

OPINION

CALL US: MARTY RACINE, EDITOR • 257-4001 • LETTERS@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

FRIDAY, NOV. 10, 2006

Lions 'needs assessment'

To the editor:

THE RUIDOSO VALLEY Noon Lions Club is part of Lions Clubs International, which is the largest service organization in the world (1.3 million members in 44,000 clubs in 200 countries). Lions Clubs answer the needs that challenge the communities of the world by tackling tough problems like blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness.

The Ruidoso Valley Noon Lions Club currently provides the following services to Ruidoso and other communities in Lincoln County as well as Mescalero: photo eye screening of children ages 1-6 years (to identify numerous vision conditions which if left unattended and not treated can lead to learning/reading problems or even blindness); purchasing eye exams and glasses for folks who can-

LETTERS CONTINUED PAGE 5A

LETTERS FROM PAGE 4A

not afford them; administering funds to legally blind folks in obtaining Low Vision Intensification Machines and leader dogs; diabetes testing and prevention; support of the leader Dog Project and NM Lions Eye Bank; recycling used eyeglasses; support of the Stranger Danger Project; the administering of Lions Clubs International Foundation funds to local communities for disasters such as the Kokopelli fire that occurred several years ago; and providing financial and substance support for Christian Services, Lincoln County HeadStart, the Lincoln County Food Bank, and the New Horizons Developmental Center (Carrizozo).

The club is also an active sponsor of community projects such as the Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Run for the Beach, Festival of Lights, Santa's Helpers and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The club conducts two major fundraisers each year (a Gun and Collectibles Show in May and an Antiques show in August), which are always successful because of the great support of local businesses and residents.

For the past several years, the club has raised in excess of

\$22,000 annually, which in turn is used to fund our community service projects.

The club will conduct a retreat in the very near future, and one of the main items to be covered is a reassessment of the club's service projects to ensure the most important and pressing community needs are being addressed.

Your input is requested and welcomed. We would also like to take this opportunity to invite you to become a member of the Ruidoso Valley Noon

Lions Club.

The only qualification required is a sincere desire to make our community a better place for all. We meet every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at Cree Meadows Restaurant. Please join us sometime.

Please contact President Gary (336-2696; gahenry@valornet.com) or Secretary Bryson McCool (257-0363; brymccool@valornet.com) to provide your suggestions.

*Bryson McCool, Secretary
Ruidoso*