

# Eddy County News Letter

January 2021  
Issue #04

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- 8<sup>th</sup>- National Bubble Bath Day
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- 13<sup>th</sup>- National Rubber Ducky Day
- 14<sup>th</sup>- National Dress Up Your Pet Day
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- 31<sup>st</sup>- National Hot Chocolate Day



## MESSAGE FROM EDDY COUNTY LEADERSHIP...

We are at the end of a turbulent year and with our new perspective we start anew!

It has been my thoughts lately that we must focus on our next step as well as the distant future. When we are focused on only the next step we are able to gather that small bit of energy required for that step, but if we look too far distant, the hills seem insurmountable and rob us of our motivation. At the same time if we don't keep the hills in view we will end up moving in the wrong direction.

Though the challenges this year have been many, the future is far brighter than the past. As a rancher I always think when it's dry it may never rain again, and when it's raining we will never see another drought. The opposite is always true.

The sooner we come to grasp with change being a part of life the happier we become. We are being shaped and molded into something much better than we currently are. To achieve that takes time and pressure, we cannot be faith filled and stress free.

Rarely are we given such a great opportunity to begin anew.

Let us move forward fearlessly, for we know fear will cripple our actions and cloud our minds! Let us move to action for God, Family and Country! So many of us feel we cannot make a difference and think our path is made too rough by the stones of adversity. The path is what shapes us!

Edward R Murrow said: "Difficulty is the one excuse history never accepts".

I look forward to 2021!

Steven McCutcheon II  
Eddy County Vice-Chairman

# Updates & News

- Eddy County Fire Services Looking for Volunteers
- Holiday Reminder

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## Eddy County Fire Services Looking for Volunteers



Eddy County Fire Services has 11 Volunteer Districts within Eddy County. In Northern Eddy County we have Cottonwood, Sun Country, Atoka, Riverside, and Loco Hills. In Southern Eddy County we have La Huerta, Happy Valley, Otis, Malaga, Joel and Queen. All of these Fire Districts are 100% staffed by volunteers. Fire Services has four sworn Fire personnel who are trained in Fire, EMS, and other technical skills. There are also three civilian staff members that assist with office duties. One additional specialty resource provided is Search and Rescue, which is also staffed by volunteers.

Eddy County provides all training to our volunteers at no cost. If you are interested in volunteering in any of our districts please call us at 575-628-5450 or visit the Fire Services Pages at [EddyCounty.org](http://EddyCounty.org).

We encourage the community to call before you conduct any and all control burns. You can reach us at 575-628-5450 Monday-Friday or the Regional Emergency Dispatch Authority at 575-616-7155.

Through November 30, 2020, Eddy County Fire Services and their volunteer districts responded to 1907 emergency calls.

Incident Count Per Department January 1, 2020-November 30,2020	
Department	Incident Count
Atoka VFD	186
Cottonwood VFD	293
Happy Valley VFD	185
Joel VFD	118
La Huerta VFD	103
Loco Hills VFD	26
Malaga VFD	364
Otis VFD	486
Queen VFD	19
Riverside VFD	66
Sun Country VFD	61
Total:	1907

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## New Year and MLK Jr. Holiday Hours

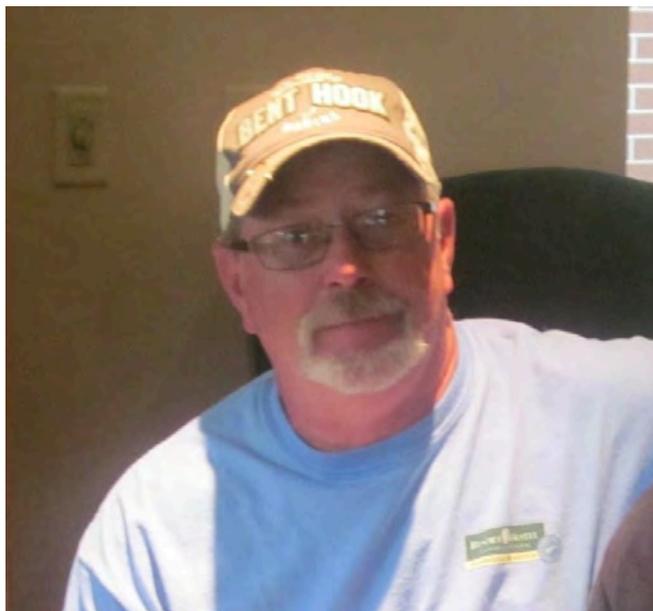
The Eddy County Offices will be closed Friday, January 1, 2021 for New Year's and Monday, January 18, 2021 for MLK Jr. National Holiday.

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## Eddy County Service Awards

- Maria Maldonado-Merjil, Detention- 20 years
- Jami Eagle, Assessor's Office- 10 years
- Lannette Ruiz, Detention- 5 years

# Employee Spotlight



### **This month's employee spotlight is Steve Grulke, Eddy County Facilities Manager**

Eddy County hired Steve Grulke as a Maintenance Technician II in June of 2015. In late 2017 he was assigned to be the point of contact for all ECDC maintenance activities. He established his relationships with Detention Center staff, taught himself how to troubleshoot and correct issues with nearly all of the specialized door and plumbing systems throughout both facilities, and coordinated all maintenance efforts by vendors and Eddy County Facilities staff at the facility.

Steve applied for the Facilities Manager position in September 2019, and that's when the maintenance magic really started happening at all of the Eddy County facilities that are open to serve the public every day. There isn't enough paper or computer screen to list all of the maintenance activities that Steve helped coordinate, oversee, and complete. However, there are a few roofs that don't leak anymore, countless air conditioners that provide reliable heating and cooling during the appropriate seasons, multitudes of flush valves and faucets that work and don't leak, drip or spray unless they are supposed to.

A true Facilities Professional, Steve was a great colleague and an excellent employee for Eddy County who understood the importance of customer service towards what we all do as public servants. Steve had the greatest attitude and a wealth of life experience that he applied to his craft that helped make Eddy County Facilities better for years to come. Steve helped build a good facilities team blended with experience and youth that will ensure Eddy County facilities are maintained in a friendly and professional manner for many more years.

Unfortunately, Steve Grulke passed away unexpectedly just before Thanksgiving. He is survived by many family, friends, co-workers, and colleagues scattered throughout NM, CO, and WI which made a funeral and memorial services nearly impossible to coordinate considering the current circumstances mixed in with the holiday season. The best way to honor Steve is to keep telling Steve's stories, being just a little silly in your professional communications when appropriate, and continue to enjoy living and working in Eddy County just like Steve did.

If you've experienced an Eddy County employee or department that has gone above and beyond to serve you, we want to know! Email your experience to [jstrong@co.eddy.nm.us](mailto:jstrong@co.eddy.nm.us)

# Eddy County in the Community

Eddy County  
101 W. Greene Street  
Carlsbad, NM 88220  
575-887-9511  
EddyCounty.org

## COMMISSIONERS

Ernie Carlson, Chairman  
District 1

Steven McCutcheon, Vice Chair  
District 4

Jonathan A. Henry, Member  
District 2

Fred F. Beard, Member  
District 3

Sarah Cordova, Member  
District 5

## COUNTY MANAGER

Allen Davis

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Gemma Ferguson  
Assessor

Robin Van Natta  
Clerk

Jay L. Francis  
Probate Judge

Mark Cage  
Sheriff

Laurie Pruitt  
Treasurer

## Eddy County Assessor Adopts Three Families for Christmas



### What is Christmas?

It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future... all year round.

Christmas isn't a SEASON. It's a feeling.

This year for Christmas, the Eddy County Assessor, Gemma Ferguson, and her staff chose to celebrate by adopting three families for Christmas through Faith Hope and Love. Two families in Carlsbad and one family in Artesia. These families were able to celebrate the Christmas Season with many gifts and stockings full of goodies. The gifts of giving are far higher than receiving.

The County Assessor's office hopes all in Eddy County had a safe and happy Christmas!

