

>>> INSIDER

Message from the

I am sure you have heard the saying "If you don't like the weather in New Mexico, wait 15 minutes." Boy, we have seen that here during the last month! We have had some great snow and some absolutely beautiful early spring days. I hope that you have had time to get outside and enjoy this gorgeous place we all call "home".

The legislative session finished up on February 15th. It is very hard for the legislators to get much done during the 30-day session, and we saw that hold true this year. We were excited to learn that the Village is getting \$3 million from the Rental Housing for Community Connected Workforce initiative to use for workforce housing. This was very welcome news after we learned that some of our elected officials that represent us do not support the vision for much needed workforce housing projects. You have my word that we will still look tirelessly for ways to make these projects happen. In next month's newsletter, we will have a complete legislative update that will give you a comprehensive overview of the important bills provided by the New Mexico Municipal League. Due to the timing to get the newsletter to print, it was not complete to make it into this issue.



Mayor Lynn Crawford

I want to quickly touch on an exciting project that you will begin to see take place around the Village. Apple Studios will begin filming in and around the Village the first two weeks of April. Many of the scenes will be filmed on roads throughout the Ruidoso, so don't be surprised if you encounter some delays. The project will also be using special effects that will include simulating smoke using a biodegradable and non-toxic substance. Smoke might be visible during this time, but please don't be alarmed. We have been assured that all industry standards will be followed meticulously. The crew and producers are committed to working with our local law enforcement to ensure that our community is safe. Projects like this bring an economic boost to our community, and we are excited to see it happen.

Don't forget to tune in every Monday morning from 8:00 – 10:00 AM for *Mondays with the Mayor* on 1490 AM – The Mountain. We talk about issues and events that are important to our Village, and we always welcome your input and questions, so don't be shy – call or text us!

Until next time, remember to be a good neighbor and a good human!

A.

Mayor Lynn Crawford

ELECTION DAY IS MARCH 5TH



VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

>>> Recent Actions

At the February 13, 2024, Regular Council Meeting of the Governing Body, the following items were acted on:

- » Approval of Purchase of a 2024 Peterbilt Grapple Truck Model 537 for the Solid Waste Department.
- » Adoption of Resolution 2024-08, a Resolution of Support and Commitment to the Funding of the 2025 New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Municipal Arterial Funding Program (MAP) in the Amount of \$377,965.00.

Ruidoso Village Council Members

- » Rifle Salas Mayor Pro Tem
- » Susan Lutterman
- » Joe Eby
- » Gary Jackson
- » Darren Hooker
- » Discussion and Possible Action on Adoption of Resolution 2024-09, a Resolution for Commitment of Funding from New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) for the 2025 Municipal Cooperative Funding Program (CO-OP) in the Amount of \$334,365.00.
- » Approval of Purchase and Installation of a Playground for School House Park.
- » Approval of Purchase of Two New Tennis Courts to Replace the West Tennis Courts at School House Park in the Amount of \$344,678.16 including NMGRT, Funding Provided by the Quality-of-Life Grant.
- » Approval of Purchase of Two New Tennis Courts to Replace the East Tennis Courts at School House Park in the Amount of \$344,170.50 including NMGRT; Funding Provided by Lodgers' Tax Fund.
- » Proclamation: Recognizing Virgil Reynolds, former Fire Chief for the Village of Ruidoso Fire Department.
- » Appointment of Michael Martinez, Deputy Village Manager and Samantha Serna, Community Development Director, to the Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERTPO).

WINGFIELD HOUSE MUSEUM

>>> Updates



Work is ongoing at the Wingfield Heritage House Museum. Driving past the museum, notice the new outdoor signs that have been installed. Inside, the designing and writing of new exhibits is progressing, as well as the processing of new collection objects. Significant advancement has been made in cataloging 3-D objects from the Wingfield collection, with work starting on photos and documents. The museum's Strategic Plan was completed and approved in January 2024.

The museum is actively seeking donations to enhance the local history collection. If you or someone you know has objects they would like to see preserved, please reach out to Museum Manager and Curator Stephanie Long via email at stephanielong@ruidoso-nm.gov or by calling 575-315-6646.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

>>>> Empowering Our Community: \$3 Million Investment for Workforce Housing at 603 Mechem Drive

The Village is delighted to share a pivotal development that directly impacts the fabric of our community. The upcoming infrastructure advancements at 603 Mechem Drive, fueled by a generous \$3 million investment from the Rental Housing for Community Connected Workforce initiative, aim to expand Ruidoso's housing and are strategically aligned to support and enhance workforce housing.

Commitment to Workforce Housing:

The utilization of these funds prioritizes the creation of sustainable, affordable housing options tailored to the needs of Ruidoso's local workforce. This initiative reflects the community's commitment to ensuring that the individuals contributing to the vitality and growth of this area have access to quality housing that aligns with their needs and financial realities.

Projects in the Works:

- » Electric and Gas Lines: To ensure a reliable and efficient energy supply, the Village is working closely with utility providers to install modern electric and gas lines. This meets the demands of the new modular homes and enhances the overall energy infrastructure for the entire community.
- » Internet Connectivity: In today's digital age, a strong internet connection is essential. Recognizing this, the Village is collaborating with leading internet service providers to bring high-speed, reliable internet connectivity to 603 Mechem Drive. This empowers residents with seamless online experiences and supports remote work, education, and entertainment needs.
- » Road Development: A well-designed road network is crucial for smooth traffic flow and accessibility. The development plan includes the expansion and improvement of the existing road, ensuring it is capable of handling increased traffic. This enhancement contributes to the overall safety and convenience of the community.
- » Sewer and Water Lines: Proper sewage and water systems are vital for a healthy and sustainable living environment. The development is receiving modern sewer and water lines, meeting the needs of the expanded housing units. This upgrade ensures efficiency and aligns with environmentally conscious practices.

Celebrating Diversity and Progress:

The investment in workforce housing is not just about physical structures; it's a testament to the Village's commitment to the diverse and dynamic individuals who make up Ruidoso's workforce. The Village strives to create an environment where everyone can not only live, but also thrive.

Thank you to the Office of the Governor for recognizing the importance of workforce housing and investing in the prosperity of this community. The Village moves forward with the shared vision of a neighborhood that reflects the rich tapestry of its residents and supports the aspirations of Ruidoso's workforce.



ELECTION INFORMATION

>>> Municipal Election to be Held March 5, 2024

The Village of Ruidoso 2024 Municipal Officers Election will take place on March 5, 2024.

At the election, voters will elect:

- » Three (3) Council members to serve a four (4) year term;
- » One (1) Council member to serve a two (2) year term; and
- » A Municipal Judge to serve a four (4) year term.

Terms of office begin on April 1, 2024

MUNICIPAL ELECTION MARCH 5, 2024



There will be one question on the Ballot:

Shall the Village of Ruidoso issue up to \$3,000,000.00 of General Obligation Bonds to be repaid from property taxes for the purpose of enlarging, improving, and/or extending the production and distribution components of the Village's water system.

Important dates to remember:

Saturday, March 2, 2024: Last day of early voting at the Clerk's Office from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024: ELECTION DAY! Voting will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center located at 111 Sierra Blanca Drive from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Last day to register to vote is on Election Day, March 5, 2024, from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

For questions regarding the Municipal Officer Election, contact: Jini S. Turri
Village Clerk
313 Cree Meadows Dr.
Ruidoso, NM 88345
(575) 258-4343 Ext. 1007
jiniturri@ruidoso-nm.gov

BALLOT ORDER

Village Council

- » Joshua Lance Richardson
- » Susan Marie Lutterman
- » William John Hall
- » Joseph W. Eby
- » Stephen Lee Carter
- » Greg Lee Cory
- » Rafael "Rifle" Salas
- » George S. Fitzgibbon

Municipal Judge

» Frank Potter



WE ARE HIRING!



The Village of Ruidoso is looking for qualified people to join our team! We currently have openings in several departments, and we offer opportunities for competitive salaries, excellent benefits, and NM Public Employees Retirement Association plans!

- · Earn more with the Village's pay-for-performance plan
- Progressive pay and step plans are available
- · Continuing education courses and specialized training are available
- · Excellent opportunities for advancement in all departments



APPLY TODAY!

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

>>> Emergency Siren

The Ruidoso Outdoor Warning System has long served as a crucial tool in alerting the community to potential hazards that could impact the safety of residents and visitors alike.

Traditionally, these sirens were primarily employed to warn of wildfire dangers and initiate evacuations. However, their usage has evolved to encompass various hazards, including wildfires, flooding, and high wind events. Therefore, when the sirens sound, it is imperative to tune into 1490 AM – The Mountain for additional information.

Understanding that these sirens are designed to reach individuals outdoors or serve as a last resort for emergency notification is crucial. It is essential for individuals to have at least two ways of receiving emergency alerts. Some alternative methods include:

- 1. Enrolling in the Call Me Ruidoso System (visit CallMeRuidoso.com)
- 2. Acquiring a NOAA Weather Radio
- 3. Downloading the Discover Ruidoso App
- 4. Tuning in to local radio and television
- 5. Following the Village of Ruidoso on Facebook or Twitter

In Ruidoso, we use a single tone for emergency alerts; there is no specific all-clear tone. Therefore, when the sirens sound, individuals should seek more information and adhere to directives from local public safety officials.

Lastly, at 5:00 PM on the 1st and 15th of each month, the Village of Ruidoso Office of Emergency Management conducts a test of its Outdoor Warning Sirens.

PARKS & RECREATION

>>> Upcoming Events

With the arrival of the Spring season, Ruidoso Parks and Recreation is heralding a fresh event line-up. On March 16, participate in the first event in the Run Ruidoso Series, the Walk the Links 5K. The event kicks off at 10:00 AM, with in-person, cash-only registration at 8:45 AM in the parking lot by the Ruidoso Dog Park at 687 Hull Road. Be among the first 50 participants to receive a complimentary t-shirt. The registration fee is \$30, with \$5 of each registration donated to the Lincoln County Food Bank, contributing to their essential community support initiatives. Preregistration is also available online at RuidosoParksAndRec.com.

The next in the Run Ruidoso Series is the 5K Bunny Run and Walk which is hosted at Cedar Creek. The 5K run starts at 6:30 AM, and registration is \$30 with the first 50 participants receiving a free t-shirt. All race finishers will also be awarded a medal while supplies last.



Following the Bunny Run on March 30, Ruidoso Parks and Rec hosts the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Cedar Creek Campground, starting promptly at 10:00 AM. Don't be late, as the eggs tend to disappear quickly! The Easter Bunny and Smokey Bear will be joining the festivities and will be available for photos. The Ruidoso Fire Department will be offering firetruck rides.

For information about upcoming events, feel free to contact Parks and Rec at 575-257-5030 or visit the website at RuidosoParksAndRec.com. Stay updated on the latest activities by following RuidosoParks and Rec on their social media channels.

FIRE AND FORESTRY

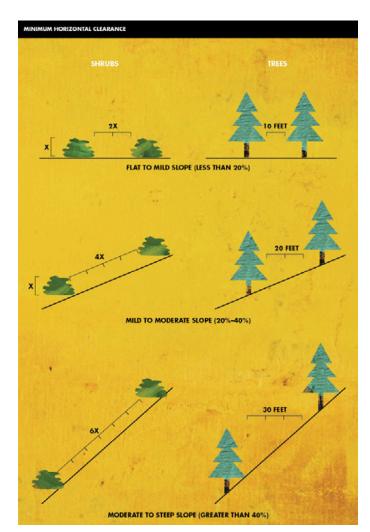
>>>> Wildfire Prep and Defensible Space

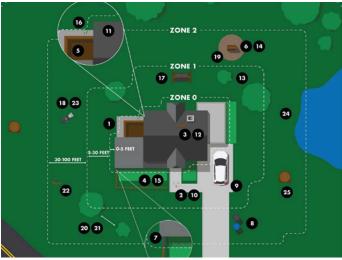
The Village of Ruidoso is rated as a high-risk area for catastrophic wildfire. To mitigate the possible threat of wildfire, the Village has become a Firewise community and has taken steps to reduce forest fuels inside the Village boundaries.

To accommodate this, the Village Council adopted a set of ordinances requiring all properties within the Village to reduce fuels, which requires landowners to thin their properties to Firewise and ordinance standards. As a result of this the Village has been able to increase their ISO rating to a 2 which helps to reduce insurance costs as well as increase the availability of home insurance to residents.

The ordinances require landowners to take measures to reduce and maintain fuels on their properties:

- » The landowner must thin their property to ordinance standards and maintain the Standard.
- » It is required to have your property inspected every 10 years by the Forestry Department.
- » The inspection ensures the standards are met. Following the inspection, the Forestry Department issues a letter of certification that is good for 10 years provided that the property is maintained to the ordinance standard.
- » A vital part of the strategy is removing the fuels from the Village so that they do not add to the severity of a fire. This is accomplished through a fleet of grapple trucks that pick up the thinned material and transport it out of the Village to be ground into mulch.
- » To support this activity every landowner is required to pay a yard waste fee on their monthly utility bill of \$4 per acre if the property is certified and \$12 per acre if the property has not been certified or the certification has expired. The rate increases the month after the certification expires and the landowner is charged the higher fee until the property is again brought into compliance and a new certification issued (money from this fee is used to pay for the grapple truck support in removing the thinned material and partially supporting the Forestry Department).







FINANCE

>>> Budget Process

Now that the Village has completed its strategic planning, the budgeting process is underway. The first step involves projecting recurring revenues, which encompass Gross Receipt Taxes (GRT), property taxes, service charges, utility fees, licenses, permits, and more. Typically, revenue analysis includes figures through February, constituting approximately 67% of the fiscal year, and looks back five years to identify trends. Once revenue projections are established, recurring costs for personnel and operations are



determined. As these expenditures often exceed revenues, budget cuts become necessary. Discussions on these cuts take place during the budget hearings with the Village Council, usually held in mid-April.

While some items may be cut from the budget, they are not entirely forgotten. During the mid-year budget review in December, if actual revenues surpass projections, these costs could potentially be added back into the budget. It's important to note that the budget is dynamic and undergoes quarterly adjustments through a budget amendment submitted to the NM Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division (DFA-LGD) for approval. The state ensures that a fund is not over-expended, meaning expenditures do not exceed revenues and the beginning cash balance.

The final aspect of the budget involves non-recurring or one-time expenditures, primarily related to capital outlay. Examples include the acquisition of equipment, vehicles, land, or construction projects. The ending cash balance from the previous fiscal year can be allocated for these one-time uses of cash. Additionally, the General Fund must set aside 16% of the cash balance as a reserve; no other fund has this reserve requirement. However, in the enterprise funds, the Village does allocate contingency funds within the budget to offset any unforeseen or emergency expenses. Non-recurring revenues, such as grants, are added to the budget only upon receipt of a Notice of Grant Award.

A balanced budget ensures that recurring expenditures equal recurring revenues, and non-recurring expenditures plus any reserves are less than or equal to the beginning cash balance. During the Budget Approval meeting in May, the Village Council approves the budget, which is then forwarded for approval to DFA-LGD by June 1.



Spring EVENTS

Check out our line-up of great events for spring!
Please visit DiscoverRuidoso.com for additional events and details.

THURSDAYS:

 Veterans Coffee and Company, 615 Sudderth Drive, Suite 1

MARCH 3:

· Kimmi Bitter, Downshift Riverside

MARCH 5:

 Office of the State Engineer Meet and Greet (9 AM – 12 PM), Friends of the Ruidoso Public Library (3:30 PM), and Ruidoso Writers Group (3 PM), Ruidoso Library

MARCH 5:

Election Day

MARCH 6:

 Daughters of the American Revolution, Ruidoso Library

MARCH 7:

• A New Film Series, ENMU-R

MARCH 9:

Satisfaction Rolling Stones Tribute, Spencer Theater

MARCH 10:

Tips and Obermiller, Downshift Riverside

MARCH 13:

• Forrest McCurren, Downshift Riverside

MARCH 15:

 Keegan McInroe and Dave Millsap, Downshift Riverside

MARCH 16:

- Dinosaur World Live, Spencer Theater
- · C.W. Ayon Duo, Lost Hiker Brewing Company
- Walk the Links, White Mountain Sports Complex
- An Afternoon of Hope with Hope Harbor, Ruidoso Convention Center

MARCH 19:

· Ruidoso Writers Group, Ruidoso Library

MARCH 21:

· Forever Young, Spencer Theater

MARCH 23:

- Lincoln County Classic 4 Disc Golf Tournament
- SPiVEY, Downshift Riverside
- Randy Houser, Inn of the Mountain Gods

MARCH 25:

• Moonlight Hike, White Sands National Park

MARCH 29:

• SIRSY and Dave Millsap, Downshift Riverside

EVENTS FOR *kids*

TUESDAYS:

• Baby and Me Storytime, 10:30 AM, Ruidoso Public Library

WEDNESDAYS:

 Preschool Storytime (10:30AM), Ruidoso Public Library

MARCH 5:

• LAST DAY TO REGISTER for Youth Soccer, Parks and Rec

MARCH 6:

 Dr. Seuss Special Program, 3 PM (NO 10:30 AM STORYTIME)

MARCH 14:

• Elementary Program, 3 PM, Ruidoso Public Library

MARCH 27:

• Teen Program, 3 PM, Ruidoso Public Library



APRIL 6:

Mike Super Magic, Spencer Theater

APRIL 7:

· A New Film Series, ENMU-R

APRIL 8-12:

· Recycled Art Show, Ruidoso Public Library

APRIL 20:

 Terry Lee Goffee Johnny Cash Tribute, Spencer Theater

APRIL 21:

- · A New Film Series, ENMU-R
- Great American Clean-up, Wingfield Park

APRIL 23:

• Moonlight Hike, White Sands National Park

APRIL 25:

Coppelia, Spencer Theater

APRIL 27:

• Hello Darlin', Lost Hiker Brewing Company





RUIDOSO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

>>> Message from Deborah Dowds, Executive Director

February has been a very busy month for the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center. We hosted a Meet the Candidates Forum on February 5, with participation from all eight candidates for the Village Council. It was very informative, and we appreciate all the candidates' dedication and commitment to the Village of Ruidoso. Please make sure to cast your vote in the March 5 election.

Additionally, we hosted our annual Lincoln County Day Legislative Reception in Santa Fe on February 7. With more than 60 attendees from Lincoln County, we were well-represented. Legislators in attendance included Rep. Harlan Vincent, Senator Bill Burt, Rep. Ezzell, Rep. Pettigrew, Rep. Rehm, Rep. Little, Rep. Montoya, Rep. Scott, Senator Sharer, Rep. Mirabal Moya, Senator Woods, and Rep. Jones. We also had representatives from many state departments, including Cultural Affairs, General Services, NM Hospital Association, and the Aviation Division. The Chamber hosts this event every year to give our Chamber members and residents of Ruidoso and Lincoln County the opportunity to attend the legislative session and meet many of our legislators and those individuals who are making the decisions that affect us. I highly encourage everyone to take the opportunity to attend this event next year.

During Presidents' Day Weekend, the Chamber hosted the Vines in the Pines Wine Festival, featuring 12 New Mexico Wineries and two local craft breweries, as well as boutique vendors. This event is a favorite for locals and visitors alike.

We are also busy working on the Ruidoso Art Festival, which will take place from July 26-28 at the Ruidoso Convention Center. The application for this fine art show is open. Interested artists can apply for the event on zapplication.org. This show brings approximately 110 fine artists to town, and many of our visitors plan their summer trips to Ruidoso to coincide with this event.





The Chamber is the organization that supports our community, and we work hard every day to make Ruidoso a better place to live, work, and play. Membership in the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce is an investment in the future of our community. If you are interested in joining the Chamber, please give us a call at 575-257-7395.



DEPARTMENTS & PHONE NUMBERS



Airport 575-336-8111

Convention Center 575-258-5445

Judicial 575-257-9055

Library 575-258-3704

Parks & Recreation 575-257-5030

Police 575-258-7365

Fire 575-257-3473

Solid Waste 575-257-1502

Street Works 575-257-6023

Regional Waste Water Treatment
Plant (RWWTP) 575-378-8417
Senior Center 575-257-4565
Water Distribution and Sewer
Collections 575-257-2386
Water Production 575-257-5525
Water Rights/Watershed (RJU)
575-258-6913

www.Ruidoso-NM.gov

VILLAGE HALL: 575-258-4343

- Capital Projects and Purchasing
- Executive
- Finance
- Forestry
- Human Resources
- Planning and Zoning
- Utility Billing

LINCOLN COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER

>>> Message from Todd Oberheu, Hospital Chief Executive



Before 2022, cancer patients in Lincoln County had to drive several hours and stay overnight in Albuquerque or El Paso for follow-up appointments and chemotherapy treatments. Now, we offer chemotherapy and supportive services through a multidisciplinary clinic right here at Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC), eliminating the need for locals to drive hours for this crucial follow-up care. Last year, we also expanded virtual options, providing patients with easier access to specialist care in areas such as endocrinology and palliative care.

These investments are crucial for rural hospitals like LCMC to ensure the availability of the right services for our community. However, expanding services comes with major challenges. One of our biggest obstacles is that New Mexico has the highest Medicaid enrollment in the United States and the lowest reimbursement rate. For small rural hospitals like ours, this means that Medicaid does not cover the cost of care for the services we provide, putting a serious strain on hospitals.

To address this problem, there is a program that can help states obtain more federal dollars for their Medicaid programs. This is why LCMC supports the New Mexico Healthcare Delivery and Access Act, which aims to bring in significantly more federal funding for healthcare services in our state.

For us, the additional federal funding would enable Lincoln County Medical Center to make more investments that directly benefit our community, such as supporting our Emergency Medical Services team, developing new services to enhance care in the community (such as expanded primary or specialty care), and recruiting additional obstetrics providers.

During the legislative session, we urged our legislators and community to support the New Mexico Healthcare Delivery and Access Act to increase federal funding, allowing us to improve access to care in Lincoln County and across New Mexico.

RUIDOSO MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

>>> RMSD Hires New Superintendent

Ruidoso Municipal Schools recently named Becca Ferguson as their new superintendent. Ferguson will continue to steer the district in a positive direction of incremental academic growth while maintaining its stable financial and physical base.

A lifelong resident of Lincoln County, Becca is a graduate of Capitan High School and NMSU. She has been with the Ruidoso Schools for six years where she started as a principal of White Mountain Elementary and then later served as the Director of Learning & Student Services. Most recently, she was the Interim Superintendent. In her 33 years in education, she been a teacher, dean of students, principal, and director.



Ferguson's immediate focus will be on the strategic planning process the district is embarking on through the Cooperative Educational Services (CES) six-year longitudinal study. In addition, she will immediately make longer term decisions regarding day-to-day operations of the district

ENMU - RUIDOSO

>>> Enrollment Continues to Grow

ENMU-Ruidoso released its enrollment data in February 2024, revealing a sustained trend of growth. Spring enrollment has surged compared to the same period in 2023.

Across all categories, there is a noticeable upswing from the previous Spring. Headcount enrollment has reached 705 students, reflecting a significant 16% rise from the Spring of 2023. Concurrently, student credit hours have experienced a notable increase of 19%. Additionally, ENMU-Ruidoso has observed a commendable 15% uptick in the number of degree-seeking students from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024.

President Ryan Trosper attributes this growth to the dedicated efforts of ENMU-Ruidoso faculty and staff, who tirelessly support student success. Trosper also acknowledges the vital role played by the local community, legislators, ENMU System, New Mexico Higher Education Department, and the Governor for their unwavering support of higher education. This support includes facilitating facility improvements for the campus, ultimately enhancing the overall experience for students.

Furthermore, ENMU-Ruidoso has seen a noteworthy 19% increase in students opting for in-person classes at the College compared to Spring 2023. This accomplishment marks the fourth consecutive Spring of overall enrollment growth for the College, showcasing its commitment to providing quality education and fostering a positive learning environment.

For more information on the ENMU-Ruidoso, visit Ruidoso.ENMU.edu





WALK THE LINKS 5K RUN AND WALK

Saturday, March 16th

RUIDOSO MARATHON
AND HALF MARATHON

Saturday, July 20th

ANNUAL BUNNY WALK/RUN

Saturday, March 30th

RUIDOSO GRINDSTONE
TRAIL RUNS

Saturday, August 24th

RED, WHITE, AND RUN 5K COLOR FUN RUN

Saturday, July 6th

5K RUIDOSO TURKEY TROT

Saturday, November 30th



