

Downtown businesses  
have mixed reviews  
of Christmas sales.

Page 6A



Ruidoso residents  
try to predict what  
will happen in 1997.

Page 2-3A

# The Ruidoso News

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1996

ISSUE 65 IN OUR 50TH YEAR

20 PAGES IN TWO SECTIONS/ 50 CENTS

**ON SIDE**

## Recycle your Christmas tree

A local company is recycling Christmas trees for free. Just bring your trees to White Mountain Compost Co. on Close Street and Gavilan Canyon Road, behind McDonalds, during business hours.

Regular hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, and 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays. It will be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

## Ruidoso resident killed in Christmas one-car accident

A Ruidoso resident was killed early Christmas morning when her vehicle rolled five times near Lubbock, Texas.

Amy Miller, 25, was pronounced dead at the scene. She was driving her 1987 four-door Nissan and was ejected when it rolled. She was not wearing a seat belt, said Texas Department of Public Safety dispatcher Carlson Trusler.

Miller's passenger, Joey Venegas, 18, also of Ruidoso, suffered shoulder injuries. He was released Thursday from Methodist Hospital in Lubbock.

Miller was driving east on Spur 327 on the outskirts of Lubbock when she lost control of her vehicle at 2:10 a.m., Carlson said. She was near the road's intersection with U.S. Highway 62/82.

Carlson said the trooper's report did not indicate a possible cause of the accident, the cause of Miller's death, or the speed of the vehicle.

## Paradise Canyon house catches fire

Ruidoso firemen were called to a house fire at 422 Paradise Canyon Road at 6:11 p.m. Thursday.

The home is owned by Mike Torres of Truth or Consequences, firemen said. The renters were unharmed. More details were unavailable Thursday night at presstime.

## SKI REPORT

Friday, December 27, 1996  
New snow past 24 hours: 0 inches  
New snow past 48 hours: 0 inches  
New snow past seven days: 0 inches  
Settled snow base depth: varies from 24 to 44 inches on trails that are open  
Surface conditions: packed powder and machine groomed.  
Trails open: 17 of 55 or 31%  
Lifts open: eight of 11 or 73%  
open with Chairs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and Chair 2 to midway, and two surface lifts.  
Snowmaking in past 24 hours: yes.  
Ski and snow report: call 257-9001.

## INSIDE

- Business.....6A
- Church Calendar.....6B
- Classifieds.....8-10A
- Going Out.....5B
- Neighbors.....3-4B
- Obituaries.....5A
- Opinion.....4A
- Weather.....5A
- What's Happening.....2B

## Predicting 1997 weather is for birds, not ranchers

by KATHLEEN McDONALD  
Ruidoso News Staff Writer

When John Cooper's 18 horses started bucking and whining one recent day, it was sign that a sharp change in weather was on its way.

"The horses tell you of an approaching storm," related Cooper, an Arabela rancher. "They were really frisky tonight. That's usually (a sign) of a real change in weather."

But whether their racket or the bawling of the cows is a foreboding of cold or snow is anyone's guess, he said.

"I mostly listen to the radio and look at the barometer," Cooper conceded. "That's the only way I've been able to predict weather."

He and other long-time ranchers chuckle and talk tongue-in-cheek when asked how they know from experience if a winter's going to be harsh or mild, because there's just no way to really know.

"I don't know anything about predicting the weather," said Pete "Gnat" Gnatkowski of rural Ancho. "I don't watch little furry animals to see what the weather will be or anything like that."

Gnatkowski watches for strong winds from the east, takes a glance at the TV, or simply tries to "take the weather as it comes."

Fred Pfingsten in the Hondo Valley takes a similar skeptical view of predictions.

"I heard on the weather it's going to be terrible," he offered. "If it goes ahead like it started to in the last two or three days, it will get winter started. It's liable to get hard now!"

Pfingsten used to get some hint of the approaching winter severity by the thickness of corn husks, but he no longer grows corn.

"And there's a lot of old proverbs, but I forget them all now," he said.

### The old days

But before radio and TV, finding some way to tell the weather was vital to the ranchers if they were to succeed, says Dan Storm of Hondo Valley, who authors a column in *The Ruidoso News*.

"In the old days they had to depend on the signs, because they needed to predict to know whether there was enough wood to keep warm enough, or enough rain for grass for the cows," he said.

"I don't watch little furry animals to see what the weather will be or anything like that."

PETE "GNAT" GNATKOWSKI  
ANCHO RANCHER

### Who predicts weather?

"There's an old saying that the only people who predict the weather are newcomers, and well, it's true," said Hollis Fuchs, a government soil conservationist in Capitan. "The longer you live in a place, particularly a place like this, the more you realize you can't predict the weather."

All types of long-range forecasts exist through recorded averages of precipitation and temperature.

Storm loves watching the behavior of animals around his ranch, and tries to catch their hint of what's in the air.

"I kind of like watching the birds and ducks. They can tell how cold the winter is going to be," Storm said. "This year they were kind of scattered in their flight, and it looked like they hadn't made up their minds yet on how cold it would be."

But trying to predict the weather in this area might be more difficult than it is for ranchers in other places, he added.

"We're a puzzle because we're on a mountain way to the south surrounded by desert," Storm said. "We get some desert weather mixed with our mountain weather."

Cooper and Pfingsten look at the weather forecasts in the *Old Farmers Almanac* — but mostly for its entertainment value.

"It has good jokes," Cooper said. "They miss it pretty regularly," Pfingsten said of the almanac's weather predictions, "but it kind of gives a fellow an idea of what the long range is."

The 1997 *Old Farmers Almanac* winter forecast for the Southwest calls for a warmer and wetter winter than normal. It says January will be cool but pleasant, with thunderstorms and snow showers starting in the north and moving south in the latter part of the month. February will warm up with showers mainly in the middle of the month, and March should be relatively cool and damp.

Please see **Weather**, page 3A



These snow geese know when it's time to fly north or south, but we haven't yet figured out their methods of predicting the weather.



## An uplifting experience

Laura Clymer/The Ruidoso News

Skiers try out Ski Apache's new quad chairlift. More than 2,000 skiers were on the Ski Apache slopes Christmas Day, said ski area official Riker Davis, on par with other recent Christmas Days. Even more skiers are expected to show up every day this weekend, Davis said.

## Man charged with killing friend

Henry "Buddy" Adair, 50, of Ramon in far north-eastern Lincoln County, faces an open count of murder in the shooting death of his friend, Garvin Griffin, 52, on Dec. 15.

Adair, the son of Chaves County Commissioner Joe H. Adair and the brother of Chaves County Senator-elect Rodney Adair (R-Roswell), has posted a \$25,000 bond and is awaiting a preliminary hearing in magistrate court.

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office received a call from Adair at 10:57 p.m. Dec. 16. According to the call sheet notations of the dispatcher, Adair said he had just shot his friend.

The dispatch card on the incident was missing from the list released to the media last week, but was found this week following a request from *The Ruidoso News*.

Ramon, little more than a place-name on U.S. Highway 285 about 70 miles north of Roswell, is near the Leigh Murphy Ranch, located just over the DeBaca County line, where the death occurred.

The ranch was formerly known as the Old Yesso Ranch, said Mike Hill with the public information office of the New Mexico State Police in Santa Fe.

The investigation was handled by officers with the Roswell State Police office, Hill said.

Adair, a former teacher, is in the DeBaca County Jail and the case is being prosecuted by 10th Judicial District Attorney Patricia Park of Tucumcari. She could not be reached for comment.

Michael Stout of Roswell, Adair's attorney, told reporters following a bond hearing in Tucumcari on Dec. 18 that if it is necessary for Adair to enter a plea to the charges, it will be one of innocence.

"This is not a case of murder," Stout told the *Roswell Daily Record*. "I think that Mr. Adair will prevail on the merits...The case has been grossly over-charged." Stout said Adair posted bond. No preliminary hearing has been set.

Provisions of his release on bond include posting 10% in cash, he cannot leave the state, no use of drugs or alcohol, and no firearms.

State Police spokesman Hill said the two men had been friends for many years, but he had no other details of how or why the shooting occurred. Griffin was a rock mason, whose family lives in Tularosa.

## Three hurt when RV goes off road

Three Slaton, Texas residents were injured on Christmas Eve when their recreational vehicle plunged off U. S. Highway 70 and into a canyon about three miles east of Fox Cave in Lincoln County.

Rex Thomas and Mary Ann Worley, two of the injured, were reported in stable condition at Lincoln County Medical Center in Ruidoso on Thursday.

Linda Lankford, also of Slaton, was transported to Lubbock Methodist Hospital early Christmas morning. The hospital did not make available a report of the woman's condition.

Slaton is a community of about 6,000 population about 10 miles southeast of Lubbock.

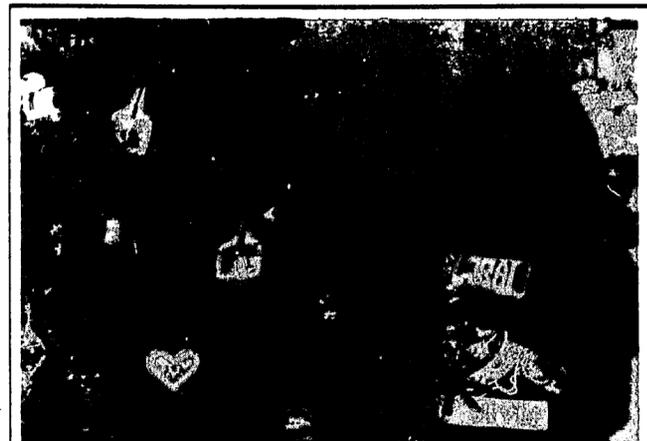
State Policeman Chad Davis conducted the accident investigation. No report had been filed late Thursday.

Senior Patrolman Alex Henson and Officer Todd Cullers of the Ruidoso Downs Police Department were at the scene at the request of the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department.

Officer Henson said the west-bound RV smashed through the guardrail on the south side of the highway just east of mile marker 272 sometime before 10:30 p.m.

The Ruidoso Downs officers secured the scene until county and state officers and emergency medical technicians arrived. Henson said one of the women was pinned

under the vehicle, which was lifted before she could be removed. Henson said a dog also in the RV had not survived; its body was found when the vehicle was moved.



Polly Chavez/The Ruidoso News

## A Christmas gift

Cartozo preschooler Corine Beltran hangs an ornament on the New Horizons Developmental Center tree. The preschoolers sang to the center's clients and gave them Christmas ornaments and cards recently.



# Ruidosoans make their predictions for 1997



"Casino Apache will remain open.

The (Ruidoso Downs) racetrack will get (video) gambling.

"The (Ruidoso Convention Center) hotel construction will begin.

"Elvis remains will be unearthed at the site of the new Wal-Mart" in Ruidoso Downs.

"LCMC will have the first extraterrestrial birth whose parents are out of this world."

— Lincoln County Medical Center staff

"Despite the onslaught of young, virile chiropractors, Dr. Sandra Davis shall remain 'numero uno' in the hearts of all her chiropractic patients.

"The Legislature will finally get off their proverbial behinds and pass casino-style gaming with table games and slots for all of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs, tribal casinos, racetracks, and hotels."

— Sandra Davis, Ruidoso chiropractor

"The Centre for the Healing Arts shall fulfill its vision when a young handsome naturopath, recently

graduated from the Naturopathic School (four-years-plus internship) in Oregon, moves into the Centre, completing the dream of superior alternative health care under one roof."

— Ruidoso's Centre for the Healing Arts staff

"The Center for the Healing Arts will be so busy in 1997, they'll be lined up out the door."

— Joe Martinez, Centre massage therapist

"The Lobos will be the NCAA basketball champions for 1996-97."

— Paul Wirth, Ruidoso Schools Director of Instructional Services

"Fat Chance" to Paul Wirth's prediction."

— Mike Gladden, Ruidoso Schools Superintendent

"The Ruidoso Warriors basketball team will win the District AAA championship, and in a charity game will beat the Lobos in the Pit!"

— Erik Padilla, Ruidoso High School student

"In 1997 parents will allow their children to take responsibility for their actions and stop making outrageous demands of the school system!"

— Kathy Orlo and Robin Hodges, Ruidoso Municipal Schools staff

"Gary Johnson's nose will turn red from frostbite and he will lead Santa's sleigh!"

— Caron Snow, Ruidoso Schools business manager

"That an upcoming June wedding will go off without a hitch."

— Cheryl Elder, Ruidoso Schools employee

"Texas Tech will win the NCAA baseball championship."

— Ken Weaver, Ruidoso Schools employee

"Madonna will produce a post-natal exercise video wearing a conical nursing bra."

"The curse of the 'Bambino' will

be visited on the Boston Red Sox for letting Roger Clemens get away."

— Patay Page, Ruidoso Schools employee

"To eliminate confusion, every day will be pay day."

— Sandra Allison, Ruidoso Schools employee

"Every phone call into the Ruidoso Municipal Schools office will be a pleasant and rewarding one."

— Patty White, Ruidoso Schools secretary

"No child will go hungry."

— Angie Lane, Ruidoso Schools employee

"The Ruidoso High School student body will continue to grow academically and flourish personally."

— Ron Hodges, Ruidoso High School principal

"The Green Bay Packers will win the Super Bowl."

— Ellie Keaton, Ruidoso High School librarian

"It will come."

— Fran Webb, Ruidoso Schools employee

"Kids will wear clothes that fit."

— Bright Herrera, Ruidoso High School secretary

"The sun will rise. Global warming during the day and Ice Age at night."

— Joe Avalos, Ruidoso High School teacher

"Mr. Maskow (RHS track coach) is going to have to take a leave of absence and will have to spend time at a Schick Weight Loss Center."

— Rodney Webb, RHS teacher and baseball coach

"I predict that everyone will be better enabled to speak up for what they believe in, and that the truth about a few issues at RHS will come to light through a new awareness of the student body."

— Meredith Keaton, RHS student

"How about the Patriots winning the Super Bowl."

— Rikar Davis, Ski Apache official and lone Patriot fan in New Mexico

"I predict the Ruidoso boys golf team will win the state championship."

— Kent Beatty, golf pro at Cree Meadows and Ruidoso High School golf coach

"We're going to have lots of snow in January."

— Jerett Parry, Ruidoso wrestling coach

"Minnesota will defeat Dallas in the first round of the playoffs in Dallas."

— Les Carter, Ruidoso High School athletic director/football coach

"Rockets, Bulls in the NBA championship. One of the best finals ever. I can't tell you who

Please see Predictions, page 3A

## NOTICE

Due to delays from the publisher, the computer software title "Diablo" advertised in this week's Target supplement may not be available. Because future availability date is uncertain, rainchecks will not be offered.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.



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- Corn on the Cob
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## Season's Greetings (and some seasonal ideas to start '97 right)

As the year draws to a close, we want to thank you for the opportunity to provide you with dependable electric service. We also want to offer a few suggested resolutions to get the new year off to a good start.

1. Resolve to take a few simple steps that can reduce energy waste. If you have a fireplace, that's a good place to begin.

When the fireplace is not in use, keep the damper tightly closed to prevent warm air from escaping. You also can manage the amount of energy you use by keeping your thermostat set no higher than 68 degrees in the winter and no lower than 78 degrees in the summer.



2. Resolve to use good safety sense around power lines. If you're doing outdoor projects around the house — taking down holiday lights for instance — make sure your ladder doesn't come in contact with power lines. And if you have children, make sure

they know to never touch power lines with anything.

3. Resolve to simplify your life. One way might just be our automated bank drafting program.

4. Resolve to make your community even better. A little volunteer effort can go a long way — and our Customer Connection matching contribution program can help your community efforts go even further.

For more information about any of these subjects, call or visit your local office.



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# Predictions

Continued from page 2A

wins, but it's going to be one of the best ever."  
 — Dwayne Rogers, Ruidoso High School girls basketball coach

"No predictions. I just hope the Cowboys don't make it to the Super Bowl."  
 — Gerald Montes, Capitan High School athletic director/boys basketball coach

"Green Bay Packers are going to win the Super Bowl, and they'll beat the Cowboys in the playoffs if given the opportunity."  
 — Gerald Horacek, Carrizozo football and basketball coach, and Packers fan since Green Bay was "terrible"

"I predict that the Dallas Cowboys are going to wake up and stop kicking those weeney field goals. They're just waiting, holding back, then they'll peak and then everybody is going to be a Cowboy fan."  
 — Dionne Lewis, Capitan girls basketball coach and Cowboys fan since "womb-time"

"I predict I'll never, ever be a Dallas Cowboys fan. Maybe when they end world hunger, find a cure for AIDS, and make contact with beings from another solar system."  
 — Laura Oyman, general manager for The Ruidoso News

"I predict Ruidoso will continue to grow in the loving spirit I've never seen here, as I have in the last year. There's lots of beautiful people moving here, and not just on a part-time basis but as year-round residents."  
 — Linda Flack, Ruidoso Planning and Zoning Commission

"Every home in the village of Ruidoso will have at least one working smoke detector."  
 — Fire prevention officer Loretta Kirk, speaking on behalf of the Ruidoso Fire Department and Ruidoso Firefighters Association

"I hope our winter's just late and we'll get tons of snow in the New Year and skiing will be great and that will mean plenty of water."  
 — The New Spencer Theater will be successful.

"They'll be beginning construction of the (Ruidoso Convention Center) hotel."  
 "It will be a wonderful and prosperous year for Ruidoso."  
 — Ruidoso Mayor Jerry Shaw

"Denver breaks the AFC jinx and wins the Super Bowl."  
 "Inspired by good will, the Republicans will start working with the Clinton administration instead of against it."  
 — Chay Rennick, Ruidoso assistant village attorney

"California probably won't slide off this coming year, so there won't be oceanfront property available in Phoenix, yet."  
 — Peggy Jones, Ruidoso artist

"If the state Legislature has any sense, gambling will be expanded to save the racing industry."  
 "And, I'll eventually be run out of town."  
 — Emmett Downes, host of Ruidoso's Harp and Shamrock Irish radio show

"I predict that the newspaper is going to move down into the old Wal-Mart store."  
 — Mike Daulton, manager of Wal-Mart

"It's going to be a better year."  
 — Lisa Larson, Ruidoso Police Department receptionist

"It's going to be a year with challenges ahead, none of which can't be overcome working together as a community with common goals and purposes."  
 — Ruidoso Village Manager Gary Jackson

"Peace, harmony and prosperity will become permanent residents of Ruidoso."  
 — Ruidoso Police Chief Lanny Maddox

"Due to the University of New Mexico's judicial education program 'Bruises and Roses' bringing a wide spectrum of the judicial system to-

gether for training and strategy in domestic violence, I think the persons charged with domestic violence will get better treatment and there will be better prosecution, and I think the Legislature will mandate more training in handling domestic violence."  
 "I also predict the courts will keep better track of convicted criminals because of our new on-line computer system coming in March that will let us check all the courts in New Mexico to see if they're on probation or there are warrants for their arrest."  
 — Ruidoso Magistrate Judge William Butts

"We'll have 100 inches of snow on top of the mountain in the next three months."  
 — Ruidoso Councilor Bob Sterchi

"I predict 1997 will again be a great year for Lincoln County and I also feel within the year, Capitan and Ruidoso will solve their Eagle Creek problems and will once again become friends and work together

Please see Predictions, page 5A

# Weather

Continued from page 1A

Fuchs said, "but there's more we don't know than we do know."  
 Scientists have been able to roughly predict drought in cycles of every 20 to 23 years, he said, but even that can be way off. Readings of the 1994-95 precipitation in the Ruidoso area don't indicate drought, he said, but "if you lived in Ruidoso at that time, you certainly know it was."  
 "The annual records can give an inaccurate account because the precipitation might not have come at the right time, and what really provides water supplies is snowpack, not rain, he said.

The rate of accuracy in the almanac's predictions are good enough to know there's something to the writer's "family secret," and it most likely is that reliable seat-of-the-pants mysterious science called intuition, Fuchs said.

"I'm going to, for my own interests, predict a hall of a good winter with lots of cold (to kill drought-happy insect pests), snow and a hard snow pack," Fuchs laughs. "Maybe if we send out enough positive vibes, it will happen — we've got to have faith."

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# OPINION

## Tidings of great joy sound on the DWI circuit

Perhaps nobody except Charlie White can get terribly excited about drunken driving statistics. But White is an optimist, and he's got something to brag about as 1996 wanes into the limbo of left-behind years.

He runs Lincoln County's anti-drunk-driving program, which operates on a \$100,300 state grant, and with judicious use of that money, his program came out as one of the five best in New Mexico. That, according to an independent evaluation by a firm hired by the Local Government Division of the Division of Finance and Administration.

Among other things, Lincoln County registered a sharp reduction in the percentage of non-compliance shown by program participants (that's DWI law-breakers, folks). Just 17% of 180 offenders failed to comply with the terms of their probation or parole — a huge decline from 40% in 1995 and 92% in 1994.

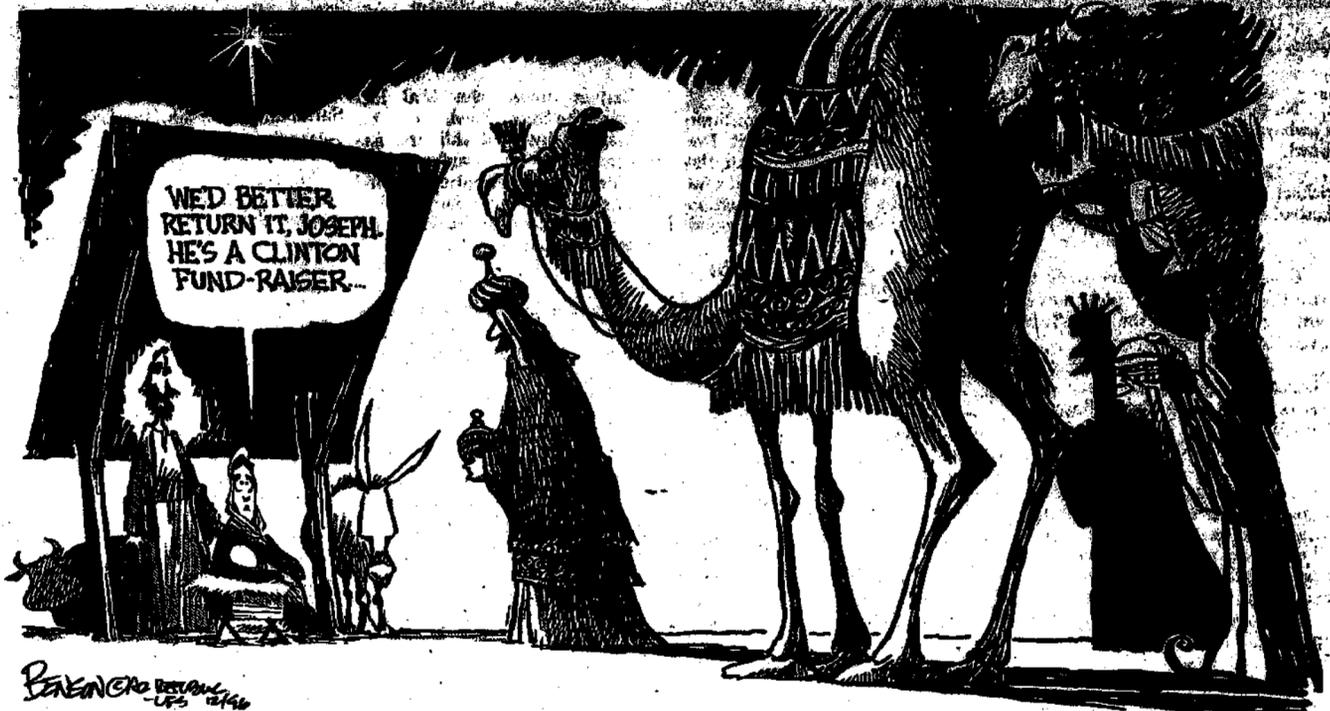
More significantly, only one of the 180 in the supervised probation program was re-arrested during the period. And alcohol-related traffic deaths were cut from four to two.

The study, by Rocky Mountain Group Ltd. Co., also eliminated some prevailing myths about who drives drunk in tourist-friendly Lincoln County. Charlie White's data shows that the average DWI offender in the county is a 33-year-old non-Hispanic white male with a high school diploma. He is employed, married and earning about \$14,000 for a family of three.

White gives high marks to the collaborative effort of police officers, judges, defense and prosecuting attorneys, civic organizations, governing bodies, the business community, the schools, the media...just about everybody, in fact...for the success of the program.

With all those facts and all that participation, White also recognizes the broader impact of an improved drunk driving record in the county:

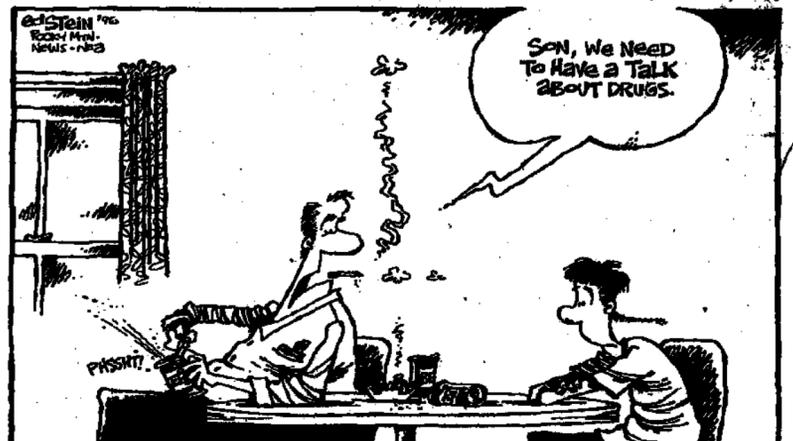
"This support...demonstrates a genuine concern for the safety and well being of our tourists and others who live, work and travel in our beautiful part of the state."



### RUIDOSO VILLAGE COUNCILORS

Call or write them

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Please don't use our money for private business

TO THE EDITOR:

(Note: The following letter has been sent to all New Mexico legislators.)

Please refuse to authorize tax money to be paid to corporations or other private entities that will be used by those corporations or other private entities to pay corporate or other private interest, bond debt or other debt.

Financial distress is everywhere we look so why do we keep on milking small business and the people to feed the rich and super rich bankers and giant corporations? Feeding tax money to the bankers via the corporate bond market is no

different than feeding tax money to the bankers via the government bond market. There is no difference between using taxpayer money to pay for government bonds, corporate bonds or other private debt.

Taxpayer money should not be used to pay for private entity interest and debt, just as taxpayer money should not be used to pay government interest and debt.

Small business and labor are wallowing in a cesspool of debt and taxes. Vote "no" on funding the new prisons with taxpayer money that is used to pay for corporate or other private sector interest and debt.

Please do not authorize the payment of tax dollars to be used by corporations or other private entities to pay corporate or other private interest, bonds or other debt. Obligating taxpayers to pay fees to corporations or other private

entities which then use that taxpayer money for paying corporate bonds and interest is a fraudulent and deceptive use of taxpayer money because it is merely an indirect, hidden way of using debt/tax slavery bond money to finance prisons. Using tax dollars to pay fees to corporations or other private sector entities will burden small business and the people with the same tax burden, whether that debt is direct government bond debt or indirect, hidden corporate debt or other private debt that is paid with tax money.

Take a stand and say no to making small business and the people pay and pay their hard-earned money to keep on feeding the rich and super rich bankers, insurance companies and giant corporations. Send our financial slave

masters a message that they cannot ignore. Please vote no on financing the new prisons with tax money that will be used to pay fees to corporations and other private entities to pay private bonds and interest.

Substituting corporate bond debt or other private sector debt for government debt is merely a trick to deceive the taxpayers into donating their tax money to pay corporate bond debt and interest or other private interest and debt instead of, or in addition to, government debt.

Please, walk the moral high ground on this matter. There is a better way to finance the new prisons, a debt-free and tax-free way, if you have the political will.

Lee Cheney  
Hobbs

## STAFF POLICY

The Ruidoso News encourages letters to the editor, especially about local topics and issues.

Each letter must be signed and must include the writer's daytime telephone number and address. The phone number and street or mailing address will not be printed, however the author's hometown will be included. The telephone number will be used to verify authorship. No letter will be printed without the writer's name.

Letters should be 500 words or less, be of public interest and should avoid name-calling and libelous language. The Ruidoso News reserves the right to edit letters, as long as viewpoints are not altered. Shorter letters are preferred and generally receive greater readership.

Letters may be hand delivered to The News office at 104 Park Avenue or mailed to P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88345.

The News has the right to reject any letter.

# The Ruidoso News

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Subscription rates in advance—Single copy, 50¢. Mail delivery: single copy, \$2.50; in Lincoln and Otero counties: one year, \$34; six months, \$20; three months, \$14. Out of Lincoln and Otero counties: one year, \$38; six months, \$22; three months, \$16. Home delivery: three months, \$20; six months, \$38; one year, \$68. Call (505) 257-4001 for home delivery.

The Ruidoso News (USPS 472-800) is published each Wednesday and Friday at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, NM 88345. Second class postage paid at the Post Office at Ruidoso, NM 88345. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Ruidoso News, P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88345.

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## 'I have what I have given'

### Funeral Services for A.E. (Chink) Beavers

Funeral services were held Dec. 23 for A.E. "Chink" Beavers, who was called home by our Lord on Dec. 19.

The Reverend Randy Widner read from the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians: "Wherefore comfort one another with these words..."

Then "How Great Thou Art" was sung by Michael Widner, Randy's son.

The Reverend Wayne Joyce spoke of the many years of friendship with Chink, and mentioned the strawberry field on the old Beavers farm, below where the Museum of the Horse now stands.

The Reverend Wayne then read from the Gospel according to Saint John: "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also." He also read from the Book of Revelations: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

At the graveside, the Reverend Mr. Joyce read from the first chapter of Saint Peter and the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

pallbearers were James Waide, Ben Hall, Jim Shaw, Tom Taylor, Kelly Cassels and Cotton Stevens.

Chink Beavers and his family have been friends of the Storm family since they came into the valley in 1926.

In the Smokey the Bear fire in 1950 on the top of the Capitan Mountains, we cut fire lanes with axes. This was in the days before chainsaws.

Chink was foreman in one of the axe crews and I was one of his axe swingers. Smokey the Bear was rescued close by there where we were working.

Chink Beavers will always hold a fond spot in our hearts, and we rejoice that our good friend is reunited with loved ones who have gone on before to be in Heaven with our Lord.

Remembering our Pets

On his Christmas program, and Harp program, Emmett Browne struck a responsive chord in the hearts of all of us for his tribute to our faithful animal friends.

This reminded me of the time my dog, Shady Logan, warned me of a grass fire that had started near the house.

Let us remember our own animals, and also more at the Humane Society Shelter through the Christmas season and throughout the year.

"I Have What I Have Given"

Every year Donna Bonnell gives me a Christmas present in the form of stamps for my Christmas cards.

As I was winding up the writing of the last few Christmas cards, I noticed with each card I stamped I felt a little better.

All under the pinon tree are Christmas gifts, and I wonder to myself, "What have I given?"

And every year at this time I remember something said by the Spanish writer Miguel Cervantes, author of "Don Quixote." Cervantes was also a patriot.

In his later years, a neighbor came by his home and said, "You have served our country in war spending time in foreign prisons. You have written great stories known all over the world. You have helped your neighbors all your life, and now in your old age you have nothing."

Cervantes responded, "I have what I have given."

DANIEL AGNEW STORM  
COLUMNIST

# Predictions

Continued from page 3A

for the good of all folk.

"Next I hope that Gov. Gary Johnson, Senate President Pro Tempore Manny Aragon and House Speaker Raymond Sanchez will come to realize that they were elected to serve all people in New Mexico, not just their respective parties, and that they will again work together to solve our gambling, prison, roads and other problems."

— Captain Municipal Judge Jack Johnson

"I predict that the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority will reach 20% in its recycling efforts."

— Jerry Wright, manager of the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority

"In 1997, I predict you'll see a smaller and less ambitious Lincoln County government."

"And to my friends in Ruidoso, I predict you'll see the reintroduction of legal banners in the village."

— Lincoln County Commissioner Wilton Howell

"I predict the village of Capitan will reach a settlement with the village of Ruidoso over the Eagle Creek Water Supply Association and it will be beneficial to both of us."

— Capitan Mayor Norm Renfro

"I predict the crime rate in Lincoln County will decline because of better cooperation among all of the county law enforcement agencies."

"I also predict the Ruidoso will win the Super Bowl."

— newly-elected Sheriff Tom Sullivan

"The varying factions of Ruidoso and surrounding areas will band together to form a synergistic approach to accomplishing our community's well-being."

— Bill Chance, Ruidoso sounder

"We have a window of opportunity at Fort Stanton and Camp Sierra Blanca in taking them to the goal we all want."

"Non-partisan action in Santa Fe will result in health care and prison reform."

"Ruidoso is just beginning to see its goal realized of becoming America's vacation paradise."

— State Rep. Dub Williams (Ruidoso-Glencoe)

"I hope 1997 brings better relations between people. That's what I would like to see."

— Francine Burgess, owner of The Kaa Dasita (Hanging Arrow) Gift Shop on the Mescalero Apache Reservation

## Amy Miller

Amy Frances Miller, 38, of Ruidoso, died in a car accident on Christmas morning.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at the Eagle Creek Sports Complex softball field in Alto. Ms. Miller was an avid softball player and member of the league tournament champion softball team Diamond Sala. Friends are invited to speak at the ceremony. Ms. Miller's body has been cremated.

Ms. Miller was born July 5, 1971 in San Gabriel, Calif. She had lived

in Ruidoso for the past 1.5 years and was a Pizza Hut delivery person.

She is survived by her mother Ruby Lee of Alamogordo; a brother, Steve Miller of Wyoming; a sister, Marie Miller of Alamogordo; a niece Sarah and a nephew Dylan.

## Steve Austin

Memorial services for Steve Austin, 56, of Ruidoso Downs will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at St. Joseph's Mission at Mescalero, with the Rev. Thomas Herriot officiating.

Mr. Austin died Tuesday, Dec. 24, at Lincoln County Medical Cen-

ter in Ruidoso. He was born Feb. 8, 1940 in Carlsbad to Anna Lee and Roy Austin, who both preceded him in death. He had lived in the Ruidoso area for the past two years after moving here from Merced, Calif. He served in the Air Force during the Vietnam Era and was retired from Civil Service. He owned and operated A&K Mechanical and attended Catholic Church.

He married Yvonne Darling on March 30, 1982 at El Paso, Texas.

He is survived by his wife Yvonne of Ruidoso Downs; a son, Roger Drury of Ruidoso Downs; two daughters, Frances Austin Bates of

Oakville, Conn. and Stephanie Kobaly and her husband Michael of Ruidoso Downs; two brothers, Robert J. Austin of Texas City, Texas and Dan Weinbrenner of Mesalero; six sisters, Roy Ann Vicars of Canyon Lake, Texas, Lynda Lee Kaul of Beaville, Texas, Debbie Smith of New Orleans, La., and Ada Mary Knowles, Kathy Campbell and Paula Tholen all of Texas City; and five grandchildren, Brandon Kobaly, Samantha Bates, Kimberley Bates, Jeremiah Finch and Christopher Finch.

Memorials may be sent to the American Heart Association.

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**RUIDOSO'S THREE-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK**

<b>SATURDAY</b>	High ... 59 Low ... 29	Clear
<b>SUNDAY</b>	High ... 59 Low ... 25	Partly cloudy
<b>MONDAY</b>	High ... 56 Low ... 22	Partly cloudy

**WEATHER ALMANAC**

Ruidoso Readings	High	Low	Precip.
Tuesday	46	16	.00"
Wednesday	55	17	.00"
Thursday	49	28	.00"

Regional-Friday	High	Low	Forecast
Albuquerque	53	28	Mostly cloudy
El Paso, TX	69	36	Partly cloudy
Lubbock, TX	65	38	Mostly cloudy
Midland, TX	60	29	High clouds

**STARDATE**  
Comet Hale-Bopp disappears completely in December as it swings behind the sun, moving from evening sky to morning sky and preparing for its bright reappearance in late winter and early spring.

StarDate courtesy of McDonald Observatory, Univ. of Texas at Austin. For more information call 1-800-StarDate.

**Business Opportunities**  
Most beautiful restaurant setting in Ruidoso. Gladrags, On the River seeking immediate investor/partners. Great opportunity for the right person. Beverly 257-7745 or 257-3753.

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# BUSINESS

## Holiday sales surge and sag downtown

by PAMELA CROMWELL  
Ruidoso News Staff Writer

Christmas shoppers hit the streets of Ruidoso for some last-minute gift-buying right before Dec. 25. Midtown store owners gave widely varying reviews of this year's shopping season, making December 1996 the best of times and the worst of times.

"This is the best season we've ever had, and we've been in business 16 years," said Ann Bolton, owner of J Roberts clothing store.

J Roberts is 15% ahead of its best Christmas on record, and Bolton expects things to only get better. About 75% of her December profits will come between Christmas and New Year's Eve, she said.

Store owners throughout Ruidoso confirmed Bolton's post-Christmas experience. Tourists tend to spend Christmas with family and friends, then finish up vacations with a weekend or longer in Ruidoso, shopping and skiing.

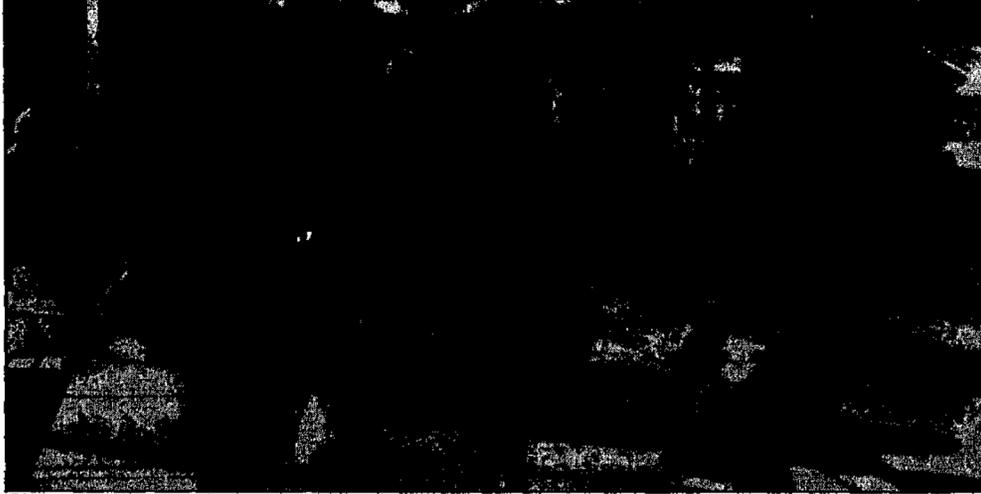
"I think of lot of gift money gets spent here," said Karen Anderson, owner of Wild Wild West.

Like many others, Anderson saw heavier-than-usual local traffic at the beginning of December. Then sales increased with an influx of tourists.

But December got a weak start for some other merchants, then picked up around Christmas.

Still others concluded December has been disappointing.

Galleria West credits a lack of snow for slow December sales. Lotions and Potions, The Attic, and Sky's the Limit reported slow but



Christmas shoppers stroll the sunny winter Main Street of Ruidoso.

steady business. Cowboys Indians & Outlaws slashed prices to 50% to stop a holiday sales slump, said store representative Merry McIntosh.

"We've been in business since 1989 and this is the worst Christmas ever," McIntosh said. "It's the economy. All the (trade) shows are off, all around the nation. People just aren't spending like they were."

As usual in the Ruidoso market, some thrive while others struggle through the beginning of the winter season. One sign of encouragement is that ski and sporting goods stores seem to be off to a healthy start.

Rocky Mountain Sports is steadily renting ski equipment, as is Ski West Sports, which has group reservations almost booked through the New Year.

"December has been right on," said Tish Nutting of Ski West. "The skiers are enjoying the snow. Rentals are good and retail is better."

At Faith Mountain Sports and Collectibles, Lana Robertson said she's not as busy as last year, but sales are about the same or better.

A few merchants are not content to let weather and the unknown variables of Ruidoso's economy push them around. Candle Power and Ruidoso T-Shirt Co. hired a Santa Claus (Ken Hardin) to put people in the gift-buying spirit. Sally Sandora, owner of Candle

Power, said this December is better than last year's.

"Numbers are way up from last year," she said.

Ann Bolton, who drapes J Roberts in white Christmas lights, suggested merchants sponsor a parade of lights to draw visitors for Christmas shopping.

"The money you spend (on decorating) you get back 10 times," Bolton said.

A Christmas lights contest sponsored by the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce and Texas-New Mexico Power prompted more business owners to decorate this year. Upper Canyon Inn, Visions, and Rush Ski Rental won first, second and third places respectively in the contest's commercial division.

### Cattle slaughter numbers decrease during November

New Mexico ranchers sent fewer cows to slaughter this November than last, though the cattle were fatter.

Cattle slaughtered in New Mexico during November 1996 totaled 3,000 head, 400 head less than last November. Total live weight slaughtered, at 2.79 million pounds, is down 13% from a year ago. The average live weight for cattle slaughtered increased to 945 pounds.

Markings of fed cattle during November totaled 21,000, up 2,000 head from October. Cattle and calves on feed Dec. 1 for the slaughter market in New Mexico totaled 133,000 head. This total represents a 3% increase from the previous month and the largest inventory in 1996.

### Bank announces stock dividend

Pioneer Savings Bank stockholders as of Dec. 31, 1996, will receive a semi-annual dividend of 35 cents per share by Jan. 24. The bank's board of directors declared the dividend payment at its Nov. 19 meeting.

The semi-annual dividend equates to a 8.8% annualized rate of return based on Pioneer's most recent stock price of \$15.50 per share, said president and chairman of the board George W. Mitchell.

As of Oct. 31, the total assets of Pioneer Savings Bank were \$247.6

million. Net worth of the company was \$16.2 million, which equals a book value of \$15.09 per share of capital stock.

Earnings for the first 10 months of 1996 exceeded projections with a net income of more than \$1.7 million as of Oct. 31, Mitchell said. These earnings were after a \$883,000 one-time FDIC assessment, Mitchell said.

The size of the assessment is based on deposits. It is levied against all thrifts as part of the recapitalization of the Savings Association Insurance Fund.

"We expect Pioneer's net income to exceed \$2.2 million, or about \$2.25 per share of capital stock by year end," Mitchell said.

Pioneer Savings Bank has its corporate office in Roswell with offices in Ruidoso, Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Hobbs and Las Cruces. The bank has been in business in New Mexico since 1901.

### Interest Rates

The following interest rates on certificates of deposit and new car loans were reported Dec. 23 from local banks.

CD Rates (Minimum \$500 balance)	
Pioneer Savings Bank	
3 months	4.25%
6 months	5.10%
1 year	5.25%

### New Car Loan Rates

Pioneer Savings Bank	
48 months	8.75%
60 months	8.75%
All Lincoln County banks are welcome to have their interest rates listed free each Friday on the Business page. Call Pamela Cromwell at 257-4001 or fax current rates on Thursdays to 257-7053.	

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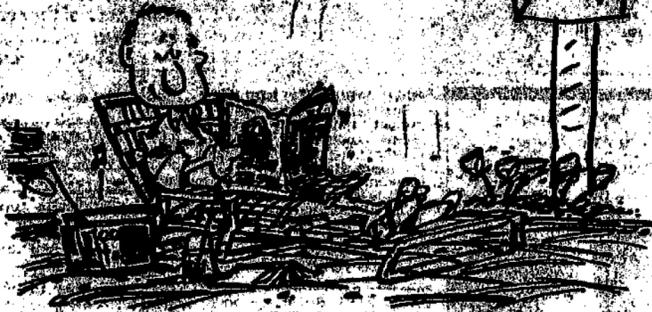
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**Che Bella's New Years Eve Celebration Dinner**  
Dec. 31, 1996  
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**Soup:** Lobster Bisque  
or  
**Salad:** Che Bella  
**Pasta:** Penne A La Vodka  
**Choice of Entrees**  
Sliced breast of duckling with a fresh plum sauce over a bed of wild rice and fresh vegetable.  
Sliced tenderloin of beef with a horseradish creme sauce served with a white truffle garlic mashed potatoes  
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call 257-1037**

**CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**"CRIME OF THE WEEK"**  
The Ruidoso-Lincoln County Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest and Grand Jury indictment or Magistrate Court Bindover of the person or persons who committed this crime or any other unsolved felony crime in Lincoln County. Let's work together to call a stop to crime.  
**Phone 257-4545**  
**LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO...**On November 2, 1996, Kendall Jennings was found stabbed to death at the Rodeo Bar Jennings east of Capitan, NM. The suspect is Samuel Dan Stanton. Samuel Dan Stanton fled to Roswell and then absconded to a destination unknown. Stanton is described as a white male, 5'11", 160 lbs., green eyes, and 34 years old. He goes by several different aliases. He is known to be armed and very dangerous.  
New Mexico Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$1,000.00 for information that leads to the arrest of this individual. If you have information please call the 24 hour toll-free number at 1-800-432-6933. You will remain anonymous even when you collect your cash reward.  
This is Chief Larry Maddox, for the Ruidoso Police Department, urging you to be a crimestopper!  
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**The Ruidoso News**

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2319 Sudderth

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will reopen  
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**THE MESCALERO NIGHTCLUB**  
Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero, NM • 257-6693

<b>THURS</b>	<b>LADIES NIGHT</b> DJ Mike B. spinning the latest in dance, house, techno hip-hop, old school, retro and even country! Drink specials. 9 p.m. to midnight. No cover.
<b>FRI</b>	<b>DJ MIKE B.</b> Spinning the latest in dance, house, techno, hip-hop old school, retro and even country! 9 p.m. to close. No cover.
<b>SAT</b>	<b>STAND-UP COMEDY SHOWCASE</b> DJ Bush after show till close 9 p.m. to ? \$3 cover for show. No cover after show.

Cruise Vacations and Travel is pleased to announce



Reserve a beautiful chauffeured, Lincoln Towncar for your next special occasion. (i.e., anniversary, birthday, prom, night on the town, or a deluxe ride to the airports)

At only \$53.00 per hour (one hour minimum):

To El Paso Airport - \$150.00 one way  
To Albuquerque Airport - \$192.00 one way

**257-4991**

**Inn of the Mountain Gods**

*Broadly Presents the*  
**1996 New Year's Eve Extravaganza!**

*\$97.00 per couple* *\$60.00 single*

*The Gala Evening includes:*  
**Grand Buffet from 10:00 p.m. to Midnight**  
**Champagne at Midnight**

\*\*\*\*\*

*Dance to the Sounds of*  
**"The Lincoln County Band"**  
*9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.*

*Door Prizes*  
*Free Shuttle Service from and to Free Banking Area*  
*Cocktail dress/Evening attire (No Jeans Allowed)*  
*Must be 21 years or over to enter*

*For Advance Reservations or Information, Call*  
*1-800-565-9011 or 1-505-257-5161, extension 7660*  
*To receive a full refund, cancellation must be received no later than 5:00 p.m.*  
*December 26, 1996*  
*Doors Open at 8:30 p.m.*

*Bring in the New Year at*  
**Inn of the Mountain Gods**  
*A Mescalero Apache Enterprise*  
**"New Mexico's Most Distinguished Resort"**  
Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero, NM 88340



# Advertise in the Classifieds.

Call Thomas at The Ruidoso News • 257-4001

## CLASSIFIEDS

### 1 Real Estate

**MOBILE HOME LOTS** next to the river. Call Bill at Sturman Real Estate. 378-4391.

**ALL CASH!** Receiving payment on a mortgage? Why wait? Best prices paid nationwide, plus we pay transfer costs. Sell all/part. Purchase Equity Investors. 1-800-899-8892.

**PRICE REDUCED** - One of Innebros largest townhomes. 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, den, gameroom/garage. Backs up to golf course. Fully furnished. Fantastic! Call Now \$169,900. #9860348. CALL DOUG SIDDENS at 336-

4248 CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate.

**80 ACRES, 5 WELLS** 1 windmill, 30 thousand gal. tank. Will consider partial trade. Call Bill at Sturman Real Estate 378-4391.

**APPROXIMATELY ONE ACRE** - In Alto's Deer Park Woods with valley views and nice trees. Social membership. \$18,000. #9441417. CALL WARREN ROUSE at 257-9057 CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate.

**TEN BEAUTIFUL ACRES** in Loma Grande. Tall trees, good dirt, well, small cabin. \$75,000. 1-505-682-3429.

**SMALL RANCH** Arrabela, 720 deeded acres, Call

Sturman Real Estate 378-4391.

**GOVERNMENT FORECLOSED** homes for pennies on \$1.00. Delinquent tax, repo's, REO's. Your area. Toll free 1-800-218-9000. Ext. H-5139 for current listings.

**FOR SALE BY OWNER** High Sierra time-sharing, Ruidoso \$2000. OBO, week #16 (April), 2BDRM/2BA, sleeps 6, Call Rudy 1-804-239-0895.

**CASH** for good real estate contracts, mortgages, leases, qualifying life benefits and structured settlements. Can also fund residential and commercial loans. 505-471-0034.

3BDRM/3BA fireplace, jac-

uzzi tub, 7/10 acre, 6000 sq. ft., furnished. Call Sturman Real Estate 378-4391.

**12.5 ACRES** on Airport Rd. can be used commercial or as horse ranch. 1-512-357-2168.

**PRICE REDUCED** - on this great view lot in Alto - large building site, Sierra Blanca view and social membership. Common area with swimming pool. Now \$22,000 #9860779. CALL HARVEY M. FOSTER at 257-9057 CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate.

**CARRIZO CANYON ROAD** 2BDRM/1BA, small house, carpet & fireplace, sell/lease, commercially zoned, well/septic, 257-5381.

**Open House Friday, Saturday & Sunday**  
Luxury 2200 sq. ft. custom townhome  
Exclusive White Mountain Meadows Subdivision  
Unobstructed million dollar view of Sierra Blanca



Three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage  
Master suite 525 sq. ft. (downstairs), Marble spa, tub & shower  
14x22 bedroom/sitting room  
10x15 bath/spa • 10x6 closet • Tile & carpet  
Custom cabinets • Central Air & Heat  
545/547 White Mountain Meadows  
Under appraisal value - \$169,950 • Owner/builder  
257-7555 • 257-2642

**HIGH VISIBILITY BUILDING** - Spacious and attractive. Excellent location, potential. Great frontage, high visibility. Current business. Successful for years at this location. Remarkably priced at \$169,000. #9860246. CALL SUSAN OR COLLEEN at 336-4248 CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate.

**3 Land for Sale**

**LAND FOR SALE** - Homop

area, four acres. Call 653-4591.  
**6.6 & 7 ACRES** - On airport highway, level land, w/diff on back of property. Fantastic views. 1-512-357-2168.

**ONLY \$70K** plus tax will cover the whole week in The Ruidoso News. Use our classified ads and get results. (minimum words).  
CALL 257-4001 to find out about placing a classified ad.

### REDUCED

**Beautiful Custom Home For Sale By Owner**  
2 1/2 years old, 2300 sq. ft. Three bedroom, 3 baths • 2 car garage & large storage area. Marble floors, custom built cabinets, master suite, jacuzzi, den/study. Too many extras to list. Fully landscaped with sprinklers & fenced back yard. Flat easy access with magnificent view of Sierra Blanca.

Shown by appointment only • 122 Skyvue • 257-5668

### For Sale by Don Russell Construction Inc.

This recently finished cedar and stucco home on a large lot on Cree Meadows #11 fairway is at 207 Barcus. This 1875 sq. ft. home has a finished two-car garage, master suite with a jacuzzi and walk-in closet. There is a full security system installed and numerous custom features. Construction is also beginning on a cedar home which is for sale at 201 Buckner. For an appointment to tour either sites please call 258-4408.

## Bill Pippin REAL ESTATE

1608 Sudderth  
505/257-4228 • 800/489-9289

**ON THE LEVEL** Large 3 bedroom, 2 bath mountain on foundation. Office, rock fireplace, garden tub in master. Two car garage with workshop, covered front porch. \$79,000.

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:**  
5 PM MONDAY  
Midweek issue.  
5 PM WEDNESDAY  
Weekend issue.

**DISPLAY AD DEADLINES:**  
5 PM MONDAY  
Midweek issue.  
5 PM WEDNESDAY  
Weekend issue.

**LEGAL DEADLINES:**  
3 PM MONDAY  
Midweek issue.  
3 PM WEDNESDAY  
Weekend issue.

**DON'T WORRY...**  
Be happy!!  
Many fine homes FOR RENT  
Nightly, Weekly Monthly  
Call Cindy at Gary Lynch Realty... 257-4011 Uo #273825

**LAST CHANCE**  
**7.470 ACRES RUIDOSO, NM**  
This 7.470 Acre Tract has beautiful trees & scenic views. Just 15 minutes north of Ruidoso. Won't last long at \$38,900. Properties of the Southwest..  
**CALL TODAY!**  
1-800-RUIDOSO ext. 3139.

## America's Choice Mobile Homes

**Palm Harbor Grand Opening Sale**

**New Palm Harbor** - 5 bedroom, 2,100 sq. ft., \$337 per month, 10% Down - 8% APR-Var, 360 months. 5 year warranty

**Land/Home Package** - 7.25% A.P.R. Our land or yours - Huge selection of homes and property. Refinance your land with a new dream home. 10% Down - 360 months

**Palm Harbor Factory Direct** - Free color brochures - 2, 3, 4 & 5 bedrooms. Call for Free Construction literature and floor plans.

**\$191 per month** - 3 & 2 Singlewide. Great floor plans. Price includes delivery and set-up.

Call Today  
**1-800-720-1004**  
10028 Central Ave. SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87123

## GARY LYNCH REALTY

**YOU WON'T HAVE TO REMODEL THIS ONE**... It's already being done for you! Enjoy the serene setting and mountain air from the decks on this 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Living room, dining area, fireplace and more. In the remodeling stage; it's going to be nice! It won't last! \$79,500.  
**WE'RE TALKING LOTS OF ROOM!** In this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with a family room, living room, and dining room. Cedar fenced back yard with deck. Make this the one to see! Nice tree coverage. Only \$109,500.  
**VERY ATTRACTIVE HOME - CREE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE** Relax by the fireplace or in the spa, or just sit back and enjoy the Sierra Blanca view from the covered and uncovered decks. Three bedroom, two bath home with living room, study, game room, loft and more! Easy access on a lot and a half. Owner would trade. \$179,500.

"Making New Friends While Keeping the Old"

Box 1714 257-4011  
419 Mechem Ruidoso, NM 88345

**OWNER WANTS AN OFFER! GIVE US A CALL!**



Wow, what a view from this 4 bedroom, 2 bath situated on a corner lot. Living room, dining area, breakfast bar, fireplace and more. Just sit back on the large deck and gaze at the stars! Possible owner financing, and only \$109,900.

Gary M. Lynch, Broker, GRI; Res: 336-4252  
Cindy K. Lynch, Associate; Res: 336-4252  
Phyllis Boyd, Associate; Res: 258-6821  
Lynne Meadows, Associate; Res: 257-2454  
Kim Baugh, Associate; Res: 257-5287

**RE/MAX of Ruidoso**  
1009 Mechem, Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345  
Office: (505) 258-5833  
800-657-8570  
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

**Price Reduced!** Condo - 2 large bedrooms and 2 full baths, fireplace and 2 car carport. Only \$59,500. Owner/Agent. Possible owner financing. Call Wayland!

**3 story, furnished condo** at Inpsbrook, excellent rental. Owner wants offer. Around \$100,000. Call Margal!

**17 Unit Turn-Key Motel.** Nice owners quarters. Completely renovated throughout. About 11.5% Cap. Rate including owners salary. Books look great! This place is making money and showing a steady increase in business. Lots of numbers available upon request. Call Wes for more information!!

**Enjoy Spacious Living** with Sierra Blanca views!! 3000+ sq. ft., double attached garage, front/back decks. Three bedrooms, 2 full baths, living area with rock fireplace, kitchen, dining, utility room - UP, game room with 1/2 bath, 3/4 bath, wetbar with Jenn-Aire and refrigerator - DOWN - bearing apple trees, Call Don!

**Great Home in Rancho Ruidoso** on 1.24 acres (horses allowed) 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, great decks and fantastic view. Offered at \$139,900. To see call Chris!

## Greet the Brand New Year with a Brand New House

**403 White Mountain Meadows Dr.**  
**Open House**  
Saturday, December 28  
1-3 pm  
**Directions:**  
North on Hull Road, turn into the Meadows at the gate house, turn right on White Mountain Meadows, follow it up and around the bend to the left, past the Victorian home. The house is just ahead on the right.

Hosted by: Sally B. The Prudential Lela Easter Realtors 425 Mechem Drive



When you're #1, you can do things others can't.

**LOTS OF LIGHT**  
fills this great 3 bedroom, 2 bath Alto home. Big kitchen with walk-in pantry, deck surrounds side and back, double attached garage. Includes full golf membership. \$165,500. #9861308. CALL LARRY TILLMAN at 257-9057.

**PRICE REDUCED**  
This 3 bedroom, 3 bath home has it's owner state-of-the-art observatory for star gazing. Located on 4.6 acres there are views to feed your soul and many other extras. Now \$169,900. #9502171. CALL SCOTT MILLER at 257-9057.

**2.5 ACRES**  
**JUST RIGHT FOR YOUR NEW HOME.** Sierra Blanca view, partially wooded, level, horses allowed. Beautiful land; come see, you'll agree. \$37,500. #9860533. CALL KATHY CRAIG at 257-9057.

**COMFORTABLE CABIN**  
Check out the back deck and good sized master bedroom. Good starter home or rental property. \$44,850. #9861551. CALL KIMBLE L. KEARNS at 257-9057.

**PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP**  
shows throughout this well maintained 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home. Large bright kitchen, upstairs sitting room or den, big deck, jacuzzi, 2 car garage plus carport. \$149,500. #9861651. CALL DOUG SIDDENS at 336-4248.

**JUST LISTED!**  
**SIERRA BLANCA VIEW** - Great, fully furnished, 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Light, all level, paved access, double carport. Vacation or permanent! \$139,500. #9861916. CALL JOSEPH A. ZAGONE at 257-9057.

**PERFECT MOUNTAIN HIDEAWAY**  
Fully furnished condo. Two comfortable bedrooms, sac. own bath. Spacious living area with cozy fireplace. New furnishings, down to linens and dishes. A real buy! \$55,000. #9862102. CALL PEGGY JORDAN at 257-9057.

**AFFORDABLE LUXURY LIVING**  
Four bedroom, two bath modular home. Quality extras like walk-in closets, ceiling fan, fireplace, more. Fully furnished in exquisite style. \$118,000. #9862138. CALL JORISSE HENRY at 257-9057.

## CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate

727 Mechem Drive • Ruidoso  
257-9057 • 1-800-658-2773

101 High Mesa Drive -Alto  
336-4248 • 1-800-687-6602

Visit us on-line at <http://ruidoso.usa.net/c21/> • E-mail us at: [aspen@lookingglass.net](mailto:aspen@lookingglass.net)

\*Average A Home A Minute\* represents an average based upon all homes bought or sold through CENTURY 21 franchisees during 1994. ©1994 Century 21 Real Estate Corporation. ® and ™ trademarks of Century 21 Real Estate Corporation. Equal Housing Opportunity. EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.

**Merry Christmas**

**Bill Pippin REAL ESTATE**

1608 SUDDERTH  
505/257-4228 800/489-9289

**FOR THE INVESTOR WITH VISION.** Well established highly profitable ice & water business. Equipment inventory and real estate. Also available. 5000+ square foot building presently leased. Good location, room for growth. Properties can be purchased together or separately. Lots of possibilities. Call Bill for more information.

**ESTATE SALE:** Complete turnkey business. Equipment, tools, inventory and building. Will consider expanding business and building. Call Bill for more information.

**BEAUTIFUL LAND IN DESIRABLE AREA.** Tract 1 and/or 2 of Middle Cedar. Approximately 1.25 acres each. Community water, park tested and approved for septic tank. Huge fir and pine trees, buildable, nice home in area. \$22,000. 00 or \$40,000.00 for both tracts.

**UPPER CANYON.** Well maintained mountain cabin. Three bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, river rock fireplace, wooded interior, city utilities. \$59,000.

**NEW CONSTRUCTION** in White Mountain Estates. Three bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, 2 fireplaces, wet bar, jet tub, deck, unfinished room, Sierra Blanca view. \$199,900.00

**BILL PIPPIN BROKER**  
336-4853

**JO STEELE**  
336-4700  
[jstele@lookingglass.net](mailto:jstele@lookingglass.net)

WE HAVE LOTS of out-of-town subscribers. Spend \$7.89 plus tax and let them know what your product is. Advertise in The Ruidoso News.

**THE RIVER RUNS THRU 5.661 ACRES**  
Rare chance for affordable waterfront properties w/over 200 ft. of historic Rio Bonita frontage. Beautiful ponderosa pines. Scenic Sierra Blanca view. Paved roads, electricity, telephones, river park. 15 minutes north of Ruidoso. Just reduced from \$69,900 to \$62,900 w/terms. Better Hurry! Call today! Call Properties of the Southwest. 1-800-RUIDOSO ext. 2926.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## TALL PINES REALTY

### Feature of the Week

2704 Sudderth  
257-7786 • 800-257-7786

**UPPER CANYON CHARM!** New cedar home is all quality! Three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath plus loft, vaulted ceilings, wood floors, great decks, many custom touches. \$139,500.  
**LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!** Near Cree Meadows, across from golf course. Attractive 3 bedroom, 2 bath cedar home with views & easy access. Compare in the area at \$84,900.  
**EASY TO ENJOY** living in this comfortable, tastefully updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Extras include dramatic fireplace, new carpet, great wooded lot, easy access. \$89,900.  
**BEAUTIFUL RANCHETTE/HORSE PROPERTY** - 18 acres with roping arena & comfortable 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch house. All the convenience of modern living in a great country setting. \$189,000.  
**CHECK THIS OUT!** Like new Palm Harbor mobile in super location. Two bedroom, 2 bath + separate room for office, hobbies, guests. Pallet stove, covered decks, fenced yard. \$64,500.  
**HOW FAST CAN YOU MOVE?** Two bedroom, 1 bath condo in a great location, with views of Sierra Blanca, golf course & duck pond. Attractive interiors, fireplace, decks! \$63,500.  
**GREAT DETAIL** in a nice remodel. Two bedroom, 1 bath with large living area, brick fireplace, new furnace. Owner financing - Great starter or rental property. \$62,000.  
**WARM YOUR TOES** by the fireplace! Cozy 2 bedroom log cabin furnished with antiques. Just move in and enjoy. \$55,900.  
**GREAT BUY!** Two bedroom, 2 bath mobile home on 2 lots in good location. Major improvements, including new deck. Take a look. \$34,000.

**WONDERFUL LIVING!!!** 2,000 sq. ft. of enjoyment! Three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, family room, study, 2 fireplaces, nicely furnished, large covered decks. Don't miss this new listing! \$93,500.

**Johnny Mobley**  
257-5485 - Home  
Multi-Million Dollar Producer  
**Mark Mobley**  
257-3890 - Home  
Multi-Million Dollar Producer  
**Marcia Guynes**  
258-3428 - Home  
Multi-Million Dollar Producer  
**Dot Baileer**  
258-6984  
**Dick Weber**  
336-7711  
**Pet Brown**  
257-7416

Prices start at \$795  
**GUARANTEED**  
Free 30 Day Warranty  
We Pay Cash For Your Car  
**USED CARS & TRUCKS**  
We Pay Cash For Your Truck

## SELECTION QUALITY WARRANTY

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL

<p><b>1996 Ford Ranger 4x4</b> Supercab, STX V-6, A/C Was \$16,200 Now \$11,895</p>	<p><b>1994 Jeep Wrangler</b> 4x4, 5 speed, great tuning Was \$11,760 Now \$9,995</p>	<p><b>1996 Subaru Outback</b> AWD, power group, low miles Was \$22,500 Now \$20,995</p>	<p><b>1994 Chevy One Ton 4x4</b> Daily, power cab, turbo diesel Was \$23,000 Now \$21,995</p>
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<p><b>1989 Toyota 4-Runner</b> 4x4, A/C, cassette, custom wheels \$0 Down \$298/MO</p>	<p><b>1995 Plymouth Neon</b> A/C, auto, AM/FM \$0 Down \$226 Per Month</p>	<p><b>1994 Dodge Caravan</b> A/C, auto, AM/FM, 7 passenger \$0 down \$226 per month</p>	<p><b>1992 Lincoln Towncar</b> Signature series, loaded, carriage top, extra clean \$0 Down \$399/MO</p>
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<p><b>1989 Olds Cutlass</b> Auto trans, A/C, cruise, tilt YOUR CHOICE \$6995</p>	<p><b>1992 Chevy Baretta</b> Auto, A/C, cassette, PL YOUR CHOICE \$2995</p>	<p><b>1992 Ford Festiva</b> Cassette, A/C, 5 speed trans</p>	<p><b>1988 Pontiac Lemans</b> 5 speed, 4 cylinder, economical</p>
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### WE FINANCE — YOUR JOB IS YOUR CREDIT — WE FINANCE

<p><b>1996 Program 4x4 Vans</b> (4) all wheel drive Aerostar Vans. Loaded with dual A/C. Save over \$6000 from original factory M.S.R.P. \$995 down and \$389 per month*</p>	<p><b>1996 Program Lincolns</b> Towncar V8, Leather, 2 power seats, anti-theft keyless entry, Factory Price \$38,335 Priced from \$22,995</p>	<p><b>Program Cars Blowout</b> (1) Contour - Power windows, power locks, speed control, cassette, A/C, dual airbags. Original M.S.R.P. \$17,900 Now \$9,995</p>
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**Ruidoso Ford Lincoln - Mercury**  
Se habla español  
AWARD WINNING SALES AND SERVICE • 100 Highway 70 E. • 378-4400

## Last Chance

The Ranches of  
A Bluegreen Property

◆ **Final Unit Now Open** ◆  
**5 to 25 Acre Homesites**  
with Pre-Development Prices  
Protective Covenants ◆ Paved Roads  
Telephone & Electric Service ◆ Breathtaking Views  
Rio Bonito Frontage ◆ Beautiful Trees  
Convenient to The Village

◆ **HURRY** ◆  
**THEY WON'T LAST LONG!**

Our on-site sales center is conveniently located 3 miles east on Airport Road.

**CALL TODAY**  
**1-800-RUIDOSO (784-3676), Ext 3081**  
Developed & marketed by Properties of the Southwest  
616 Mechem Drive • Ruidoso

Obtain the property report required by Federal law, and read it before signing anything. No Federal agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property. Void where prohibited by law.

**THE CAPITAN-CARRIZOZO** - Natural Gas is now accepting applications for a temporary position with the company. Duties will be assisting in daily operations and installing new gas lines. Knowledge of operating equipment such as backhoe and trencher preferred. Applications on file will be considered also. Applications may be obtained at the office at 217 Lincoln in Capitan, NM. The deadline for accepting applications will be Thursday, January 2, 1997 at 4:00 PM.

Certified Mechanic needed to work at Ruidoso Ford, Lincoln, Mercury. Excellent pay, must have own tools. Contact Ron 378-4400

RNs & LPNs needed at Ruidoso Care Center. Please contact Human Resource at 257-9071.

Shift Managers immediate opening for shift managers. Please apply in person at 633 Sudderth

**Advertising Sales Executive**  
For local media. Must be well organized, aggressive, and a self-starter. Newspaper sales experience preferred. Excellent benefits. Send resume to: Attn: Ad Sales Position, P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345

**39 Work Wanted**  
**DEAR POTENTIAL EMPLOYER:** If you are looking for a hard-working, enthusiastic, loyal employee with good people skills and a desire to learn and grow within your company, please

call Bill at 257-7283.  
**GARDEN GREEN**  
SUPER CLEAN  
yardcare, windows, gutters, hauling, ODD or stinky jobs. Free Estimates 257-2172.  
**METAL ROOFS**  
REMODELS • ADDITIONS  
**Balco Builders**  
DECKS, PAINTING & REPAIRS  
257-6357  
Lic. #051280

**40 Services**  
**PAINTING-HOME REPAIRS**  
Signs, Fine Arts by the hour. 354-9148, references, 15 years in area.

**COMPLETE YARD CARE**, tree removal, pruning, hauling, raking, mowing, gutters  
**FREE ESTIMATES** everyday referrals available. 257-5808.

**COMPUTER UPGRADES!** Problem solving custom building and add-ons. Free Estimates. House calls OK. Call John 258-8127.

**HANDYMAN** I am able to help you with: Trash Hauling, Tree Trimming, Weed Eating, Gutters, Construction Cleanup. Any Type of Repairs, etc. **FREE ESTIMATES!!** 378-1047

**ROOFING** and expert repair. Senior discounts. 30 years experience. Free estimates. Licensed, #56473. John Lynn. 257-3243. 336-9116/354-4225.

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**CHIMNEY CLEANING** and General Chimney repairs. 378-4750.

**COMPUTER LESSONS** Beginning level Internet, Windows, Wordperfect. Experienced trainer will come to your home/business. Reasonable rates. Holiday gift certificates available. Mary Weaver 336-9660.

**PAINTING CONTRACTOR** HAS PAINT LEFTOVER from "Big Job". Will paint your 1000 sq. ft. home for \$725. Please call Hauling road material, excavating, landscaping, lot leveling. Licensed and Bonded. Bernard Trucking. 378-4132.

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257-2410  
Building - Roofing  
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ONE DAY WINDOW REPLACEMENTS  
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New Construction, Additions, Remodeling, Deck Repairs, Roofing, Masonry, Sheetrock Repair, Insurance Work  
No Job Too Small  
No Job Too Large  
Quality Work... All Work Guaranteed  
257-7818

**42 Child Care**  
**CHILD CARE-HOME-DAY-CARES-WEEKENDS** Local references. Reasonable rates. Call Sharon 378-5656.

**44 Firewood for Sale**  
**FIREWOOD** Seasoned, split.

Various types, lengths and amounts. Delivered and stacked. Available everyday. 257-5808.  
**FIREWOOD FOR SALE** Call 354-2541.

**SEASONED PINON, JUNIPER, PINE MIX** \$135/cord  
Delivered and stacked  
Half cord, \$70. (No carrying) 336-4524.

**TREE MASTERS** has Mesquite, Oak firewood. \$145/cord. 1700 Mechem. 336-4051 also unsplit pine \$40/cord, split pine \$85/cord.

**SEASONED PINON** \$100 cord for longer lengths. \$125 cord for shorter lengths. Split and Delivered. Call 257-3205.

**QUALITY SEASONED FIREWOOD** Juniper, cedar, pinon and oak. Delivered or you pick up. Different cuts available. Reasonable prices. Seasoned wooden fence posts also. Preston Stone.

354-2356.  
**SEASONED PINE, FIR, PINON MIXED!** \$60 half cord, \$100 full cord. 378-8223.

**Dry cedar** - one cord \$110 - two cords or more \$100 a cord. Split & delivered - not stacked (505) 648-2729

**46 Lost & Found**  
**REWARD** 2 month old Boston screw tail Bull dog. 257-7997.

**48 Announcements**  
**CLASES DE PIANO** Martes/Miercoles/Jueves 5-5:30PM y 5:30-6PM 4 Clases. For Mes \$50. Dlls. LLamar: 257-9635 Preguntar Julie

**Now Showing**

- MY FELLOW AMERICANS** (PG-13)  
12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
- BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD DO AMERICA** (PG-13)  
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
- MICHAEL** (PG)  
1:15 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30

257-9994

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that the Village of Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico has changed the date to January 17, 1997 3:00 p.m. local time, for sealed bids on:  
**SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION, PHASE II PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**  
A second mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held on January 8, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. at the Council Meeting Room, at the Village Administrative Offices at 313 Cree Meadows Drive, from which a field walk-through will be conducted. If bidders attended the Pre-Bid Conference held on December 20, 1996 will not be mandatory for those bidders.  
Interested bidders may secure a copy of the revised Plans and Specifications with Addendums #1 & #2 for a deposit of Twenty (\$20.00) per set from the Purchasing Officer at the Village of Ruidoso Centralized Purchasing Warehouse, 421 Wingfield, Ruidoso, New Mexico, 88345 (505)257-2721, or from Wilson & Company, Engineers & Architects, 4775 Indian School Road, NE, Suite 200, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87110. (505)254-4000. All of the deposit will be refundable if the Plans and Specifications are returned in good condition and within 10 working days after the bidding date. All bidders currently on the bidders list will receive the Addenda by mail.  
The Village of Ruidoso reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive all informalities as allowed by the State of New Mexico Procurement Code.  
/s/Terr Waterfield  
Purchasing Agent  
Village of Ruidoso  
0728 3T(12)27

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**WAREHOUSE, 421 WINGFIELD, RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO, 88345 (505)257-2721, or from Wilson & Company, Engineers & Architects, 4775 Indian School Road, NE, Suite 200, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87110. (505)254-4000. All of the deposit will be refundable if the Plans and Specifications are returned in good condition and within 10 working days after the bidding date. All bidders currently on the bidders list will receive the Addenda by mail.  
The Village of Ruidoso reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids and to waive all informalities as allowed by the State of New Mexico Procurement Code.  
/s/Terr Waterfield  
Purchasing Agent  
Village of Ruidoso  
0728 3T(12)27**

/s/Terr Waterfield  
Purchasing Agent  
Village of Ruidoso  
0701 4T(12)13,20,27

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**JANUARY 13, 1998**  
**VILLAGE HALL BLDG.**  
The Village of Capitan Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on January 13, 1998 at 6:30 PM for the purpose of repealing Ordinance 97-1: Inspections, Application for Water Responsibility for Payments, Lien, Deposits, Notice, Water Bill, Payment Security, Delinquent Charges Must be Paid in Full, establishing Ordinance 97-3. This will be considered for adoption at the regular meeting on January 13, 1997 at 7:00 PM. The public is encouraged to attend.  
/s/Deborah Cummins  
Clerk-Treasurer, CMC  
Village of Capitan

Village of Capitan  
0722 3T(12)27(1)3,10

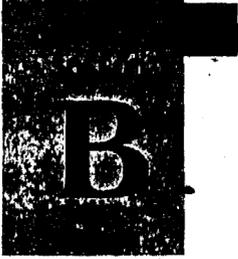
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**JANUARY 13, 1998**  
**VILLAGE HALL BLDG.**  
The Village of Capitan Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on January 13, 1997 at 6:30 PM for the purpose of repealing Ordinance 97-1: Eliminating Truck Traffic on Forest Ave. over two lots. The ordinance will be considered for adoption at the regular meeting on January 13, 1997 at 7:00 PM. The public is encouraged to attend.  
/s/Deborah Cummins  
Clerk-Treasurer, CMC  
Village of Capitan  
0723 3T(12)27(1)3,10

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**JANUARY 13, 1998**  
**VILLAGE HALL BLDG.**  
The SUN VALLEY SANITATION DISTRICT will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 1997 at 7:00 PM at the Bonito Fire Station. Included on the agenda will be the consideration for approval of a "Petition for change of Boundaries by the inclusion of Additional Real Property" as submitted by Frank O. Barrett owner of Lots 52 & 53, Little Creek Estates, a subdivision located in Lincoln County, New Mexico. Interested parties are invited to attend.  
/s/Frank O. Barrett  
0898 3T(12)13,20,27

The Village of Capitan Board of Trustees will hold a public hearing on January 13, 1997 for the purpose of discussing amending Ordinance 95-3, Uniform Traffic Code regarding Section 12-8-12 Riding on sidewalks and creating Section 12-9-24, Skateboarding on Street in which will establish Ordinance 97-2. Ordinance 97-2 will be considered for adoption at the regular meeting on January 13, 1997 at 7:00 PM. The public is encouraged to attend.  
/s/Deborah Cummins  
Clerk-Treasurer, CMC  
Village of Capitan  
0724 3T(12)27(1)3,10

shall hold a Public Hearing beginning at 9:30 AM on Tuesday, January 14, 1997, at the Lincoln County Court House, Commissioners' Meeting Room, in Carrizozo, to consider the following proposed ordinance:  
(1) PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 1985-2 AND ALL SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS PERTAINING TO THE LINCOLN COUNTY LODGER'S TAX.  
All parties and interested citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. Copies of the proposed ordinance may be obtained from the County Manager's Office at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Carrizozo, twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.  
/s/Monkey A. Manes, Chairman  
Lincoln County Commission  
0704 1T(12)27

# LEGALS



# VÁMONOS!

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1996



*Man,  
Myth,  
or  
Legend?*

**You decide**

A Reporter Interviews  
a Man Who Claims  
He's Santa Claus  
*See Page 3B*

ENTERTAINMENT

**Ruidoso painter's art show opens in January**

*Page 5B*

ENTERTAINMENT

**Alamo's alcohol-free party rings in New Year**

*Page 5B*

**CALENDAR**

Where to go  
for New Year's



Weekend planner. Page 2B

PAST TENSE

**Wyatt takes  
revenge**

Tombstone series ends. Page 7B





# What's happening?



## Live Music

**THE COFFEE POT**, 606 3rd St, Tularosa, (505) 685-0262 — Saturday evening, music and dinner. 1 block east of Catholic church. Look for the pink windows.

**CREE MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB**, 301 Country Club Dr., Ruidoso, 257-2733 — 5:30 p.m. Thursdays and 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Randy Jones on his guitar. Randy plays a variety of music, from country to blues.

**GALLOPING TORTOISE**, 662 Sudderth, Ruidoso, 257-2511 — 4-7 p.m. Sunday. Randy Jones plays an eclectic variety of music.

**HOLLYWOOD INN**, 2239 Hwy. 70 W., Ruidoso Downs — Live music 7-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights. Monday night football: free food, fun and football.

**IN-ESPRESSO-BLE COFFEE HOUSE**, Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso — Live music at the weekend.

**INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS**, Mescalero Apache Reservation, 257-5141 — Dan Li Ka Dining Room — Piano dinner music 6-10 p.m. every night with Bill McClain Monday and Tuesday, Dave King Wednesday-Sunday. Bill Gross plays vibraharp for Sunday brunch noon-3 p.m. Apache Tee — Holiday entertainment provided by Tomás Vigil, classical guitarist 8-10 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 25 and 8-10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, Dec. 31-Jan. 4.

**INCREIBLE SALOON**, N. Hwy. 48, Alto, 336-4312 — Live music on weekends.

**MARIE LAVEAUX NIGHTCLUB**, 1214 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, 258-3784 — Different rock and roll band every weekend, performing Friday and Saturday nights.

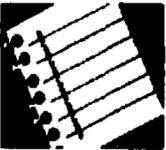
**MESCALERO NIGHTCLUB**, 1 mile north of the Inn of the Mountain Gods, next to Cafe Mescalero, 257-6695 — 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, Snakeboy Johnson Band. \$3 admission. New Year's Eve Mardi Gras Party 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. Features DJ Mike B. Complimentary champagne at midnight. Tickets \$20/person in advance, \$30/person at the door. For information call 257-6693 or 257-6695.

**SCREAMING EAGLE LOUNGE**, Enchantment Inn, Hwy. 70 west, Ruidoso, 378-4051 — 8 p.m.-closing Thursday through Saturday, James Boren Band.

**THE TEXAS HOUSE**, 2811 Sudderth, Ruidoso, 257-3506 — Live music every Friday and Saturday.

**WIN, PLACE & SHOW**, 2516 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso, 257-9982 — Live country music 7 nights a week, 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

**THE WINNER'S CIRCLE**, 2535 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso, 257-9835 — 8 p.m. to close every Thursday - Sunday. DJ, no cover.



## etc!

**FRIENDSHIP HOUR** — 4-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Villa del Rey, 2801 North Kentucky Ave, Roswell. Guests can enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres and special entertainment. After the social hour guests may stay for a light-fare dinner, cost \$4. Reservations for dinner will be accepted until noon on each Friday. For more information or to make reservations call 505-622-1658.

**SANTA FE WINTER ANTIQUITIES SHOW**, The Sweeney Center, corner of Grant and Marcy, Santa Fe — 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, gala opening benefit to support the National Kidney Foundation of NM, admission \$35 per person. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28 and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, more than 100 exhibitors will display for sale Native American, ethnographic, Hispanic, western, folk and devotional arts; antiques, books and vintage photographs. Daily admission \$6, two-day pass \$10; children 16 and under free. For more information call 505-753-2553.

**CHRISTMAS IN CLOUDCROFT**: Bingo — 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at the community center. Snow sculpture — 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, in the park. Snowman building — 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, in the park. Winter carnival — 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31, game and food booths in the park.

**TORCHLIGHT PARADE**, Taos Ski Valley — 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. Caroling precludes the Christmas Eve parade and on New Year's Eve, fireworks light up the sky immediately following the parade. For more information call 505-776-2291; for lodging reservations call 1-800-776-1111.

**FIRST NIGHT ALAMOGORDO '97** — 8:30 p.m.-midnight Tuesday, Dec. 31, at New Mexico State University, Alamogordo campus. A creative, safe, fun evening geared to include all facets of the county to celebrate the new year as a community in an alcohol-free environment. Tickets are \$5 for adults; children 10 and under free. For more information call 505-437-2202.

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TEMPORARY LOCATION** — The Ruidoso Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center has temporarily moved to the north branch of the Ruidoso State Bank, 707 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso. The phone numbers and mailing address remain the same. The Chamber plans to move back into its new facility in May, 1997.

**CASINO APACHE**, Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero Apache Reservation, 257-5141 — slots, live blackjack, and poker tables. Open daily.

**RUIDOSO DOWNS SPORTS THEATER**, half-mile east of race track, off Hwy. 70 on Service Lane, Ruidoso Downs — simulcast racing throughout the week. Call 378-4431 for races and times.



## Clubs & Meetings

**NATURAL FOODS CO-OP MONTHLY ORDER MEETING** — 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30, at the First Christian Church, Hull and Gavilan Canyon roads, Ruidoso. No membership fee. Inexpensive whole foods. For more information call 336-4518 or 257-3418.

**SPACEPORT MODEL ROCKET ASSOCIATION** — 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, at the Hubbard Space Science Education Building, the Space Center, Alamogordo. Persons interested in model rocketry are invited to attend.



## Library

**RUIDOSO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOLIDAY CLOSURES** — The library will be closed Wednesday, Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday. **STORYTIME AT THE RUIDOSO PUBLIC LIBRARY** — 2-3 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. From 10 to 11 a.m. Thursdays, there are puppet shows, songs, dance, nursery rhymes, storytelling, arts and crafts, and creative

drama. For 3- to 6-year-olds, no sign-ups and it's free.



## Movies

**SIERRA CINEMA**, 721 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, 257-9444 — "My Fellow Americans," "Michael," "Beavis & Butthead Do America." Call theater for show times and ratings.



## Museums & Galleries

**EAGLE RANCH ART GALLERY**, 7288 Hwy. 54/70, Alamogordo, 1-800-432-0999 — works of porcelain artist Paula White of Hondo on display throughout December. Artist's reception for next month's artist — 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3. Ruidoso oil painter Charles F. Pearson will have his character studies, landscapes and abstract art on display at the gallery throughout January. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week.

**FISHER GALLERY**, 1620 Central SE, Albuquerque, 505-246-0612 — "The Worlds of Russ Ball." A solo exhibit of Ball's representational watercolor rockscapes and surrealist acrylic paintings are on display through Dec. 28. Gallery hours 1:30-6 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, noon-6 p.m. Saturday.

**MAXWELL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY**, University of New Mexico, off University Avenue north of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, Albuquerque, 505-257-4405 — "Monos de Cochiti: historic clay figurines and their present-day counterparts." This exhibit on display through June 1, 1997.

**MOUNTAIN LEGENDS GALLERY & FOUNDRY**, 610 E. Hwy. 70, Ruidoso Downs, 378-8040 — 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. every Friday — public bronze pouring and tour of the foundry. Call for reservations. Hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

**MUSEUM OF THE HORSE**, Hwy. 70, Ruidoso Downs, 378-4142 — Showing through March 31, "200 years of firearms: rifles, pistols and commemoratives from the collection of C.L. 'Bones' Wright." Also showing through Jan. 12: Fall American Art Show and Sale. Artists from the southern half of New Mexico participate in this juried show and sale. Regular admission. Museum hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily Tuesday - Sunday. Note: the museum will be open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 30. The museum is located just east of Ruidoso Downs Race Track on Highway 70.

**NEW MEXICO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENCE**, 1601 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, 505-841-2828 — FREE ADMISSION during December for residents of Dona Ana, Otero, and Lincoln counties. Admission to "Grand Canyon" in the giant-screen Dynamax Theater is by the regular charge. Museum hours 9 a.m.-5 p.m. every day (except Christmas and non-holiday Mondays in January and September.)

**RAKOCY ART AND HISTORY MUSEUM**, 2805 Sudderth Drive, 257-8377 — 7-9 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday nights, Jan. 29 - March 8, oil and acrylic class. Register now, through ENMU community education program, 709 Mechem, Ruidoso, 257-2120.

**SITE SANTA FE**, 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, (505) 989-1199 — "Contemporary New Mexico artists: sketches and Schemas" curated by Jan Adimann; "Portraits from Pat's downtown club" by Patrick McFarlin. Both shows will be on view through Jan. 11.



## Parks & Recreation

**LAKE LUCERO CARAVAN**, White Sands National Monument, Alamogordo — 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29. Ranger-guided trip to White Sands National Monument's Lake Lucero. Reservations are required. For reservations and more information call 505-479-6124.

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**, 438-7400.

**FUNTRACKERS**, 101 Carrizozo Canyon Road, Ruidoso, 257-3275 — go carts, pro track cars, putt putt golf, and game room.

**FREE LINE DANCING LESSONS** — 10-11:30 a.m. every Monday at the Ruidoso Senior Center, behind the public library at 501 1/2 Junction Road.

**INN OF THE MOUNTAIN GODS ARCADE**, Carrizo Canyon Road, Mescalero Apache Reservation, 257-5141 — Video arcade, pool tables. The Inn also has tennis courts, horseback riding and fishing.

**RANCHO SOSEGADO TROUT FISHING & PICNICS**, 5 Nogal Canyon Road, Bent, 24 miles W. of Ruidoso on Hwy. 70, 671-4580 — Fishing and picnicking.

**RUIDOSO ATHLETIC CLUB**, 415 Wingfield, 257-4900.

**RUIDOSO BOWLING CENTER**, 1202 Mechem Drive, 258-3557 — Saturday nights "Rock 'n Bowl."

**RUIDOSO MUNICIPAL SKATEBOARD PARK**, White Mountain Drive, Ruidoso.

**SMOKEY BEAR RANGER STATION**, Lincoln National Forest, 257-4095.

# Happy 1997!

## What's happening?

Starting Jan. 1, 1997  
a new deadline applies  
for submitting your  
information:

### 5 P.M. TUESDAY

for both Wednesday  
and Friday papers





# Neighbors

*A man? A myth? Or a legend?*

## A conversation with the patron saint of children

By LAURA CLYMER AND PAMELA CROMWELL  
Ruidoso News Staff Writers

'Twas the night before Christmas in my snug double-wide  
Not a critter was stirring, not even outside.  
My furnace was off; it had failed me once more,  
So close to the fireplace I lay down on the floor  
My stocking was hung by the chimney with care  
With no hope that St. Nick soon would there.  
When up on the roof, I heard such a clatter  
I arose from the floor to see what was the matter.  
Midst a dark cloud ashes there came a great thump;  
A man stood there grumbling and brushing his rump.  
I snatched up the poker but the man gave me pause,  
"Laura, don't hit me! It's me, Santa Claus!"

\*\*\*\*\*

I have to say this man didn't resemble the jolly old elf depicted in Dr. Clement Clarke Moore's Christmas story. He was filthy from descending chimneys, and his clothing resembled an outfit I'd seen on a man hitchhiking on Highway 70. His beard was not as full and white as I expected, but a beard it was. And he reeked from smoke, more from the fires he'd landed in I think, than from the pipe between his teeth.

Actually, he resembled a gnarled old sailor more than a saint. I put on my glasses to study him better, and I believed the man before me was either Santa Claus or a cleverly disguised robber.

"What, no cookies and milk?" he asked, his eyes scanning my modest living room.

"Well, I've got a couple of Powerbars and some Powerade," I offered. "Wait a minute, what are you doing here? You claim you're good, ol' Santa Claus, but how can I be sure? After all, I have a keen, analytical mind because of my liberal arts education, and I demand the facts, sir."

He gave me a significant look and scratched his schnoz, or maybe he was just laying his finger aside of his nose, a supposed habit of St. Nick. He settled heavily into my recliner, a wreath of smoke encircling his frost-bitten head, his cheeks rosy from cold and exertion.

"I'll give you the exclusive, because I know you're a reporter of high integrity - that's why I've brought you a 1997 GMC Sonoma extended cab truck (navy blue of

course), a new Rawlings softball glove and a lifetime subscription to Sports Illustrated for Christmas," he said.

"Don't move. Let me get my notepad and camera," I answered.

I sprinted to the kitchen and located the tools of my trade, and what proceeded is the most unusual interview I have ever conducted. I have no way of knowing if the person I spoke with is truly the legendary, saintly gift-giver, or if he was simply a kind, somewhat deluded, chimney sweep. Decide for yourself. You can confirm some of the information he gave me in a reference book called *The Christmas Almanac*, available at the Ruidoso Public Library.

**Q: For the record, what is your real name?**

A: Nicholas. I was born in Asia Minor around A.D. 280. My mother Nonna was quite shocked to find herself pregnant since she was supposed to be barren. I guess you could call me a "miracle" baby. That's part of how I became known as the patron saint of children. Actually, I'm also known as the patron of students, Russia, bankers, sailors, pawnbrokers, vagabonds and thieves - believe it or not.

**Q: How did you become known as Santa Claus?**

A: It's a long story, but here are the basics. My name was changed from Saint Nicholas to a variety of names during the Protestant Reformation. It became unpopular to honor Catholic saints - including me. I've been called Father Christmas by the English, Christkindlein by the Germans, and Pere Noel by the French. But it was the Pennsylvania Dutch, who called me Sinta Claes or Christkindlein, who are responsible for my American names. Popular mispronunciation turned it into Santa Claus or Kris Kringle. Americans, you can't pro-

### in PROFILE



**Saint Nicholas, a.k.a. Santa Claus**

**Age:** Wouldn't reveal  
**Hometown:** Demre, Asia Minor  
**Occupation:** Saint

**Favorite cookie:** Anise cookies  
**What he's reading:** Megatrends for 2000  
**Favorite movie:** Miracle on 34th Street  
**Pet peeve:** Paying worker's compensation for his droves of elves.  
**Motto:** Tread lightly and carry a big sack.  
**What he's going to do when he retires:** Travel the world in his Winnebago with Mrs. Claus.

nounce anything to save your souls, especially those Texans.

For example, Laura, how do you pronounce Ruidoso? It's not Ree-ahh-dosa, is it? I didn't think so! Sorry, I digress.

**Q: What do you do for a living?**

A: First of all, I'm not a toymaker! That's why I employ elves - it's hard for them to get work elsewhere, you know. I began my career as bishop of Myra, which is now Demre in Turkey. I was a bishop and the rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated. It's reported that I died in 343, possibly after all that nasty business when emperor Diocletian was persecuting the Christians.

**Q: I've heard you described as the patron saint of children. How did you get that title?**

A: I've always been considered pretty saintly, ever since I was a baby. I was precocious for my age, and even observed fast days while I was nursing. Then, there was this little boy in Myra and he was kidnapped by pirates from Crete. The child was sold into slavery, the cup bearer for a far-away king. Naturally, the child's parents were despondent. I knew how happy my birth had made my mother. It was only right to return this child to his family.

**Q: How did you do that? Doesn't the myth say he was magically returned to his parents without a drop spilled from the chalice of wine he was about to serve**

the king?

A: Ahhhhh. Well, that's technical. In fact, it's classified. But if you do well with this interview, I might consider going on the record with just exactly how I zip around so quickly from place to place.

**Q: Don't you use turbo-charged reindeer? Or are they really stealth jets with red-nosed lights and a penchant for hay?**

A: Actually I started out riding through Europe on a white horse. Then I needed a wagon because my caseload got heavier. As you can imagine, a horse and wagon are not aerodynamic, so I did a flight-efficiency analysis. I considered geese (too many hunters after them), storks (already had a job) and cheetahs (too high octane for me). I settled on reindeer. I'm sure you're familiar with their agility and gentleness.

**Q: All right, but how did you get them to fly?**

A: That's classified. Let's just say it's something in the North Pole water.

**Q: OK, I'll respect that answer. Why did you start bringing gifts?**

A: You know, Laura, there are a lot of needy people in this world. So many that I can't even get to all of them. But my crusade began with a poor man who had three daughters. He couldn't afford dowries for them, and considered selling them into slavery or prostitution. To spare them, and him,

See Santa Claus, page 4B

# Santa Claus: the man, the myth, the legend

Continued from page 3B

I delivered a bag of gold for each girl as she came of marrying age. I did this secretly in the dead of night, dropping the bags down the chimney. Of course, once you provide a dowry for one poor girl, you have to do this for everyone. And since I was the patron saint of children, it seemed fitting to continue this tradition by specializing in their wishes.

**Q: Is it true that you know when we're sleeping and when we're awake? Do you really have a list of the naughty and nice?**

**A: I really don't know when you're snoozing. Do you think I have time to keep track of such**

things? The naughty and nice list is simply a manipulative strategy developed by parents to control their children. Saints don't operate on threats of retribution. And besides, handling coal is dirty business.

**Q: So you are saying I don't have to be "good" to receive a present from you?**

**A: Honestly, I do give preference to those particularly well-behaved children. There are only so many Tickle Me Elmos to go around. But in general, I believe good begets good. I've had a great deal of success using my saintly skills to reform the wicked. You got something for Christmas, didn't you, and you're a journalist (Ho, Ho, Ho).**

**Q: Santa, you've brought so**

much joy to children everywhere. What could we give you in return?

**A: Accept your gifts as humbly and silently as they were given, and always strive to be good.**

This has been a treat, except the Powerbars do nothing for me. I must be going; night is travelling and I have to catch up with it. Besides, the reindeer get antsy if I'm down the chimney too long.

He bid a hasty retreat, slung his bag over his shoulder, winked at me, and giving a nod up the chimney he rose.

And I heard him exclaim as he rode out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night — and Laura, remember that flying secret is off the record."

## WEDDINGS/ENGAGEMENTS

### Versch, McKinley

Cathy Versch and Gene McKinley, both of Ruidoso, were married at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30 at the First Christian Church in Ruidoso. The Rev. Bill Kennedy officiated.

Mrs. McKinley is the daughter of Nancy and Walt Streit of Downs, Kan., and Dennis and Eddie Mae Versch of Peabody, Kan.

The bride is employed by the Internet Marketing Group as a graphic designer.

Mr. McKinley's father is Don McKinley of South Bend, Ind.

The groom is employed as a system engineer with Lincoln Cablevision.

The bride, who wore her grandmother's 65-year-old taffeta dress, was given in marriage by her son, Billy Eisenhower Smith.

Maid of honor was Tammie Hoffer of Ruidoso.

Best Man was Carmen Martignetti of San Jose, Calif.

The flower girl was Marissa McKinley, the groom's daughter.

Ushers were Gordon Tucker of San Jose, Calif., and James Morgan of Wichita Falls, Texas.



Cathy and Gene McKinley

The reception was held at Cree Meadows Country Club.

The couple then honeymooned at Grand Cayman in the British West Indies.

The McKinleys will make their home in Ruidoso.

### Ruidoso Rotary Club announces election of new board directors

The Ruidoso Rotary Club elected a new board of directors at its Dec. 9 meeting. They take office Jan. 7.

The officers are President Richard Hawthorne, vice presidents Jace Ensor and Lynn Willard, Sergeant at Arms Jerry Kennedy, and interim Treasurer David Wiberg.

## SERVICE NOTES

### Zepeda promoted

Marine Lance Cpl. Jose A. Zepeda, son of Trinidad G. and Eva G. Zepeda of Ruidoso, recently was promoted to his present rank while serving at Naval Technical Training Center Corry Station, Pensacola, Fla.

Zepeda was promoted based on sustained superior job performance and proficiency in his designated specialty.

The 1990 graduate of Liberal High School of Liberal, Kan., joined the Marine Corps in December 1995.

### Womack, Brazell on duty in South Korea

Air Force Staff Sgt. Ronald R. Womack has arrived for duty at Osan Air Base, Songton, South Korea. Womack, an accounts payable/reimbursement manager, is the grandson of Robert L. Chambers of Ruidoso. The sergeant is a 1993 graduate of Colorado City High School, Texas.

Air Force Airman 1st Class Ricky L. Brazell has arrived for duty at Kunsan Air Base, Kunsan City, South Korea. Brazell, a law enforcement patrolman, is the son of Bennie Brazell of Ruidoso.

### Snow returns

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Tracy J. Snow, son of James W. Snow of Ruidoso, recently returned from a six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf and western Pacific and Indian oceans while serving with Carrier.

The 1987 graduate of Summit High School of Frisco, Colo., joined the Navy in February, 1988.

## LINCOLN COUNTY SCRAPBOOK

A glimpse into Lincoln County's past, compiled from local newspapers by Polly E. Chavez.

### Ruidoso News December 27, 1946

From the Palo Verde news correspondent— Mr. and Mrs. Claude Eckert went to Roswell Friday on business... Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ashby and family of Alamogordo visited Sunday afternoon with Jerry McCannies of Coltharp's Leather Shop... Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pryor from Vaughn visited this weekend in the Pat McMillion home... Mrs. Dave Hester of

Turner's Tavern left Saturday night for Clovis to spend Christmas with her family... The children of Palo Verde enjoyed a visit from Santa Claus Sunday night at the First Baptist Church... Mr. and Mrs. Jack Witherspoon's two sons Mickey and Johnny went with their grandmother Mrs. Jackson to Lubbock last weekend.

(Lincoln County Scrapbook in 1997 will kick off the year with a 1947 event that made the headlines: U.S. Postal Authorities Name Palo Verde "Green Tree"— Village Folk Unhappy Over Washington's Action on Postoffice.)

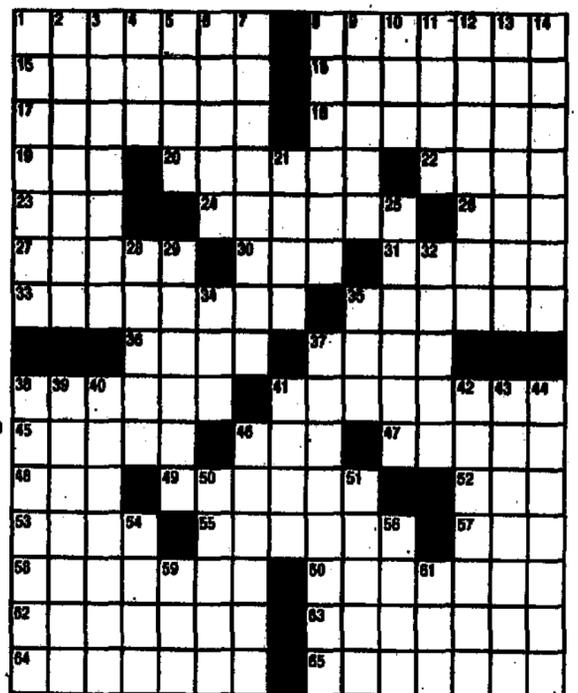
## NY TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0511

### ACROSS

- 1 Former world leader
- 8 1-Across's successor
- 15 Pastoral piece
- 16 One who might deck you
- 17 Aristotle tome
- 18 Stocking warmer?
- 19 Blvd.
- 20 Jewish village
- 22 Having a bouquet, maybe
- 23 Roughly forever
- 24 Boners
- 26 — Verde (Texas county)
- 27 Prowler
- 30 Kind of cream
- 31 Writer Hite
- 33 Gametes
- 35 Lightheaded ones?
- 36 Cars once built in Lansing
- 37 Will of "The Waltons"
- 38 1864 Mississippi battle site
- 41 Drinks since 1929
- 45 Evening soap actress Christine —
- 46 Cries at fireworks
- 47 Castigatory
- 48 Spoil
- 49 Reader's Digest co-founder Wallace
- 52 One of the Khans
- 53 Surveyor's work
- 55 Cincinnati university
- 57 Cyst
- 58 Acting as guardian
- 60 Tailed
- 62 Beryl variety
- 63 Distributes by plan
- 64 Autocrats
- 65 Rent payers



Puzzle by Dean Niles

- 2 Transition zone between plant communities
- 3 Cold comfort?
- 4 Auction parcel
- 5 Auspices
- 6 Collar lace
- 7 Small falcons
- 8 Jenn-Air maker
- 9 Full-size
- 10 Cambodia's Lon —
- 11 Selected
- 12 Rejuvenate
- 13 "Fifty-two Pickup" crime novelist
- 14 Some socks
- 21 One foot-pound = 13,560,000
- 25 Out
- 28 Landed property
- 29 Capsized, with "over"
- 32 Marilyn of the Met
- 34 Game with forfeits
- 35 Part of a restaurant bill: Abbr.
- 37 Of bodily motion
- 38 Was attracted
- 39 Poe poem
- 40 "Peter Pan" extras
- 41 Switchblade
- 42 Ignorant
- 43 Range of colors
- 44 Wile
- 48 Stars and bars
- 50 Acclaim
- 51 Razz
- 54 Maryland player, for short
- 56 Director Meyer
- 59 Doctor of film
- 61 Windows platform

### ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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ABIT WHITEHOUSE
TITO EURODISNEY
OLAN THERETHERE
NOLESS LEN AVES
EXIST SASSY ENO
SIC HAUNT ULNAR
DELED GOLDE
TCCELLS INOUYE
CHASE TRESS
LENIN PROWL CIA
AMT ASHEN AMONG
REEL HAS SVELTE
IDEALISTIC NOUN
CINDERELLA AUNT
EASYSTREET TRES
    
```

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: (800) 762-1665.



# Going out

EYE  
ON THE ARTS

## Eagle Ranch features local oil painter

Charles F. Pearson, an award-winning oil painter from Ruidoso, is the featured artist at the Eagle Ranch Art Gallery near Alamogordo throughout the month of January.

A reception for the artist will be held at the gallery at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 3.

Born in Oklahoma, Pearson spent his early youth in Florida, where he attended Florida Southern College and the University of Florida. He later graduated from the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts.

Pearson's personal background spans two distinctive careers; one in national advertising and marketing, and the other in producing commissioned pen and ink illustrations of commercial and client-designated subjects.

Today, Pearson's wide range of unique oil paintings clearly illustrates a finely tuned appreciation of calculated composition with detailed form and realistic texture and value, Eagle Ranch Gallery owners said. He achieves maximum depth and realism. He is well-known for his intense character studies, colorful and luminous landscapes, bold abstracts and familiar scenes of the Southwest. Pearson's work commands immediate attention and popular appeal, gallery owners said.

The gallery is located at 7288 Highway 54/70 between Tularosa and Alamogordo. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

## Alamogordo celebrates New Year's Eve without alcohol

"First Night Alamogordo '97" is a non-alcoholic family New Year's Eve celebration with the Arts of Otero County from 6:30 p.m. to midnight Tuesday, Dec. 31 at the New Mexico State University-Alamogordo Campus.

The evening will feature warming fires, food booths, mimes and clowns. Ten different performance sites include the Rohovec and the Special Events Center. The performances at each performance site will change every 30 minutes, allowing the audience to go from site to site. There will be an outdoor venue for a teen dance and a "Kids Pavilion." Artists will include the Alamogordo High School Orchestra, barbershop chorus, belly dancers, Senior Citizen Line Dancers, storytellers, jazz

bands, singers, actors, Tularosa Ballet Dancers, theater groups, and a martial arts demonstration. Entertainment will culminate in a midnight extravaganza in the NMSU-A new Special Events Center.

To help create the party effect, large barrels are filled partially with sand and placed in different areas making warming fires. A specified group of people will keep the fires going all through the night and make sure nobody gets hurt.

This year several Alamogordo organizations are participating in First Night by setting up food booths in the campus area. A wide variety of food will be available including frito pie, green chili stew, cornbread, pizza, hot links, hot dogs, nachos, hot apple cider,

hot chocolate, coffee, cappuccino and espresso.

The goal of "First Night Alamogordo '97" is to create a safe haven for high risk youth, keep the streets safer, and revitalize the community spirit so prevalent in years gone by.

First Night buttons (tickets) are available at the Squash Blossom, Alamogordo Chamber, Cloudcroft Chamber, Horse Feathers in Tularosa, area banks, credit unions, savings and loans, Flickinger Center and at First Night. Buttons are \$5 for adults, and children (10 and under) are admitted free. This button will get you into all the performance sites to enjoy the variety of talent.

For more information, call 437-2202.

## Carrizozo carolling



Polly Chavez/Ruidoso News

The Carrizozo Community Choir performs Christmas Canticles under the direction of Phyllis Schlegel at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Carrizozo Dec. 15. The choir was incorrectly identified in the last issue of The Ruidoso News.

## Second half of concert series slated

Mark your calendars now for the final two performances of the Ruidoso Community Concert Association this season.

The Monumental Brass comes to town Feb. 28 with a broad range of music. The season's finale will be with the Moscow Balalaikas, featuring Soviet classics on folk instruments. All programs will be at the First Christian Church, in Ruidoso.

For ticket information, write to RCCA, P.O. Box 1184, Ruidoso 88345; or call 257-9884 or 257-4088 for information.

When you attend the Ruidoso Community Concert Association shows this season, you'll be participating in a national program dating back to 1929. Community Concerts organized 67 years ago with the intent to bring first-rate musical entertainment to the nation's smaller communities.

Today, approximately 600 towns across the USA belong to the organization. This extensive network means top-flight artists can commit to tours that would otherwise not be financially feasible, explains RCCA President Jerry Mattox.

This season, membership in the Ruidoso Community Concert Association costs \$35 per adult for four shows. This low price is attributable in no small part to patrons — both private individuals and businesses — who help underwrite expenses, Mattox said.

In addition, the Ruidoso Association is on a reciprocity list with eight other associations in New Mexico and two in Texas. This enables Ruidoso members to attend programs in other towns at no additional charge. It's the best entertainment deal one is likely to find these days, Mattox said.

Let us know what's going on, submit entertainment news to The Ruidoso News.

Coming soon to a newspaper near you..

CHRONOLOGICALS '97

&

Salute to

Working Women

Luncheon & Style Show

Call The Ruidoso News for more details.  
257-4001



V.M.W.N.I.S.

# Church calendar

## ASSEMBLY OF GOD

### Apache Indian Assembly of God

Mescalero  
Donald Petney, pastor  
Telephone: 671-4747  
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-10:45 a.m. 7 p.m.  
Wednesday services-7 p.m.  
**First Assembly of God**  
El Paso Road, Ruidoso  
Rev. Bill Leonard, Pastor  
Sunday School-9:30 a.m.  
Sunday morning worship-10:45 a.m.  
(includes children's church)  
Sunday evening praise-6 p.m.  
Wednesday family night-7 p.m.

## BAPTIST

### First Baptist Church

Carrizozo  
Hayden Smith, Pastor  
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-11 a.m., 7:15 p.m.  
Church training-6:30 p.m. Sunday

### First Baptist Church

Ruidoso  
420 Mechem Drive  
D. Allen Cearley, Pastor  
Sunday School-9:30 a.m.  
Sunday worship-10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday services-7 p.m.

### First Baptist Church

Ruidoso Downs  
David Jordan, Pastor  
General Assembly-9:30 a.m.  
Worship hour-11 a.m.  
Sunday School-9:30 a.m.  
Evening worship-6 p.m.  
Wednesday prayer meeting-7 p.m.

### First Baptist Church

Tinnie  
Bill Jones, Pastor  
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-11 a.m.

### Iglesia Bautista Vida Eterna

420 Mechem Drive  
Luis F. Gomez, Pastor

Domingos: Escuela Dominical 10 a.m.  
Culto de Predicacion, 11 a.m.  
Culto de Predicacion 6 p.m.  
Miercoles: Estudio Biblico 7 p.m.

### Mescalero Baptist Mission

Mescalero  
Rev. Tim Gilliland, Pastor  
Sunday School-10 a.m.  
Sunday worship-11 a.m., 7:15 p.m.  
Training Union-6:30 p.m. Sunday  
Wednesday services-6:30 p.m.

### Ruidoso Baptist Church

126 Church Drive  
Palmer Gateway  
Wayne Joyce, Pastor  
Randel Widener, Associate Pastor  
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible study-7 p.m.

### Trinity Southern Baptist Church

Capitan (south on Highway 48)  
Floyd Goodloe, Pastor  
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship-11 a.m.  
AWANA Wed-6:30 p.m.  
For information, call 354-3119

## BAHA'I FAITH

### Baha'i Faith

Meeting in members' homes.  
For information, call 257-3987 or 336-7739.

## CATHOLIC

### St. Eleanor Catholic Church

Ruidoso 257-2330  
Reverend Richard Catanach  
Sacrament of Penance-Sat. 4:30 p.m.  
or by appointment.  
Saturday Mass-6:00 p.m.  
Sunday Mass-10 a.m. (English)  
11:30 a.m. (Bilingual)  
Sacrament of Reconciliation:  
Saturday-4:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass-St. Jude Thaddeus,  
San Patricio-8 a.m.  
Women's Guild-7 p.m. (3rd Monday)  
Knights of Columbus-7 p.m.  
2nd and 4th Tuesday.

### Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Capitan 354-9102  
Saturday Mass-5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass-9 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study Monday-6 p.m.  
Santa Rita Catholic Church  
Carrizozo 648-2853  
Father Dave Bergs, Pastor.  
Saturday Mass-6:30 p.m.  
Sunday Mass-11 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study Tuesday-6 p.m.

### St. Theresa Catholic Church

Corona  
Sunday Mass-6 p.m.

### St. Joseph Apache Mission

Mescalero  
Father Tom Herbst, Pastor  
Sunday Mass-10:30 a.m.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

Bent  
Father Tom Herbst, Pastor  
Saturday Mass-6 p.m.  
Sunday Mass-8 a.m.

## CHRISTIAN

### First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)  
Hull and Gavilan Canyon Road  
Bill Kennedy, Pastor  
Sunday School-K-12/Adult-9:30 a.m.  
Regular Sunday Worship-10:45 a.m.  
Chancel Choir-Wednesday 7 p.m.  
Youth Group-Sunday 6 p.m.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Church of Christ

Capitan  
Highway 48  
Les Earwood, Minister  
Sunday Bible study-10 a.m.  
Sunday worship-11 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible study-7 p.m.

## CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER DAY SAINTS

### Church of Jesus Christ LDS

Ruidoso Branch  
12 miles north of Ruidoso  
on Highway 48 on east side  
between mile posts 14 and 15.  
336-4359 or 257-9691  
Sacrament meeting-10 a.m.  
Sunday School-11:10 a.m.  
Priesthood Relief Society-12:10 p.m.  
Primary & Young Women-11:10 a.m.

### Church of Jesus Christ LDS

Mescalero Branch  
Marvin Hansen, President  
434-4998  
Sunday: Priesthood & Relief Soc. 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & primary-noon  
Sacrament meeting-10:30 a.m.

## EPISCOPAL

### Episcopal Church of the Holy Mount

121 Mescalero Trail, Ruidoso  
Father John W. Penn, Rector  
Sunday Eucharist-8 & 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday: Daughters of King-noon  
Eucharist & healing-5:30 p.m.  
Choir practice-7 p.m.

### Episcopal Chapel of San Juan

Lincoln  
Sunday: Holy Eucharist-10:30 a.m.

### St. Anne's Episcopal Chapel

Glencoe  
Sunday: Holy Eucharist-9 a.m.

### St. Matthias Episcopal Chapel

Carrizozo, 8th & E Street  
Sunday: Holy Eucharist-9:30 a.m.

## FOURSQUARE

### Capitan Foursquare Church

Highway 48, Capitan  
Harold W. Perry, Pastor  
Sunday School-10 a.m.  
Sunday worship-11 a.m., 7 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible study-7 p.m.

## FULL GOSPEL

### Mission Fountain of Living

Water Full Gospel  
San Patricio  
Sunday School-10 a.m.  
Evening services-7:30 p.m. Sunday,  
Tuesday and Friday.

### The Potter's House Christian Fellowship Church Full Gospel

New Testament Church  
441 Sudderth Drive 378-4608  
(behind Gateway Exxon)  
Pastor Jesse Arreola  
Sunday-10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Service-7 p.m.  
Nursery provided, everyone welcome

## JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

### Ruidoso - Kingdom Hall

106 Alpine Village Road, Highway 48  
258-3659, 257-7715  
Sunday public talk-10 a.m.  
Sunday Watchtower-10:50 a.m.  
Tuesday Bible study-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday ministry school-7:30 p.m.  
Thursday service meet-8:20 p.m.

### Congregacion Hispana de los Testigos de Jehova

Alpine Village Road, Highway 48  
258-3659, 336-7076  
Reunion publica Dom.-1:30 p.m.  
Estudio de la Atalaya Dom.-2:20 p.m.  
Estudio de libro Lun.-7 p.m.  
Escuela del ministerio teocratico  
Mier.-7 p.m.  
Reunion de servicio Mier.-7:50 p.m.

## LUTHERAN

### Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Hull Road  
258-4191, 257-5296  
Kevin L. Krohn, Pastor  
Sunday worship-8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class-9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday: Noon-1 p.m. Bible Study  
A member of the Missouri Synod

## METHODIST

### Community United Methodist Church

Junction Road  
Behind Daylight Donuts  
Craig Cockrell, Pastor  
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-8:30 a.m., 10:55 a.m.

### United Methodist Church Parish

Trinity Carrizozo/Capitan  
648-2893, 257-5614  
Warren K. Schoenecker Pastor,  
Capitan/Carrizozo

Carrizozo  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday worship 11:10 a.m.  
Wednesday choir-6:30 p.m.

Capitan  
Sunday worship-9:15 a.m.  
Adult Sunday School-8:30 a.m. 2nd  
Sunday School 11 a.m.

## PENTECOSTAL

### Spirit of Life Apostolic/Pentecostal Tabernacle

Capitan, Lincoln Ave.  
(2/10 mile past fairgrounds heading  
toward the business district)  
257-6864

Allan M. Miller-Pastor  
Bible Study-7 p.m. Tuesday  
Sunday School-10 a.m. Sunday  
Sunday Evening Services-6 p.m.  
Ladies fellowship-6 p.m. last Thursdays

## NAZARENE

### Angus Church of the Nazarene

Angus  
at Bonito Park Nazarene Conference Center  
12 miles north of Ruidoso  
on Highway 48  
Charles Hall, Pastor  
336-8032

Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday fellowship-6:30 p.m.

## PRESBYTERIAN

### First Presbyterian Church

Ruidoso, Nob Hill  
257-2220  
James Hovland, Pastor  
Church school-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-11 a.m.  
Potluck fellowship lunch after worship the  
third Sunday; women's Bible study & brown  
bag lunch at noon the second Tuesday.

### Mountain Ministry Parish

Community United Presbyterian Church  
Ancho  
Sunday worship-9 a.m.  
Sunday School-10 a.m.

### Corona Presbyterian Church

Worship-11 a.m.

### Nogal Presbyterian Church

Adult Sunday School-10 a.m.  
Worship-11 a.m.

## REFORMED CHURCH

### Mescalero Reformed

Mescalero  
Bob Schol, Pastor  
Church school-9:30 a.m.  
Sunday worship-10:30 a.m.

Mon. Junior high youth-6:30 p.m.  
Wed. high school meeting-7 p.m.  
Thur. Kids Club (grades 1-5)-3:30

## SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

### Seventh Day Adventist

Ruidoso Downs, Agua Fria  
207 Parkway • 378-4161  
Pastor Rick Lytle 443-1904  
Assoc. Pastor Wilburn Morrow 622-1206  
Sabbath school-9:30 a.m.  
Church service-11 a.m.  
Prayer meeting Wednesday-7 p.m.

## NON-DENOMINATIONAL

### American Missionary Fellowship

Gregg Horst  
354-2307

Ruidoso men's Bible study-noon, Monday,  
Pizza Hut, Mechem Drive  
Capitan youth group-7 p.m. Wednesday at the  
fair building  
Women's Bible Study-6:30 Mondays  
Adult Bible Study-6:30 p.m. Thursdays

### Calvary Chapel

433 Gateway Center  
Pastor Ben Slaboda  
257-5915

11 a.m. Sunday Worship  
7 p.m. Wednesday, Mid-Week Bible Study  
& Kids' Adventure Club

### Christ Community Fellowship

Capitan, Highway 380 West  
Ed Vinson, Pastor  
354-2458  
Sunday School-9:45 a.m.  
Sunday worship-10:30 a.m.

### Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone Square,  
613 Sudderth Drive  
257-9265  
B.A. Thurman, Pastor  
Sunday services 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wednesday-7 p.m.

### Living Word Church

441 Mechem, 257-3470  
Pastors: Terry and Suzanne Lewis  
Renewal services:  
Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.  
Wednesday noon - intercessory prayer  
7 p.m. - mid-week services

### Peace Chapel Interdenominational (ULC)

Alto North  
Jeamsie Price, Pastor  
336-7075  
Service Schedule:  
Morning chapel - 6:50 a.m. (Sept. thru June)  
Sunday Service - 11 a.m.

### Ruidoso Word Church

Ruidoso Downs  
Al and Marty Lane, Pastors  
378-8464  
Children's Ministries-9:30 a.m.  
Sunday worship-10:45 a.m.  
Thursday services-7 p.m.

### Trinity Mountain Fellowship

Gavilan Canyon Road  
336-4213  
Sunday Worship  
9-9:30 a.m. Prayer  
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30-12 Noon Service  
For our weekly schedule call  
378-8391.

Please mail corrections to:

The Ruidoso News, P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88345 or fax them to 257-7053

# Wyatt takes revenge

(This the last of a five-part series about the Earp brothers in Tombstone, Arizona Territory.)

No one will ever know exactly what happened to Frank Stilwell on the night of March 20, 1882 in the Tucson railroad yard. Wyatt Earp spoke of the incident many years later and told a fairly interesting story of Stilwell's last few moments on the planet.

PAST TENSE



Drawn by Gomer Ruidoso News

Seeing Stilwell, one of the suspected killers of Morgan Earp, lurking in the Tucson railroad yard, Wyatt and his special "posse" jumped from the train and took up the pursuit.

Now, it should be remembered that this "posse" of Wyatt's was hardly conventional. It consisted entirely of Wyatt and Doc Holliday's gambling cronies — most of whom were also noted gunmen of the time. On the whole, they remain shadowy figures to this day. There was "Turkey Creek" Jack Johnson, "Texas" Jack Vermillion, Sherman McMasters and Wyatt's youngest brother, Warren. With the exception of Warren, all of these men would disappear into the mists of history after their Arizona adventure with Wyatt and Doc.

At any rate, they caught up with the hapless Stilwell that night. If Frank had any accomplices — and it's a pretty good bet that he did — they wisely disappeared into the darkness when Wyatt and his men made their appearance.

**"One for Morg"**

It was about 7 p.m. when Wyatt caught up with Stilwell about 20 yards in front of the railroad engine. Wyatt must have surprised Stilwell, because they were very close to one another — close enough for Stilwell to grab the twin barrels of Wyatt's shotgun and try to redirect it. Wyatt's resolve was greater. As the two men struggled, he gradually forced the right barrel into a position just underneath Stilwell's heart. At this point, his eyes wide with fear, Stilwell peered into Wyatt's face. "Morg!" he blurted out. Then he said it again.

**"One for Morg"**

The Earp brothers looked enough alike that they were always being confused with one another. Is it possible that in the last few moments of Frank Stilwell's life, he thought he was being attacked by a ghost?

We will never know, because at that moment Wyatt pulled the trigger. Then he triggered the shotgun's other barrel. Then he and his cohorts proceeded to empty their sidearms into John Behan's late, unlamented deputy. Witnesses heard cheering coming from the railroad yard that night.

Then Wyatt ran back to the train, which was departing. Running alongside the window that his brother Virgil was peering out of, Wyatt held up his index finger. "One for Morg, Virgil!" he shouted. Virgil Earp nodded grimly as the train disappeared into the Arizona night.

The next day George Parsons, Tombstone's indefatigable diarist, noted that "Tonight came news of Frank Stilwell's body being found riddled with bullets and buckshot. A quick vengeance and a bad character sent to Hell where he will be the chief attraction until a few more accompany him."

And it wasn't very long at all until Stilwell had the predicted company in hell.

Two days later, at about 11 a.m., on March 22, 1882, Wyatt and his men rode into the wood camp of Pet Spencer on the south pass of the Dragoon Mountains.

**Spence escapes**

Spencer, or "Spence" as he was commonly known, was another suspect in the death of Morgan, which, in the eyes of Wyatt Earp, made him a walking dead man. Wyatt didn't think of the warrants in his pocket as warrants, he thought of them as hunting licenses. (Note: Wyatt never did catch up with Spence, but Pete got the message. In order to escape Wyatt's vengeance, Spence turned himself into Yuma Prison for a crime he didn't even commit!)

Spence was not around the wood camp, but another of the suspects in Morgan's death was — Florentino Cruz, or "Indian Charlie," the name by which most people knew him.

Cruz, seeing Earp, Holliday and the others, immediately took flight. The members of the Earp posse were the only witnesses to Cruz' death moments later, and the only one to ever speak of it was Wyatt himself, many years later.

Reminiscing in the 1920s, Wyatt told a tale of how he had given the half-breed a chance to draw his weapon. As historian Bob Boze Bell has noted, Wyatt probably didn't give him anything but a "lead facial."

In any case, Cruz' body was found the next day, as riddled as Stilwell's.

The very next day, the Earp party was involved in yet another gun battle, this one nearly as controversial as the one that took place near the O.K. Corral.

**Another cowboy leader dies**

As Wyatt and his men approached a place called Iron Springs, they were not expecting any trouble. Wyatt, who was well ahead of the rest of his men, had loosened his gunbelt.

About 50 feet from the springs, something — probably intuition — brought Wyatt up short. Swinging out of the saddle, he began to walk forward, holding his horse's reins in his left hand and a double-barreled shotgun in his right.

Only two of his men were anywhere near Wyatt Earp — Texas Jack Vermillion and Sherman McMasters. Doc Holliday and Jack Johnson were still further back, and Warren Earp had been left some miles to the rear, awaiting a message from town.

After taking a few steps, a campsite came into Wyatt's view. Near it was a line shack.

Loitering in front of the campfire were two men, Pony Diehl and Curly Bill Brocius. When they saw Earp, both men leapt to their feet. Diehl broke for the woods nearby, but Curly Bill decided to make a stand, going for his gun. At the same time, another group of men bolted from the line shack, also heading for the woods. But Wyatt's eyes were glued to Curly Bill.

Pulling both triggers on the shotgun, Wyatt caught Curly Bill squarely in the midsection, all but cutting him in half.

Simultaneously, the other cowboys opened up with their pistols from the timber. Virtually all of Wyatt's men, caught by surprise, turned and headed for cover, leaving their leader standing in the open.

At this point, when Wyatt attempted to hurriedly remount his horse, his loosened gunbelt



For those of you interested in the supernatural  
This picture (right) taken during the 1920s shows former Tombstone deputy Billy Breckenridge sitting among the cluster of oaks where Johnny Ringo's body was found in 1882. Notice the face that appears to be floating in the tree above Breckenridge. It bears an eerie resemblance to Ringo (inset).

slid down almost to his knees, effectively (and somewhat comically) preventing him from getting back into the saddle. Bullets flew everywhere, but Earp, who seemed to lead a charmed life as far as bullets were concerned, was untouched. There were bullet holes in his pants and his coat, and his saddle horn was shot off just inches from his nose as he attempted to remount.

Firing with one hand, while frantically attempting to adjust his gunbelt with the other hand, Earp was in a decidedly touchy position. But another of his bullets found its mark and Johnny Barnes fell dead in the trees.

Finally, Wyatt made it to safety where he rather coldly received the apologies of his men, all of whom were acutely embarrassed by their headlong flight from the field of battle.

The cowboys retreated with their dead, buried them in secret, and then announced that the battle had never taken place and that Earp had made it all up.

Much to the consternation of Wyatt Earp, many believed them, both then and now. But the plain fact is that neither Curly Bill nor Johnny Barnes was ever seen again.

**The mystery of John Ringo**

This left only one true leader among the cowboys: John Peters Ringo, and his death is also hotly debated to this day.

On July 13, 1882, several months after the Earp posse had left Arizona, Johnny Ringo was found dead.

Ringo was found in a sitting position in the center of five large blackjack oaks growing up in a semi-circle from one root. A bullet had found its way through his head, entering at the right temple. At the time, Ringo's death was considered to be a suicide, but there were discrepancies with that theory that many found hard to ignore.

For one thing, there were no powder burns on Ringo's temple. Had he done the deed himself, there would have had to be powder burns. But his gun was found in his right hand, with one round discharged, and Ringo was known by one and all to be of a suicidal bent.

His horse was found some miles away with Ringo's boots looped over the saddle horn. An undershirt was tied around his feet, torn into strips. He had not walked very far like this, as the damage to his feet was minimal. No one was ever able to explain this.

And then, perhaps most damning of all to the suicide theory, was the fact that Ringo's gunbelt was on upside down. Clearly someone else had put it on him.

The place where his body was found did not appear to be the same place where he met his death. Is it possible that Wyatt Earp had come back to Arizona (available records indicate that he could have), and, not wishing to hear claims that Ringo, like Curly Bill, had not been killed, he dragged the body to a place where he knew it would be found?

The cluster of oaks where Ringo was found was right next to a well-traveled road.

It was over. Wyatt Earp went on to a controversial (what else?) career as a gambler and promoter, dying of cancer in Los Angeles in 1929.

Doc Holliday finally succumbed to tuberculosis in Glenwood Springs, Colo., in 1887.

Virgil Earp died of pneumonia in Goldfield, Nev., in 1905.

Warren Earp, who never really got in on the Tombstone ruckus as much as he would have liked, was killed in Willcox, Ariz., in a bar-room brawl in 1900. His death has never been linked to the troubles in Tombstone.

And what of Ike Clanton, the man whose big mouth precipitated the violence that began on Oct. 26, 1881? Ike was killed by a correspondence school detective in 1887 as he was attempting to rustle some cattle. True to form, Ike was running away at the time of his death.

# Dining Out

An Advertising Feature

## Casa del Cocinero is more than a meal, it's a culinary experience

Dishes garnished with the special flair of Chef Cooper Barnett and served in the 20-seat dining room of Casa del Cocinero transform a meal into a culinary experience.

The bed and breakfast on State Road 48/State Highway 37 north of Ruidoso (just south of Angus Hill) serves dinner guests on Fridays and Saturdays by reservation.

Barnett plans a special presentation for Saturday, Dec. 28. The owners of Tularosa Vineyards will bring a selection of six of their wines, one to be served with each course. Reservations are required. The cost is \$60 per person.

The menu will feature pepper-charred Ahi tenderloin with chile and cumin mayonnaise, Jicama, shrimp and chorizo chowder, lobster fritters with black bean and mango relish, endive and green chile salad with avocado and salsa vinaigrette, towers of tri-flavored mousse with fresh fruit coulis, and a choice of pancooked shrimp with two tomato and green pepper con-casse or cold smoked beef tenderloin with chipotle raspberry glaze

de viande.

Barnett and his wife, Debbie, bought the former Scandia Bed and Breakfast after seeing it for sale while on vacation in April.

They converted a sitting room into an intimate dining room in what Barnett describes as "light and airy eclectic Southwestern" decor with sponged walls, hand-painted decorative borders and richly-colored chairs.

Barnett was born in Carrizozo and his family was from Ancho, but he gained his culinary training in Jacksonville and Bradenton, Fla.

A three-year apprenticeship with the American Culinary Federation led to work in the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club, one of the top 10 resorts in the county.

From there, he became executive chef at Gio's Cafe in Ponte Vedra, where he won two Golden Spoon awards.

Last August, he was executive chef for the opening of Legends in Jacksonville, named one of the top 20 new restaurants in Florida.

Buying a bed and breakfast

appealed to Barnett, because has stayed in many while traveling.

"You can sit and eat with other guests, who usually are well traveled and well educated and interesting," Barnett said.

His style in the kitchen fuses many cultural flavors in light, but tasteful dishes - "nothing heavy, although I was trained in the classical French style," Barnett said.

The menu is designed ahead of time for each evening, giving guests a choice of two entrees, but a fixed selection of appetizers, soups, salads, desserts and other courses.

"I serve five- to six-course meals and the entire meal is a two- to three-hour process," Barnett said. "My wife and I bring out the food and explain each dish and what goes into its preparation."

Prices range from \$30 to \$40 per person and often, the meals will follow a theme. Only one sitting per evening is scheduled at 8 p.m.

Barnett also rents the dining room for private parties and caters. Call (505) 336-7815 for reservations.



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Chef Cooper Barnett stands at the top of the stairs to the sunny dining room of Casa del Cocinero



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