

UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION
MS K481

Los Alamos National Laboratory
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545



TA-40

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8/13/91

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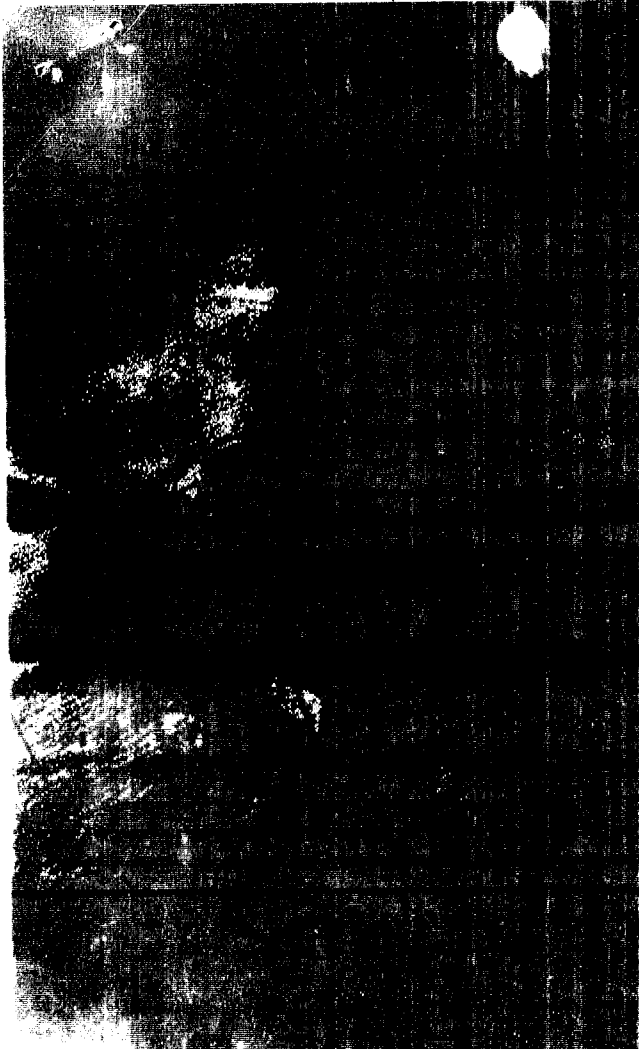
Message: TA-40 article in
~~Alamos~~ Los Alamos Monitor, p.1

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GREG HUGHES/STAFF

nts of runoff water around the country. In
waterfall dumped water into the creek

out power line

during the afternoon.

France said the transformer was restarted this morning.

Lab spokesman John Webster said the outage set off a number of false fire alarms and caused one building at TA-55 to be evacuated because the ventilation system quit working. Webster said he thought the evacuation was brief and was primarily a precautionary measure.

"The (power outages) affected several technical areas," Webster said. "Because it occurred late in the afternoon, some areas just shut down for the day. But (the outage) was not really problematic. Everything is up again today," he said.

The storm also was blamed for a telephone outage this morning at University of New Mexico-Los Alamos, which kept the school from receiving incoming phone calls.

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ately, Vidrine said. While the crews were correcting that problem, they also noticed that the stream in Los Alamos Canyon, under the bridge.

to the 1990 U.S. Census, Los Alamos County has 18,000 people, but the population has grown considerably since the 1960s. The calculation of incidence becomes blurred when the names of persons who lived in Los Alamos County years ago are analyzed. Johnson noted during a discussion of the statistics of the situation that Los Alamos Medical Center has treated more than 134,000 patients since it was founded. The New Mexico Tumor Registry has reported 19 primary malignant brain tumors diagnosed in Los Alamos County between 1970 and 1989. (Because of a typographical error,

State develops plan for TA-40

By CHARMIAN SCHALLER
Monitor Staff Writer

The New Mexico Environment Department has developed a closure plan for Los Alamos National Laboratory Technical Area 40, a site where explosive scrap was once burned and blown up.

A copy of the plan is available at the Department of Energy Environmental Restoration Reading Room next to Cliff Dwellers on Trinity in Los Alamos.

All persons interested in commenting on the plan or requesting a public hearing must write to the New Mexico Environment Department, Hazardous and Radioactive Waste Bureau, 1190 St. Francis Dr., P.O. Box 26110, Santa Fe, N.M., 87502, by Sept. 2.

Official department documents

Barbecue and band planned Thursday

By CHARMIAN SCHALLER
Monitor Staff Writer

Encouraged by the morning sunshine that blessed the pet show and game day today, Fair Board Chairwoman Judy Hoffman planned for Thursday's band and barbecue — while hedging her bets.

The barbecue and band are scheduled for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday in Overlook Park in White Rock.

Hoffman said Allied Meats will sell hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecued beef, bratwurst, corn on the cob and drinks from a special booth. "The Nomads," will provide free

Dictionary" defines the term as "... a rapidly growing brain tumor, usually confined to the cerebral hemispheres..."

On Radiation...

Johnson said low-level radiation "probably isn't" the cause of primary malignant brain tumors in Los Alamos County.

He said there have been no primary malignant brain tumors reported among survivors of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

But, Johnson said — and emphasized in a brief interview after the

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say that if a hearing is held, there will be 30 days of public notice.

TA-40 is at the end of a laboratory road that runs east from West Jemez Road.

The documentation in the reading room says the site is on a south-facing mesa-rim shelf. "The shelf has cliffs both to the north below the mesa, and to the south, overlooking Pajarito Canyon. Ignitable and reactive hazardous wastes were treated at the site from the early 1960s until April 1985."

The report also notes that, "LANL has conducted preliminary soil sampling and analysis for the site and identified no contamination present..."

The report says, "The proposed

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already booked and couldn't provide a potential fallback, so she took the Los Alamos location instead.

She said she'll make her decision about where to hold the barbecue at about 3 p.m. Thursday.

If the barbecue and band must move to Los Alamos, she said, she will post a sign in Overlook Park promptly so that White Rock people there can plan their evenings.

Thursday is also the deadline day for people planning to enter any non-horticultural item in the Los Alamos County Fair Exhibits. All items (except plants, flowers and veget-

undisclosed case work would be done here.

Number is going to be higher," he predicted.

Another person in the audience said that Johnson has determined the incidence of pregnant brain tumors in the Western Area neighborhood that first brought attention to the problem.

Johnson said, "It's clear to me that this is a problem, it's not a Western Area problem." He said he has identified three primary malignant brain tumors and one non-malignant brain tumor in Western Area so far. Pediatrician Gary Tietjen commented that one study indicated an incidence of benign (non-cancerous) brain tumors at Rocky Flats. Johnson said he has found "five or six" on the list. He noted that there are problems in assessing benign brain tumors because they are not included in the Tumor Registry.

Another questioner noted that the "numbers" issued at the laboratory are about 10,000 or more. If whole samples are considered for each of the present and former employees, the true sample size could be 50,000 to 100,000 people, not the 18,115 now within the community. Such considerations make an important difference in estimating incidence, he noted.

Johnson said, "I think that's very true." Johnson said he has found "five or six" on the list. He noted that there are problems in assessing benign brain tumors because they are not included in the Tumor Registry.

suggests the county act if a complaint is received. The county then would study the case, hold a public hearing

Man sentenced in theft of property from LANL

A man who was charged in connection with a case of stolen government property from Los Alamos National Laboratory was recently sentenced in U.S. District Court to one year in prison.

Andrew Trujillo was sentenced to one year in prison to be followed by three years probation, according to a report from the Department of Energy's Office of Inspector General.

Rob Jacques, spokesman for the Inspector General's Office, said the case involved the theft of 3,200 pounds of copper forging from a LANL warehouse. The copper forging was valued at \$16,000, Jacques said.

Upon further investigation by federal officials and Los Alamos Police,

the forging was found to have been sold to a scrap metal dealer in Santa Fe for about \$3,000, Jacques said. The stolen copper forging was identified, confiscated and returned to the lab where it was held for evidence.

Trujillo, a laborer employed with Pan Am World Services, was identified as a suspect by investigators, Jacques said.

The case was brought to U.S. District Court on Dec. 19, 1990, Jacques said, and a federal grand jury indicted Trujillo for unauthorized sale of government property.

Jacques said Trujillo pleaded guilty and he was sentenced on July 16 to one year in prison to be followed by three years of probation.

affected by the actions of one or two bad ones.

"It's not fair to punish everybody because of a few bad ones," he said. "The good ones, the ones that are more conscientious, are the ones that are getting hurt."

Most of the board agreed with Glass.

Many committed, dedicated bikers wear cleat shoes that people can't walk in, board Chairman Dale Engstrom said. The policy forces those people to get off their bikes, take off their shoes and walk across in socks, put on their shoes and get

The real problem is enforcement of it or (construction safety policy)," Glass said. "That's really what's needed. If you have a sign, fine, fail to enforce it is another thing."

The laboratory has recently formed an ad hoc committee of interested bicyclists and pedestrians to discuss the issue. The board opted to wait for the committee's decisions before it makes any recommendations.

"The committee is there to try to come up with a solution that's equitable for both parties," Vidrine said today.

Fair

(from Page 1)

County Extension Office in the Los Alamos Community Building and at both municipal libraries.

In a recent interview, County Extension Home Economist Lana Schulte said she still needs helpers to set up and take down items and serve

as clerks. Persons interested in helping should call Schulte at 662-2656.

It's also time for people planning to participate in Saturday morning's 9:30 a.m. parade to fill out entry forms. Although it will be possible to fill out a form Saturday morning, no one can guarantee a good placement to an entrant who waits until the last moment. Forms are now available at the Extension Office.

TA-40

(from Page 1)

closure plan calls for clean closure of the unit. Soils and subsols will be thoroughly investigated to determine if any contamination is present, and if so, the extent of contamination. All contaminated materials will be excavated, managed and disposed of as hazardous waste unless sampling indicates that the contamination is below regulatory levels."

The report says some of the wastes buried or blown up at the site, "con-

tained barium or lead compounds, and the soil could, potentially, exhibit toxic characteristic leaching procedure toxicity for those metals."

The report describes an area about 60 feet in diameter in which "...Repeated detonations have formed a south-facing amphitheater in the northern cliff, below the mesa-top." The cliff at the rear of the "amphitheater" rises 30 feet.

In addition, there is a "burn pit," in which there is a "wire cage approximately 4 feet by 4 feet square and 5

feet high, with a steel plate floor. The burn cage was used to prevent wastes from being windblown before and during burning."

There are indications of two other possible earlier burn pits.

And there is "an open trench," approximately 20 feet long.

There is reference in the report to "the disposal of combustible portions of the magazine TA-6-4 in the pit...."

The document says that "explosives handled at TA-40 and potentially treated at the site included:

Sensitive compounds used in detonators — pentaerythritol tetranitrate, tetryl, lead azide, and thallium azide (use unlikely); less sensitive explosives — baratol, cyclotetramethylenetetramine, cyclonite, 2,4,6-trinitrotoluene; insensitive explosives — trinitrophenol, benzene, nitroquandine; (and) other nonexplosive compounds used in preparation of explosives or for other purposes — nitromethane, nitrocellulose, ammonium nitrate, (and) barium nitrate."

Parks board to meet

Monitor Staff Report

The Parks and Recreation Board will hold its regularly scheduled meeting Thursday at 5:15 p.m. at the Larry R. Walkup Aquatic Center. The agenda includes: Aquatic Center user fees, an update on

101 PUBLIC NOTICES

COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS
CALL FOR SURPLUS BIDS

See also page 102 for information in the

103 PERSONALS

COUNSELING DAY on evening
Chrystal Nicole Kubas, 672-3166.

24 HOUR Crisis Service. When

100 Announcements

106 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SMALL TOWN businesses for sale. Price \$50,000 to \$250,000. Owner financing/ terms. 1,000 to choose from except Northeast.

170 LOST & FOUND

LOST: "MIDNIGHT," very shy black and white cat, on Alabama Avenue. If seen, please call 662-2656.