



New Prez

Elephant Butte Rotary Club announces Kathy Eleverum new president

NEWS • PAGE B6



Bank Donates

Citizens Bank's HSHS Tiger debit card proceeds yield benefits locally

HSHS • PAGE A4

There is Nothing More Powerful Than The Truth
Email: herald@torcherald.com
Websites: www.heraldpub.com
www.theheraldtorc.com

The HERALD

Truth or Consequences, New Mexico



50¢

VOLUME 89, NUMBER 6 ~ AUGUST 16, 2017

14 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS • PLUS 1 INSERT

City: \$2.7 Million Over 25 Years For TCPD HQ/Regional Complex

Commission Chooses New Mexico Finance Authority Loan to Renovate Former Armory

By Tony A. Archuleta
HERALD Reporter
TorC Police Chief Lee Alirez and Sgt. Erica Baker made the case for moving TCPD headquarters from a former mortuary building on McAdoo Street to the spacious former National Guard armory complex on North Cedar Street.

And financial consultant Mark Valenzuela of George K. Baum & Co., presented to the City Commission on Wednesday, Aug. 8, the best financing options for converting the early-50s era armory into a Regional Law Enforcement Complex.

Baker, a six-year TCPD officer, applauded the commission's efforts to establish a regional complex, saying, "It's important to us (TCPD rank and file). It's not a waste of



Financial Consultant Mark Valenzuela
George K. Baum & Co.

money." TCPD's current location at 507 McAdoo downtown, appears state-

ly enough with a columned portico, but behind the elegant facade exist too many officers,

"I can't even increase our field forces with reserve officers because we don't have the room. That will be occurring at a new facility."

—TCPD Chief Lee Alirez

equipment, documentation and secured evidence – all taxing the available square footage four-fold at the former mortuary/crematorium.

"We're pretty cramped in there," Baker concluded. For Alirez, the proposed complex not only represents the dawn of a new era in law enforcement and public safety for the city, but also a nod to TCPD staff.

"I'm very proud of the hard-working men and women we have in our department who look for 50

ways to get around obstacles and get the job done," Alirez said, accompanied by a cadre of officers.

With TCPD also housing animal control and code enforcement department staff, and soon the regional animal shelter slated for construction later this year, Alirez couldn't stress it enough, "We're bursting at the seams."

Alirez said he envisions in excess of 40 people working at the complex, including the aforementioned staffs plus a host of additional public safety

providers and volunteers. "I can't even increase our field forces with reserve officers because we don't have the room," the chief said. "That will be occurring at a new facility."

Early on, Alirez, along with the likes of Mayor Steve Green and City Manager Juan Fuentes, touted a truly regional complex incorporating the Sierra County Sheriff's Office and Sierra County Regional Dis-

See TCPD on Page A5



DONATES TO CYFD - TorC Moose Family Center 2050 donated \$300 to CYFD for school supplies for foster children. Lodge Governor Mark Theall accompanied CYFD Service Agent Donna Sanchez to WalMart to pick up the supplies.

Wife Allegedly Beats Husband With Hammer Because of Facebook Post

By Betsy Phillips
HERALD Reporter
A woman who is only 4'10" tall and is six months pregnant allegedly attacked her husband with a hammer as he lay sleeping in their bed Aug. 5.

According to an affidavit for an arrest warrant, Truth or Consequences Police officer Mark Peterson responded Monday, Aug. 7, to a domestic disturbance that occurred early Saturday morning.

The victim told Peterson that his wife, Marisol Ortega, 28, of TorC, was striking him on his back, head and arms sev-



Marisol Ortega

eral times. According to the report, the victim told Peterson that during the attack, Ortega was yelling for him to die.

The victim was able to

wrestle the hammer away from Ortega. He said she had also smashed his cell phone with the hammer before attacking him.

After the attack, the victim said Ortega left the residence with their two children. He said he went to Sierra Vista Hospital later that day for treatment of his injuries.

The victim said Ortega thinks he was cheating on her, but he denies that.

He said he is afraid of Ortega, but delayed reporting the incident because he was worried CYFD would take their two little girls. The chil-

See BEATS on Page A5

F-16 Flights Over Critical Assets Locally Concern TorC Mayor Green

By Tony A. Archuleta
HERALD Reporter
TorC Mayor Steve Green, during commission reports at the Aug. 9 City Commission meeting, expressed concern about an Environmental Impact Study commissioned by Holloman Air Force Base that indicates F-16 fighter jet flyovers could become routine in

Sierra County. From his reading of the EIS, Green said the aircraft will be making low-elevation flyovers over the likes of Elephant Butte Lake, Elephant Butte Dam, Sierra Vista Hospital and Sierra Health Care Center

Green said the Armendaris Ranch in eastern Sierra County could also

be subject to disturbing noise levels, affecting a diverse collection of wildlife on the historic ranch and indirectly affecting Geronimo Springs Museum, which hosts fundraising tours in cooperation with ranch owner Ted Turner.

Green said the city is obviously interested in sup-

See JETS on Page A5

City's Payment of Rotary Club Membership Dues Questioned

By Tony A. Archuleta
HERALD Reporter
Should the City of TorC, and by extension taxpayers, pay Rotary Club membership dues on behalf of its high-ranking officials?

The City Commission on Wednesday, Aug. 9, appeared split on the issue, following local government watchdog Ron Fenn's public comments.

Fenn named a handful of city officials, including current and former city managers, police chiefs and city clerk, whose Rotary Club dues were paid by the city. The amounts ranged from \$665 to \$1,118 to \$1,539 for a former city manager.

"This is unreasonable, this is not correct – this is the people's money," Fenn said. "The Rotary

is a private organization, it is a social and business organization and whether or not you do some good, it doesn't matter; this is not due to be paid for by the citizens of this community."

Fenn called for the funds to be repaid to the city "and it needs to be done in a prompt manner, and it will be pursued further if

See DUES on Page A5

WEEKLY WEATHER WATCH 8-DAY FORECAST

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16	THURSDAY AUGUST 17	FRIDAY AUGUST 18	SATURDAY AUGUST 19	SUNDAY AUGUST 20	MONDAY AUGUST 21	TUESDAY AUGUST 22	WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23	NEED PRINTING?
High 92 Low 68 Sunny S Breeze: 8 mph Sunrise: 6:32 am Set: 7:53 pm	High 94 Low 70 Sunny E Breeze: 8 mph Sunrise: 6:33 am Set: 7:52 pm	High 96 Low 71 Mostly Sunny ENE Breeze: 9 mph Sunrise: 6:33 am Set: 7:50 pm	High 93 Low 70 Partly Cloudy SSE Wind: 11 mph Sunrise: 6:34 am Set: 7:49 pm	High 92 Low 69 Partly Cloudy SSE Wind: 11 mph Sunrise: 6:35 am Set: 7:48 pm	High 88 Low 70 Thunderstorms S Wind: 11 mph Sunrise: 6:35 am Set: 7:47 pm	High 92 Low 70 Mostly Sunny SSW Breeze: 9 mph Sunrise: 6:36 am Set: 7:46 pm	High 93 Low 71 Mostly Sunny SSW Breeze: 7 mph Sunrise: 6:37 am Set: 7:45 pm	Competitive Prices! Let Us Bid On Your Next Printing Job. The HERALD 1204 North Dole PO Box 752 TorC, NM 87701