lifestyle they have chosen.

You will also meet folks who raise prize winning lines of cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens. At the Auction, everyone will have an opportunity to bid at will.

If you start the day early, you will see the children in age groups starting about 5 competing with time and obstacles or cattle. It is inspiring to see how skilled they become so young. Another credit to a healthy lifestyle their parents chose for them.

The afternoon and evening you see the adult version with the addition of bucking bronks and bulls and team roping contests where two generations of ranchers vie for the longest or shortest time. You will notice some competitors in their  $60-70s \sim$  another tribute to the Great Western American LifeStyle.

Besides, it will put a grin on your face. {*Editor*}



Catron County News Has been covering many of the events in Catron County for over fourteen years by photos and video available on-line at: www.catroncountynews.org

Thank you People of Catron County! Your warm welcome to our first edition gave us great optimism.

This issue provides a glimpse into the controversy between those who want the Dollar General store and those who do not.

There's also water shortages and wild fires burning.

The Catron County Fair is coming to Reserve soon.

Courtesy of our staff photographer Rose Bailey, this photo shows that Great Western American Heritage clear as a bell! We hope you will all attend the Catron County Fair Rodeo coming up soon. For an idea of what you might expect, you can browse to <u>www.catroncounty.org</u> and watch some of the pre-COVID rodeos and stock sales videos. The Children of Catron County are an inspiration and a joy to behold. See you at the Fair Rodeos. . .





## **Catron County Government**

County Assessor: Lillie Laney lillie.laney@catroncountynm.gov 575-533-6577

County Clerk: Sharon Armijo sharon.armijo@catroncountynm.gov 575-533-6400

**County Sheriff: Keith Hughes** keith.hughes@catroncountynm.gov 575-533-6222

**County Commissioners: Buster Green** County Commissioner District # 1 buster.green@catroncountynm.gov 575-519-2502 Cell

Audrey McQueen County Commissioner District #2 audrey.mcqueen@catroncountynm.gov 575-519-0146 Cell

Haydn Forward County Commissioner District #3 haydn.forward@catroncountynm.gov 575-519-0404 Cell

Joyce Laney, County Treasurer joyce.laney@catroncountynm.gov 575-533-6384

**Dusty Choate:** Emergency Manager County Fire Chief dusty.choate@catroncountynm.gov Cell: 505-221-0031

**County Roads:** Catron County Road District #1 Dale Kalberg, District Supervisor 575-773-4581

Catron County Road District #2 Jeff Anderson, District Supervisor 575-533-6388

Catron County Road District #3 Paul McKeen, District Supervisor 575-539-2221

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Black & White Full: \$150 Half: \$100 **Third: \$50 Ouarter: \$30 Business Card: \$20** Yard Sale Listing: \$10 Single Item Listing: \$5

505-362-5533 steve@catroncountynews.org Send Checks to:

# **Legal Notices**

#### **Property Tax Notice** Second Half Due

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Tax Department Regulations that the second half of property taxes for 2022 are due and are required to be paid to the Catron County Treasurer and will become delinquent if not paid by May 10, 2023. If the taxes become delinquent, interest on the unpaid taxes shall accrue at the rate of one percent (1%) a month or any fraction of a month and penalty of one percent (1%) of the delinquent taxes of each month or any portion of a month they remain unpaid shall be imposed, but the total penalty shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the delinquent taxes except that, when the penalty determined is less than five dollars (\$5.00). County Treasurer cannot waive penalty or interest on delinquent accounts.

Joyce R. Laney Catron County Treasurer PO Box 407 Reserve, New Mexico 87830 Phone: (575)533-6384

### Joyce Laney, County Treasurer

joyce.laney@catroncountynm.gov

P.O. Box 407 Reserve, NM 87830

575-533-6384



#### JOB POSTING FOR DISPATCHER

THE CATRON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITIONS OF DISPATCHER. The Catron County sheriff's Office is seeking applications for two Full-Time and one Part-Time Dispatcher. Basic quirements include being at least 18 years of age, must possess a high school diploma or GED, possess a valid driver's license, successful passing of a criminal background investigation, pass a psychological exam, and pass a hearing exami

cants will need to be willing to obtain an AHA CPR card and attend a three-week NM LEA Dispatcher Certification Class within the first year of employment

Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled.

Applications and a job description may be obtained from the Catron County Sheriff's Office, the Catron County Manager's Office, or the Catron County Website

Catron County Sheriff's Office Catron County Manager's Office

100 Main Street 100 Main Street

P. O. Box 467 P. O. Box 507

Reserve, New Mexico 87830 Reserve, New Mexico 87830

(575) 533-6222 (575) 533-6423

Catron County Website

www.catroncounty.us Opening Date: Monday, June 19, 2023

Closing Date: Until filled

Catron County is an "Equal Opportunity Emp



### Vacancy Announcement

Randall Ear

Reserve Independent Schools is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2023-2024 school year Boys Basketball Coach Girls Basketball Coach Volleyball Coach Track Coach

# **Catron County Businesses**

--Food & Fuel--Alma Store & Grill ~ Alma 575-539-2640 **Black Gold Emporium ~ Reserve** (575) 533-6538 **Eagle Guest Ranch** ~ **Datil** (575) 533-6538 **Trading Post** ~ **Glenwood** 575-539-2321 Michelle's ~ Reserve (575) 533-6488 --Prepared Food--Ella's ~ Reserve (575) 533-6111 435 Grill ~ Reserve https://435grill.com ~ 505-549-6866 Gila Grill ~ Reserve 575-520-2144 https://www.gilagrill.com/ **Eagle Guest Ranch** ~ **Datil** 575-533-6538 Alma Grill ~ Alma 575-772-5612 --Groceries: --

Jake's General Merchandise jakesgeneralmerchandise.com (575) 539-2233 **Country Store ~Quemado** 

--Bar & Package --**Uncle Bill's Bar** (575) 533-6369 Apache Creek 575-633-6800 Hardware **Charlie's Supply ~ Reserve** 575-533-6574 Mccoy's Hardware ~ Quemado 575-773-4222 **Lodging** Motels Los Olmos ~ Glenwood 575-539-2224 losolmoslodge@gmail.com https://www.losolmoslodge.com **MountainAire** ~ Reserve 575-533-6272 reservenmlodging.com Frisco Lodging & RV 575-533-6600 friscolodgingnm@gmail.com **Eagle Guest Ranch ~ Datil** 575-533-6574 **RV** Parks Apache RV ~ Cruzville www.apachervpark.com Oaks RV ~ Alma www.oaksrvpark.com **Eagle Guest Ranch ~ Datil** 1-575-772-5612 **Datil Wells** 1-575-835-0412 **Thrift Shops:** Polka Dot ~ Reserve 575-242-9630 polkadotpark4you@gmail.com **Farm**-fresh Foods: **NYN Acres Farm** 575-654-6312 **Churches:** 7th Day Adventists ~ Reserve (505) 533-6780 Cowboy Church~Quemado 575-773-4265 Bible Church~HorseSpring (505) 772-5155 **Glenwood Presbyterian Church** 

**Steve Gartin PO Box 805** Reserve, New Mexico 87830



**Catron County Medical** 

Center 🜺 PMS **1** Foster Lane Reserve, NM 87830 Phone: 575-533-6456 Fax: 575-533-6767

To Apply:

DICAL SERVICES

505-362-5533

Date of Notice:

Requirements:

April 19, 2023

Background check

Open until filled

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Applications are available at the Reserve Independent School's Administration Office. Please submit completed application to Superintendent Randall Earwood; 24 Mountaineer Road, P. O. Box 350. Reserve, NM 87830.

NMPED Athletic Coaching License or the ability to obtain one:

Russell Lan President	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Robert Ricks Secretary	Audrey McQueen Member	David S Memb
T	Catron Co	unty Co	mmissione	rs
<b>Open Monthly Meetings:</b>				
- 1	Jul 12,	, 2023 09	:00 AM	
_	Aug 9	, 2023 09	:00 AM	
- 1	Sep 13	8, 2023 0	9:00 AM	
- 1	Oct 11	, 2023 09	9:00 AM	
- 1	Nov 8	, 2023 09	:00 AM	
L	Dec 13	3, 2023 0	9:00 AM.	
isher/Ec ynews.o			Bailey: Distributi 1d Street Box 805	

graphy 575-519-2285



### State water rights experts: Controversial water project is 'speculative'

Almost 100 people packed into the Catron County Courthouse in Reserve, N.M. last week for a hearing about plans to pump groundwater from beneath the Plains of San Agustin in southwestern New Mexico. Legislators hear the importance of water infrastructure amid climate change, new Rio Grande requirements | June 28, 2023 Elephant Butte Irrigation District Manager Gary Esslinger showed legislators a graph on Tuesday depicting the amount of water released and stored in Elephant Butte Reservoir over the decades.



Augustin\* Plains Ranch, LLC wants to pump 54,000 acre-feet of water-more than 17 billion gallons-each year from the aquifer and pipe it to commercial or municipal water customers hundreds of miles away. The state has rejected similar applications from the company twice. Now, a third application is pending before the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, which administers the state's water resources.

The final decision will lie with the State Engineer, a position currently held by Tom Blaine, who was appointed by Gov. Susana Martinez three years ago. Opponents of the project say the application is the same as those previously rejected, and that the company fails to say who will use the water it plans to pull from the area. At the hearing, Chris Lindeen, deputy general counsel at the Office of the State Engineer, ticked off the ways in which the application is complete, and explained that water rights applicants have the right to due process, just like protestants.

### But he had more to add.

Under the New Mexico Constitution, water is owned by the public and subject to "prior appropriation." That is, people or entities with water rights must put that water to "beneficial use." When considering water rights applications, the state must consider three crucial issues: public welfare, whether the project will impair existing water rights holders and conservation. Speculation, Lindeen explained, can be described different ways, including as monopolizing or hoarding water. And that relates to public welfare. The San Augustin Plains Ranch application, he concluded, is speculative and violates the prior appropriation doctrine. "So, the water rights division recommends that the State Engineer dismiss or deny the application based on speculation," he said. The company's project director, Michel Jichlinski, remained upbeat after the hearing.

"The hearing confirmed that our application is complete as per the law," he wrote in an emailed statement to NM Political Report. "APR remains the best and only economically viable project currently proposed to alleviate the known water shortages which threaten the future well being of the State." He added that the company looked forward to "demonstrating that APR can provide sorely needed water to the Rio Grande basin, without any impairment to the area's residents now and in the future." Unlikely alliances: Carol Pittman, an opponent of the project who lives just outside Datil, was surprised to hear Lindeen call the project "speculative" but remained only cautiously optimistic.

"We don't know what that means: Will the State Engineer go along with it, or is he going to ignore it?" asked Pittman. "We're going to proceed as if the application were going to be heard, and we're going to continue with our plan to hire a hydrologist." Local residents want to better understand the aquifer and how pumping might affect it and the water rights of the people who already rely on it. Pittman and others in conservative Catron County, as well as environmental groups, have been fighting against the project for about a decade. "I think a lot of people who live in urban and suburban communities cannot really fathom people who live so far apart as we do—Quemado is 40 miles away, Glenwood, 100 miles away-who have pulled together," Pittman said. "People do come together. The only ones who left [the coalition fighting the project] are those who died or had to sell their property to move."

Catron County's attorney, Pete Domenici, Jr., blasted the company for not adhering to New Mexico state law. Before the state's hearing examiner, Uday Joshi, Domenici criticized the application on a number of fronts, including for not explaining where the company plans to sell the pumped water.

"On its face, this proposal says, 'We don't have to follow New Mexico law," he said during the hearing. Catron County covers about 7,000 square miles and hosts only about 3,500 residents. Domenici assured the hearing officer that the remote, sparsely populated county not only expects, but demands, that the rule of law apply to the proceeding

The pueblos of Sandia, Isleta, and Santa Ana and Sandia also opposed the application. An attorney for the Pueblo of Sandia, Jessica Aberly, said at the hearing that without including an end-user or place of use for the water, the company prevents the pueblos from understanding how the project might affect them. She also noted the company's plans to build its pipeline across the Pueblo of Isleta. But, Ablerly said, "Isleta can find nothing about the specifics of this pipeline that will go across its property, other than the drawing of a line across the map."

### Fears of a precedent

"The issue here is whether water can be taken out of a rural area, where people are using it, and transported for use in areas like Socorro, Belen, Los Lunas, Albuquerque, or Rio Rancho, which is where the company proposes to run its pipeline," said Douglas Meiklejohn, executive director of the New Mexico Environmental Law Center, which represents about 80 individuals, as well as some homeowners associations and the Gila Conservation Coalition. "There seems to be a view that rural areas of the state or agricultural uses of water can be sacrificed for municipal and industrial uses of water."

That's not unique to the San Augustin proposal, he said. "The prevailing view of decision makers in a lot of the parts of New Mexico where development is proposed is that somehow or other, development can always get more water," Meiklejohn said. "That's the sort of thinking, it seems to me, that's also behind the Bernalillo County Commission's approval of the proposed Santolina development." Western Albuquerque Land Holdings, created by Barclays Bank and two other investors, wants to develop more than 13,000 acres on Albuquerque's westside, and needs approval from Bernalillo County for its Santolina Master Plan. Opponents of Santolina have questioned where the water to support such a large new community would come from.

Catron County Commissioner Anita Hand has also been fighting San Augustin Plains Ranch. A decade ago, her brother and father spotted a legal notice in the newspaper announcing the plans to drill 37 wells into the aquifer. They feared the project would deplete their own water supplies and ruin the ranch they have built up over decades.

"Obviously, we're hoping this will get thrown out and we won't have to deal with it again," Hand said of last week's hearing. "Unfortunately, this is something we're going to have to deal with until we get some legislation passed." Such legislation, she explained, would prevent interbasin transfers of water, or prevent water speculation. The upcoming legislative session, however, is a 30-day session, focused mainly on the budget.

"For rural New Mexico, this is one of our biggest concerns, that something like this comes in and destroys our livelihood, our way of life, and any type of future where we can pass on our ranch to our heirs," she said. "If they can do it here, if they can find another way to justify taking water or natural resources from one area to benefit another area, it sets a precedent."

No buyers yet. To buy or transfer water rights in New Mexico, people or companies must show the water will be put to "beneficial use." According to its application, the company plans to sell water commercially in seven counties and to state and federal agencies. It also says it will provide water for Magdalena, Socorro, Belen, Los Lunas, Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. No buyers are identified, but the application includes a 2014 letter from Rio Rancho City Manager Keith Riesberg who wrote that if it's successful, the city would be "interested in discussing" moving water into the city's system. Others towns named in the application, like Magdalena and Socorro, are actively fighting the project

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority weighed in publicly ahead of the hearing. In a letter published by the Albuquerque Journal in early December, the authority's chair, Klarissa Peña, wrote that the authority "wishes to make clear that the agency does not intend-or need-to purchase water from the Augustin Plains Ranch."

NM Political Report followed up with the authority's chief operating officer, John Stomp. "We understood that the San Augustin pipeline application had somehow identified us [as a buyer of the water], that's why we wanted to make sure we clarified that," he said. "The best future for us is to conserve and utilize the resources we already have." The authority recently completed a 100-year planning effort, he said, after studying 37 alternatives to supply water for the city's future.

"Importing water was certainly one of those alternatives," Stomp said. "But clearly, we didn't pick San Augustin or anybody else." Stomp added that in its new plan, the board agreed it will not import water or purchase pre-1907 water rights. Aside from water rights belonging to New Mexico's pueblos, those are the oldest water rights, typically associated with farms. For about two decades, the water authority has been transitioning away from groundwater and toward surface water from the Rio Grande and the San Juan-Chama Project. As a result, Stomp said, "Albuquerque is in a pretty good position to meet demands for the next 100 years without looking at other people's water to support our interests."

"We want agriculture to continue, and not transferring pre-1907 water rights is a very important step for us," he said. "And we want to make the same pitch to the San Augustin Project, that we're not interested." The state itself, however, might end up looking for water. New Mexico is squaring off against the state of Texas and the federal government in the U.S. Supreme Court on Texas v. New Mexico. Texas filed the lawsuit in a dispute over New Mexico's deliveries of Rio Grande water. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation also joined the suit, against New Mexico. If New Mexico loses the case, the state could owe a billion dollars or more in damages and also be forced to curtail groundwater pumping by farmers in southern New Mexico. After losing a similar lawsuit against Texas on the Pecos River in the eastern part of the state, New Mexico started a program to pump groundwater into the Pecos during dry times.

The New Mexico Office of the State Engineer did not respond to a request for comment on the hearing or the San Augustin Plains Ranch application.

By Laura Pascus: New Mexico Political Report: www.nmpoliticalreport.com/author/cap-laurapascus/

To the right are the 13 questions I brought to the Village of Reseve "Special" meeting on July 20, 2023. I was not aware of this Ordinance until July 19, 2023 when I saw a random posting at Post Office. The posting indicated the Village of Reserve Board of Trustees would be "discussing and possibly adopting" a Village Ordinance. This posting would lead one to believe there would be discussion. There was no discussion, the meeting was merely a ceremonial vote by the Board of Trustees. I was not allowed to introduce myself or to ask any questions and was told I should have come to the other public meetings. Had I been aware of the other meetings I certainly would have participated. There are many residents of this County that I have spoken with that were also unaware of this Ordinance and the public meetings. I still believe these are valid questions for the Board of Trustees, although I don't expect a response. Perhaps others in the community would like to see a response.



# Kali Coleman May 23, 2022 · Dollar General

**Dollar General's popularity is hard to deny:** The retailer's low prices have managed to pull 40 percent of all U.S. shoppers to its stores, according to Insider. This has allowed the dollar store chain to grow immensely recently, with Dollar General stores more than doubling across the country last year. But the company has also faced its fair share of setbacks. Most recently, Dollar General has been hit with a new lawsuit that makes some serious allegations. Read on to find out why the retailer is now being sued.

Dollar General is no stranger to backlash. In the last few months, shoppers have received warnings about the company. In mid-April, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture&Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) sent out a press release, notifying consumers that Dollar General was among a number of retailers who were fined due to "excessive price-scanner errors" at stores across the state.

Earlier in May, the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform and Coming Clean, Inc. published a joint Campaign for Health Solutions 2022 report indicating that several products sold at Dollar General stores across the U.S. and Canada had tested positive for toxic chemicals that could pose a risk to the health of shoppers. Now, a former employee is suing the company.



We, *at Catron County News* cordially invite all sides of every issue of import to the People of Catron County. Send by email to: steve@catroncountynews.org Text or Word no more than 1/2 page 12 point type.

# Village of Reserve New Mexico Moratorium Ordinance # 2023-1

1. Who will develop the "Comprehensive Plan for Zoning and Land use Regulations"? Will you use 3rd party expertise, boiler plate language from other jurisdictions, etc.? Why will this process take 12 months? Seems like an unreasonable and unnecessary amount of time. Why not develop the "Comprehensive Plan" without a restrictive Moratorium Ordinance??

2. There are two important sections missing from this Ordinance. What is the appeal process for those in disagreement with the Ordinance. Also, a section requiring the exercise of due diligence and working in good faith with the citizens and interested parties to develop and implement a balanced and workable plan.

**3.** Who are the Village Board of Trustees? What experience do they have in the development of such plans and regulations?

**4.** Have "historical areas and landmarks" been identified in the proposed location of the Dollar General that would warrant the time and expense of this Ordinance? Why not have Dollar General pay for this evaluation?

**5.** Is there a current drainage plan in the Village of Reserve? Again, what experience does the Board of Trustees have to develop such a drainage plan? Will you hire consulting experts? Where will the funding come from to secure the necessary expertise?

**6.** You reference "peace and order" in the Ordinance. Please explain what you mean. . . what peace and order will this Ordinance protect??

**7.** Who is the Planning Commission for the Village of Reserve?

**8.** Is Reserve the "right size" town to have zoning?? The population continues to decline, seems like a stretch for a zoning ordinance.

**9.**Who will designate "historical areas and landmarks"? Sounds like another consulting expert will be required. Where will the funds come from to hire this expertise?

**10.** Where will the Village of Reserve find the funds to acquire all the necessary expertise to develop these comprehensive plans? Will you raise taxes to pay for this work?

**11.** How many commercial properties have been developed in the Village of Reserve in the last 3 years? How many applications for commercial development have there been in this area? This dos not seem like a hot spot for commercial development, although this town could use an infusion of development to ensure its survival. 12. What regulations or ordinances currently exist that could be modified to accomplish the same objective at much less cost to the Village?? 13. Your description of the "Historic Nature" of the Village of Reserve is quite a stretch. Yes, the "geographic area" includes many important sites but restricting construction of one business, DG seems like an unnecessary us of this Ordinance. By all means, if the Village of Reserve believes they need a comprehensive plan for construction, develop one but not at the expense of a legitimate much needed new business

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Join us at the Catron County Fair Grounds 2nd Saturday each month from 10 am to 4 pm Come back for Karaoke in the evening Village of Reserve Board just voted in a one year Moratorium to adequately plan for orderly growth ~ so there's plenty time to plan properly.

Notice: Catron County News is seeking volunteer news reporters, writers, historians and photographers for all areas of the County. Please contact: steve@catroncountynews.org 505-362-5533

We believe that the duty of a local newspaper is to present all sides to controversies, give everyone an equal chance to express their thoughts and feelings and to present facts, no matter whichever side they favor.



Forest Service takes responsibility for another 2022 fire By Hannah Grover | 18 hours ago

The U.S. Forest Service released the results of investigations into 2022's Cerro Pelado fire that indicates a winter slash pile burn reignited to cause the blaze that charred more than 45,000 acres in northern New Mexico near Jemez Springs. The Cerro Pelado Lookout alerted the Santa Fe Interagency Dispatch Center of billowy blue-gray smoke moving east in the strong winds shortly after 3:30 p.m. on April 22, 2022.

The high winds caused the fire to grow quickly and, within a matter of hours, the blaze had engulfed more than 400 acres. Firefighters spent the next two weeks battling the wildfire, which destroyed three houses and several non-residential buildings while also damaging Jemez Mountains Electric Co-Op infrastructure. One of the firefighters received minor injuries in the effort. Two investigations into the source of the Cerro Pelado Fire came back with the same conclusion: the fire originated at an ash pit from a slash pile burn.

Steve, this is **John Pierson**, Liaison Officer with the Type 3 team for the **Reserve Ranger District** fires. I met with Rose yesterday and answered her questions as it related to logistics, camp operations, status of fires etc.... I sent your contact info to Sharma Chavez, Public Information Officer so that you can get emailed news releases.

Rose asked if we could put something together in regards to how the fire team functions, so I thought I would take a stab at that for you.

# Fire Team Configurations

Fire teams are configured based on the complexity of incidents. There are basically 3 levels (Type 3, Type 2 and Type 1), Type 1 is the highest level due to complexity of the incident. The Reserve Incidents are being managed at the Type 3 level. A Type 3 team can be formal or Ad Hoc. The team managing fires here at Reserve is an Ad Hoc team.

All fire teams are configured the same as it relates to positions and organization, however some positions/organization may not be filled based on the complexity of the incident. The organization of the team follows a National Standard utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS has a Command and General Staff. Command is composed of the Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Liaison Officer and Public Information Officer. The General Staff is composed of the Planning Section Chief, Logistics Section Chief, Operations Section Chief and Finance Section Chief. This model is really similar to military organization. Each General Staff position has several support functions that support the respective sections. Team size varies based on the complexity of the incident being managed.

Fire teams are self sufficient in supporting boots on the ground as they respond to the incident. All amenities/supplies are provided. When an incident occurs and a team is ordered, basically a village/town is created, which is called an Incident Command Post (ICP) to support and manage the incident.

Steve and Rose, I hope that the above makes sense, however if you need more details, just let me know. In addition, I am also attaching today's operational map and infrared maps for the Divide and Pasture fires that are currently being managed by the team. If you have any questions or clarification, please let me know. I suppose if you are intending to utilize this information Good morning, I hope that you all are well and received some moisture yesterday. The Divide and Pasture fires received light rain showers yesterday. Due to cloud cover last night, there was no infrared flight, therefore maps received yesterday are the maps for today. Here is the details for each fire:

# Divide (13,804 acres)

Crews continued to patrol, mop-up and improve FR 143 to FR 28 and assess fence lines and 1 pipeline on the western perimeter ahead of the fire. Crews conducted a small firing operation northwest of private land along FR 30 in section 29. The fire perimeter from northwest of Elk Springs at DP-9 along FR30 to FR 533 (South Elk RD) is contained. Containment also is on the southern perimeter in section 25 (H-35) to northwest along old FR141 to section 17. Expected containment on the southeast perimeter along FR533 (Horse Camp canyon) is expected today. Today's activity will be to continue patrol, mop-up and improve FR 143 with heavy equipment. More moisture is expected today.

# Pasture (4,013 acres)

Crews were successful with firing operations from the head of Pasture Canyon to North Fork Negrito Creek to keep the fire from moving to the west toward Rainy Mesa Ranch headquarters in South Fork Negrito Creek. Firing operations were also conducted from the junction of Pasture Canyon/North Fork Negrito creek to Telephone canyon (FR 4045). Today, if weather conditions allow, crews will continue firing operations from Telephone canyon to Eckelberger canyon with the intent to protect Timber sales to the east of the fire.

Moisture outlook is favorable for Sunday thru Wednesday with anticipated drying period beginning after Wednesday. There will be changes in leadership on the Type 3 team with a transition on Tuesday. The incoming Type 3 Incident Commander will be Ted Frazer.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at 575-313-3823 or email.

Thank you, John Pierson Liaison Officer



for your newspaper, it would be appreciated for us to review prior to posting to ensure that we are providing accurate information. Thank you. **John Pierson**, Liaison Officer

Every one is off fighting fires around Catron County. 230 Fire Fighters gather at the campground across from the Apache Creek Store to fight nearby wildfires. Report from the Liason Officer, John Pierson is above.

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The Dollar General debate is raging in Catron County. One side welcomes the cheaper merchandise, while the other fears a continuing loss of the economy, history and freedom that was once our county's corner stone.

Those who warn of the destruction of the Great Western American Heritage by profit-seekers also speak of our county's unique architecture for each store or shop. They speak of the generations of Catron Countyists who by their family business have served the community in myriad ways, in addition to the provision of necessities on demand. Should those warnings be ignored, some say, those People and their Employees and many of their vendors may also lose careers and employment.

Many of us have witnessed the swift demise of metro areas when manufacturing goes away to the lowest bidder. Some have even shared their "small community" destruction stories by this specific corporation. Some folks just reckon that those who want "city" things should find a nice city to move into and leave us to our own devices. But of course, that is too simple a solution  $\sim$  so the debate will continue until it is settled to a win, lose or draw. {*Editor*}





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www.wildlife.state.nm.us



# Media Statement on Dismissal of Lawsuit Concerning the Mexican Spotted owl

October 28, 2020 - Today, a judge for the United States District Court of Arizona approved the joint stipulation for dismissal of the lawsuit and associated injunction concerning the Mexican Spotted owl. The injunction, that has limited certain timber management activities across the five national forests in New Mexico and on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona over the past year, is now dissolved.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Southwestern Region is fully committed to continuing efforts for the recovery of the Mexican Spotted owl, but also understands the hardship that the cessation of timber management actions imposed on local communities that rely on National Forest products for their livelihood. We are immensely grateful to our state and federal partners who stepped up to help bridge the gap. Forest Service staff will work individually with affected local businesses for plans to resume activities on National Forest System lands.

TIRZIO J. LOPEZ Vice Chair Cebolla

FERNANDO CLEMENTE, JR. Sunland Park

GREGG FULFER Jal EDWARD T. GARCIA Los Ranchos

SHARON SALAZAR HICKEY

1 May 2023

David J. (DJ) Ennis, P.G., Program Manager Mining Act Reclamation Program Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) 1220 South St. Francis Drive Santa Fe, NM 87505 **Note:** I wonder, in cold hard cash, how much the spotted owl has cost Catron County businesses and government. We know for sure that it has cost the majority of the timber industry. Now it looks like they have the highest silver production area in New Mexico in their sights.

# RE: Mexican Spotted Owl Survey Update - Fannie Road (Catron County C-040) Repair Workplan, Summa Silver Mogollon Project, Catron County, New Mexico, Permit No. CA027EM; NMDGF No. NMERT-2570.

# Dear Mr. Ennis:

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) has reviewed Summa Silver's Mexican spotted owl survey update, workplan for road repair, and the proposed mitigation measures that will be implemented during road repair activities. Summa Silver is requesting permission to repair 1.23 miles of road along Fannie Road (Catron County C-040) and Forest Service Road FS4056O, both north of Mogollon, NM, during the Mexican spotted owl (MSO) closure and migratory bird survey season (March 1 – August 31). Summa Silver anticipates completion of the road repair work within two to three days.

With the implementation of, and strict adherence to, the following mitigation measures proposed by Summa Silver, the Department does not anticipate that the proposed road repair work will cause significant disturbance to the resident MSO population:

- 1. *Pre-construction surveys*: Surveys will be conducted daily by a qualified biologist before roadwork begins to identify active migratory bird nests and to monitor MSO roosting sites.
- 2. Buffer delineations: Buffer edges in proximity to the northern and southern work areas will be flagged to ensure that road repair activities do not encroach on sensitive habitats.
- 3. Worker education: Road repair workers will be briefed about the presence of MSO in the
- area and provided guidelines on how to minimize disturbances.
- 4. *Limit work hours*: Road repair operations will be limited to one to two hours after sunrise until one to two hours before sunset.
- 5. *Monitoring*: A qualified biologist will be on-site during road repair activities to monitor owl behavior in the area, detect any potential adverse effects, and adjust mitigation measures accordingly.
- 6. *Adaptive management*: If any negative impacts are observed, road repair activities and mitigation measures will be adjusted to reduce further disturbances.

The Department also requests that Summa Silver notify Ron Kellermueller (contact below), in advance, regarding the final timeline for road repair work completion.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed work plan to conduct road repairs and associated mitigation measures. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Kellermueller, Mining and Energy Habitat Specialist, at (505) 270-6612 or ronald.kellermueller@dgf.nm.gov.

Sincerely,

Matt Wunder, Ph.D. Digitally signed by Matt Wunder, Ph.D. Date: 2023.05.01 14:57:59 -06'00'

Matt Wunder, Ph.D. Chief, Ecological and Environmental Planning Division

cc: USFWS NMES Field Office







**Woops! You missed it!** Pie Town is not large so you have to keep your eye on the mile markers. When you get close, you will see it on the northern side of the two-lane highway. Prepare yourself for a very pleasant surprise when you close the door behind you. That fragrance is downright friendly.

Talk about friendly! The clients leaving as I arrived and the Lady PieMakers makes you feel like a long-lost cousin. There is a feeling I can't elucidate, but the decor is one element you will have to see for yourself. And that fragrance you will simply have to experience.

Now there's folks who will tell you about the unique menu, but maybe that is another thing you'll want to experience for yourself. {Editor}



### Research on the web

The founding fathers' purposes were clear. They had no intention to found the country according to Christian doctrines. Having said that, it is important to add that this exclusion in no way devalued the importance of the Christian religion in their minds—nor should it in ours. Christianity is thriving in America, and so is Judaism, Islam, and other religions. Rather than listening to those who distort history and pit one faith as superior to others because it is more "American," we should instead be working together on a shared spiritual vision-to empower the poor and marginalized, heal the planet, bring relief to those who suffer, and bring peace to our precious world. We should instead be grateful for the wisdom of our founding fathers who purposely devised a government and a nation based upon the Constitution that gave people the freedom and liberty to practice their religion. This system has worked amazingly well for over 200 years and is the envy of many countries ensnared in sectarian strife. Our history is one to be proud of, for it allows religious and political freedom, both of which are precious commodities in today's world.

**Credits:** The positions of American Progress, and our policy experts, are independent, and the findings and conclusions presented are those of American Progress alone. A full list of supporters is available here. American Progress would like to acknowledge the many generous supporters who make our work possible. Author: Nicholas Rathod Team: Religion and Faith

**Dollar General's popularity is hard to deny**: The retailer's low prices have managed to pull 40 percent of all U.S. shoppers to its stores, according to Insider. This has allowed the dollar store chain to grow immensely recently, with Dollar General stores more than doubling across the country last year. But the company has also faced its fair share of setbacks. Most recently, Dollar General has been hit with a new lawsuit that makes some serious allegations. Read on to find out why the retailer is now being sued.

Dollar General is no stranger to backlash. In the last few months, shoppers have received warnings about the company. In mid-April, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA & CS) sent out a press release, notifying consumers that Dollar General was among a number of retailers who were fined due to "excessive price-scanner errors" at stores across the state.

Earlier in May, the Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform and Coming Clean, Inc. published a joint Campaign for Health Solutions 2022 report indicating that several products sold at Dollar General stores across the U.S. and Canada had tested positive for toxic chemicals that could pose a risk to the health of shoppers.

From food to toys to office supplies, there are a number of items sold at your local dollar store for an even lower price than what you might find at a larger retailer like a Walmart or Target. But a good deal might not always be worth it—especially when it comes to your health. A new report has found that both Dollar Tree and Dollar General are selling products that could be potentially harmful to consumers. Read on to find out what exactly you might want to skip on your next visit to these dollar stores.

The Environmental Justice Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform and Coming Clean, Inc. recently joined forces to test for toxic chemicals in dollar store products, publishing their findings in a Campaign for Healthier Solutions 2022 report. Researchers purchased more than 200 products being sold from a number of dollar store retailers in the U.S. and Canada and tested a total of 635 unique components or materials from these products for certain toxic chemicals. According to the report, more than one half (53 percent) of all the products tested contained at least one chemical of concern.

"Chemicals of concern are those which, due to their inherent hazardous properties, present a known or reasonably suspected risk to human health and/or the environment," the report explained. "The levels of concern for each chemical were established by Healthy Stuff Lab by reviewing levels restricted in one or more of the most protective government, corporate, or third-party standards on hazards in consumer products." Dollar Tree was found to have some of the most products with toxic chemicals.

The researchers tested a total of 87 products from Dollar Tree stores alone in the U.S. and Canada and found that 60 percent of the items contained at least one chemical of concern. They also tested the Family Dollar stores, which The Dollar Tree company owns, and found that out of 37 total products tested, 49 percent included one or more toxic chemical.

According to the report, products from both retailers included a number of concerning chemicals such as bisphenol A (BPA), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and lead. The specific products from Dollar Tree and Family Dollar found with these chemicals ranged from kitchen pans and headphones to microwave popcorn and cans of mixed vegetables.

A total of 32 products sold at Dollar General stores throughout the U.S. were analyzed by the researchers. According to the report, 12 of these products contained at least one concerning chemical, meaning 38 percent of the retailer's products posed as a potential hazard to consumers. Dollar General's concerning products were similar to those found at Dollar Tree and Family Dollar, such as kitchen pans.

The researchers also reported that both the Orville Redenbacher's popcorn and the Clover Valley shredded white chicken sold at this retailer had toxic coatings on the interior of their packaging. The popcorn had perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in its grease-proof coating, while the white chicken had a toxic PVC copolymer coating on the interior of the can.

But a different retailer was found to have the highest percentage of products with toxic chemicals. (Continued on Page 10)



The genius of the founding fathers is they understood that Christianity could not only stand on its own but would thrive without being written into the laws and founding documents of the country. In fact, it was likely their own "faith" that led them to this conclusion. Many of the founding fathers—Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Madison and Monroe—practiced a faith called Deism. Deism is a philosophical belief in human reason as a reliable means of solving social and political problems. Deists believe in a supreme being who created the universe to operate solely by natural laws—and after creation, is absent from the world. This belief in reason over dogma helped guide the founders toward a system of government that respected faiths like Christianity, while purposely isolating both from encroaching on one another so as not to dilute the overall purpose and objectives of either.

If the founders were dogmatic about anything, it was the belief that a person's faith should not be intruded upon by government and that religious doctrine should not be written into governance. James Madison, for instance, was vigorously opposed to religious intrusions into civil affairs. In 1785, when the Commonwealth of Virginia was considering passage of a bill "establishing a provision for Teachers of the Christian Religion," Madison wrote his "Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments," in which he presented 15 reasons why government should not become involved in the support of any religion.

In his first term as president, Thomas Jefferson declared his firm belief in the separation of church and state in a letter to the Danbury, Conn. Baptists. He said: "Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should `make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' thus building a wall of separation between church and state."

Finally, and most obviously, if the founding fathers intended to include Jesus, the Bible, or other particular aspects of the Christian faith in the founding of our nation, they would have expressly done so. However, the two references to religion that are in the Constitution contain exclusionary language. The First Amendment says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. . ." and in Article VI, Section III, "... no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." odynamic-Regenerative-Organic 575-654-6312 NYNACRESOGNAIL.CON

Yyn Acres Farm

# Quemado Farmer's Market 3545 Hwy 60, Saturdays 10am -3pm

# (Dollar General continued:

Quemado is a hub of rural activity and we will be providing coverage of many of those activities each month in Catron County News. Anyone in that area with news please email to: steve@catroncountynews.org

While the researchers identified a number of products being sold at Dollar Tree, Family Dollar, and Dollar General with toxic chemicals, none of these retailers topped their list. Instead, Five Below was found to have the highest percentage of products with at least one chemical of concern. The researchers tested 38 products sold at Five Below stores in the U.S. and found that 66 percent tested positive for one or more toxic chemical.

Several of the potentially hazardous products highlighted from this retailer are being marketed towards children. Five Below's Disney Frozen II Hair Set Assembly, as well as its Squishy Unicorn, Superman, and Minnie Mouse headphones, were all found to contain ortho-phthalates. The US. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently deciding whether or not to ban the use of this class of chemicals in packaging due to their ability to "**disrupt hormones and impair brain development**," according to Food Safety News.

OSHA Takes Action Against Dollar General: https://blackwellblog/osha-takes-action-against-dollar-general/

https://blackwell-attorneys.com/blog/osha-takes-action-against-dollar-general/ Ex-Dollar General employee files \$1 million lawsuit against the chain after surviving multiple armed robberies on the job https://www.businessinsider.com

Dollar General is no stranger to backlash. In the last few months, shoppers have received warnings about the company. In mid-April, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture&Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) sent out a press release, notifying consumers that Dollar General was among a number of retailers who were fined due to "excessive price-scanner errors" at stores across the state. https://www.yahoo.com/

Dollar General reportedly allowed their Oklahoma regional director to harass district managers about their ages, then subsequently fire those who complained, violating federal law, according to a release by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

A suit filed by the EEOC alleges that the director called managers who were 50 and older "grumpy old men," and that he told them he needed "young blood" in the stores and was planning to create a "millennial team." He reportedly said those who could not keep up with the new team would be fired. The alleged

# Quemado





incidents took place between July 2016 and January 2018.

One of the district managers quit and reported an incident of harassment to Dollar General. The company investigated the situation but "did not take effective measures to stop the regional director's conduct," according to the lawsuit.

June 2006 — Dollar General Corp. will face a group of current and former store managers next month in federal court in Alabama over alleged violations of federal wage and hour laws. More than 5,000 claimants are involved in the case, which is scheduled to begin July 31 in U.S. District Court in Tuscaloosa. The lawsuit is akin to a class-action. *https;//lawyerinc.com /biggest-dollar-generallawsuits/* 

# **Catron County's Delima**

In a post earlier this year I asked, Is Dollar General An Unsafe Work Environment? I wrote that post after OSHA issued over \$300,000 in citations due to safety issues at one of the company's Alabama stores.

Over the years, I've represented numerous Dollar General employees who were injured on-the-job. In my past cases, these employees were far, far overworked. They functioned in an unsafe and understaffed environment. They were subjected to daily tasks that put them at risk of serious personal injury. I've represented Dollar General employees with work comp claims caused by falling from unsafe heights, tripping over store hazards, climbing into store dumpsters as required, falling from dangerous ladders and unloading heavy truckloads of merchandise with little help. Some of these workers suffer permanent, disabling injuries that altered their lives.

In a press release just days ago, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) dropped the hammer on Dollar General. When OSHA issues a press release with this title, you know things are serious:

Profit Over People: Alarming Trend Continues At Dollar General Stores Where Seven Southeast Inspections Again Find Willful Violations You can click the link and read the full press release at OSHA's website. Keep in mind the press release uses the word "willful." We are not talking about a little negligence or a simple mistake. We are talking about a company that continues to knowingly choose risk over safety. Here are a few facts from the article:

Federal inspectors have issued citations against Dollar General for putting its workers at serious risk of injury at store locations in Alabama, Florida and Georgia, in the amount of \$2,777,640.00. That's almost \$3 Million in citations, an unheard of amount.

Since 2017, Dollar General has received more than \$12.3 Million in penalties for numerous willful, repeat and serious workplace safety violations.

In the last five years, OSHA has found numerous unsafe conditions exposing workers to the possibility of being struck by falling merchandise, being trapped, or being unable to exit the store safely in an emergency, in more than 180 inspections nationwide!

From April through June 2022, OSHA found continued serious safety violations at stores in Alabama similar to issues at other stores involved in pending litigation. Because of this, Dollar General was included in the Severe Violator Enforcement Program.

Wow! For decades, OSHA has been underfunded. What does that mean? It means OSHA cannot do the number of inspections needed to keep our workplaces safe. For OSHA to find this level of danger with its limited resources and limited inspections, it begs the question — How much more dangerous is Dollar General?

I'll give you one example from another case I had in Huntsville where a Dollar General store manager suffered disabling injuries and permanent, chronic pain. This manager suffered her first injury when Dollar General required her to climb into the dumpster and pack down boxes. This was a frequently required task. The company did not like to empty its dumpsters because it cost money. Instead, employees were routinely required to climb into the dumpster to pack it down. My client suffered an injury which required surgery while trying to perform the task. But, the next accident was much worse. It led to her disability. In the second accident, she was required to retrieve a toy high above the shelves. The store contained fully stocked shelves. So full, merchandise was even stacked on top of other merchandise on top of the shelves. Clearly, this presented a hazard to both workers and customers of falling merchandise. My client had to retrieve a toy 10-12 feet above the floor, using only an 8 foot tall ladder. While trying to reach for the item, she fell to the hard concrete floor below. Dollar General did not provide help for the job. Dollar General did not provide safe equipment for the job. After her injury, Dollar General fought all the way through trial before providing her simple workers' compensation benefits as required by Alabama law. Is this any way to treat the workers who keep your stores running?

I provided that story just as one example. Our family members, friends and neighbors deserve safe working conditions. When OSHA issues a press statement starting with the phrase, profits over people, it's serious. We should always expect people to be first. We should demand companies like Dollar General do the same.

The Alabama accident and injury attorneys at **Blackwell Law Firm** represent injured workers statewide. Our lawyers have tried cases to verdict in counties across Alabama. If you have questions about workers' compensation benefits or another personal injury issue, let us know. **256-261-1315** We are happy to answer your questions. Our consultations are always free and confidential.

Page 1 ~ 6 and 7 ~ 12 are Color Pages and will be devoted to ads and high-priced items that look best in color. We will add as many pages as are needful as The People demand. This edition, I've "broken the ice" with a few of my favorite toys that I may have out-grown. Next month there will be a page full of Trade, Barter & Sell items here.

As macabre as it may sound, we will also provide an obituary as well as the legal notices that news papers normally carry.

# **September Edition premiers:**

Buy, Sell & Barter section Automotive for Sale section Yard Sales section For Sale Items section Street Markets Local Food Produce Local Jobs & Opportunities

Deadline for September issue is August 20th.

For a while, Folks had no other way to advertise besides the few "Bulletin Boards" found around the small villages and towns. Now you can advertise your sale or event in the Catron County News Paper. 505-362-5533 steve@catroncountynews.org

Next month we will provide a space for Street Markets, Yard Sales and private items for sale, trade or barter as well. Thank you for your enthusiastic support! {*Editor*}

# **Government Notices**

We seek your participation in county government meetings so that you have an opportunity to speak your mind before decisions are made that may not be in your best interest. Everyone who desires to speak is given three minutes. Make your opinion known to the policy makers

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www.catroncountynews.org



# **Exotic Eggs** ~ Free Range

Chicken Eggs ~ \$4.50 per dozen Duck Eggs ~ \$6.00 per dozen Turkey Eggs ~ \$12.00 per dozen

# Main Street 435 Grill~ Reserve



The Core Karaoke Crew entertains every Friday Night at the 435 Grill ~ admission is free.



All the People of Catron County and those visiting are cordially welcomed to participate and perform, or simply to sit and enjoy the music and the down-home spirit of fellowship with our Core Group of Karaoke performers. The music begins somewhere around 6PM and continues as long as folks want to sing.



Yes, the food is great, but it is the atmosphere of a cordial family setting that keeps people returning to 435 Grill. For more information call Tawnya 505-819-8681 Our new website: www.435grill.com

Some of our Karaoke is on-line at www.catroncounty.org ~ just look at the "Recent Posts" Everyone is welcomed to join in the entertainment, or simply to relax and enjoy the music and the People who share their hearts and talent in the warmest and most friendly establishment in Reserve, New Mexico. See you here! Home-made bread, pastries, candy and ice cream have made long-term customers who frequent the down-home atmosphere for food, drink and good-times they know are waiting for them in DownTown Reserve. Karaoke times are dedicated and advertised, but there is no telling when inspirational karaoke may suddenly break out. Email me if you want to be notified of our scheduled events: tawnya@435grill.com



Clothes • Art • Photography Clothes • Antiques Food • Drinks • Fun & More

Join us at the Catron County Fair Grounds and Saturday each month from 10 am to 4 pm Come back for Karaoke in the evening The 2nd Saturday of each month holds special treasure for all community focused People because not only will there be a great Karaoke Night for one and all, but there will also be a full day of local vendors and artists and creators of local products displaying their arts and crafts in the Main Building at the Fair Grounds in air conditioned comfort. Food and drinks and a great community spirit pervades and the artists and creators you will meet make for a myriad of reasons that no one should miss this epic once-in-a-month event in Reserve.