



NEWSGUIDE

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Hit a mental mogul with Spalding Gray

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Coming together to set goals and to solve problems

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April 15 and the IRS are coming - are you ready?

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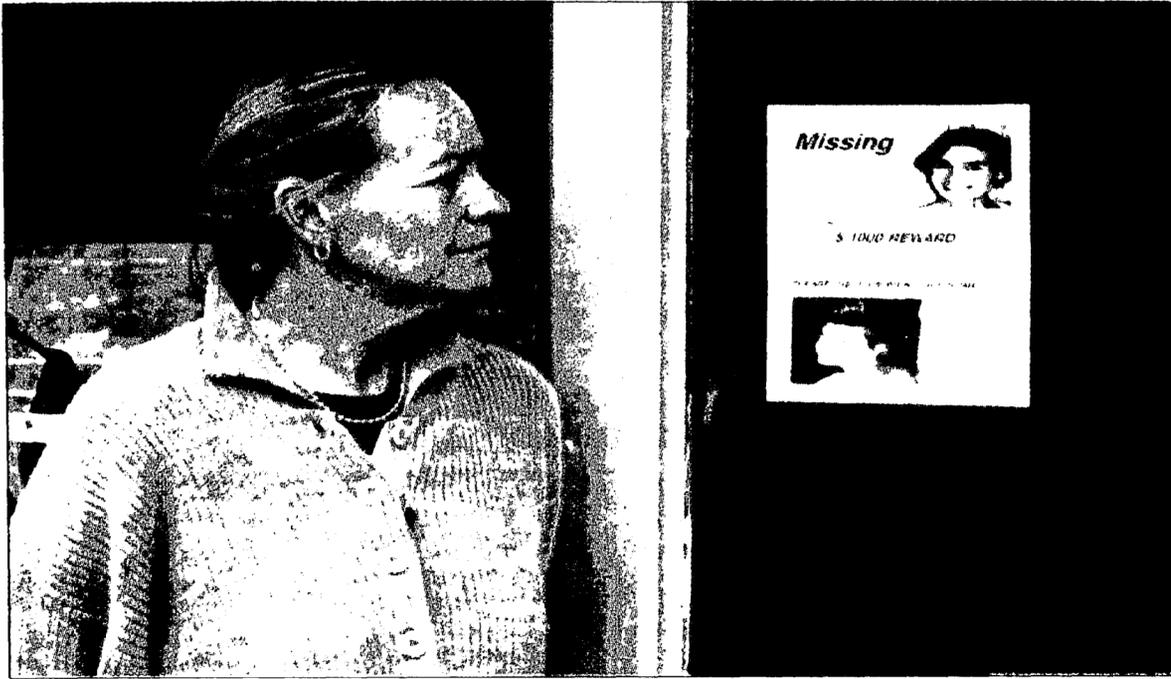
Partly cloudy with showers on Sunday.

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Trying to keep the hope alive

A mother's fear for her daughter



BY ELAINE HOBBS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Since Elizabeth Ballard/Lankhorst disappeared on the night of March 8 her mother, Sharon Ashley, and Bette Dennison, her grandmother, have done little but fear for the 27-year-old woman's life.

Ashley described her daughter as "a very caring, giving person who thought it was her job to save people."

She worked full time at the Ruidoso Care Center and part time at Tender Tots Day Care as well as being a student at Eastern New Mexico University.

"She was very artistic. She liked to do batik, sculpting, drawing, beadwork," said Ashley. "She was doing very well in school, too, until her last relationship started."

Ashley moved to Ruidoso three years ago from Montana, and her daughter moved in with her two years ago. About January of 1997 her daughter started a relationship that Ashley described as "stormy from the beginning."

She said Ballard/Lankhorst's son was always Ashley's man, and later the boy expressed fears for his mother's life.

He now lives with Ballard/Lankhorst's estranged husband in another state.

See DAUGHTER, page 7A

Sharon Ashley, the mother of Elizabeth Ballard/Lankhorst, stands by a notice regarding the disappearance of her daughter. Ballard has been missing since March 8 and the Ruidoso Police Department has been scouring the area for clues and information that might lead to her recovery. Ashley and her own mother, Bette Dennison, say they keep hoping that all will be well but add that they can't help but fear the worst.

► REGION

Straw house becomes dream home for couple



BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

An imposing 6,000-square-foot home and stables with sturdy stucco walls dominates a plateau east of Nogal.

By the time construction is finished, other than near neighbors, few will have the slightest clue that the house is built with straw.

But unlike the popular children's tale, owners Scott and Mellyn Wells aren't worried about New Mexico's wind huffing and puffing and blowing this house down. It's every bit as tough as a conventional home, offers an insulation factor nearly three times as high and creates a natural barrier for sound.

The straw is hauled by semi-truck from Colorado already baled in blocks 37 inches long, 16 inches wide and 18 inches high.

Once secured in place by wood framing, the straw is stuccoed on the outside, giving a rustic, old adobe look, said contractor Tony Sheehy of Sheehy Construction, based in Nogal.

Scott, director of marketing at The Museum of the Horse, and his wife, Mellyn, bought the land a year last February and started looking for con-

tractors. By the time they found a structural engineer to review and sign-off on the plans, and received approval from the state, seven months had passed.

That gave them time to camp out at the site and become familiar with the angles of the sun nearly year-around. The house is positioned to catch the sun under the roof line in the winter and to bounce off the roof in the summer. The angle also gives spectacular views of Nogal Peak from the master bedroom and Wells' office.

The couple designed the house themselves, Mellyn taking the lead. Scott said. She had built two houses previously, but none as unusual or demanding such creative thinking to work around problems.

Building with straw bales was Scott's idea.

"I thought he was crazy," Mellyn said. But after watching videos about the process and seeing an example in Santa Fe, her enthusiasm began to build.

Ironically, Mellyn lived for years in Huntsville, Ala., but didn't know until she began her research - including for-

See HOUSE, page 8A

Scott Wells, left, and his wife, Mellyn, confer with contractor Tony Sheehy outside the straw bale home they are building on a plateau east of Nogal.

State's First Lady says Republicans must include women

Dee Simms Johnson, wife of Gov. Gary E. Johnson, speaks at a gathering of Republican Women of Lincoln County Tuesday. Johnson stressed that women in New Mexico have grown stronger in the business as well as politics and can no longer be ignored. The First Lady said that the Republican Party must keep this in mind as the June primary election and the general election in November approach.



Dee Simms Johnson speaks at the Cafe Mescalero.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

To win in the November general elections, Republicans must alter the party's message to appeal more to women, the first lady of the state says.

Dee Simms Johnson, wife of New Mexico Gov. Gary E. Johnson, was at Cafe Mescalero Tuesday speaking to some three dozen Republican Women of Lincoln County members, when she delivered her call for a new party slant.

"The Republican message now is aimed at a male audience," Johnson said. "It's traditionally been created by men for men and that's interesting, since women represent potentially the largest voting population."

"It does not have universal appeal, because of the structure of its language."

To be successful in the coming elections and to make the Republican message accessible to all New Mexico residents, the message must be able to convince non-Republicans and undecided voters that a Republican candidate is the right one for them, she said.

"To give our candidates a greater chance, it's up to us to change the tone of the message," she said.

Women historically wait until the end of a political campaign to make up their minds and they can make or break a race, Johnson said. They no longer think they have to vote as their husbands do.

"We need to craft the message to give it more appeal to all without containing judgments," Johnson said. "Many feel the Democratic platform speaks to women's issues. We as a party have long been characterized as being harsher and insensitive."

She would like to see more emphasis on helping the poor and minorities and recognition for parents who spend time with their children.

Talk about a balanced budget is sterile. Instead, the party should show how a balanced budget would translate to help voters, their children and grandchildren, she said. Women can relate to that information.

Tax cuts for small business is one of the best ways to appeal to women in New Mexico, who own 38 percent of the

private businesses in the state and account for 42 percent of the state's gross income. Those numbers rank New Mexico as third in the country in the percentage of women-owned businesses, Johnson said.

The Party also needs to emphasize that families may be strengthened if taxes are cut to allow women to stay home and raise their children, if that's their choice.

"We're a party dedicated to lowering taxes and cutting government spending," Johnson said.

She urged the women at the meeting to be active in support of Republican candidates this year in funding raising efforts, campaigning and voting.

"We are no longer powerless," she said. "We can affect change if we get out there and get our votes counted."

Johnson also vowed to continue to wage a battle for a smoke-free capital building, an effort that died in the last few hours of the legislative session earlier this year.

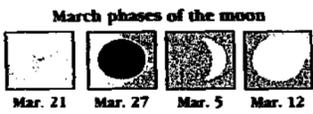
See related story, page 2A

RUIDOSO'S THREE-DAY WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY	High ... 66 Low ... 29	Partly cloudy
SUNDAY	High ... 62 Low ... 32	Showers
MONDAY	High ... 50 Low ... 26	Partly cloudy

WEATHER ALMANAC

Ruidoso Readings	High	Low	Precip.
Tuesday	71	30	.00"
Wednesday	74	28	.00"
Thursday	74	31	.00"
Regional Wednesday	High	Low	Forecast
Albuquerque	63	34	Partly cloudy
El Paso, TX	71	48	Partly cloudy
Lubbock, TX	73	50	Partly cloudy
Midland, TX	76	51	Partly cloudy



STARDATE

Venus is at greatest western elongation, so it stands farthest from the Sun in the predawn sky. Unfortunately, it rises at a shallow angle, so it's still fairly low in the southeast as twilight paints the morning sky.

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

Carrizozo girl saves her family from fire

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A 12-year-old girl saved the lives of her grandparents, brothers and uncle Friday when she woke them in time to escape a house fire.

"I must have breathed in a lot of carbon monoxide, because they couldn't wake me at first," said Ramon Navarrette, uncle to the young heroine, Altagracia Murillo. "The fire was so close, it scorched my hair."

A neighbor, who did not give the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office dispatcher her name, called at 10:58 p.m. Friday, because she saw smoke and flames coming from a house belonging to Pauline Manriquez.

The fire apparently started in some kitchen wiring of the two-bedroom home at 513 Aspen Street in Carrizozo, said David Zamora, one of the dozen volunteer firefighters who helped put out the flames and save the structure.

"The kitchen was badly damaged and the living room suffered smoke damage," he said.

The two-bedroom house must be rewired and appliances replaced before it's ready to be lived in again, he said.

The home was not insured. "I had a table and chairs I took over to them," Zamora said. "But I'm sure they can use help."

By Tuesday, help was on its way.

Donations from the Carrizozo Police Department, Foxworth-Galbraith and 84 Lumber in Alamogordo and from several other individuals will refurbish the kitchen and put carpet in the living room, Navarrette said.

"I'm redoing the stucco right now," Navarrette said.

Manriquez and her husband, Andrez, and Altagracia's brothers, Dusty and Rusty, were not injured, he said, adding that his niece's heroism was a "great blessing" to her family.

Pining for a nap



Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News
A porcupine picked a tree near Rio Bonito for a nap last weekend on the Fort Stanton Special Management Area of the Bureau of Land Management.

Governor's wife finds Ruidoso airport on wing and prayer

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Getting to Ruidoso wasn't easy for Dee Johnson Tuesday. The governor's wife, who was scheduled to speak to a group of Republican women, said as the pilot prepared to land at Sierra Blanca Regional Airport, the landing gear on the first family's privately-owned Bonanza wouldn't come down.

"We circled several times while down below, the emergency crew and fire trucks got ready," Johnson said. "Here I was flying the plane while the pilot tried to crank down the landing gear by hand. Even when he got it down, we weren't sure it was locked and would stay down."

Flying with Johnson and the pilot in the single-engine propeller plane was Elizabeth Lynch, assistant to the first lady.

"I was in the back with earphones on (listening to music) and didn't even know what was going on at first," Lynch said. "We spent about 20 minutes circling."

The pilot realized something might be wrong when he flipped the switch for the landing gear and lights that signal they have lowered did not flick on.

"We passed over the airport and the ground crew said the landing gear wasn't down," Lynch said.

Although the pilot tried several times to manually crank down the gears, the ground crew kept reporting after each pass that they still hadn't lowered. Finally, they came down.

"She's flown so many times with Gary, she was calm and in control," Lynch said of her boss. "She's not licensed, but in this emergency situation she was able to take over."

Mechem construction meeting

Road construction from Mechem to Sudderth begins next week

A community meeting on the state's highway construction project for Mechem Drive will be at 7 p.m. Monday in the Ruidoso Convention Center.

Steve Turner, project manager for the state, said the meeting will be an open forum. Meadow Valleys Contractors, the firm rebuild-

ing almost 4 miles of Mechem from Sudderth Drive, will present a schedule of the work to be completed, Turner said.

"It's just an opportunity for anyone to come and have a say or to ask questions," Turner said.

Construction is to start Wednesday, beginning at the Mechem and Sudderth intersection. Bill Loomis, project manager for Meadow Valley, said his company will work on several portions of the road at one time in order to finish the project by this fall.

For more information about the meeting or highway construction, contact Turner at (505) 855-2090, state offices in Ruidoso at 257-1182 or Loomis at 258-4400. Currently, a state highway engineer mans the Ruidoso office for about half a day, Turner said. A full-time engineer is expected to be at the office by about mid-April, Turner said.

CORRECTIONS

A Wednesday photograph of Miss Lincoln County Pageant contestants should have been credited as being supplied by Sara Gutierrez of Capitan.

A Wednesday story about a blues festival at the Sierra Blanca Regional Airport should have said the date for the event is June 20-21.



Canning house

courtesy

L.G. SCRAPBOOK

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

White Oaks Eagle

March 29, 1900

White Oaks had no mail in or out of the city from any direction until about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The Mal Pais being as high as ever known in the history of the oldest inhabitants, is presumably the cause of the delay of the eastern mail, which comes from San Antonio.

Dick Cavanaugh was driver from this place to Mountain station for several years on this San Antonio stage route, and he can't remember the stream ever being so high as it must have been last Sunday, causing 10 to 12 hours' delay to drivers.

The stream is very obstinate at best and if one does not strike the exact crossing it is impossible to ford it at any time. The town of White Oaks must either go to the expense of bridging the stream or get a change of service over the E. P. & N. E. Which shall it be?

RUIDOSO NEWS

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88355
Phone: (505) 257-4001 (800) 857-0955 Fax: (505) 257-7053
e-mail: ruidosonews@zianet.com

Tamara Montes Ext. 3 Publisher	Terrance Vestal Ext. 18 Editor
Laura Clymer, Ext. 5 Sports/Varieties Editor	Christine Volquardsen, Ext. 6 Retail Adv. Mgr.
Keith Green, Ext. 19 Editorial Adviser	Jim Thompson, Ext. 7 Sales Account Exec.
Elaine McKee, Ext. 15 Education/Varieties Reporter	Suzanne Reed, Ext. 8 Classified Account Exec.
Toni Lassin, Ext. 23 City gov./Varieties Reporter	Gina Boory, Ext. 9 Circulation Manager
Dianne Stallings, Ext. 22 County gov./Reporter	Jana McWilliams, Ext. 13 Mailroom Supervisor
Karen Payton, Ext. 20 Office Manager	
Tracy Shepard, Ext. 10 Production Manager	

Stephen Cardwell, Graphic Artist; Evelyn Hazel, Clerical Assistant; Jackie Bryant, Insertor; Margaret Gallegos, Insertor; Josh Graham, Route Driver; Mickey Sanchez, Insertor; Pat Connell, Insertor; Dooley Graham, Insertor; Shari French, Insertor; Susanne Abbey, Shift Supervisor

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RUIDOSO COUNCIL

New Ruidoso councilor to be named

Ruidoso Mayor Robert Donaldson is expected to nominate his replacement to the Ruidoso Village Council on Tuesday. When Donaldson was elected mayor, his position on the council was left vacant.

Donaldson will seek to have the council approve his nominee on April 16, he said this week. Earlier, Donaldson said he would give the council a month to consider his appointment, but amended that statement in light of the coming budget process. It is important to involve the new council member in the process as soon as possible, Donaldson said.

Sign law revisited

Ruidoso's six-month-old sign law will be reviewed for changes during a public hearing Tuesday night by the Village Council.

The ordinance, which allowed the use of banners, also established new guidelines for off-premise signs and other regulations.

Part of the ordinance required the review.

Expected at the hearing is David Goodman, owner of the

Cree Manor. In late February, Goodman asked the council to consider grandfather clauses to allow existing signs that don't meet new regulations. Goodman had been notified that his 30-year-old sign at Sudderth Drive and Paradise Canyon Road was out of compliance.

Board term limits reconsidered

A three-term limitation for Ruidoso's board and commission members will be reviewed Tuesday by the council, Village Manager Gary Jackson said. The current limitations may be considered too restrictive, and the council may decide to schedule a public hearing to eliminate the three-term limit, Jackson said.

Hearing for impact fees to be set

The council is scheduled to set a public hearing to discuss impact fees, which would basically tax new developments inside the village. The five-member committee appointed to study impact fees and the village's capital improvement plan is recommending 4 to 1 against the fees. The council is not restricted to the commit-

tee's recommendation.

Policy for use of right of way

The Ruidoso Village Council is to consider Tuesday establishing guidelines for vacating public rights-of-ways, Jackson said. Requests by citizens to use village rights-of-ways show up routinely on the council's agenda, yet Ruidoso doesn't have any set policies for dealing with them.

Ruidoso to discuss marketing contracts

The three-year contract between the village and the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce concludes June 30. For a new contract, the village may decide to request separate proposals for various marketing services, such as one for public relations activities and another for advertising, Jackson said.

Emergency sirens to be fixed

Four non-working emergency sirens around Ruidoso may be fixed and two more added pending council approval Tuesday, Jackson said. A budget amendment would free up an unencumbered \$21,500 from the village's general fund to pay for the work, he said.

"This is very, very important so we can alert people in the community of emergency situations, be they fire, flood or other conditions," Jackson said.

A new signal controller would allow the sirens to be turned on by police dispatchers, he said.

MILITARY SERVICE

Brian J. Welsh has been promoted in the Air Force to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Welsh is a staff judge advocate assigned to the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas.

He is the son of Joseph K. and Audrey Welsh of Tyrone, Texas.

His wife, Stacy, is the daughter of Robert W. and Margaret Cates of Ruidoso Downs.

The colonel graduated in 1972 from Silver High School in Silver City and received a bachelor's degree in 1976 from Western New Mexico University, which also is located in Silver City. Welsh earned his master's degree in 1979 from Tulsa University in Oklahoma.

New construction boosts county's taxable value

By DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lincoln County's taxable value for this year has climbed \$16.3 million, because of new construction centered primarily from Alto to Capitan and in Ruidoso.

"This was not a reassessment year," said County Assessor Patsy Serna. "A major county-wide reassessment took place last year."

Owners of most existing homes won't see a change in their assessed taxable value. Serna's staff mailed 27,083

notices March 6, amounting to 500 more than last year and reflecting new parcels of land created by subdividing.

Whether a static assessment translates to the same (or lower) property tax as last year will depend on what type of budgets are approved by municipalities and the county this summer.

The deadline to protest is April 6.

"We only have seven (requested) protest forms mailed so far and only two of those have been returned," Serna said. "Last year, we had

more than 200, but by the time hearings were scheduled in front of the tax board, all but 10 had been settled or dropped and only five showed up."

The new value comes from commercial ventures such as the \$9 million Wal-Mart Super Center in Ruidoso Downs and from 260 new homes, Serna said.

The homes equate to more than \$10 million in added value.

As of Feb. 27, the county's new taxable value is \$422,552,372.

Village to survey lodging in Ruidoso

Information such as the number of available rooms, their age and pricing could be used to bring in more conventions and possibly a national name hotel at the Ruidoso Convention Center.

By TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A planned survey of Ruidoso's lodging establishments will assist the village as a marketing tool in several regards, Village Manager Gary Jackson says.

"We need good information on our lodging supply," Jackson said. "We get questions on that all the time ... The survey is going to be a very valuable tool."

Jackson intends to have a draft of the survey questionnaire ready today. He will review it with Joan Bailey, executive director of the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, who has previously collected information about lodgings.

The final survey would be sent to Ruidoso's lodgings with a request that owners respond within two or three weeks, Jackson said.

Information from the survey, besides attracting convention business and other hotel chains, would be used by the Ruidoso Village Council in its visioning, or strategic planning, process, Jackson said.

The survey would seek the number, age and type of lodgings available as well as the markets served by lodging establishments, Jackson said.

Robert Dodson, an analyst of the state's lodging industry, endorsed the survey, saying it would serve the village better and cost less than a market feasibility study.

"He felt that just jumping out and spending \$10,000 or

so without doing the survey would not be the most efficient use of funds," Jackson said.

Though the Ruidoso Village Council approved money for a feasibility study last fall, the study has not been started. At the time, the council approved a study to attract a national hotel chain to a site next to the Ruidoso Convention Center.

Companies, primarily All-hub Investments, Inc., have optioned that site on and off for about 10 years with the intention of building a hotel, but none of them ever started construction. Santa Fe Hospitality, the most recent hotel firm to pull out of the venture, said in September the project was not feasible based on a consultant's study.

Dodson, contacted at his Albuquerque office, said Ruidoso needs to put together its own study, starting with the lodging survey.

A critical aspect of that survey is a room inventory, which is used to determine revenue per room.

"And that information is of considerable importance to a developer," he said.

Moreover, the village can conduct the survey themselves without having to hire a consultant, Dodson said. "And my services to come down to Ruidoso - that would be pretty expensive," he said.

The surveys would categorize establishments based on type, such as bed-and-breakfasts, Dodson said. It also would determine whether a lodging is budget-priced, low-priced, mid-priced or high-priced, he said.

"But you don't have that segment yet," Dodson said of high-priced lodgings. "That's the segment they are trying to get ... And what happens when you reach that fourth

segment is Ruidoso becomes more marketable."

Pursuit of a convention center hotel is not what initiated the lodging survey, Jackson said.

"The spark of it actually was Myles Rademan saying that you really have to understand your lodging supply," he said.

Rademan, who visited Ruidoso in July, is considered a "growth guru" for mountain communities and has consulted with more than 50 entities. A presentation by Rademan kicked off Ruidoso's visioning process.

Some lodging owners are opposed to the village seeking a convention hotel because it is perceived as competition, Jackson said.

"But probably there is a higher percentage of lodgers who understand the different segments of the market," he added. "We could have the Taj Mahal and people would still come here and stay in the Upper Canyon because that's what people want."

Steve Tally, manager of the Best Western Swiss Chalet, said he expected a range of responses from the owners of lodgings regarding a convention center hotel.

"My own feeling is that a mid-priced quality establishment will not hurt lodging in Ruidoso," Tally said.

A high-price hotel, in which rates were \$80 or more per night, probably could not be supported by the Ruidoso market, he said.

DEATHS FUNERALS

Jake Narvaez

A funeral service for for Jake Narvaez, 82, of Carrizozo will be at 10 a.m. today at the Santa Rita Catholic Church in Carrizozo with the Rev. Dave Bergs officiating. A prayer service was held Thursday at the church.

Mr. Narvaez died Wednesday at the Ruidoso Care Center. He was born Oct. 1, 1915, in Roy, N.M. and had lived in Lincoln County most of his life. He was retired from the maintenance department at Fort Stanton Hospital. He was a member of the Santa Rita Catholic Church.

He married Arsenia McKinley on July 16, 1938, at Carrizozo.

He is survived by his wife, Arsenia McKinley of Carrizozo; his son, Pete Narvaez of Carrizozo; daughters, Irene Montano and Minnie Herrera, both of Carrizozo, Noyola Scott of Las Cruces, Linda Ortiz, Julia Nunez and Geneva Barnes, all of Albuquerque. Mr. Narvaez also is survived by several brothers and sisters; eleven grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

John T. Blaney

Visitation for John T. Blaney, 77, of Ruidoso will be Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. with a Masonic graveside service at 1 p.m. Monday at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Ruidoso.

Mr. Blaney died Thursday at his home. He was born March 20, 1921, in El Paso, Texas. Her service in the Army Air Corp during World War II. He was a 32-degree Mason and had been a member of the Masonic Lodge since 1943. He worked for Bariod Mud Company in Abilene, Texas, Hobbs, N.M. and Farmington, N.M. from 1944 until 1985. He then became owner and operator of Blaney Well Logging Company in Burns Flat, Okla. He moved to Ruidoso in 1977 from Burns Flat.

He is survived by his former wife, Jean Blaney of Ruidoso; sons, Bill Blaney of Ruidoso, John M. Blaney of T or C, Joe Blaney of Ruidoso Downs, Thomas G. Blaney of Durango, Colo. and Dwight Blaney of Dallas; a daughter, Kimberly Cross of Edgewood, N.M., 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements are by LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

5.12% APY

Money Market

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on balances of \$1,000

Rates based on APY calculated with all principal and interest remaining on deposit. Rates are accurate as of 2/28/98 and subject to change without notice. Fees may reduce earnings. If balance falls below \$1,000 (minimum to open), the interest will revert to rate paid on NOW accounts. Interest compounds and credits monthly. Withdrawal transactions may be limited.



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GUEST OPINION

Youth and community

Lincoln County, with its many amenities, has been a wonderful place in which to grow and live.

We, as Ruidoso High School students, feel that increased interaction between the youth and community will better our county.

In writing this editorial, we are asking for your ideas, suggestions, and comments that will enable us to attain this objective. Currently, we are working with a committee consisting of school and community officials as well as students.

Our ultimate goal is to have a community center which will create the atmosphere where this interaction may occur. In creating this inter-generational center, we will be adding to the many assets already displayed in our community.

To begin our quest for youth and community interaction and involvement we will be speaking at the Community Update meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at the Civic Events Center. In addition to speaking at the Community Update, we will be holding a Youth Summit on Monday, April 27 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Civic Events Center.

We are extending a personal invitation to anyone from Lincoln County who is interested in listening to our ideas and communicating thoughts of their own. Your input and support in this important matter concerning the youth of our county will be greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth Flores
Katie Lukens
Myra Romero
Ruidoso High School



Terrance Vestal/Ruidoso News

Seeking interaction are (left to right) Elizabeth Flores, Myra Romero and Katie Lukens.

FOR REFERENCE

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(202) 224-6621

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JEFF BINGAMAN (D)
703 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-3102
(202) 224-5521

U. S. REPRESENTATIVE
JOE SKEEN (R), DIST. 2
2302 Rayburn House Bldg.
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GARY JOHNSON (R)
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800-432-4406

STATE SENATOR
PETE CAMPOS (D), DIST. 8
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Las Vegas, NM 87701
425-0508

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DUB WILLIAMS (R), DIST. 56
HC66 - Box 10
Glencoe, NM 88324
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Elected officials welcome questions and comments.

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FRANK CUMMINS
Box 892
Ruidoso, NM 88355
257-7861

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Box 2500
Ruidoso, NM 88355
257-9450 • 257-5121

COUNCILOR
M. OVELLA ESTES
P. O. Box 7483
Ruidoso, NM 88355
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COUNCILOR
To be appointed; seat vacated by Robert Donaldson



THE SILVER LINING

Spring wins the annual battle again

There comes a time around March 20 every year when spring, after battling with winter, suddenly gets the upper hand.



BY DAN STORM
COLUMNIST

This turning point came today, March 24, when following a night dropping to 40 degrees, the temperature at the yard gate at mid-day was an even 80 degrees, the warmest of the year.

At one o'clock, for the first time in the year, the cows were all lying in the shade of the cedars instead of being stretched out in the sun in low places sheltered from the March wind — which has been chilly all year except for today.

The southwest wind today is warm and balmy, blowing off the sun-baked desert only a few miles away.

As you feel the warm wind, you are sure that the great snow cap on Sierra Blanca is feeling it, too. And sure enough, in mid-afternoon the river is foaming chocolate brown with

snow-melt water, and you listen to the soft roar of the stream which gives the river its Spanish name, Ruidoso (Noisy).

This is not to say the river is in flood; it is only a good spring thaw run-off.

The work of the of the warm March wind is plain to see in, the large apricot tree, which is a giant bouquet of full blown blossoms, all out in one day.

To be under this tree looking through the pink-white blooms toward the purple-blue of the sky beyond and above, and listening to the full force of bees, their humming work-songs blending into a continual dreamy lullaby, while you inhale the honey fragrance of the young blossoms — you are in a little springtime heaven on earth.

Earlier days

If you think what you have just read is blarney, you might glance over some things I wrote 20, 30 or 40 years ago.

In trying to pick things up a little for spring, I ran across some copies of the Ruidoso

News going back 20 or more years, and when I read over some of the columns, I thought to myself, "Is this really me?" But there it was, some of it in my own handwriting.

One column in 1963 ended up this way:

"And so once again after a cheering visit and fond communion through the magic of the written word, alas once more we needs must break anon this mystic bond — though only for a while — as now I bid you one and all a fond adieu, with a heart swelling with pride at your honored friendship, and a soul overflowing with gratefulness for your good wishes and your prayers.

"With this I leave you in the care of our Lord, till once again we meet upon the printed page."

That was 1963 and this is 1998, and my message to you has always been the same: To let you know how grateful I am for the honor — the blessing — of our visits through The Silver Lining and The Dreamer.

YOUR OPINION

Those library hours

To the editor:

I have watched the building of the new library with anticipation and interest. I supported the bond issue for the construction with my vote, and looked forward to using the new facility. It is a beautiful structure, at least what I can see of it through the windows. It should remain in good shape because the hours of operation seem designed to guarantee as little usage by the public it is supposed to serve as possible.

I was very disappointed to go to the new facility for my first visit only to find the doors locked, and, upon reading the posted hours of operation, that I will be unable to make use of the library that I helped create and now support with my tax dollars. The problem is that it is only open on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9 and 5. Unfortunately, like many others in our community, I have to work Mondays through Fridays between (those hours).

Why should a public, tax-supported service exclude most of the people who want and need the service by setting such hours? Students doing research will be unable to make use of the materials there, working people will find the doors locked when they can go, and out-of-town weekend visitors are excluded completely.

I have always thought that the mission of a public

library was to make information, education and entertainment available to the public. These hours of operation seem to be in direct conflict with that goal. I would like to know what the operating philosophy of the Ruidoso Public Library is. Is it to serve the community, or is it to have a nice looking building with neat shelves full of books that most of the community can't get near? The people that voted for the bond issue and pay taxes to support the library deserve an answer. What do we need to do to be able to have the library open some evenings and during at least part of the weekend.

Douglas O. Fuqua
Ruidoso

Behind the low vote

To the editor:

One of the Ruidoso News's most interesting features to me is Mr. Al Junge's comments. This gentleman's wisdom and experience always impress me as well as stir thoughts and questions in my mind.

In his ... March 13 column, Mr. Junge mentions a 20 percent voter turnout in Ruidoso Downs. Some 194 of 900 registered voters, but when discounting for voters who have moved or are deceased, my figures rise to 194 out of 750, or 27 percent — better, but still underwhelming. In the interest of accuracy and especially in view of our highly transient population, should not our voters' registration

records be purged on a regular basis?

Perhaps ... another factor accounting for lack of voter participation in elections is that moms and dads are so busy working to support their families as well as our exorbitant tax system which gobbles half their paychecks, they don't have time left over to become aware of candidates or issues. Do the entrenched bureaucrats count on this factor?

Concerning restrictions on candidates running for office, do we really need more rules to deny individuals opportunities to run for office? Across our nation, people are battling — and conquering — the entrenched two-party system to open the ballots for alternative candidates.

Mr. Ronald Reagan, without obvious qualifications, was elected governor of California, and later another governor groomed for politics from teenage years won election as governor of Arkansas. Just pointing out that qualifications can, like looks, be deceiving.

Bonnie Richardson
Ruidoso Downs

Let's talk about it

To the editor:

At a Lincoln County Commission meeting in the recent past, a question was asked of the county attorney: "Do we have to have audience participation?" The answer was, "No, but you have to have an open

Listening to the young

Seldom does a newspaper surrender to others its prime spot for expressing its "official" opinion, the top left column on this page.

This time, however, the issue is important enough to do just that, and the editorial does express an idea the newspaper can heartily endorse.

A committee of students, with some help

from the school district's Paul Wirth and others, is following up on a survey undertaken last year in the top six grades to profile how many "assets" our students have that will give them a fair start in the game of life.

The so-called Benson Asset Survey revealed that of 40 assets (or desirable school and social conditions) measured, Ruidoso's young people saw themselves as strong in 20, and not so strong in the others.

One of the down-side elements was the students' perception that there was too little communication between adults and young people in the community.

Hence, the reaching out expressed in today's "Guest Opinion" across the way. We can think of no better objective than to enhance, as the students say, inter-generational communication.

Another asset students felt was lacking in Ruidoso was in the way they were, or weren't, prepared for college entrance examinations. The result: Next year a high school class will be offered in how to prepare for the SAT and ACT tests they'll be taking as a step toward getting into the college of their choice.

Thanks to Elizabeth, Katie and Myra — well prepared, we'd say, to communicate — for so succinctly addressing a community issue of importance.

meeting."

The discussion continued, suggesting that a taxpayer should be sponsored in order to be on the county meeting agenda. Nothing came of the discussion. However, having attended ... commission meetings, there seems (to me) to be a reluctance to listen to pub-

See YOUR OPINION, page 5A

LETTERS 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 300 words or less in length, be of public interest and must avoid name-calling and libelous language. The Ruidoso News reserves the right to edit letters, so 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, attention of the editor.

The News reserves the right to reject any letter.

YOUR OPINION

Continued from page 4A

lic concerns. The attitude seems to be "full steam ahead; the public be damned!"

The discussions concerning the proposal to move the present detention center and court complex to a location in Ruidoso is of such magnitude that it should be put to a vote by all taxpayers in Lincoln County. That is representative government at its finest.

The proposed move is a financial disaster for all of Lincoln County, not just a disaster for Carrizozo!

As far as having a "provincial" attitude, a little history will help here. The Carrizozo Health Center was developed in the 1970s when Carrizozo, Corona and outlying areas found themselves medically under-served. As a result, a group of volunteers sought help from the federal government and secured a grant to develop the present health center. Previous county commissioners were instrumental in furthering our endeavors, resulting in the present lease with Presbyterian under the Lincoln County Medical Center.

Everyone needs to be reminded that Corona, Carrizozo, Capitan and all outlying areas helped Ruidoso with an airport and a hospital through taxes, as well as continuing to avail themselves of services of the hospital and other entities, both public and private. The Carrizozo Health Center serves clients from all over the county, including clients from Ruidoso.

Before any decision is made, all the facts should be addressed in public meetings, not just in Ruidoso but at the county seat in Carrizozo. There are two locations proposed for the detention center at present, and taxpayers should be

aware of those proposals in financial detail....

Barbara J. Ward
Carrizozo

A county concern

To the editor:

The recommendation to build the new jail AND a court system in a location outside of Carrizozo is nothing more than an attempt to move the county seat, bit by bit, department by department. This would be, as our mayor has said, a disaster for Carrizozo. ... (We are talking here of the lifeblood of a community of 1000 people. Without the courthouse, the decent jobs that are here that make it possible for some of our young people to remain in their hometown and to keep families that have lived here for generations together would evaporate.

The costs to the county as a whole would be considerable as well. Carrizozo has offered to donate land to build the jail in the industrial park. This land already has utilities and roads installed. The court complex in Carrizozo already exists. With all the infrastructure already in place, the suggestion to move and ask the taxpayers of Lincoln County to foot the cost of needless new construction does not add up. All the taxpayers of Lincoln County should be concerned about the economic realities of this proposal.

The economic and social costs of moving...to a new location, as well as the future of this part of the county cannot be dismissed as mere "political considerations." All of Lincoln county needs to be economically healthy for the good of all of us.

Carrizozo has made important strides in the past few years towards pulling itself out of years of depression. Do not yank the rug out from under us now.

Ann Buffington
for Carrizozo Action Team

* This is the second of three articles about the Spaniards who brought the first European settlers to New Mexico in 1598.

BY MORROW HALL
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

After Columbus came the conquistadores — the "conquerors" — who yearned for gold and glory. With them came Franciscan priests, who were on a mission from God. It was a strange bed-fellowship, and it led to a unique relationship with the native Americans.

In Mexico and Peru, the Spaniards found the gold and silver they craved, although never enough of it. The priests who came with them were busy saving souls, and that came in handy when the soldiers stopped thinking of gold and glory for a moment and remembered they had other urges.

The first Spaniards who came to the New World were all men, and the native women appeared more and more attractive to them as time went on.

No problem, said the priests. If your girlfriend becomes a Christian, you can marry her. Many Spaniards did just that, and the Spanish conquerors were conquered in their turn. As a result, most of the people in the countries of New Spain have Spanish surnames and mixed blood.

Some Indian groups associated less with the Spaniards than others, but most of them converted to Christianity or pretended to do so to avoid being killed by the zealous newcomers.

That is not to say that justice against the native people ceased when they were

Gold, Glory and God in New Mexico

converted. The Spaniards developed a rigid class system in which the native Indian was at the bottom. Those with mixed blood were given higher status, based on the percentage of Spanish ancestry. The "pure" Spaniards were at the top, of course, and those who had most recently visited their home country were given the top rank. Apparently Spanish air as well as blood was considered salubrious.

These distinctions seem to have occupied the nobility in Mexico but to have been largely ignored elsewhere. Much of the history of Spanish colonization in the Americas is one of assimilation, not annihilation — a conscious, if erratic, attempt to keep the best of both cultures.

Hernan Cortes captured the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan, in 1521. Soon Spanish prospectors were moving north, finding silver to mine in Mexico's central valleys. Coronado's visit to what is now New Mexico in 1540 had been a disappointment to those seeking precious metals, but as the resources of Mexico became fully catalogued, they looked again to the north.

Several groups of Spaniards followed Coronado, and in 1589 Casti6n de Sosa led some 160 people to Santo Domingo with the intention of starting a colony, but Spanish soldiers went after him and brought his party back to Mexico under arrest. De Sosa had not obtained the necessary royal license.

That license was finally granted to Don Juan de Oñate, the 29-year-old son of one of the richest silver miners in Zacatecas, in 1595, but bureaucratic delays kept his expedi-

tion from leaving until 1598. Oñate's family put up 50,000 ducats (estimated to be the equivalent of a million dollars today) and the viceroy in Mexico added another 60,000 to equip the group.

In return, Oñate was given the highest civil and military powers in the northern lands.

In February, 1598, Oñate led about 130 men northward. Many of them brought their wives (most of them undoubtedly native women) and children. They took with them 83 wagons or carts, 7,000 animals — horses, mules, cattle, sheep, goats and pigs — seed grains, weapons and many other trappings of their civilization.

These things changed both worlds. Before long, horses proliferated and became engines of war for the nomadic Indians, whose raids on the pueblos became murderously efficient. Oñate contacted 31 pueblos when he came, to tell them of their new god, king and governor. Today there are only 19 left, due in part to the horse.

The sheep the Spaniards brought made possible the wool rugs and blankets we now associate with many Southwestern Indians.

The wheat the Spaniards introduced saved many lives, when droughts came. It matured early and utilized winter moisture, not summer showers. Four hundred years later, wheat tortillas are still used more than corn in the north.

And though the Spaniards brought these things, the Indi-

ans gave them turquoise, turkeys, tortillas, tobacco and cotton, not to mention red and green chile. It was when it came to war, language and religion that the Indians often lost. Still, the winner will never be declared, because the original sides no longer exist. The assimilation was too complete.

But the prejudice remains. Just last week, a woman claiming to speak for "the vast majority" of Hispanics condemned including Indians in a proposed Albuquerque memorial to Oñate's colonization.

"This memorial serves only one purpose," said former Albuquerque city clerk Millie Santillanes, "to commemorate our 400th anniversary. It is not about inclusion. It is not about being politically correct, and Acoma and Native Americans have no place in the 400th anniversary. This is a memorial for Oñate."

"This memorial serves only ... to commemorate our 400 anniversary...It is not about inclusion."

Millie Santillanes,
Albuquerque

Oñate himself would have argued with that. His wife was the granddaughter of the Aztec emperor Montezuma, and his children were inclusion personified. It's a shame we still have to listen to such misconceptions 400 years later.

Elsewhere: In 1598, Philip II of Spain died after 42 years as king. His reign included the defeat of Spain's armada by the British in 1588. He was succeeded by Philip III.

Next week: the Acoma massacre.

Morrow Hall can be reached by mail at PO Box 631, Estancia, N.M. 87016-0631, or by e-mail at morrowhall@aol.com

Income eligibility level raised

USDA housing loans easier to get

• The USDA has made it easier to buy a home in rural New Mexico.

Steve Anaya, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's state director for rural development, announced this week that income eligibility limits have increased for the Guaranteed Rural Housing (GRH) loan program in New Mexico.

"The GRH program is our no down payment home loan which serves low and moderate income families. This year our national office came up with a new formula which allows more rural area families to qualify for a home loan based on their yearly income," Anaya said.

With the change, income limits will increase about 10 percent throughout the rural parts of the state on April 1.

"The increased income level will allow more families throughout the state to buy a new home," Anaya said.

"We are offering the most affordable home loan available

when you combine the no down payment feature and the least expensive guarantee. With these two features we are making it easier to qualify for a home loan because the actual loan payment is lower."

In addition to the GRH program, USDA Rural Development joins as partners with investors to allow more people to qualify for a home loan.

For example, the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority also has some new programs that work perfectly with the GRH loan program and with other "community home buyer loans," Anaya said.

The MFA programs will provide low- to moderate-income families more opportunities to own a home. MFA provides special first-time home buyer loan funds through private lenders using loan programs like GRH, FHA and the Fannie Mae Flex 97. The new

programs help a home buyer with subsidies and rebates for closing costs and even down payment.

A first-time home buyer can now practically close with little money paid out of pocket so they can use their savings to move in and get settled in their new home, he said.

"With our GRH loan, combined with the MFH programs, mortgage rates are at a 20-year low," Anaya said. "And, because of the lower interest rates, many families can move

out of the apartments they are renting and into a home of their own for the same monthly payment. In fact, many buyers are finding their mortgage payment is even lower than the rent they have been paying."

For more information about the Guaranteed Rural Housing home loan program and the increased income levels, contact Eric Schmieder in Albuquerque at (505) 761-4942.

"We are offering the most affordable home loan available..."

Steve Anaya,
USDA Rural
Development Director

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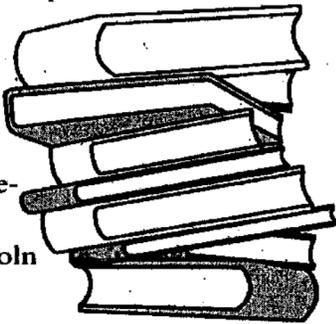
ZIA NATURAL GAS COMPANY

One out of four Lincoln County residents is functionally illiterate. Imagine trying to fill out a job application, take a driver's license, or help children with their homework if you can't read or don't speak/read English well.

For as little as a couple of hours a week, you can help someone build a better future. Become a trained literacy or ESL (English as a second language) tutor.

The next ESL tutor training session will be held Saturday, April 4 and Saturday, April 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at ENMU - Ruidoso. You do not have to be bilingual. All training and materials are free.

Call 257-2120 and ask Mary Allen of the Lincoln County Literacy Council for more information.



Efforts of CCC remembered nationally as well as in Ruidoso

The rampant unemployment and economic chaos of the late 1920s and the early 1930s prompted President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to call an emergency session of Congress in March, 1933.

Among the plans he presented to help remedy the country's situation was legislation "for the relief of unemployment through the performance of useful public work."

On March 31, the Civilian Conservation Corps, which came to be known as the CCC, was officially established under the Emergency Work Act. Those who served in the CCC and the projects they worked on will be honored on March 31, which has been designated National CCC Recognition Day.

The CCC took approximately three million young people, including some women, from the ages of 18 to 25, trained them and put them to work, fed

them well and paid them.

The Army and the Departments of Agriculture, Interior and Labor were responsible for the effort. The Agriculture and Interior departments were responsible for planning and organizing the work to be performed in each state and area, which eventually included Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Through state and local relief agencies, the Department of Labor was responsible for the selection and enrollment of applicants.

Joe LeCrone of Ruidoso was one of the three million young people who enrolled in 1938 in his home state of Oklahoma. "I can't describe to you the conditions around 1935 and 1936," said LeCrone in a recent interview. "Businesses were closing right and left. Dad had two businesses, and of course he lost both of those."

LeCrone had three sisters,

and after high school graduation they had all planned to become teachers. "I went right on to college at the University of Oklahoma for one year. My father had a goat for milk which he bred to produce two kids to sell, and he got enough for them to send me for another semester. After that things went downhill."

LeCrone said he had to quit school and got a job driving a taxi for \$2 a day. Like so many young men at that time with no prospects, he started hanging around with the wrong crowd and was probably headed for trouble, he said.

When he heard about the CCC, he joined, and he said he believes that helped him and thousands of other young people get their lives together by giving them some education and training and a sense of pride and responsibility.

Enrollees were paid \$30 per month, and Joe says he sent all

but \$8 of it home to his parents, which kept them going until times got better.

During the nine years of its existence, the CCC is credited with development of more than 800 state and national parks, 4,000 historical structures, 60,000 buildings, 38,500 bridges, 97,000 miles of road, 3,470 fire towers, miles of walls and numerous dams and lakes.

They also fought fires and floods, restored much of the dust bowl, laid 89,000 miles of telephone poles and planted more than one billion, three hundred million trees. "We did most of it with picks and shovels," said LeCrone.

At night, after all the physical labor, they were instructed by education specialists. Many of the young people had never left their homes before and were illiterate. They were taught to read during their term. Over 40,000 were taught to read during the life of the CCC, and some

earned a high school diploma within the organization. LeCrone says that they tried to send enrollees away from their home areas since many were city kids with social problems.

He was assigned to one of the education specialists at night to help teach typing, drafting, mathematics and reading. Since he had some drafting experience, he was recruited to do surveying and eventually taught farmers to plow on a contour line to prevent soil erosion from wind and water as one of his tasks.

Lincoln County had CCC camps located at Cedar Creek, Camp Baca, 18 miles northeast of Capitan, and there was one at Devil's Canyon on the Bonnell property near Glencoe. One of the few women's camps in the nation was located in Salazar Canyon on the south side of the Capitan.

Several Lincoln County CCC projects still exist. Among

them are the shelter near the Smokey Bear Ranger Station off Mechem Road, which was moved from its original location nearby and renovated; Monjeau Lookout; a deteriorating shelter near the old library building in Ruidoso; and the foundation of a building that was part of the Cedar Creek Camp of the CCC in the 1930s.

The CCC was terminated in 1942, and "Roosevelt's Tree Army" became history.

The National Association of CCC Alumni now exists, and LeCrone says its main focus is to press the federal government to vote funding for a new CCC. Members believe it could help with current youth problems, reduce poverty and help conserve the nation's resources as well as repairing its infrastructure.

Mayor Robert Donaldson is planning to proclaim March 31 as National CCC Recognition Day in their honor.

Lions Club uses special camera to 'shoot' vision problems

By DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A camera designed to diagnose vision problems in children who are too young to respond to regular screening procedures was used for the first time in New Mexico in Lincoln County.

Jasmine Mendoza, the two year old daughter of Aggie Figueroa, initiated the MTI PhotoScreener Tuesday as part of the Ruidoso Valley Lions Club's vision program.

"We (the local Lions) own the camera and are the first in the state to use it," said Lions member Bill Allen. "Eventually, we will go to all of the schools in the county and to Mescalero, but it will take a while."

"The organization's first stop will be April 3 at Hondo.

"It takes five to eight minutes per person," Allen said. "If there are 50 children, we might have to spread a screening over a two-day period or we might acquire another camera to speed up the process."

Each PhotoScreener costs

\$3,500 and uses Polaroid 3200 speed film, he said.

"It's a totally non-invasive process," Allen said. "We are simply taking pictures of a child's eye. We don't even use drops."

Members of the club were trained to use the camera Tuesday by Tom Ridder, past Lion district governor and the first person to introduce the PhotoScreener in the United States.

"We all trained so we would have backup," Allen said. "We don't interpret the information at all. We send all the film to one of three pediatric ophthalmologists in Albuquerque. If he finds something significant, he will get in touch with the parents and they will be referred to a local ophthalmologist."

"Nationally, we're seeing that 10 percent to 12 percent of those children screened have some type of problem, from minor to major."

While covering their own county and their Mescalero neighbors, the Ruidoso Lions also hope to spark similar programs with the PhotoScreener in other counties across New

Mexico, he said.

Besides preschool children, the camera can be used on other non-verbal people, Ridder said.

Specifically, the battery-operated camera can detect six conditions that can lead to amblyopia, the number one cause of monocular (one-eye) blindness in children.

For example, the PhotoScreener causes a retinal reflex to be naturally emitted from the eye. If the person has a refractive error eye disorder, the PhotoScreener will create a bright crescent in the photograph of the eye. The location of the crescent indicates the type of refractive error.

When looking at the film, professionals pay attention to asymmetries in the lid and pupil; the retinal reflex; the corneal light reflex, which creates a white spot used to assess the alignment of the eyes; and the bright crescent, which indicates the degree of refractive error.

Six conditions that can be detected by the camera are strabismus, an ocular mis-

alignment; media opacity, blockage of light leaving the eye, including cataracts; anisometropia, a difference in the refractive error between the

two eyes; hyperopia, defective vision of near objects; myopia, defective vision of distant objects; and astigmatism, unequal refraction of light rays

as they enter the eye.

For more information about the camera and the Lions Club, call Allen at 257-2776.



Jasmine Mendoza, 2, sits on the lap of her mother, Aggie Figueroa, while Rodney Matthews of the Ruidoso Lions photographs her eyes with the MTI PhotoScreener.

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DAUGHTER: apparently there had been threats on her life on more than one occasion by a boyfriend in Ruidoso

After an off and on relationship that lasted more than a year, Ashley said there was evidently a disagreement between her daughter and her new boyfriend toward the middle or end of last January. One night he broke into the house as they were sleeping and began trashing her bedroom and took some of her possessions. A police report says her

vehicle was taken that night, and some textbooks, the car stereo and some personal items were stolen from it. As a result of that episode, Ashley said, her daughter broke up with the boyfriend, and then the threatening telephone calls started. They were from two different people, she said, and one police report quotes the caller as saying,

"If you want your son to have a mother, then you need to get out of town." Ruidoso police say they have several affidavits from friends of Ballard/Lankhorst who confirm the violence in the relationship and say she expressed fears for her life. A pastor at her church has said in a police report that she expressed fear that her life was in danger the afternoon

before her disappearance. Police said they have two suspects in the disappearance, although they are not revealing names at this time. Ashley's mother, who is living with her, said the agony of not knowing what happened to her granddaughter and the knowledge of the past violence in the relationship keeps them in a terrible limbo of wondering what happened

to her. They want to hope she said, but they also fear the worst. Ballard/Lankhorst is 5 feet three inches tall, 130 pounds, with brown eyes and brown hair and has a rose tattoo on her shoulder. She was last seen wearing dark pants, a white embroidered shirt, a dark men's sport coat and a black and white scarf with the words "New Zealand" on it.

Ashley said they emphatically want anyone with any knowledge her daughter, even if it seems unimportant, to contact Ruidoso/Lincoln County Crime Stoppers at 257-4545. There is a \$1,000 cash reward being offered for information leading to Ballard/Lankhorst's recovery, and the caller may remain anonymous and still collect the reward.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

Capitan Board meets Monday

Members of the Capitan Board of Trustees will discuss how to spend recreation money from the Lincoln County Commission during their 5 p.m. meeting Monday at village hall. The county gave Capitan \$8,001 as part of a \$150,000 for recreation projects doled out to the incorporated five villages. Ruidoso, proportionately the largest, received \$68,000. Trustees also will talk about salaries for two police officers scheduled to be hired; the department is down to one person, Chief Carrol Durbin. In a meeting earlier this month, the first for newly elected Trustees Debra Ingle and Bennie Coker, the board reappointed Durbin and Village Clerk Deborah Cummins, approved all employees and existing advisory board members, except for replacing trustees who were not re-elected. The board also will vote to accept \$25,000 from the state Legislature for construction of water storage.

Meeting to discuss county jail operations

The committee that will advise the Lincoln County Commission on what kind of a jail to build and how to equip and run it will meet at 8 a.m. Sunday (March 29) at the Zia Senior Citizens Center on U.S. 70 in Ruidoso Downs. The site of the new jail is not on the agenda. The meeting is open to the public. Committee members

include Sheriff Tom Sullivan, Commissioner William Schwettmann, District Judge Karen Parsons and attorney Gary Mitchell.

Nogal movie maker still seeking actress

David Briggs has filmed shots around Nogal's hills and even a few scenes of his grass-roots movie effort, "The Rockets." But he is unable to do much more than that until he can find his leading lady. The first-time movie director, screenwriter and producer is seeking a woman between the ages of 18-29 for the movie, a romantic mystery about an aspiring country and western singer. Briggs said applicants should have star quality and athletic ability. Acting experience is not necessary, he said. He is also seeking a man to play "Hawk," an Indian between the ages of 60-70. For more information, contact Briggs at (505) 354-8024.

Rabies vaccination clinic

Lincoln County veterinarians will offer rabies clinics on Saturday, April 4, at various locations about the county. Ruidoso Area — 1-3 p.m. • Ruidoso Tennis Court Fire Station (located off Sudderth Drive) • Ruidoso Downs Fire Station • Alto Fire Station — 10 a.m.-noon. County • Capitan Fire Station. • Lincoln Fire Station —

9-10 a.m. • Hondo Post Office — 10:30-11:30 a.m. • Carrizozo Fire Station — 2:30-3:30 p.m. • Corona Fire Station — 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The rabies vaccinations will be \$5 each. Other vaccinations will be offered at reduced fees. All pets should be on a leash or in a carrier.

Library telephone number

The telephone number for the Ruidoso Public Library changed when the facility moved to its new location next to the Ruidoso Village Hall, off of Cree Meadows Drive. The library's new number is 258-3704.

ENMU -Ruidoso offers GED testing

The Ruidoso Instruction Center of ENMU will offer the GED test to Lincoln County residents on the second Friday of each month beginning at 8:30 a.m. Cost of the exam is \$20 payable at the office prior to the testing time. Applicants must be at least 17-years-old to be eligible for testing. If under age 18, the applicant must obtain an Underage Permission Testing Form from the ENMU office. A valid New Mexico ID and the GED pre-test also are required. For more information, contact the ENMU office at 257-2120 (local) or 1-800-934-3668.

Commissioner discusses jail sites

By DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Possible sites for a new Lincoln County jail include the former Wal-Mart building in Ruidoso, a tract of land at the eastern edge of Ruidoso Downs and a parcel on State Road 48 heading north into Capitan. Those are some of the sites Lincoln County Commissioner Wilton Howell says are being considered. Although the agenda for the meeting of the Lincoln County ad hoc jail committee at 8 a.m. Sunday doesn't include discussion of a site for the new jail, that's the issue creating the most controversy. The session at the Zia Senior Citizens Center in Ruidoso Downs has been advertised as a meeting of the county commission in case more than two of the commissioners show up. Commissioner William Schwettmann is a committee member. Carrizozo officials oppose removal of the jail from the county courthouse complex in that town. They have offered the county a site free at the Carrizozo Industrial Park, which has roads and utilities in place. They want to keep the detention center nearby and to retain the business it and the district and magistrate courts generate. The ad hoc committee has recommended building courtrooms as part of any new jail. But Howell, back in Ruidoso Wednesday after a family vacation, said if the jail is to be more

than just a human warehouse, it should be closer to the population center of the county. "I don't want it to be just a jail, I want it to be a correction/HELP center and HELP stands for health, education, labor and placement," he said. "For a work release program, inmates need to be where jobs are available. As a business owner, I wouldn't drive to Carrizozo twice a day to pick up and deliver an inmate laborer." "Also for counseling (for drug and alcohol addictions), they need to be closer. Most of the crime occurs in Ruidoso and that's where the families are. Inmates could work during the day, receive counseling or attend classes, possibly through (Eastern New Mexico University) at night. They could become productive citizens when they leave." The public also would benefit from the free labor applied to road work or garbage collection, he said. "County government is here to do a service for a reasonable amount of money," he said. "I'm excited. I think this is an opportunity to do some good." With a centralized facility, other services also could be moved to the complex such as the law enforcement dispatch, eliminating duplication of services in Ruidoso Downs, Ruidoso and Carrizozo, he said. The overall savings in taxpayer dollars could be from \$600,000 to \$1 million, the commissioner said. Specific sites under consid-

eration by the county include the former Wal-Mart building now empty on U.S. 70 near the intersection with Sudderth Drive, a county-owned former dump on Sierra Blanca Airport Road and several state-owned parcels. "The Sierra Blanca road site is not my first, second, third or fourth choice," Howell said, adding that a petition opposing that site is being circulated. "The State Lands Commissioner has a program in place to cooperate with communities and to turn over land if it's for a good purpose. One of my preferences is a tract close to the Bonito turnoff to Capitan, but about one mile further north," he said. Another possibility is a trade of some state land on Moon Mountain behind Ruidoso High School for a tract owned by the school system at the eastern edge of Ruidoso Downs. "Moon Mountain has been offered to us (by the state land office)," Howell said. "We could trade that 640 acres for 25 acres below Ruidoso Downs." The school district also owns 22 acres of water rights so it should get all of its money back (with the sale of the rights). The district could build on several plateaus on the mountain, he said. Another state parcel is on Gavilan Canyon Road adjacent to the high school. "Maybe we should build it right next to the school and it might 'scare them straight'," Howell said.



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- **Capitan Elementary - Wednesday, April 15, 9am-12pm
- Carrizozo Elementary - Friday, April 17, 9am - 12pm
- **Ruidoso - Nob Hill ECC - Friday, April 24, 9am-2pm
- Corona Elementary - Thursday, April 30, 10am-12pm

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With some huffing and puffing, they're building a great straw house

Construction's on track despite winter weather and unusual problems

Continued from page 1A

ays on the Internet — that a museum where she had volunteered many times was a two-story house of straw built more than 100 years ago.

Besides the insulation advantage of 16-inch-thick walls, the couple liked the idea that they would be using a renewable source for the main building material, although to meet state codes, wooden posts and beams support the roof as in a conventional house.

Construction started last September, in the midst of rain from warm El Niño winds. Completion was projected for seven months. The house isn't far off schedule. Another seven weeks should wrap it up, except for some interior painting and other small jobs the Wellses will tackle.

Finding an insurance company willing to write a policy on the structure was a problem, Mellyn said.

"A couple of national companies had been insuring, but quit," she said. "The day before we were to sign with a local company, I received a call that the same decision had come down from that agency's headquarters."

Finding insurance

After many more calls, Mellyn finally found a company willing to write a policy with acceptable premiums.

Although initially the couple thought they might be able to build at a cost less than a conventional house, changing state codes blew the price up to about \$350,000, despite the labor of the owners.

But the Wellses aren't disappointed.

"It has such a special feel and it's so quiet," Mellyn said.

Heat is provided through tubes enclosed in the floor and controlled from a small room off the garage. The house has no vents. The walls "breathe."

"Once it heats up, it holds the heat" in the winter, but in the summer, the thick walls offer a cave-like cool, Mellyn said.

Exterior walls are stuccoed. The interior will have drywall with a textured appearance or straight stucco on straw. Where the couple anticipates hanging artwork, wood has been nailed from post to post over the straw, but will be hidden by the interior wall finish.

One of the special challenges of this type of construction



Scott and Mellyn Wells will be moving into their new strawbale house near Nogal with in the next few weeks. When finished it will look like a Santa Fe-style adobe home.

Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News

tion is to be sure the walls are strong enough to support the roof, Sheehy said.

"It's a new and different type of construction so problems arise during the process that you have to figure out as you go, like figuring out ways to attach electrical boxes," he said. "This is my first straw house and I've learned a lot. The first thing I did was get a book on straw bale construction and read it."

Sheehy said the next time he tackles a straw bale house, it will be easier because of what he's learned with the Wells house.

"It's more labor intensive than a frame house, about 25 percent to 30 percent more labor," he said.

But that's not always the case.

A simpler approach

Richard and Rhoda Hostetter's approach to the construction of their straw bale house was simpler and faster.

"I love it," Rhoda said. "This is just a cottage we built here until we get our house built. But from our experience with this one and one we built for my sister, we know we want ours to be straw bale."

The couple shares 20 acres with Rhoda's sister. While their house is the post and beam style, similar to the Wells' house, her sister's design has the straw walls bearing the weight of the roof.

"I've been interested for a long time in building methods

that are friendly to the builder-owner and to the environment," Richard said. "I got excited about the straw thing, because anyone can build it themselves and it requires less high tech labor. It's energy efficient and almost sound proof."

The basic structure of both houses were up in two weekends each, he said.

"We had two weekend work parties with a bunch of friends over and cooked up a great big pot of food," Richard said. "The wooden supports (post and beams) went up in one weekend and the straw the next. The stucco work took more time."

"The major thing you have to be concerned with is that you can't afford roof leaks or any water in your straw."

Versatility built in

Richard likes the versatility of straw.

"It's flexible," he said. "You can sculpt it, cut niches in the wall, bend it and do things you can't with a two-by-four."

For interior clay stucco, a variety of colors can be found in Lincoln County, eliminating the need to paint it, Richard said.

"After two years, we're very pleased, but there are a few things we plan to do a little differently (on the new house)," he said. "We put the adobe stucco both inside and out on the first one. We'd been told the outside would wash off, wear and need to be redone. We decided that for future buildings we will use regular cement stucco, although it

doesn't breath as well."

Straw bale construction is well-adapted to the dry climate in New Mexico, he said.

"They have been doing variations in Europe, which has a wetter climate. You just have to pay even more attention to the moisture factors," Richard said. "You know its a technology that works when there are homes still standing after more than 100 years."

The flat roof problem

On the Wells house, one of the first design problems was how to handle the roof line since the house is Santa Fe style and traditionally the roof is flat, Mellyn said.

"But with a straw bale house, we don't want moisture sitting there on the roof, because moisture could rot the straw and compromise the integrity of the structure," she said. "We tilted the roof and installed gutters to run the water to an underground cistern we'll use to water the horses."

Electrical wiring also was handled differently. A special type of wire must be used, but that's an improvement over a previous requirement to enclose all wiring in PVC pipe; she said.

Most of the plumbing is conventional, but the house will have no spigots on its outside walls. Instead, water pipes will be run through a trench underground for outdoor use. Piping for fixtures inside the house is installed by creating a trench in

the straw, which also insulates pipes and keeps them from freezing.

The vigas were created by the Wellses from trees they hand-picked. Sid Goodloe, a local rancher, cut and peeled them. The couple painted them with a preservative and Scott notched them to go over interior walls, then helped put them in place.

Antlers will form the frame of the double door entrance to the home.

The 4,000-square-foot house is built in a U-shape surrounding a patio and close to a five-stall stable with a foaling observation room and a feeding room. The 1,040-square-foot garage will double as a workout room.

A 'great room' that is

Leading an informal tour, Scott and Mellyn headed to the heart of the house, a 67-foot long great room encompassing the kitchen, diningroom and livingroom with a large fireplace.

Three fireplaces are part of this straw house, two inside and one built into an outside wall in the patio area. The third is in the master bedroom. All are installed following the same codes as in a conventional house.

One of Mellyn's favorite features is the deep window ledges. With windows in place, more

than a foot of space is left for display.

But Mellyn's favorite is a closet in the master bedroom that's as big as most kitchens.

Although straw still was visible last week throughout the house, because interior wall covering hadn't gone up, Scott and Mellyn saw each feature as if everything was in place.

"The steam shower will be there," Mellyn pointed. "The jacuzzi there" and so on.

From the window of the master bedroom, the couple will be able to keep tabs on their seven horses with a clear view of the stable or they may choose the alternate view of Nogal Peak.

"The big problem in my office, where I have a view of the mountain, will be to concentrate enough to work," Scott said. "I'll have to face the wall to get anything done."

For more information about straw bale construction, check the Ruidoso Public Library and the Internet under "straw bale." A newsletter called The Last Straw, published by Out On Bale by Mail, can be contacted in Tucson, Ariz., at (520) 624-1873, or call the California Straw Building Association at (805) 546-4274 and Straw bale Builders Assistance at (800) 734-8091.

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Ski report

New snow last 24 hours: none
Snow depth mounded on the mountain: 83 inches
Surface conditions: Packed powder
Skiing conditions: Excellent
Trails open: 55 of 55
Lifts open: 11 of 11
Road: clear

On deck

FRIDAY
Golf - Ruidoso girls at Alamogordo Invitational
Tennis - Ruidoso at Goddard Invitational, 8 a.m.

SATURDAY
Golf - Ruidoso boys at Alamogordo Invitational
Baseball - Ruidoso at Eunice Tournament
Track - Ruidoso at Oriate Invitational, 9 a.m. Capitan at Alfalfa Relays in Hagerman
Rodeo - Los Lunas H.S. hosts an N.M. High School Rodeo Association rodeo at Bosque Farms Arena.

Softball coaching clinic in Hobbs
New Mexico USSSA will host a fast pitch and slow pitch national coaching clinic at 9 a.m. Saturday. The featured speaker will be Sandra Mader, 1994 gold medalist at the Olympic Festival. The clinic begins at Agnes Kaster Head Activity Center in Hobbs and later moves to the Ziplax. Cost of the clinic is \$25, and each attending coach will receive breakfast, lunch, instructional manual and national certification. For more information, call Kevin Naegele at (505) 392-5256.

MONDAY
PARC Meeting
Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. in village hall, 313 Cree Meadows Dr.

APRIL 4
Three on Three soccer tourney
The Alamogordo Breakfast Lions Club is hosting a three on three soccer tournament April 4 and 5 at the Tiger Soccer Fields in Alamogordo. Cost to enter \$40 per team. All teams are guaranteed three games. Recreational and competitive divisions are: under 6, under 8, under 10, under 12, under 14, under 16, under 18, adult, coed and over 30. For more information, call Andy Smith at (505) 437-7966.

APRIL 6
Adult softball league
Ruidoso adult softball meeting for team managers, at 6:30 p.m. in the village hall, 313 Cree Meadows Dr.

April 13
All Indian basketball tournament
The 23rd Annual Native American AISES Basketball Tournament will be hosted by the American Indian Program and American Indian Science and Engineering Society May 1-3 at the NMSU Activity Center in Las Cruces. Format will be 10 men's and six women's all-Indian double elimination tournament. Entry fee is \$130 with a \$65 non-refundable deposit due April 13. Awards given to both divisions. For more information, call (505) 646-4207.

APRIL 21
Adult slo-pitch softball league
Men's and women's adult softball teams can begin signing up for the Ruidoso Parks and Recreation summer league season. Cost to enter a team is \$375 and is due by 5 p.m. April 21. The season begins Monday, April 27 for the women's league and Tuesday, April 28 for the men's league. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 257-5030.

MAY 5
Becoming an Outdoors Woman
A three-day workshop for women interested in learning more about hunting, fishing and basic survival skills will be offered May 15-17 at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton. Becoming an Outdoors Woman is sponsored by the New Mexico Game and Fish Department. Twenty-seven classes are offered with each session running a half day. Some of the classes offered include: firearms safety, fly fishing, basic map and compass, nature photography, camp cooking, basic backpacking and wildlife identification. Cost is \$170 if registered prior to May 5, or \$190 after that date. The fee includes instruction, program materials, use of equipment, and all meals and lodging. For more information, call (505) 382-6968.

Fishing report

Ruidoso River muddying at press time. Bonito River action increasing daily, some good sized brook trout have been caught, some rainbows, too. Slight baetis hatch, and nymph selection is the same at Ruidoso River.
Grindstone Reservoir April 1.
Bonito Lake opens April 1.
Grindstone Reservoir lake level will be rising as runoff has increased. Evening risers are more plentiful each day. Midges and griffith's gnats some nymphs and streamers will work too.
Hurd Ranch flows are great. Irrigation still causing some muddiness. Great fishing but good fish are few and far between. Muddier minnows, some caddis, mostly a nymph show.
Lake Mesalero evening risers increasing here also. Level rising daily. Selection should be similar to Grindstone Lake. Closed waters include Bonito Lake, Eagle Lakes and Upper Canyon on the reservation.
"Each passing spring day means better fishing tomorrow."
Mike Hyman
Ruidoso River Association

'Billy the Kid' rides again



Race organizers Cynthia Clayton and John Parker stand along part of what will be Billy the Kid Cup race trail. Behind them is the probable starting area and staging area for the June 14 cross country mountain bike race, which will take place on the Fort Stanton special management area.

Race organizers move closer to final goal - the county's first sanctioned mountain bike competition.

BY LAURA CLYMER
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

After months of testing mountain bike trails, seeking permission from federal agencies, pitching race proposals, and failing to locate a race site - not once, but twice - race organizers Cindi Clayton and John Parker have found a home and a name for their "baby."

On June 14, mountain bike racers will compete for top honors in the first annual Billy the Kid Cup. The race will tentatively start at the head of the Capitan Trail, a designated mountain bike trail of the Fort Stanton special management area.

"It's going to bring people to Ruidoso and put us on the map," said Parker, explaining his desire to bring such an event to the county.

The race, which runs along an eight-mile loop consisting of the Capitan and Tlalo trails, will be the first National Off-Road Bicycling Association (NORBA) sponsored event offered in Lincoln County. It's also race No. 4 of the New Mexico Off Road Championship Series, a series of mountain bike races throughout the state. It will mark the first time a NMORS race will be held in Lincoln County as well.

Prior Lincoln County bicycle races have included the White Mountain Challenge, a road race up Ski Run Road, which ran in September until 1996. And, Clayton remembers, a criterion race through Ruidoso's downtown years ago - but she can't recall a race designed just for mountain bik-

See RACE, page 2B

GOVERNMENT'S ROLE

Race fits into BLM's master plan

BY LAURA CLYMER
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The Bureau of Land Management's marriage with the Ruidoso Cycling Club to produce the Billy the Kid Cup is a match made in heaven.

"We're all in favor of developing trails on public lands as part of the multi-use concept," said Jerry Ballard, outdoor recreation planner for the Roswell Resource Area of BLM.

The Fort Stanton special management area also is identified as an area of critical environmental concern and a recreation management area. It's the latter designation that makes the

24,600 acres of the Fort Stanton management area of interest to Ballard.

Currently, mountain bikers have three trail options in the Fort Stanton management area - the Tlalo, Capitan and Lincoln trails.

Ballard has checked out more and has identified an additional 67 miles for mountain bike use.

"This area is really neat for mountain biking," said Ballard, who envisions trail links to Alto, Ruidoso and the Capitans. "We have a lot of two-track roads, which are gentle. It's a good, firm base for traction."

Most of the trails are designated as multi-use. That means the cyclists share the

path with horseback riders and hikers.

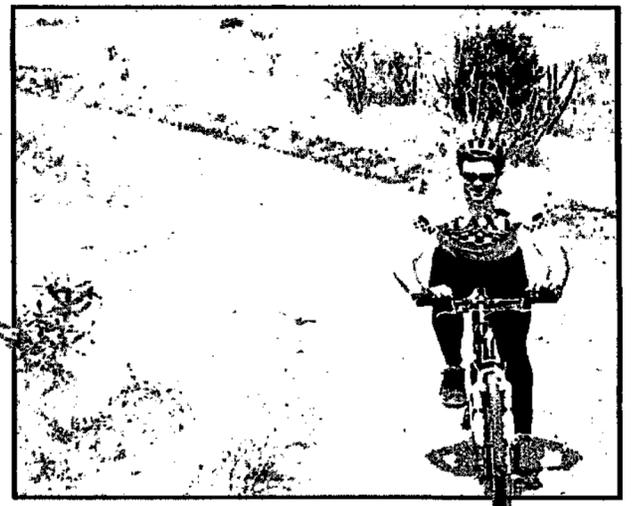
Ballard's recreational plans must fall within the area's other concerns, such as environmental and archeological.

The Fort Stanton area is home to the Kuenzler's cactus, or hedgehog cactus, an endangered species.

Ballard, who was preparing the environmental impact assessment Thursday for the race, anticipates no problems receiving in clearance for the race.

"They (the cacti) won't be impacted in the slightest," he said.

See BLM PLAN, page 2B



John Parker takes a spin on the Capitan trail, one of three mountain biking trails in the Fort Stanton special management area.

SPRING TRAINING '98: RUIDOSO TRACK

Track teams hope acquired depth will deep-six Silver

BY LAURA CLYMER
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Prospects for the boys and girls Ruidoso track teams have longtime coach Ronny Maskew grinning - and when the season is over, Maskew says he and the Warriors could be winning as well.

The teams - blessed by some new faces in addition to their veteran work horses - boast both depth and talent. Plus, the Warriors like what they are doing; they seem to enjoy working hard, said the track coach.

"It's the most fun I've had in years," Maskew said. "I have fun each year, but this year a little more so."

Little has changed in terms of the schedule for the Warriors. As usual, it's demanding. Maskew took his team to Odessa for the West Texas Relays over spring break so the Warriors could get a

taste of a big meet.

Ruidoso already has bumped heads with District 3AAA rival Silver this year. The Colts came out on top, beating both the Warrior girls and boys at Tuesday's Rose Relays in Tularosa.

"We went up against who we're going to have to beat," Maskew said of Silver and the District 3AAA race. "I think we're going to be able to make a pretty strong charge on them (the Colts)."

Chasing the Colts with Ruidoso should be nearby Cobre as well. Maskew is uncertain of the strength of the district's two other schools, Hot

1998 RHS Track Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site
March 14	Gadsden Inv.	Anthony
March 21	West Tx. Relays	Odessa
March 24	Rose Relays	Tularosa
March 28	Oñate Inv.	Las Cruces
April 4	Las Cruces Inv.	Las Cruces
April 11	Carlsbad Inv.	Carlsbad
April 18	Ruidoso Inv.*	Ruidoso
April 24	Artesia Inv.*	Artesia
May 2	Ross Black Inv.*	Lovington
May 9	District Meet (hosted by Hot Springs)	Las Cruces
May 15-16	State Meet*	Albuquerque

* indicates a state qualifying meet

Springs and Santa Teresa.

How are the Warriors shaping up?

"The boys and girls in the sprints and sprint relays have run better than we ever have at this time of year. We're kind of excited about that," Maskew said. "We feel like we're in pretty good shape for this time of year. We have a lot of hard work in front of us but I think this group is pretty willing and able."

Three newcomers boost boys

Three newcomers boost boys experience to Maskew's returning nucleus of runners and fielders.

Juniors Corey Saenz and Josh Varnadore are competing in track for the first time in their high school careers.

Both bolster Maskew's sprinting corps. Saenz, the Warriors' javelin in the fall, might throw the javelin as well. Varnadore fills a Ruidoso void in the high jump.

Though he's only a freshman, Solomon Barnett has plenty of varsity experience. Barnett directed the Warrior varsity basketball team in the winter.

Ruidoso's boys return a key letterwinner from last year in each of the major competing categories. Junior Garvin Grant is the Warriors' most

See TRACK, page 2B

TRACK: RHS aims for Silver and District 3AAA championships

Continued from page 1B

experienced sprinter and long jumper. Senior Arthur Miller anchors the Warriors in the field events, while Thomas Sheile heads the pole vault and triple jump.

Dabert Comanche is Ruidoso's hopeful in the mile and 3200-meter runs

"We've got to find some people to high jump, long jump and throw the shot and discus," said Maskew, pointing out events where Ruidoso is a bit thin. "If we can work on some things and get some more hurdlers and field event people then we can compete."

Girls are most talented in years (subhead)

Patience has yielded dividends for Maskew and the girls track team. The Warriors return six key letter-winners from last year's team. Add a standout sophomore transfer and strong freshman class, and Maskew has what he calls the deepest and most talented girls team he's had in the last several years.

"The only thing we seem to be lacking with the girls is a high jumper," Maskew said.

Senior Mandi Lewallen (springs and hurdles) and fellow sprinters Jessica Daniels

and Priscilla Rojas team with sophomore transfer Amber Green to give the Warriors a formidable 400-meter sprint team.

Green, who came to Ruidoso from Guthrie, Texas, was the individual high point scorer at the Rose Relays, winning the long jump, triple jump and 200-meter dash. She was also on the winning mile relay and set the school record in the 200-meter dash.

"She really helps," understated Maskew.

"I think they've run extremely well in the early season. We've been as close to being the best we've ever been in the relays at Ruidoso High School," Maskew said.

Erica Romero leads the Warriors in the middle distances, while Tawyna Heineken and Sina Herrera return in the shot put and discus for Ruidoso.

Filling out his varsity squad, Maskew has a solid freshman class, paced by Leah Miller, Mindy Brunell and Kammi Sparks.

"I think those girls are going to help us a tremendous amount," Maskew said. "Depth-wise, talent-wise we're a little better than we've ever been."

BLM PLAN: Mountain biking fits into recreation goals for agency

Continued from page 1B

The final evaluation Ballard must complete is the archeological assessment. An archeologist will survey the land for evidence of past cultures where the race staging area and the primitive camping areas will be located.

BLM will receive more than merely free promotion

from the Billy the Kid Cup; it will get some free labor as well. BLM, a Department of Interior agency, and the Ruidoso Cycling Club recently reached a working agreement whereby RCC members will help maintain the mountain biking trails.

"There are a lot of opportunities out there - lots of nice, nice areas," Ballard summed up.

RACE: Organizers put final touches on June event

Continued from page 1B

ers as the Billy the Kid Cup is.

With the help of Bureau of Land Management outdoor recreation planner Jerry Ballard, Parker and Clayton located the Fort Stanton site about three weeks ago. Determined and to an extent desperate - two other race sites proposals failed - the duo contacted Ballard at BLM about the trails at Fort Stanton.

The race fit well into BLM's recreational use plan for the area - to develop trails on BLM land for multi-uses.

"We were willing to go ahead and try and promote it on BLM lands," Ballard said.

In some respects, BLM bailed out Parker and Clayton.

The pair looked at Cedar Creek as one possible race site, but missed reserving the location by 10 minutes. Then, Parker and Clayton turned their attention to what they describe as "the ideal" mountain bike race course - the Ski Apache slopes.

Parker and Clayton eyed a seven-mile loop that included portions of the ski area with the Crest Trail on National Forest Service property.

"It was more challenging. It had more vertical. It would be a much better ride for the riders we want," Parker said.

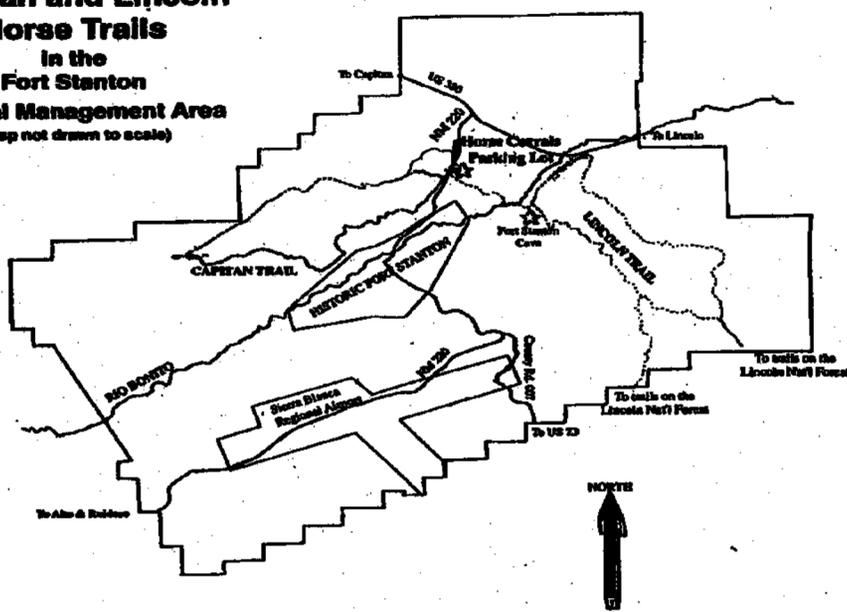
Parker envisioned using the ski area's parking, restroom and concession facilities, as well as the chair lifts, in a joint sponsorship with the ski area.

But Ski Apache general manager Roy Parker nixed the idea because of ski area's summer plan for general maintenance.

After those failures, National Forest Service offi-

Captain and Lincoln Horse Trails in the Fort Stanton Special Management Area

(map not drawn to scale)



cial Sam Tobias turned Parker and Clayton on to Ballard and the BLM.

Ballard was all for the idea.

"I've never seen a governmental agency this reactive," Clayton said of BLM's response to the proposal.

Various sponsors have already lined up for the Billy the Kid Cup, even though not every "I" has been dotted or every "t" crossed.

The Village of Ruidoso Parks and Recreation department, White Mountain Search and Rescue, Ruidoso EMS, the Billy the Kid water company and Coca Cola have committed products and services to the race. Avid cyclist and pottery artist Tim Wier-

wille will design the trophy mug for the winners.

To make its \$7,000 budget the race also needs financial sponsorship. Clayton already has the five \$500 level sponsorships committed, but she needs for \$250 level sponsors and \$100 level sponsors.

Final approval from BLM includes an environmental impact assessment, which Ballard expects to be OK'd.

"I haven't run into any conflicts yet," Ballard said. "It's 99.9 percent for sure. I don't see any controversy or anything like that."

Additionally, the Ruidoso Cycling Club - founded by Parker and Clayton - has agreed to maintain the bike trails and prepare the race

course. "We need to introduce more single track into the equation," Parker said of the race course. "From a rider's perspective you want something that is fun to ride and a challenge."

Clayton's and Parker's long term goal is to turn the Cup into annual event with more races sprouting from it, in addition to the broader goal of making Ruidoso a destination spot for cyclists and their families.

"This is a niche market that nobody has even bothered to focus on," Parker said.

"If we had a good trail system and mapping system (for cyclists) ... just think of it as a different way to see Ruidoso."

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ticket outlets at Furr's

ProTix, a ticket distributor for events throughout the state, opened outlets at both Furr's grocery stores in Ruidoso last week, said ProTix General Manager Tom Reynolds.

Tickets for the Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts as well as Santa Fe and Albuquerque events may be purchased at the store's video rental counters, Reynolds said. Or people may call ProTix at (800) 906-9315 for credit card purchases.

Ruidoso real estate agent recognized

Local real estate agent Judy Parrish is one of 675 investment professionals to qualify this year for membership in Putnam's 25th Annual Golden Scale Council, according to a recent press release.

The council position is awarded by Putnam Investment, one of the nation's oldest and largest investment management companies with more than 60 years of experience in equity and fixed-income mutual fund investing and a 30-year track record managing institutional assets.

Parrish works at New Mexico Financial Investment Services on Sudderth Drive.

Hand Technologies

Six Ruidoso area women are offering one-on-one technology consulting and purchasing services through a national company, Hand Technologies.

"From purchasing a new personal computer to getting on the Internet, we help Ruidoso area home and small-office customers with their purchases while making the technology easy to understand and affordable," said Mary Weaver, spokesperson for the group.

For information, contact Weaver at 336-9660, Sandy Stambaugh at 336-7934, Michelle Volk at 336-1027, Kimberlee Smith at 257-2343, Rosemary Harrison at 336-7876, or Genevieve Phelan at 258-3726

Downs second in state for lodging growth

Lodging revenues from 1996-97 showed Ruidoso Downs to have the second highest growth for the industry in the state, an analyst said this week.

"Ruidoso Downs, over the last 24 months, increased by 39.4 percent in lodging revenue — \$1,018,166 compared to \$730,500," said Robert Dodson, whose company issues a quarterly report on the lodging industry.

"The city of Ruidoso, during the same time, increased 7.6 percent — \$10,199,520 compared to \$9,479,800," he said.

Fort Sumner had the most growth in lodging revenue for the state, Dodson said.

He attributed Ruidoso Downs' higher lodging revenue to several factors, including the recent construction of a nationally-recognized hotel chain in the Downs. Additionally, Dodson said a significant amount of the increase should be tied to gambling at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Nationally, he said, gambling is perceived more and more as a socially acceptable pastime.

Exports for 1997 set New Mexico record

New Mexico sold almost \$1.9 billion in exports around the world in 1997, an increase of 85 percent from 1996, according to the state Economic Development Department's Trade Division. Though an increase was predicted, the total exceeded expectations, said Roberto Castillo, director of the division.

Using an economic multiplier, that export industry is supporting 43,171 jobs in New Mexico, he said.

The top importer of New Mexico goods is the Philippines, at \$711 million.

The majority of New Mexico exports are electronics.

Free business listings on Internet

Ruidoso area businesses are being offered free ads on the National Direct Internet Yellow Pages, according to a company press release. Businesses do not have to be on the Internet to participate.

To contact the new directory, call (505) 355-2559 or fax (505) 355-3559.

The service is open to companies which may already be online.

Sitzmark Chalet sold

Todd and Lori Robertson of Weatherford, Okla., recently purchased the Sitzmark Chalet property from former owners Neil and Martha Freed, according to information from Re/Max of Ruidoso.

The property sold for about \$595,000, according to Wes Burk, real estate agent for the exchange.

Real estate agent now on Internet

Larry L. Tillman of Century 21 Aspen Real Estate is now on the official Internet site of the National Association of Realtors.

Home buyers and sellers can locate the site at <http://www.realtor.com>. More than one million listing may be found at the site.

As many as 80 distinct criteria pinpoint the best matches from 1,077,000 homes to a select list, information and photographs on those homes are then brought on-screen for home buyers to review.

Along with budding trees and warm breezes, early spring brings income tax anxieties

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Only 20 more days left. Income tax crunch time has arrived. For many people, the April 15 deadline to post state and tax returns will sneak up on them as it always does.

More and more, though, help in the form of free assistance, especially through electronic channels, is available.

Volunteers with the Ruidoso RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteers Program) expect to help

more people this year through weekly sessions at local senior citizen centers than in past years, a coordinator said.

Dale Miller, who heads the assistance program, said about 400 people will be helped through the RSVP program compared to past years' totals of about 350.

Many local accountants, though already swamped, are taking clients and probably will until the beginning of April, said one accountant, Terry Jones.

For people who own computers, the opportunities to get

assistance have increased dramatically. Besides income tax preparation programs, computer owners may access help from the Internal Revenue Service itself.

Forms may be downloaded, explanations sought and other information gathered from the IRS website (see below for more information).

Tax preparation programs, usually purchased at computer departments, also may be downloaded from the Internet for a fee, Jones said.

► Tax tips

Tax filers this year should be sure to take advantage of:

- Earned Income Credits
- Lower capital gains tax rates
- And a state rebate for seniors

... Taxing questions

Ruidoso accountant Terry Jones answers a few questions about what people should be watching for and considering regarding their income tax returns for 1997.

Q: What is new this year for tax returns?

A: Most of the recent changes don't take effect until the current tax year (1998). Changes for '97 mainly have to do with capital gains. If you had capital gains after May 6 of 1997, then you may get beneficial capital gains rates ... People who might have sold their house after May 6, that's all tax free up to a \$250,000 profit. So, the big majority of people are going to be able to sell their houses and not have to pay taxes on the gain. The only qualification is you have to live in it for two years (before selling).

Q: What's new for those people not concerned with capital gains?

A: Every year, the earned income credit level increases — meaning they can earn more income and still qualify for the credit. This past year, you could make up to \$30,000, and possibly still qualify if you have two children. So I think there's going to be more people who qualify for earned income credit than there has been in the past.

Q: What else?

A: The thing that I am trying to hit on with my clients this year is to reconsider IRAs. Lots of people are knocked out of being able to deduct IRAs if they are covered by a pension plan at work. The new Roth IRAs (see below) will allow many of those people to start contributing to IRAs. It's a good deal because if you are setting aside money for retirement, this is the first place to consider — earnings in the Roth IRAs are never going to be taxed as long as you can keep them in there for five years.

Q: Is it too late to run to an accountant and say, "I need my taxes done?"

A: Oh no.

Q: When is it too late?

A: For most CPA (Certified Public Accountants), it's the first of April. Those last two weeks are tough. But I'm not in that position this year. I could take on more people. This year — I was able to stay up more. Computers are helping.

Q: Do you recommend that people try income tax computer programs to do their taxes?

A: I think Congress almost assumes that people are going to be using computers by the way they write the laws. I mean, 'if this applies, then that happens.'

Persons who just have wages can probably do it themselves, as long as they have a calculator. But I think even that is going to change with the \$500 per child credit coming into effect in 1998. And then there is going to be more rules and regulations even for the people who only have to compute the child credit. So, it's going to get tough without a computer. Even tougher in the future. But there certainly are some (tax programs offered on the market). And people with access to the Internet can even download those things. I think one of them only charges \$10.

Q: Has that cut into the tax-time boom for accountants?

A: Not me, no. I think it's mostly for the people who were going to do their own tax returns, anyways.

Q: What would be included in a checklist for people doing their own taxes?

A: I think the main thing that is going to draw attention is if it is sloppy and if mathematical errors are in there. So, be neat when you fill these things out and be sure they are mathematically correct.

Q: Seriously, just be neat in how you fill out the form?

A: Right. They assume a sloppy return is going to have more errors in it than one that appears neat. I think anyone would assume that.

Q: What's another red flag?

A: Well, most of the audits these days are kicked out by



Terry Jones, a Ruidoso accountant, looks over one of his client's tax return.

computers based on pre-set criteria depending on what a person has, compared to others like him.

I think a person who has an office at home is more likely to be audited than other people. And people with a lot of travel and entertainment deductions are likely to be audited. That's one of the heavy-hit items — travel and entertainment. They seem to have found that a lot of people fudge on those. They disallow a lot because people don't seem to keep their receipts.

And there are other criteria such as people with more contributions than most people have; that might kick somebody out. Doesn't mean it's not legitimate, they just don't fall into the pre-set parameters.

Q: Are itemized returns more prone to be audited?

A: Well, only in the sense that there's more to keep up with, more documents. But a person should itemize if itemizing helps them, and if they have kept up with their documentation.

But Congress has raised the standard deduction to the level where they want to knock out itemizing. They would rather people take the standard deduction because there are fewer contentious issues.

Q: What about people who have to pay, and they find they cannot pay it all?

A: There is a form to send in, and I think they charge \$45 now for an installment plan with the IRS.

► Tax Forms

Tax forms are available locally or electronically.

- The Ruidoso Public Library has the more common forms readily available. More obscure forms may be reproduced.
- Senior citizen centers in both Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs have forms available through the RSVP free tax assistance program. Volunteers are in Ruidoso 2-4 p.m. Fridays and 2-4 p.m. Thursdays.
- Call the IRS at (800) 829-3676 and order forms during working hours. The best times are Thursday and Friday afternoons.
- Computer owners may access the IRS at the following Internet addresses:
World Wide Web : www.irs.ustreas.gov/forms
Telnet: irs.irs.ustreas.gov
FTP - ftp.irs.ustreas.gov
- Or pick up forms at a local accountants office (a fee may be involved)

Tax Payer Act of 1997 creates opportunities for many investors

CONTRIBUTED BY STEPHEN LACOUR
DEAN WRITER ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Designed primarily to reduce the federal deficit and balance the budget, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 contains changes in tax law that could have a significant impact on financial strategy now and in the years ahead.

This historic legislation contains provisions that affect a variety of financial goals including:

- Capital gains tax rates
- Retirement savings
- Education funding
- Home sales
- Estate sales
- Tax credits for many families with children

How the Act affects investors

The Act profoundly enhances investment opportunities for millions of Americans. A few important provisions of particular interest to investors are highlighted below:

Significant reductions in capital gains tax rates

The maximum rate for long-term capital gains from the sale of stocks, bonds and most other investments has been lowered from 28 percent to 20 percent. The law also creates a new 10 percent capital gains rate for taxpayers in the 15 percent income tax bracket. The new 20 percent and 10 percent rates are applicable to investments that have been held for longer than one year and sold after May 6, 1997, and before July 29, 1997. Investments sold after July 28, 1997, must have been held longer than 18 months in order to qualify for these new rates.

New and enhanced Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)

The Act enhances the traditional IRA and creates two new IRA alternatives, the Roth IRA and the Education IRA.

- Enhanced traditional IRA — Since Jan. 1, 1998, when an individual

participates in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, income limits for fully deductible IRA contributions will gradually be increased over the next several years, ultimately doubling the current limits to \$50,000 for single tax filers by 2005 and \$80,000 for joint tax filers by 2007. (For 1998, income limits for making fully deductible contributions will be \$30,000 for individuals and \$50,000 for those filing jointly).

In addition, spouses of active participants in employer-sponsored retirement plans who are not covered by their own plans can make fully deductible IRA contributions, regardless of whether they are wage earners, if the couple's adjusted gross income is \$150,000 or less in 1998.

Also, IRA account holders will be able to make withdrawals without penalties before the age of 59-1/2 if the funds are used to purchase a first home or to pay expenses associated with higher education. (The home withdrawal has a lifetime maximum of \$10,000.)

- Roth IRA — Beginning Jan. 1, a new type of IRA called the Roth IRA

was introduced. Eligible participants may make a contribution of up to \$2,000 per year.

All contributions will be non-deductible; however, earnings accumulate on a tax-deferred basis. Withdrawals will be tax-free if the account has been open for more than five years and the investor is at least 59.5 years old, disabled, has died, or the funds are to be used to buy a first-time home purchased (\$10,000 lifetime maximum).

Any distribution not meeting the five-year rule and any of the other four requirements will be taxable to the extent distributions exceed previous contributions. The 10 percent premature distribution penalty will apply unless one of the exceptions to the penalty for distributions from traditional IRAs applies.

The adjusted gross income limits to determine whether investors are eligible for the Roth IRA begins at \$95,000 for single taxpayers and at \$150,000 for those filing jointly. Those whose income falls above the limits to be eligible for a Roth IRA or to deduct a traditional IRA contributions can still

make non-deductible contributions to a traditional IRA.

Eligible taxpayers may contribute to both types of IRA each year, but total contributions cannot exceed \$2,000.

• Education IRA — Beginning Jan. 1, a third IRA category, the Education IRA, allows individuals who fall within certain income limits to contribute up to \$500 per year per child to this account until the child reaches the age of 18. Like the Roth IRA, contributions will not be tax deductible, but the earnings accumulate on a tax-deferred basis, and there will be no taxes on withdrawals, provided the funds are used to pay for the child's qualified higher education expenses.

Consult your tax adviser and your investment professional

This legislation offers welcome tax relief and creates many new opportunities for individual investors. To help make the most of the new tax environment, turn to an investment professional who is well versed in the new law and its implications. He or she can help tailor an investment strategy that suits your particular needs.

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CORRECTION POLICY

As always...Please check your advertisement for errors. Claims for errors must be received by The Ruidoso News with 24 hours of the first publication date.

Prepaid ads will be cancelled upon request, but without refunds, in consideration of the reduced rate.

Publisher assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertisements except to publish a correction in the next issue.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE — All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-424-8590. For the Washington, DC area please call HUD at 426-3500. The toll-free telephone number is 1-800-543-8294.

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203 VALLEY VIEW DR. Unfurnished 3BDRM, 2BA, \$775 + utilities. On market, month to month. Call Cindy, Gary Lynch Realty, 257-4011. Lic#273523

FOR SALE: Alto Village Lot, Sierra Blanca Subdivision Unit #1. Full Golf Membership 305 Lake Shore Drive (Lot 56 Block) \$18,500.00 Call 505-393-6881

INVESTORS, TAKE NOTE! The Attic complex is for sale! High traffic & visibility. Approx 6000 square feet. \$589,500 #9860439 CALL DOUG SIDDELY at 338-4248 CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate

BEAUTIFUL 32 ACRE TRACT gentle slopes with junipers and some pines. Completely fenced with well and septic. Adjoining 67 acre tract also available. Would make a nice package. BILL PIPPIN REAL ESTATE 257-4228

LOOKING FOR AFFORDABLE ACREAGE? Unrestricted 56 Acres in Hondo Valley. Adjoining thousands of acres of National Forest. Good well, other mobile. BILL PIPPIN REAL ESTATE 257-4228



KIMBLE KEARNS' INVESTMENT INSIGHTS
Cellular 420-1197
Office 257-9057



2 bdr home in Captain, possible commercial and residential land covered w/trees, \$2,000,000. Adobe home, has horse facilities and commercial potential in Capitan, \$45,000.

THREE BEDROOM, 1 bath home and 1 bedroom/1 bath guest house together on .7 acre covered with tall pines. Located on a quiet street a few blocks from mid-town. Sit on your covered deck and enjoy the whispering pines.

THIS IS A fisherman's dream! with a few hundred feet of Bonito River, and a few minutes drive to the lake. Freshly remodeled throughout, it has 3 large bedrooms and 2 baths. Enjoy the Boeito Canyon from 2 screened decks. \$79,000.

Call Kimble to sell your property Century 21 Aspen Real Estate 420-1197 257-9057

BEAUTIFUL 3BDR, den, 2 bath modular, 1900 s.f. Located on 1/3 acre of trees. All city utilities. Too many extras to list. Call 258-9100 for info. \$98,500.

RUIDOSO DOWNS HORSE PROPERTY: 1824 Wood Lane, approx. 5 acres adjoins National Forest. 2bdr, 2ba mobile, 7 stall barn w/ackroom, 11 pens. Building site has huge Sierra Blanca view. \$135,000.

PECOS RIVER RANCH: Only 20 minutes from Roswell, NM. Approx. 3,250 deeded acres and 10,000 lease acres. Presently operated as a 200 Mother Cow ranch and horse training facility. This property offers potential toward development and recreation! \$600,000 with improvements; \$420,000 without.

CROWN REAL ESTATE
Print W. Mundy, Broker
505-336-4567 • 1-888-337-7621

BY OWNER: Log cabin, 3/2, wood burning stove, ceramic tile floors, massive open beam ceiling, jacuzzi, large redwood deck & carport. North Heights, large private lot with huge alligator junipers, ponderosas. Possible owner financing. \$130,000. 257-2813 or 258-5113

Remington Homes
BEAUTIFUL LOT ON QUIET APACHE HILLS DR. Will build to suit. Good access, all utilities. Also - 3bdr, 2 ba home w/radiant floor heat on White Mountain Meadows. Quality homes for 21 years!
257-5569 • Glenn Remington

RE/MAX of Ruidoso
1005 Mexican Blvd., Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345
Office: (505) 258-5833
800-657-8570
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated.
CUTE, CUTE, CUTE! Great cabin near the river in Upper Canyon. Large bedroom could easily be made into 2 bedrooms. \$68,000. Call Chris to see. 98-80194
UNIQUE MOUNTAIN HOME: 1300 +/- sq. ft. corner lot, 1 1/2 car garage with storage/workshop, large deck, 2 or 3 bedrooms, 2 living areas, 2 fireplaces. All with Ruidoso flavor! \$84,500. Call MELODY 97-70635
THIS ELEGANT custom home on Cree Bendway is a must see. Master bath has whirlpool tub, walk-in closet, security system, ash cabinetry, professionally landscaped, and many other custom features. Call Eddy. 98-80326

Home For Sale by DON RUSSELL CONSTRUCTION, INC.
NM GB-98 #029672
Building fine homes and a reputation since 1976

102 Meadows Dr., Alto: Under construction with a permanent view of Sierra Blanca. A level access and lots of curb appeal will surely catch the eye. The exterior is stucco with lots of relief encompassing 44 corners to give the home architectural flair. The entry is especially attractive with the focal point being an oak, hand carved front door with transom and sidelights. This door was carved and signed by the Branson, Missouri artist. The entry door hardware is an exquisite Baldwin mortise lock. Marvin brand wood windows allow for lots of light and a maintenance free exterior finish. The view will be the topic in the home as you enjoy approximately 560 square feet of covered patio at the rear of the home. A three-car heated garage with an electric outlet for recharging a golf cart will be appreciated by the man of the house.

About the interior: approximately 3,900 luxurious square feet of living area includes a master suite, with a large walk-in closet. The master bath includes his and her separate vanities, jacuzzi tub, glassed-in shower, and separate water closet room. The jacuzzi deck, vanity tops and shower are all finished in travertine marble. Located in this floor plan are three additional bedrooms, 2.5 additional bathrooms, study/music room, large utility room with sink and built-in ironing board, family room with fireplace, living room with fireplace, breakfast nook, formal dining room and kitchen. The kitchen includes a smooth-surface electric cook top, double oven (convection/thermal), trash compactor, dishwasher, disposal and built-in microwave. A large walk-in pantry is flanked by birch cabinets with tile counter tops and with a work island in the middle of this well-arranged kitchen. The two gas fireplaces are custom designed to each be one-of-a-kind. Ten-foot-high ceilings are accented with graceful ellipsoid arches in the entry, formal dining room and living room. The floor finishes are ceramic tile, saxony plush carpet and hardwood floors. Accent lighting is achieved with recessed lighting both inside and out. The closets and pantry are customized European "Classy Closets". A security system will add peace of mind to ownership of this home.

A few extras included are: a full golfing membership, paved circular driveway, custom concrete entry, dual forced-air heat and refrigerated air with programmable thermostats, two 50 gallon natural gas water heaters with recirculating pumps for on-demand hot water, and many more custom features, too numerous to mention. There is still some opportunity for further customization.

\$595,000

For more information or an appointment to tour this site please call 258-4408 or 336-4175 or contact your local real estate agent.
E-mail inquiries to dlr@lookingglass.net

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Multi-Million Dollar Producer
Picture of Success
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Aspen Real Estate
1-800-658-2773
(505) 257-9057
(HM) 258-4242
Lifetime Area Resident
18 Years RUIDOSO Area Real Estate Experience

GREAT VIEW OF SIERRA BLANCA
Three bedrooms, 2 baths, fully furnished. Recently repainted. Beautiful landscaping. Great decks, city utilities, paved drive. \$170,000. #97-71864
Call Joseph A. Zagone at 420-3807

MOUNTAIN ATMOSPHERE
Fully furnished 2 bedroom, 2 bath home on big 1/2 acre lot with views of Sierra Blanca and valley. \$112,500.
#98-80120
Call Joseph A. Zagone at 420-3807

SUPER BUY!
151 Brady Canyon,
2 bedroom, 2 bath cabin,
fully furnished. \$42,500.
#98-80234
Call Joseph A. Zagone at 420-3807

Just Listed - Several Acreage tracts w/water - priced to sell!
Joseph A. Zagone 420-3807

257-4228 **Bill Pippin REAL ESTATE** 1-800-489-9289

SMALL TOWN SETTING, quiet community. Bright and cheerful 3 bedroom, 2 bath modular with adorable street presence. Features lots of nice touches, double garage with workshop, and greenhouse. Zoned commercial so could be used as a business. \$107,000.00.

GREAT WEEKENDER! Ruidoso flavor in this cute, clean, 1 bedroom, 75 bath knotty pine cabin with lots of personal touches. Located on two lots, fenced and partially furnished. \$48,000.00.

GREAT LOCATION FOR FAMILY! Could qualify for FHA loan. Walk to school from this very affordable, neat, clean 3 bedroom, 1 bath, fenced back yard, storage building and covered back deck. Easy access and easy to enjoy at \$73,000.00.

CLEAN AND COMFORTABLE! Fully furnished, 2 bedroom, 1 bath mobile nestled in tall pines. Great location, house type roof. \$38,500.00

PRICE REDUCED! Only 2 years old with loads of southwest living and unique adobe floor plan. Isolated loft master bedroom and bath, second bedroom with .75 bath, garage with utility room, Sierra lot with large pines, beautiful view of Sierra Blanca. \$129,500.00

8 Apts. for Rent

SQUEAKY CLEAN Furnished studio. Looking for adult non-smoker, no pets \$400/mo. utilities included. \$200 deposit + great access. Call 257-3185 leave message.

LARGE FURNISHED ONE BEDROOM one bath. \$436 plus \$150 deposit, utility bills paid. Lease, references, no pets. 257-6944

FURNISHED 1 & 2BDRM. APTS. bills/cable paid. No pets. Call 258-3111.

NICE CLEAN 1 BEDROOM in Capitan \$285 month 354-3176 or 354-2006

Newly painted 2/2 Unfurnished. Good location. Ruidoso Properties 257-4075

AVAILABLE NOW Beautiful river location. Park like setting. 2500 sq. ft. W/D hookups, \$500.00, \$300.00 deposit. No Pets. Available April 1, 2-2Bd/2Ba. Apartment. Living in the country. \$525.00 mo. water furnished \$300.00 Deposit. No Pets. Call Carol, Pine Mountain Realty, Inc. 257-4700

NICEST TWO BEDROOM, ONE BATH APARTMENT in town. Cathedral ceilings, washer/dryer, dishwasher, refrigerator, stove included. Gas heat/water. "LOW UTILITIES" 257-9085 for details.

FURNISHED APARTMENT Walking distance to downtown 1 year lease. \$600 per month including utilities. No children, no pets, no smoking. 257-2121

FURNISHED 1BR/1BA w/ fireplace, sunporch, small yard. \$350 plus deposit and electric. 378-4661

CHIMARON CONDOS off-city apts. available. \$300/Mo. Call after 2P. 378-4375.

9 Mobiles for Rent

CAPTAN #118 E. SECOND Large modern 2 1/2+ with outstanding kitchen with island. \$430/mo References 257-5381

2BR, 2BA WATER FURNISHED. HUD welcome. Unfurnished near the Y. 70 Sudderrth. Call 378-4498 or 378-8305

FOR RENT TWO BEDROOM, bath, half. Unfurnished mobile home, large deck, washer, dryer. \$550 month. 258-5525

16X20 MOBILE HOME with carpet, nice area. Pay your own bills. \$500/mo + Deposit. Call 378-8267

10 Condos for Rent

SPRINGS #30 Unfurnished 2BDRM/1 3/4BA. \$675 + gas & electric. On market, month to month. \$625/Mo. Call Cindy, Gary Lynch Realty, 257-4011 Lic.#273528

2B/2B, 2-CAR GARAGE/PORT sleeps 6, fully furnished, (3) TVs, and VCR, cable available, refig. air, 4 months @ \$775 per/mo "longer discounted" 378-1183 or 800-589-0948

FOR RENT: Fully furnished condo, 2BDR, 1 3/4 BA, great view of Sierra Blanca, \$800 p/mo., utilities paid, \$400 deposit. Monthly, April thru Nov. Call days 1-800-687-2493, nights 505-622-4470 or 257-9683.

FOR RENT: Sunny Slope Townhouse, fully furnished, 2 Bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, fireplace, quiet neighborhood. No smokers, no pets. \$595 per month. Landlord pays all utilities. Call 258-3373 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

109 EAGLE DRIVE #8 Cute 2 Bdrm, 1 bath condo, all one level, some stairs to access. Furnished, W/D, D.V. P.P. stove, refrigerator. Located in Golf Course Estates, course view and view of Sierra Blanca. \$650.00 per month + utilities. Call Kathy at Coldwell Banker SDC, Realtors 336-8489

LIVE IN ONE OF THE PREMIER PROPERTIES IN THE RUIDOSO AREA! Condos for lease: 2 or 3 bedrooms, full baths w/ea. bedroom: spa tub w/master bath, fireplace, garageport, excellent to good condition, furnished or unfurnished, first class appliances in kitchen, some with washer/dryer combos. All utilities paid except electricity. Manager on site. Call Preslar and Associates at Champion's Run Condominiums, located north of the Museum of the Horse, Hwy 70 East. 378-7108

FURNISHED OR UN-FURNISHED Condo. Two bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, W/D. Fireplace, etc. No pets \$475. 257-4442

11 Cabins for Rent

1 & 2 BEDROOM CABINS Kitchen, furnished. Also mobile home, central heating, bathtub. 311 Mechem 257-2435

616 SUDDERTH, 1 bedroom furnished, \$450 owner/agent 257-2576

FOR LEASE several weeks per year. 3BDRM/5BA, furnished cabin, w/large deck. Please No pets/No smoking. H.A. Wagner 1-512-576-2955.

12 Mobile Spaces/Rt

CAPTAN PAD SPACE FOR RENT #114 East Second St. Fenced, small, clean court. 257-5381

CAPTAN: Large mobile home lots for rent. \$200 monthly, RV/ lots \$125 monthly 354-3197

13 Room for Rent

HORSE RANCH ON RIVER. House \$300, Barn \$250, \$100 Deposit. Pets, Horses OK. 378-8163

15 Storage for Rent

L & D SELF STORAGE Hwy. 48 Space available. 258-4599 or 257-8463.

Grand Opening Specials - 4th Street Mini Storage - 312 4th Street, Capitan, NM 88316, (505) 258-5767. 1st 30 Days Free!

17 Business Rentals

OFFICE WAREHOUSE FOR RENT Large fenced yard on Mechem. 2400 SF \$1550 month 528-8116

GAZEBO SHOPPING CENTER Prime retail space available Good walking traffic and parking 2117 Sudderrth 257-5103 or 258-4077

GARAGE, ideal for body shop, mechanics, fully equipped, on Sudderrth. Call for information 257-4687

DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR LEASE 2342 Sudderrth Approx 3500 Sq Ft Available July 1st 257-9335

CENTRAL SHOPPING RETAIL DISTRICT parking, sidewalk traffic. \$190, \$360, \$750/MO Bills paid. Sudderrth Display window 257-3553

FOR LEASE: 850 sq. ft. office space, Jira Plaza, available 4/1/97. Brokers welcome. Owen Russell, Real Estate Broker, 505/257-6341.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT in Cornerstone Square 613 Sudderrth 257-9285 8a.m. to 12 noon

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: 3 Units, Mechem Drive. Call 258-5852 Ask for Chris or 257-4689 evenings.

COMMERCIAL OFFICES FOR RENT Corner of Mechem & Sudderrth. For information call 257-6316

OFFICE SPACE *NON SMOKING for lease at Pinecrest Square, 2810 Sudderrth Drive. 257-5155. Monday thru Friday, 9AM to 4PM.

FOR RENT: STORAGE BUILDING, approximately 800 sq. ft. Convenient secured location. Easy access. Could be used as workshop with adjustment for utilities. \$200/mo Call 258-5959.

RETAIL OR OFFICE SPACE 650 sq. ft., 1 mile east Museum of Horse. \$350/mo plus electric. 378-4661

18 Bus. Opp.

CREDIT CARD PROBLEMS? Debt consolidation. Avoid Bankruptcy. Stop Creditor Calls. Cut Interest. No Credit Check. One low Payment. (800) 270-9894.

TO BE REMOVED FROM PRESENT LOCATION: Ideal for motel units or business building! 26x124 - 16 units. Very nice. Will deliver to your location in Ruidoso or your area! Don C. Curry • 505-281-6591

GIFT SHOP FOR SALE in Mid-Town right on Sudderrth. All included by phone. (505)257-2030

JUICE BAR-HEALTH FOOD Restaurant/Store. Established West El Paso \$38,000. Will trade for Ruidoso home, cabin or RV. 918-684-7044

STORE FIXTURES FOR SALE: 4ways, 2ways, arms, waterfalls, pedestals, jewelry cases, cash register, fountain. 257-0087

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE OR LEASE:

*Office Space Available. Owner will customize to suite. Call Mark Mobley for details at 257-7786, Tall Pines Realty.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE:

*Inexpensive investment, good return! Mobile home park in Tularosa, NM \$79,900. Call Dick Weber at Tall Pines Realty for details. 257-7786.

*Lots of great possibilities and great location for this commercial property!! Seven cabins, seven RV spaces, approx. 22,000 sq. ft. available. Office, living quarters & rental unit on .96 acre lot. \$393,500. Call Pat Brown at 257-7786, Tall Pines Realty.

*283 feet of Highway 70 frontage!! Existing Art Gallery/Foundry in a 9000 sq. ft. building(+) for \$750,000. Artists will guarantee a minimum of \$40,000 worth of work per month or building can be purchased separately for \$600,000. Call Mark Mobley at Tall Pines Realty for additional information. 257-7786.

19 Autos for Sale

RETIRED SENIOR NO LONGER NEEDS 1989 Cadillac D'Elegance, grey w/red leather. \$8,500 OBO 338-8178

FOR SALE: 1988 FORD Crown Victoria LX, V-6, 4 door, Almond, 67,339 actual miles. \$5,500 Firm (505)257-4862

1995 CADILLAC SEDAN DE-VIL L Gold package, Cabriolet roof, leather interior \$19,800, 1994 GMC SLE suburban, 8 passenger, full power, running boards, tow package. \$18,500. 378-1033

FOR SALE OR TAKE OVER LEASE 1997 Nissan Altima GXE, 4 door, excellent condition. payoff \$15,900, or \$279.46 per month. Can take over lease with nothing down with approved credit. Call 257-6592

20 Trucks/4X4's

1987 JEEP CHEROKEE 4 door, 4x4, 6 cyl., 4.0 liter engine. 62,000 miles, excellent condition, well maintained \$5,750. Leave message at 505-624-7016 or call after 6:30pm.

1990 TOYOTA 4X4 PICK-UP V-6, 5 speed, lockout hubs, PS, PB, AM/FM stereo, tilt wheel, AC, headcack rack, tool box, grill guard, good condition. \$4,500. Call 354-2380 evenings.

1988 CHEVY 250 4X4 New engine, new paint, CD, runs excellent. 653-4357 or 257-6843

BUYING AND SELLING The very finest Jeep Grand Wagoneer for selective buyers. Bumper to bumper renewal. Reasonable shipping available. Call Wagonmasters 830-898-8850, Kerrville, Texas

1984 CHEV 3/4 TON diesel, 4 speed, standard, need engine work, good tires, mobile phone. \$800. 258-3788 leave message.

1983 DODGE 4X4 LE, extended cab, Cummins diesel, 1 ton dualy, all power/auto, running boards, bed liner, new tires, excellent condition. \$15,500 354-2005

21 Vans for Sale

FOR SALE 1975 GMC work van. Runs good, new transmission, good tires. 257-4902, 258-5525

1997 DODGE SLT RAM 3500, 15 passenger van, 26,500mi. Like new. \$21,000. 257-4991 or 257-4281

23 Auto Parts

4 STEEL BELTED TIRES Off late model Cadillac. \$25 each or all 4/\$80. 258-5280

WE HAVE LOTS & LOTS of out-of-town subscribers. Spend \$7.68 plus tax and let them know your product. Advertise. Ruidoso News.

Joyce's Furniture New & Used Furniture New & Used Mattresses Used Appliances We Buy, Sell & Trade 650 Sudderrth • 257-7575

Mansfield Furniture "Buy, Sell or Trade" New & Used Furniture & Mattresses 257-3109 • 1000 Sudderrth Dr.

33 Antiques WANT TO BUY ANTIQUES AND OLD COWBOY GEAR. WAGONS, WHEELS, PARTS, MILITARY AND CALVARY GEAR. BUY-SELL-TRADE MULCREEK TRADING CAPTAN

24 RV/Travel

1987 26' JAMBOREE CLASS C motor home in excellent condition. Fully equipped. New air conditioner, trailer brakes. \$17,000 354-8029

1988 AVION 35FT like new, rear bath, full awnings and all the extras. Located on the river. \$13,950. 257-7697 or 940-692-4329. 257-4001.257-4001.257-4001-

26 Farm Equipment

580 CASE BACKHOE Runs good \$7,500, two yard crawler loader \$6,900, Rough terrain fork lift \$5,900, tractor with loader \$4,900, 9N tractor with loader \$3,200. 505-378-4485

27 Feed & Grain

HAY FOR SALE: Alfalfa and Oat. Three Rivers Ranch 648-2448

29 Pets & Supplies

MINIATURE SCHNAUZERS FOR SALE, 4 months old. Call 258-5783 after 5:00pm or 258-4312

FREE 2 PR. Breeding Emus. Gentle pets. 354-3377

30 Yard Sales

SPRING CLEANING SALE NOISY WATER ARTWEAR, T-SHIRTS AND CAPS \$1.00 HENLEYS AND DENIMS \$10.00 FRI SAT & SUN APRIL 3RD, 4TH AND 5TH 9:00 - 8:00 2342 SUDDERTH 257-9335

31 Household

MOVING SALE: ALTO Behind Johnson's Village Store, furniture, stove, clothes, Sat. 9am-5pm. 338-4861, March 29th.

FURNITURE FROM 2BDRM COTTAGE CHEAP!! 323 Carters Lane. "Up from Chef Lupe's" 8am-noon SAT

CAPTAN, HUGE SALE Tools, cars, baby items, lots of great stuff. Thrift & Baptist Church, Hwy 48 & Main Road Fri & Sat

SAT & SUN, 8AM-3PM, 1207 SUDDERTH Restaurant equipment, household furniture, dishes, too much to list.

END ROLL!! END ROLL!! FOR SALE NOW AT "THE RUIDOSO NEWS" Great For Packing, Art Projects. \$1.00 per inch. From the core out. Call first for availability. 257-4001

ALTRUSA 5TH ANNUAL GENTLY USED SALE APRIL 27TH ACCEPTING GENTLY USED ITEMS. CALL 258-4210, 336-4031, 258-4244

Great For Packing, Art Projects. \$1.00 per inch. From the core out. Call first for availability. 257-4001

COWBOY HATS BAYLEY-ATWOOD-RENEGADE DISCOUNT PRICES. ALSO GOOD REFURBISHED HATS-STETSON, RESISTOL. BUY-SELL-TRADE MULCREEK TRADING CAPTAN

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GOVERNMENT JOBS. Now hiring. \$16,000-\$68,000. Call 1-800-983-0819 ext. J-400 for Current Federal, County, City & state lists.

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE DOWN'S "Thrift Shop and Food Basket" is now open. Also accepting donations Friday and Saturday 378-8464

BRAHMA CAMPER SHELL DODGE LWB, Free standing fireplace w/chimney. 338-7931

TOYOTA CAMPER SHELL Excellent condition \$350, King size headboard, dresser w/mirrors and nightstand. \$225 354-3122

STEEL BUILDINGS, new model sell 30x40x12 was \$10,200 now \$8,990, 40x60x14 was \$18,400 now \$9,990, 50x100x18 was \$27,590 now \$18,990, 60x200x18 was \$67,760 now \$39,990 1-800-406-5126

GERMAN STUDENT AND OTHER SCANDINAVIAN EUROPEAN, SOUTH AMERICAN ASIAN, RUSSIAN EXCHANGE STUDENTS ARRIVING AUGUST. Become a volunteer host family/AISE. Call 1-800-SIBLING. www.sibling.org

\$\$\$Over Due Bills? Credit problem? Call for information on how to cut monthly payments up to 50% consolidate now! Call Credit Services (800) 368-8898 Extension 489

TOO MUCH MONTH AT THE END OF YOUR MONEY? Turn Key program is a gold mine! Technology does the work for you. 2-5K/ wk hrs) 800-322-6169 ext 0614 (24 hrs)

388\$Over Due Bills? Credit problem? Call for information on how to cut monthly payments up to 50% consolidate now! Call Credit Services (800) 368-8898 Extension 489

RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS? PAYING for medications? Why? Do you use Albuterol (Proventil, Ventolin), Ipratropium (Atrovent), Metaproterenol (Alupron), or other nebulizer medications? Call Express Med 1-800-290-8442.

FAST LOANS Home owners \$20,000-\$100,000+ Cash for any reason. Consolidate bills. 125% of home's value. No equity needed. Simple phone application. No obligation. Don't delay! IMC Mortgage Co. 1-800-948-0514.

KINGS TREASURE THRIFT STORE MON-FRI 9:30-4:30 P.M. SAT. 10-2PM PROCEEDS TO PCC 378-8113

SWIFT TRANSPORTATION EXPERIENCED & inexperienced Drivers Wanted. Contracted Training Available. Excellent Pay & Benefits. Consistent Miles, Job Stability, Assigned Equipment. 1-888-890-7938 (asoc-m/f)

FULL-TIME & PART-TIME nights. Starting salary \$5.25. Apply in person after 4p.m. Previous applicants need not apply. Kentucky Fried Chicken, 331 Sudderrth.

INSPIRATION HEIGHTS APARTMENTS offering part-time maintenance position, flexible hours, salary DOE. Apply in person 110 Sierra Ruidoso Downs or Call 378-4236 for information.

35 Sporting Goods

NEW K2-TWO, 160cm, w/ marker bindings. Never used. Paid \$600, sell for \$330. Call 257-2784

36 Miscellaneous

STEEL BUILDINGS SALE: 30x40x10, \$4,594; 40x60x14 \$8,484; 50x75x14, \$11,349; 50x100x18, \$15,370; 60x100x18, \$17,323. Mini storage buildings, 30x120, 24 units, \$10,770. Free brochures. Sentinel Buildings, 800-327-0790, Extension 79

SADDLES SEVERAL GOOD USED AND COLLECTIBLE SADDLES, WESTERN, ENGLISH, MILITARY. PORTER, HEISER, MCCLELLAN BUY-SELL-TRADE MULE CREEK TRADING CAPTAN

AUTO DETAILING DetailsDetails "Taylor-Made Car Care" Preserve your car's value! Kody: 257-4175 • 430-2005 WINDOW TINTING

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STEEL BUILDINGS: FACTORY CANCELLATIONS/WILL SACRIFICE. FARM AND COMMERCIAL: 25'X 30', 30'X 40', 33'X 70', 40'X 60', 50'X 75', 50'X 120', 60'X 200', 70'X 200'. CALL COLANDRINO DELIVERY/FINANCING AVAILABLE NO DEALERS PLEASE. 1-800-490-8592

"CASH" immediate SS for structured settlements and deferred insurance claims. J.G. Wentworth 1-888-231-5375

TULAROSA ROSE FESTIVAL SAT MAY 2ND CRAFTS AND FOOD BOOTHS STILL AVAILABLE. INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS CALL MAY BETH AT 585-9800 OR 585-8055

BLDG. REMOVAL Move or demolish 2 small frame bldgs. Will consider contract labor or work for material. Contact First Baptist Church, 420 Mechem, 257-2081, or call Paul Patterson at 257-5596

A LITTLE T.L.C. Crafter's Mall, 2810 Sudderrth (next to Schlotzsky's Deli) 30 local craft-artists

WOLFF TANNING BEDS TAN AT HOME Tan. Buy DIRECT and SAVE! Commercial/Home units from \$199.00. Low Monthly Payments. FREE Color Catalog. Call TODAY 1-800-842-1310

COWBOY HATS BAYLEY-ATWOOD-RENEGADE DISCOUNT PRICES. ALSO GOOD REFURBISHED HATS-STETSON, RESISTOL. BUY-SELL-TRADE MULCREEK TRADING CAPTAN

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LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID

NOTICE is hereby given that competitive sealed bids will be received by the Lincoln County Purchasing Agent at the Lincoln County Courthouse, P.O. Box 711 (500 Central Avenue), Carrizozo, New Mexico 88301, until 2:00 P.M. Thursday, April 9, 1998, at which time and place the bids will be opened and publicly read aloud.

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will review and make their final determination during their regular commission meeting scheduled for 8:00 A.M. on Tuesday, April 14, 1998. Specifications are available at the Office of the Purchasing Agent, Lincoln County Courthouse, Carrizozo, or by calling Martha Guevara at 505-646-2385.

LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF LIEN TO: Margaret Sneed

Notice is hereby given that on the 13th day of April 1997, 8:05 a.m., Dayton J. Townsend, Inc. (the Ruidoso Self Storage) will sell the below listed items of personal property to satisfy a lien for storage rent, charges accrued, any other expenses accrued in preparing said goods for sale, and the cost of this publication. Cost of lien before publication \$22.34. Lien is claimed against the following: TV stands, ironing board, wall hangings, typewriter, dining table & chairs, table lamps, assorted shaving, toys, clothing & assorted boxes.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING The governing bodies of Lincoln County, the Mesquero Apache Tribe and the Village of Capitan, Carrizozo, Corona, Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs and the school boards of the Capitan, Carrizozo, Corona, Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs and Mesquero school districts will meet in special session March 31, 1998 at 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Ruidoso Civic Events Center at 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico.

LEGAL NOTICE VILLAGE OF RUIDOSO NOTICE OF WORKSHOP NOTICE is hereby given that the Governing Body of the Village of Ruidoso has scheduled a workshop meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 1998 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The workshop will be held in conjunction with the Village of Ruidoso Community Update, along with the County of Lincoln, Mesquero Apache Tribe, the Village of Capitan, Carrizozo, Corona, Ruidoso, Hondo and Mesquero school districts. The workshop will be held at Ruidoso Convention Center, 111 Sierra Blanca Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico. The public is invited to attend. The purpose of the workshop is for discussions pertaining to the goals and objectives of the governmental entities to plan for the future of the community. The meeting will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. The second portion of the workshop will be a joint workshop with the Ruidoso Village Council and the community. At 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the purposes as follows:

1. Obtain Public Input to Develop Questions for Comprehensive Plan Questionnaire Regarding Public Services that include Public Facilities, Public Safety, In-Large Governmental Facilities, etc. 2. Develop Questions from the Public Input Regarding Public Services that include Public Facilities, Public Safety, In-Large Governmental Facilities, etc. 3. Review of all categories of the Vision Process. I certify that notice has been given in compliance with Sections 10-15-1 through 10-15-16, N.M.S.A. 1978, and Section 10-07. If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing meeting, please contact the Village Clerk at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the Village Clerk if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

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N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD Edited by Will Shortz No. 1012 ACROSS 1 Chop phenomenon 29 Ship built from trees on Pelion 58 Rockies zone: Abbr. 31 Cable inits. 59 Beethoven's "Variations" 32 Track feature 61 Swamp 33 South American prairie 63 Blurred 64 Took dead aim 14 Dell order 34 Suffix with expert 65 These, in Toledo 15 1983 N.B.A. champs 35 Marquis de Sade novel 66 Lined up 16 Satellites 36 Caught, in a way 40 Galoot 41 Salad ingredient 43 Green target 44 Café cooler 45 Overthrow 49 "You both!" 51 Hay (Israeli memorial) 53 Mare's-nest 54 G.O.P. elephant's creator 21 Curtain-parting time 22 Show petulance 24 Actor Erwin 25 Binds 26 Is nervous 55 Actress Lee DOWN 1 Expresses jubilation 2 Anguish 3 Stain 4 French pronoun 5 Tolkien tree giants 6 Deckhands 7 English romance writer Ruby 8 They're tender in una tienda 9 More, in music 10 Kind of symmetry 11 1936 John Barrymore role 12 Cover 13 Opposite of frustrated 15 Geometric figs. 20 Chocolate treat 23 Miss Manners subject 25 Seeks advice from 27 Quite a hit 28 The merry widow in "The Merry Widow" 30 Edna Ferber work 33 Arab, e.g. 35 Kind of beetle 36 Like an angry mob 37 Posts 38 Certain high schooler, for short 42 List 46 Perfumed ointment 47 Like some inventory, for accounting purposes 48 Offer 50 Peak of ancient Troy 52 Tablecloths, e.g. 55 Light line 56 Kind of cheese 57 Clove hitch, e.g. 60 Light wts. 62 — volente

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It takes a plan to make progress

Annual Community Update to focus on mutual success

Citizens and community leaders from throughout Lincoln County will gather at the Ruidoso Civic Events Center Tuesday to listen to each other and finally to develop some plans from what they learn through the mutual exchange of ideas. It will be the 5th annual event sponsored by the newspaper.

Highlighting the all-day event will be a luncheon featuring a keynote address by Wes Jurey, president and chief executive officer of the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce. Jurey has headed the El Paso organization since 1990, and has a broad background in organizational management and administration, including service with the Methodist Church, the YMCA and Boy Scouts and the Oklahoma Department of Institutions. He also has been a director of the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Bar Foundation.

The luncheon is scheduled at 11:30 a.m., and will be catered by The Village Buttery.

The morning session, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., will feature break-out sessions for participating municipal officials and school district boards. Officials will be on hand to listen to their constituents' ideas, and to present their own plans in an informal environment.

In an earlier planning session, some of the concerns expressed by participating public boards, and which will be addressed during the session, ranged from water shortages (in Ruidoso) to voter apathy (in Ruidoso Downs), growth and taxes (just about everywhere).

Following the morning information-gathering sessions and the luncheon, village, county and school officials participating will sit down to analyze what they have heard and develop action plans that might be used as a guide for implementation in the future.

Ruidoso's current "visioning" program is an example of what might result from the meeting for all the entities.



Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News
Nearly every incorporated community in Lincoln County faces similar problems — population growth inevitably putting pressure in each community for added water and sewer services, solid waste removal, affordable housing. Ruidoso's expansion is impacting growth in nearby communities, a trend that is expected to continue.

"If you are concerned about growth, economic development, educational issues or would just like to meet your elected officials, please make plans to attend."

Tamara Montes,
Publisher, Ruidoso News

CONGRATULATIONS



Class of '98

Growth is the rural catch-word of the '90s

Roads and law enforcement are big problems ... and money is the the only solution

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

"The growth is in the county, not in the cities. It's happening in Alto, Ranches of Sonterra, Sun Valley and Rancho Ruidoso, from the Spencer Theater to the airport to Capitan."

Frank Potter,
County manager

For every item accomplished and removed from Lincoln County's five-year capital outlay project list, another one quickly takes its place.

Money becomes tighter every year, but demands for service increase. And so County Manager Frank Potter said county commissioners, other elected officials and he himself face a bigger challenge with each new budget.

"I don't know where there is enough money to meet the needs for roads and I've been in this business a long time and know where to look for money," said Potter, who before becoming county manager, served in several different administrative capacities for the village of Ruidoso.

"We have 200 miles of surfaced roads and 800 miles of dirt roads," he said. "The snow is wonderful, but it creates devastating wear and tear. The truth is we've been putting a certain amount of money in the road department and then we've been telling Albert Hernandez (road foreman) to take care of the world. We have to admit he can only do so much.

"Look at Gavilan Canyon Road alone. Within one year, there were 24 accidents and the daily traffic count was 7,000 vehicles."

Potter hopes technology will relieve some of the strain, from computer programs that will track all the roads in the county, their current conditions



The county is responsible for keeping some 1000 miles of roads (200 miles of paving) in condition to meet the demands of an ever-growing population. Commissioners now are considering some sort of front-foot charge to property owners to help finance maintenance.

and projected needs to programs that provide the latest underground water data.

But the county has a way to go there too, he said.

"I've been here two years and it's been five times harder and slower than I imagined to get from A to B," he said.

Not just Lincoln County, but New Mexico in general seems to operate on technology two decades old, he said.

One of the advancements that should help the county track its growth is a series of map overlays.

"I can pull one off another and see where new construc-

tion is occurring, roads are located and other items," Potter said. "We had 224 new homes built in this county in the last five to six months. In the last 12 months, about 87 went up in Ruidoso and 250 in unincorporated areas of the county."

The county also is a long way from being able to quantify available water and incorporate the data into its subdivision regulations, Potter said.

"New Mexico did tons of studies through the 1980s and then it quit," Potter said. "The State Engineer's Office is understaffed and not a lot has

happened since then. In the meantime, everyone was poking holes for wells saying we'll pay back the water later."

The county is pursuing some alternatives to ensure water in the future, but the discussions have taken place behind closed doors. The State Engineer also is attempting to come up with agrour water information for counties to develop 40-year water plans, Potter said.

But it will take more than five years for the county to be hooked up to the state's data bank, he said.

New Mexico officials need

to look at a new approach to water and development, Potter said, adding, "What worked 20 years ago under Southwest water law doesn't work anymore."

Other pressing needs for the county include a new or remodeled jail to handle a growing inmate population.

"A jail is the main topic of nearly all counties," Potter said. "Even those that have built new jails still are having trouble, either with the design or the cost of operation,

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See next page

Better fire protection is another essential service as rural areas fill up with people

Continued ...

because crime is going up at such a rate.

"We doubled our (jail) budget this year to \$600,000."

The sheriff's office also is under pressure, Porter said. Staff and equipment is not keeping pace with growth.

"It's a totally different picture than two years ago," Potter said. "The growth is in the county, not in the cities. It's happening in Alto, Ranches of Sonterra, Sun Valley and Rancho Ruidoso, from the Spencer Theater to the airport to Capitan."

"The impact on the four elected officials is incredible. We have to look at five years of interdepartmental growth and how to provide for those services."

Unfortunately, many residents still think the county has a big surplus, but it's gone, he said. And apparently, state officials think counties in general are sitting on mounds of cash.

"But if you look at needs and demands in Otero, Socorro, Valencia and Lincoln — everyone's budget is being eaten up by detention (jail), roads and internal services and the money's not there," Potter said.

With the construction of the \$20 million Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts and the 500-lot Ranches of Sonterra, another demand emerging is for bet-

ter fire protection in the high growth area including Sierra Blanca Airport Road and into Capitan, Potter said. White Oaks and Fort Stanton volunteer fire departments also are under the gun, he said.

Basic needs of roads, district by district, has a price tag of about \$300,360 a year, and that doesn't cover major projects or capital projects shared with the state, Potter said.

This year, Potter has asked department heads to look five years in the future and to come up with a detailed list to help everyone plan for 2003, including goals and objectives.

Projects already dispatched from the capital improvement list include a \$500,000 expanded health clinic in Carrizozo built with grant money; a \$221,000 arena at the Glencoe Rural Events Center built with rural economic development grant money; \$15,000 for new ceiling tiles and repair to the courthouse annex in Carrizozo; new heating and cooling equipment in the county commission complex of the courthouse; and \$8,000 to repair roof leaks.

The county recently applied for \$305,000 to complete its emergency 911 calling system and an associated rural addressing project.



Financial planning is an ongoing project for the county's administrative staff. Right now, department heads are projecting their needs for the next five years. Another item on the agenda: a rural addressing system to provide for quick response in emergencies.

"We have to look at five years of interdepartmental growth and how to provide for those services"

Frank Potter,
County manager

Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News



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Rural land use control isn't in the cards

Commissioners see little need for zoning so long as Lincoln County remains rural

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Land use zoning may never be approved in Lincoln County.

Current county commissioners don't see it in the near future. They even decided earlier this month to consider renaming the county planning and zoning commission to just the Lincoln County Planning Commission.

Although the county has adopted a land use plan, commissioners never have approved maps delineating current or future land use — an essential ingredient for zoning.

Commissioner William Schwettmann said it's more likely the county's major subdivisions will be swallowed up by one of the five municipalities.

An extraterritorial zone already exists around Ruidoso, which has zoning. Within that zone, city building codes must be followed. Zoning decisions are decided by a three-member board composed of one Ruidoso councilor and two county commissioners.

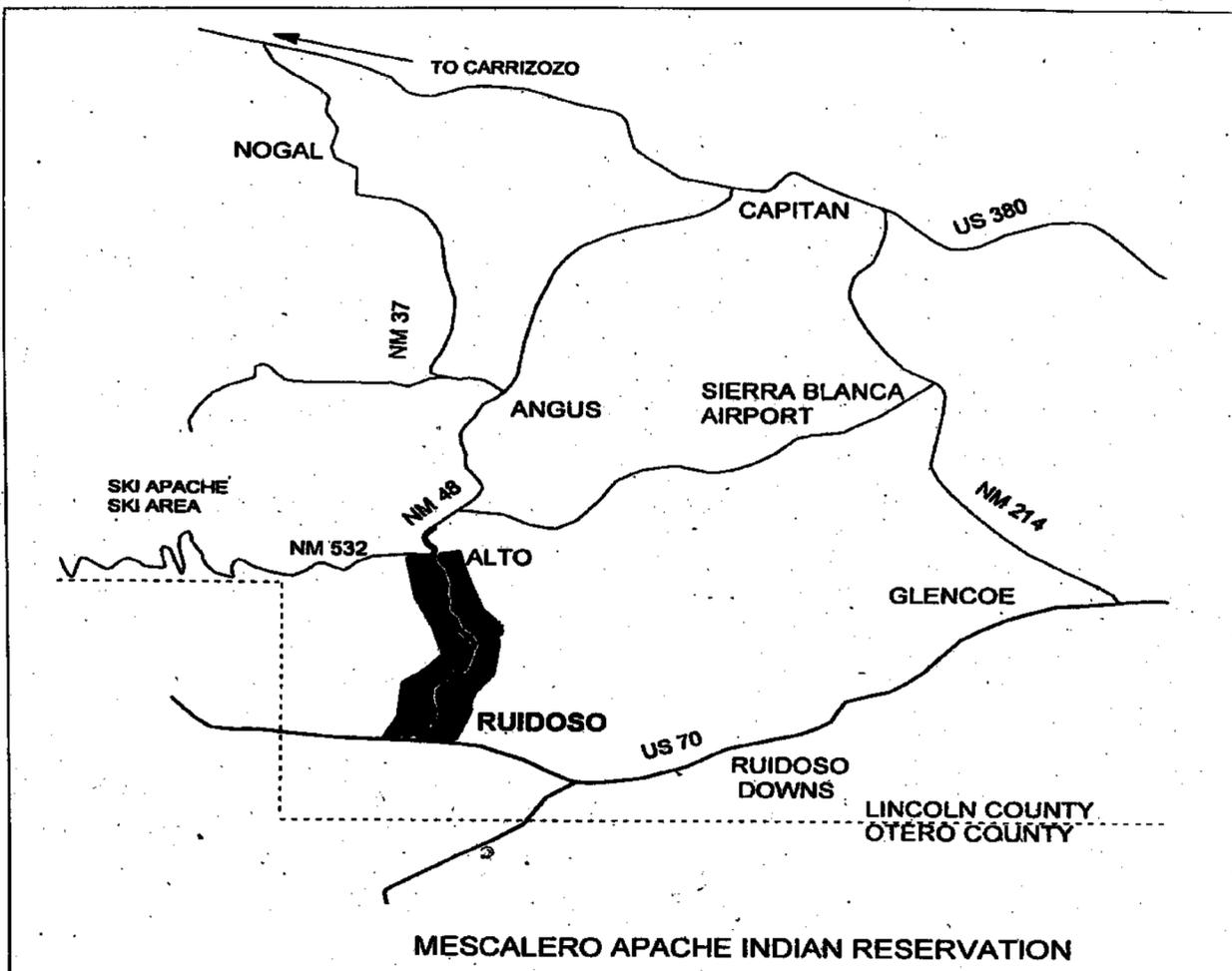
That's one of the reasons the commission must be careful that what it approves outside the extraterritorial zone will be compatible, Schwettmann said.

"We must think how it may someday affect the corporate entities," he said. "We don't want to approve something that (the villages) won't want, because some day in the future, they may be annexed. All of our incorporated entities are growing."

In the absence of zoning, ranchers have no protection against being squeezed out by encroaching subdivisions, but they also are assured

"We don't want to approve something that (the villages) won't want, because some day in the future they may be annexed."

William Schwettmann,
County commissioner



County planners have cited the area north of Ruidoso as the center of major growth in the county. Widening of State Highway 48 will start in April.

that if the time comes when they want to sell, no land use map will prohibit creating a new subdivision on the property, said Commissioner Wilton Howell.

The county does have one line of defense against unregulated growth — at least in concentrated areas of

development. The county has subdivision regulations, which in the last few years have been revamped several times.

Earlier this month, they were changed again to impose a \$5,000 fee on developers to help pay for an independent engineer hired by the

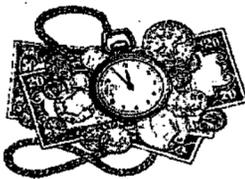
county to evaluate road construction work. The move was a suggestion from Howell, as was approval of tougher road construction standards to try to ensure improved roads will last longer.

See next page

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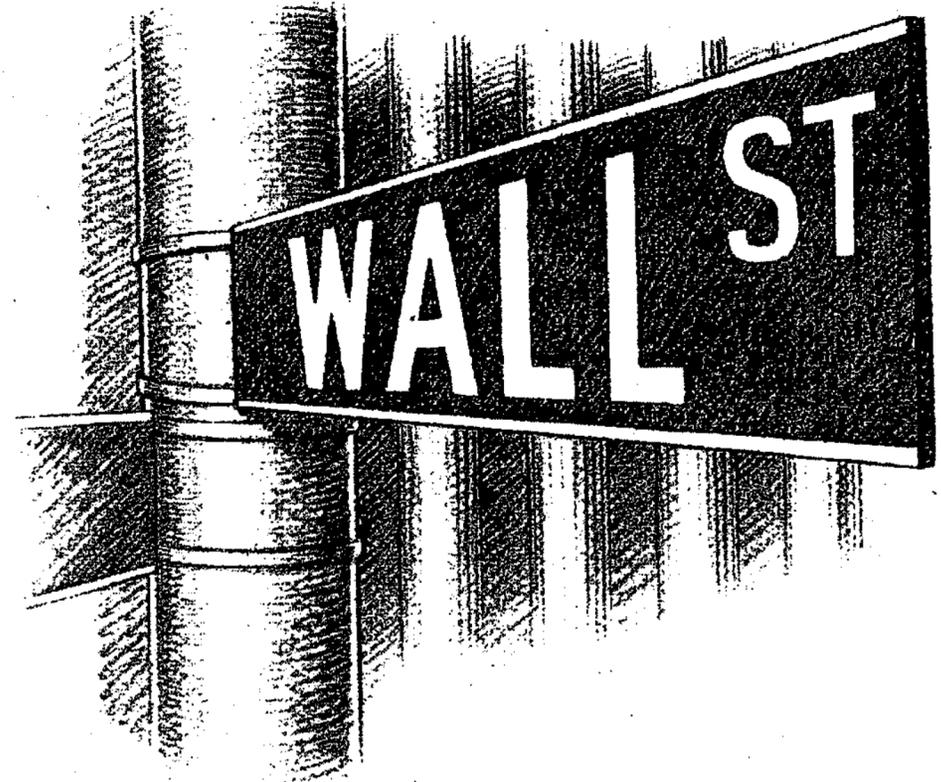
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Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News

Rural life style prevails in Lincoln County, on ranches and in rodeo arenas, and is part of the character that must be considered in planning the area's development.

"I don't think there's a sentiment for (land use zoning) on the commission."

Wilton Howell,
County commissioner

One plan would shift road maintenance burden to users

Continued ...

In April, county commissioners will look at extending the county's wear test period and enacting a front-foot assessment in subdivisions for road work above routine maintenance, determined by the amount of property tax generated by each subdivision. The county already must maintain about 200 miles of surfaced roads, many in subdivisions.

The approach is fair, said Howell, because it would place the burden for the road work on those using the roads and not residents from other parts of the county.

Schwettmann, who was the engineer on two of the county's largest developments, said he wants to see a mechanism to allow residents of a subdivision to decide whether an assessment should be imposed, and he would like more input on road construction standards before they are adopted.

"We have five people on the commission trying to out-do the people who worked for months and months on the ordinance," Schwettmann said.

"I think we should give them a try before we start changing them. Quality has to be an issue, but we

have to look at it for the future and live with something we already have accepted."

Commissioners also have pushed for some way to quantify the county's water resource, but now must rely on opinions from the State Engineer's Office when reviewing a subdivision application. Although requirements exist for central water and sewer systems, developers can avoid falling under the provisions by keeping the number of lots created under the threshold number.

"I think the major thing is to ensure we have managed growth where the economic impact will be

positive rather than negative," Schwettmann said.

Some of the problems occurring outside of subdivisions - such as a \$300,000 house becoming neighbors with a junkyard - should be eliminated as property values increase, Schwettmann said.

That's happening around Alto. Land currently being "misused" is being bought up for new homes to be built, he said.

"As long as three-quarters of the county is considered rural, it will be very difficult to ever have zoning," Schwettmann said.

"I don't think there's any sentiment for it on the commission," said Howell.



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Ruidoso looks at plans to diversify economy

Ruidoso officials realize that diversifying the economy is the key to the village's survival.

The village has recently initiated an effort to assist existing businesses as well as attract a diversity of industry.

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Ruidoso's economy has been described as a roller coaster — only without the thrills.

The foibles of a tourism industry translate into an economy dependent on weather, season and the national inclinations for vacationing.

Many businesses open in Ruidoso only to fold within a year when the tourism dollar dries up.

In the wake of Wal-Mart's move from Ruidoso to Ruidoso Downs, the village of Ruidoso recently created a committee to draft an economic development plan.

The economic plan is required by the state before Ruidoso can offer economic incentives for existing or relocating businesses.

However, the committee, which first met in December, has decided to take on much more, said one member.

"We are going to do everything that we can to not be just a tourist town," said Bill Chance, a Ruidoso village councilor as well as vice chair of the economic committee. "We are looking at a multi-spearheaded, multi-faceted approach to the economy."

That approach starts with providing assistance Ruidoso's existing businesses, either to help them stay in business or to expand, Chance said.

The committee is trying to

establish a local office of a federally backed Small Business Advisory Center.

"We are looking for a building and some funding," Chance said. "And I believe we have a commitment from Gene Simmons of the Small Business Development Center (in Roswell) that they will have personnel here on a regular basis."

Discussion has started with state officials about also conducting a business retention and expansion survey in the village, he said. The survey, in which 100 local businesses would be interviewed, would be largely done by volunteers from the New Mexico State University.

"Supposedly, it will help us identify at-risk businesses in our community," Chance said. "It will help us identify their concerns for policy, infrastructure, and their plans, if any, for expansion. What they see as opportunities and what they see as a lack of opportunities."

Chance said the committee



Julie Baxter/Ruidoso News

Businesses along Sudderth Drive rely mostly on tourists and suffer in a bad season

is trying to have the survey completed before the summer.

"It's our understanding that

once the summer season starts, most business owners will be pressed just to take care of business," he said. "We are going to try to use it primarily to assist those businesses that are at-risk and those that want to expand but don't know how to go about it."

Another task the committee has set for itself is to build a data base of the information sought by firms looking for relo-

cation sites, Chance said.

The goal is to bring in companies that are compatible with Ruidoso, which excludes smoke-stack industries and large, high-technology firms that couldn't be supported by Ruidoso's infrastructure, he said.

The committee has already received a five-page demographic report of the Ruidoso area, courtesy of the Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc., of Albuquerque.

In addition, Plains Electric provided a list of what information businesses look for when considering relocation sites, Chance said.

The list is based on an annual survey of corporations.

"A location checklist, for example, includes demographics, labor quality, labor costs, taxing policy, real estate ... All of these things we need to be able to provide a business that is looking at Ruidoso," he said.

"We are going to work very hard to come up with the numbers and information that corporations will be needing."

"We are going to do everything that we can to not be just a tourist town."

Bill Chance,
Economic Ad hoc
Committee vice chairman

► Economic strengths

1. Quality of life
2. Hospital/medical care
3. Climate
4. Education
5. Ruidoso Convention Center
6. Open space/forest/recreation
7. Natural resources
8. Affordable land
9. Diverse culture
10. A sense of community
11. Regional diversification
12. Attraction as a resort community
13. Gaming
14. Affordable labor
15. An appearance of opportunity

Source: Ruidoso Economic Development Ad hoc Committee

► ... and challenges

1. Lack of transportation
2. Transient population
3. Seasonality
4. Infrastructure
5. Lack of a resort hotel at the Ruidoso Convention Center

Source: Ruidoso Economic Development Ad hoc Committee

Seeking a roof for a rural success at Glencoe

The past year was a busy one for the Lincoln County Rural Events Center at Glencoe and for its director, Linda Wallace, who runs the enterprise single-handedly.

Federal money funneled through the state Rural Economic and Community Development Office built an outdoor arena that expanded the variety of events staged at the center on U.S. 70 about 12 miles east of Ruidoso.

But Wallace and some of the county commissioners still are working toward a covered arena that should convert the center to a year-round staging ground for events.

"They just finished one in Odessa a year ago and it's booked solid," Wallace said. "I see that as happening here too. Many promoters are waiting in the wings to book just as soon as we have a covered arena."

Last fall, Wallace finished

the 140-foot by 265-foot arena just in time for the annual Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium, a celebration of the cowboy way of life.

"It allowed them to open new events for the public in the arena," Wallace said.

"It has eight WW bucking chutes, the same brand used by the national finals. It has WW calf roping chutes, 16 stock pens and only 500 seats. We need 2,000 and we're still looking for ways to get that done."

The project cost \$221,000 with \$21,000 from the county and the rest from the economic development office.

The state Legislature this year approved \$25,000 that will be used to add arena bleachers and the county is contemplating improving the restrooms by summer time.

But the big project, a covered arena for \$700,000, will depend on the clout of U.S. Rep.

Joe Skeen and U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici.

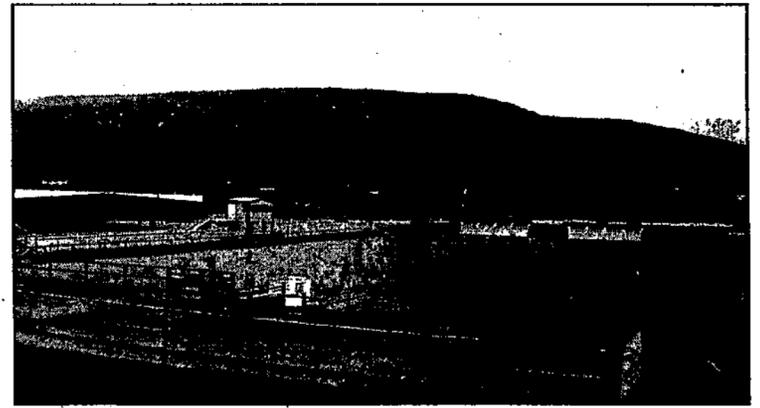
In the meantime, the center has several big events coming up this summer and fall.

A national alpaca convention is set for June 9-15 and is expected to draw 2,000 owners and 400 animals.

Team roping and barrel racing competitions are scheduled throughout the summer, as are some horse shows and possibly, concerts.

Circus performers will be in town Sept. 22 and a motorcycle rally is set for the second week in September, in synch with the Golden Aspen Motorcycle Rally in Ruidoso.

The center was opened in 1994 after the state Legislature approved \$250,000 to purchase



Contributed photo

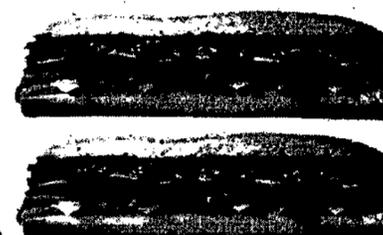
The new arena at the Glencoe Rural Events Center will be the scene of a national alpaca show attracting 2000 people and 400 animals in June. Next step: A roof for the arena.

the building and land, and another \$40,000 for some first year improvements and maintenance. The center number is (505) 653-4542.

"Many promoters are waiting in the wings to book just as soon as we have a covered arena."

Linda Wallace
Rural Events Center
Director

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Need No. 1: Good, affordable child care

Unlicensed, but registered, pre-school home care services fill a need — at a price — and are numerous in both Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs.

• Numerous group home daycare centers seek neither state nor village licensing because of regulatory obstacles.

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

In Lincoln County, 38 homes are registered with the state as daycare providers. Twenty-six are in Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs, a state regulator said.

"And I know there's a lot more. I know that there are a lot more people out there doing home day care," said Corina Montoya, local coordinator of the Children in Need of Services program, a division of the state's Children, Youth and Families agency.

Despite commonly held perceptions that Ruidoso doesn't have enough preschool facilities, Montoya and others involved in the business say daycares are plentiful — even before counting those not registered with the state.

"I really don't think there is a lack of child care in this town. We have a lot of daycares — we just have little daycares," said Carolyn Wallace, owner of Tender Tots, Ruidoso's largest center. "But that's what they keep saying."

Mike Gladden, superintendent of Ruidoso Municipal Schools, said Ruidoso historically has struggled with child-care issues, but not necessarily in regard to the number of providers.

"I think it's difficult to find affordable child care," he said. Nor are there enough preschools providing developmental programs for children, Gladden said.

Three local providers and two state regulators say daycare issues continue to be a problem in the Ruidoso area for reasons that often hinge one on another.

The hourly rate, for instance, is usually higher at unlicensed home daycares because they don't qualify for as much state assistance as licensed facilities. An average cost for two children in day care is easily \$150 a week, said one provider.

Despite the state assistance, most home daycares don't want licensing because they can't meet overly stringent code regulations, and they don't want to be subject to intrusive and unannounced inspections, providers and officials said.

More than one home care provider has said they cannot pursue licensing because the village is too enthusiastic about code enforcement, more so than the state requires.

"I have one daycare working on (a license) right now, and she is talking about going out and getting a place outside of the city limits," Montoya said.

Cleatus Richards, director of Ruidoso's planning department, said inspectors enforce state code rules for home daycares. The only additional village requirements are that traffic flows are not interrupted and that there is enough parking for employees and to drop off children, Richards said.

Chris Jennings, a child care licensing specialist with the Children, Youth and Families bureau, Alamogordo, said she too had heard of home

daycares running into problems with Ruidoso's planning department.

Rather than discuss those problems, Jennings pointed to the number and location of licensed home daycares — four in Ruidoso Downs, and none in Ruidoso.

Ruidoso does have three licensed child care centers, including one at Ruidoso High School, Jennings said.

Babysitting vs. Business

The state allows the home preschools to care for up to four children by registering, officials said. To care for more requires a license.

It is with Montoya's office that home daycares register. Registering allows inspection of homes primarily to ensure children are receiving nutritious meals served from adequate kitchens.

"They should be registered, at least," Montoya said. "Some don't want to, because we do visit homes and people don't want to open their homes to us."

Most registered homes exceed the four-child limit, said one local home care provider who asked not to be identified. She knew of one woman who was keeping 18 children but would hide the majority during inspections, she said.

"People want to do this as a business," Montoya said. "They need to take care of at least six children for it to be worthwhile."

A state license includes the requirements that providers meet code regulations, have adequate space, acquire a local business license and undergo more thorough inspections.

There are varying degrees of licensing, based separately on the number of children allowed and the amounts a provider may receive from the state.

The home care provider who asked to not be identified said she has lost money during her one year of operation. She is registered with the state, pursuing a degree in child development and provides her wards with a developmental program to meet social, cognitive, emotional, physical and language needs, she said.

She charges \$55 a week for potty-trained children and \$65 week for those who aren't.

"I think other providers are charging more. I think some of them are charging \$75 per week," she said.

Because she has more than four children under her care, the state doesn't compensate her for the meals she fixes them, she said.

"I have put out a heck of a lot more money into this than I've made," she said. "But that's not why I'm doing it."

She's doing it, she said, because of the difficulty she and her husband had finding adequate child care after moving here several years ago.

"I was tired of the substandard day care," she said.

Breaking code

As for village ordinances, "I am outside of the legal parameters," said the unidentified home daycare owner.

She tried to acquire state licensing soon after opening as



Many children spend many hours weekly at licensed, or registered, daycare centers in the greater Ruidoso area.

Toni K. Laxson/Ruidoso News

a daycare, but stopped when she heard what Ruidoso required from her for just a business license, she said. The business license is a prerequisite to the state license, she said.

But, "You can go to Ruidoso Downs and be licensed in a heartbeat," she said. "My option is to either sell my home or move into the county or into Ruidoso Downs. And that's not a real viable option for me."

Now she is trying to put together a professional organization of child care providers in Lincoln County to address what she and others perceive as obstacles to acquiring licensing.

"We figured maybe there is power in numbers," she said.

Montoya says the village does require more code regulations than the state, items such as commercial wiring for homes and handicapped ramps for homes.

Richards said commercial wiring and ramps are needed only for daycare centers, not home care. A daycare must acquire a conditional use permit for a business license, which automatically must go before the Ruidoso Planning and Zoning Commission for approval.

He said the village is not trying to keep home daycares from being licensed inside Ruidoso.

"As long as they basically met the village and state regulations, then they can be permitted," Richards said. "If we didn't want (home daycares) we wouldn't have a mechanism in our code for providing it. And we recognize that there is a need for daycare facilities."

Ruidoso will cite home day-

cares which are operating without a village business permit, he said. The penalty is up to \$500 a day. None have been cited in the past few years, he added.

Rumor-vulnerable

Even the large, licensed centers have trouble making ends meet because they can't stay full, said Wallace, who has owned Tender Tots for four years and is licensed to care for 29 children.

Childcare centers, she said, have a tough time staying in business because of the the tangible impact felt by the rumor mill. Just one whisper of something unsavory, no matter how unsupported, will wipe out a business, she said.

"It's a gossip town, that's just the way it is," Wallace said.

Being the largest daycare in the area often has resulted in being the target of more misinformation, she said. For instance, when a child was injured once at one of the home care centers, it was passed through the grapevine as happening at Tender Tots, Wallace said.

"So if somebody says something about any daycare, then I'm the one who gets it," she said.

Though she hates gossip, Wallace understands why parents, even those who question the source of the information, might pull their children.

"I mean, your children are your most precious possessions," Wallace said.

Her business has been here long enough to establish itself and survive the rumors, she said. Now she is able to "just ignore the gossip."

Others who have tried to start centers in recent years haven't been able to make that hurdle.

Not unprincipled

Marty Lane has operated the King's Kids Day Care and Preschool, a licensed center, for 12 years in Ruidoso Downs.

Lane, who is also a pastor of Christ's Church in Ruidoso Downs, said one of the reasons home care providers don't seek state licensing is overly restrictive oversight.

"And a lot of people would say if you are not licensed, you are not adequate. I disagree," Lane said.

"There's a lot of people who are out there and they are doing it right. They just don't want to be under the state."

Daycares seek licensing to get state funding, she said. The state then becomes pushy, yet only on a sporadic basis that isn't effective in really monitoring daycare facilities for the things that count, she said.

"They look at my paper work. They look at my place to see if it is clean. And that's about it. They are terribly understaffed," Lane said of state inspectors' twice-yearly visits. "It seems to me the reason they are in business is to prevent child abuse and neglect, and I don't think they are accomplishing that at all."

Parents should look over a facility themselves; however, ideally, they would not depend on daycares at all, Lane said.

"Parents need to start thinking about whether the mother needs to work or can stay home," she said, adding that she knows single mothers often have no choice.

"I really don't think there is a lack of child care in (Ruidoso) — we just have little daycares."

Carolyn Wallace
Tender Tots center

THE MUSEUM OF THE HORSE

Report

The Spirits At Noisy Waters, one of the world's largest equine monuments and a popular attraction at the Museum of the Horse.

The Museum of the Horse is pleased to report to the Community on our activities of the past year and on our plans for the future.

An idea of three people becomes a community attraction

The Museum was a gleam in the eyes of three individuals Anne Stradling and R. D. and Joan Dale Hubbard, who came together to bring what is now known as the Museum of the Horse to Ruidoso. Anne Stradling had collected over 10,000 objects related to horses and the American West over her lifetime. She opened a Museum of the Horse in Patagonia, AZ and allowed visitors to see her artifacts. Her goal was to preserve her collection for the enjoyment and benefit of the public. In the late 1980 s, with health problems looming before her, she attempted to find a home for her entire collection. Many great museums were approached, but no single institution wanted everything. She met R. D. and Joan Dale Hubbard who had recently purchased the Ruidoso Downs Race Track. The Hubbards were interested in establishing a major attraction in the Ruidoso area to compliment their other properties. In addition, each had a love of horses and the American West. The Stradling Collection seemed an ideal compliment to their other attractions in the community and their personal love of horses and the American West. Stradling and the Hubbards quickly came to an agreement for the Hubbards to supply a facility and not-for-profit Museum and Stradling to supply the collections. The Museum of the Horse was born as a function of the Hubbard Museum, a Texas not-for-profit corporation. To this day, the Museum's legal name remains the Hubbard Museum but we do business and are known as the Museum of the Horse.

When the Museum opened its doors in May of 1992, it was the culmination of a two year process that saw the conversion of the old Chapparel Convention Center into a modern museum facility. This two year, multi-million dollar effort was due to the personal generosity of the Hubbards and the R. D. and Joan Dale Hubbard Foundation, which is headquartered in Ruidoso. The Museum has over 52,000 square feet of space with approximately 30,000 square feet devoted to exhibitions and public space. The collections represent significant art and artifacts related to the development American West and especially to the unique interdependence of horses and humans.

A history of community service and commitment

The Museum has worked hard to serve the community of Ruidoso and the broader areas of Southeastern New Mexico and West Texas. During its first five years of operation, the Museum became known for its work in the community in support of such activities as the Chamber of Commerce, the Public Schools, the Villages of Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs, and various not-for-profit organizations who used the Museum for their activities often at reduced or waived fees. The Museum, in turn, has relied upon the community for a large percentage of its support. In 1993, we were awarded the designation as Best New Attraction for the state of New Mexico by the Tourism Association of New Mexico. In addition, our Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium was named the Nations Best Cowboy Culture Event by the National Cowboy Symposium in recognition of our outstanding event.

Three notable past successes came to the Museum in our first five years of work. The first was the exhibition of Russian Equine Art. This exhibit, which was done in conjunction with the Russian State Agricultural Museum in Moscow, marked the first time the Museum had worked with a museum in another country to produce an exhibition. It was a highly successful show with visitors coming to it from all over the Southwest. The next notable success was the merging of the separate volunteer effort known as the Old Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium into a wholly owned subsidiary of the Museum. This provided the Symposium a permanent home and staff to handle its care and development. With solid underpinnings, the Symposium has had dramatic increases in attendance, recognition and financial stability. The final major success of our early years was the construction and donation of the Free Spirits at Noisy Waters Monument conceived and executed by local artist Dave McGary and contributed to the Museum by the Hubbard Foundation. The Free Spirits Monument is one of the largest and finest equine sculptures in the world. Since its

installation on our grounds near Highway 70, attendance at the Museum has more than doubled.



Staff member Scott Wills tells schoolchildren about his horse as part of an educational demonstration at the Museum.

1997- Saddles, Cowboys and People

Gifts to the Collections

During the past year, the Museum received over 100 objects as gifts, the largest amount of new collection items since Anne Stradling gave the first of 10,000 items to the Museum in the late 1980 s. These gifts came from donors from all over the country and greatly increased the size and scope of the collections. Gifts came from 50 individuals from 7 states. This highlights the fact that collections will continue to grow as individuals and businesses give the Museum objects, art and information related to the history of the Horse and the American West.

Membership Development

The Museum had over 680 individual and business members in 1997. These members contributed over \$60,000 to the Museum. These funds were used to support the Museum's general operations. Members reside in about 20 states but are predominately located in Southeastern New Mexico and West Texas.

Ruidoso Downs Race Horse Hall of Fame

Opened in July of 1997, the Hall of Fame is the first major permanent exhibition since the Museum opened to the public five years ago. The Hall is dedicated to telling the stories of the horses that have played a significant role in the history and development of the Ruidoso Downs Race Track. The 2,500 square foot exhibi-



A chef prepares food for the world's richest chuck wagon cook-off which is part of the Lincoln County cowboy Symposium held annually the second weekend in October.

tion required over 15,000 staff and volunteer hours over a six month period to produce. In order to pay for the Hall, over 35 donors stepped forward and contributed \$300,000 to make the Hall a success. Now recognized as one of the finest exhibits on horse racing in the nation, the Hall of Fame continues to grow and expand to the delight of visitors.

Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium

The LCCS celebrated its 8th year of operation with the best

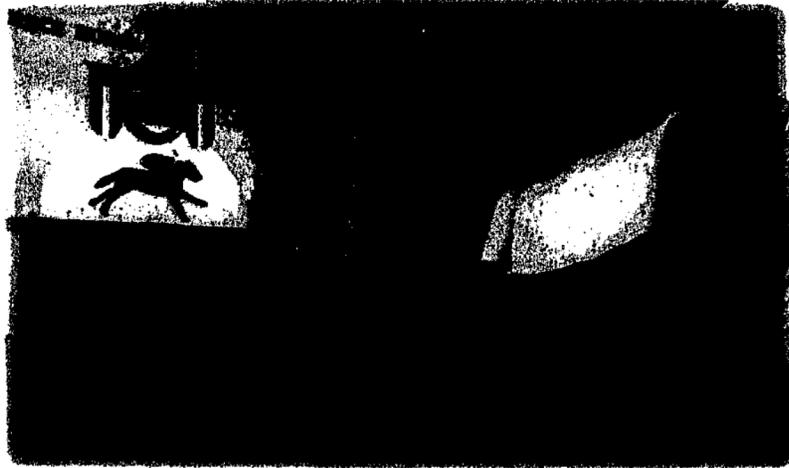
Cowboy Symposium ever. Over 12,000 visitors flocked to the Glencoe Rural Events Center to participate in the three and a half day event. A special tribute concert for Eldon Shamblyn and Cindy Walker featured nationally recognized country western artists. It was attended by a capacity crowd of 1,000 and raised over \$6,000 for the Museum and the Bob Wills Scholarship Fund at South Plains College. The Symposium featured 30 chuckwagons in the worlds richest chuckwagon cook-off. The annual chuckwagon dinner on Saturday afternoon was attended by over 1100. Our dances on Friday and Saturday evenings were attended by over 800 each night. On the financial front, the gross receipts for the Symposium grew from \$107,000 in 1996 to \$190,000 in 1997, an 80% increase. In addition, the Museum received major sponsorships from Boomtown Casino, a major gaming company headquartered in Reno Nevada with casinos in Reno, Biloxi, MS and New Orleans, LA., and from Southwestern Coca Cola and the Coc Ranch.

Kids Korral

The Museum also introduced a special area for children. The Kids Korral has proven to be popular with children and parents alike. Kids can dress up in an assortment of authentic western costumes and take their turns riding miniature antique mechanized horses, doing puzzles and artistic activities, and have their photos taken aboard a life-size palomino horse mannequin. Children of all ages enjoy the Kids Korral, making it a valuable addition to the Museum's offerings.

Saddle Up!

The major exhibition for 1997 was the summer show 'Saddle Up! A Cinch to History'. This exhibit was sponsored by Ruidoso State Bank and told the story of the history and development of the saddle from ancient times through today.



Entrance to the Museum's Ruidoso Downs Race Horse Hall of Fame, a new permanent exhibition.

We received loans of saddles from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC and from such organizations and institutions as the Rhode Island Historical Society, California Parks Department and the Buffalo Bill Memorial. It was our most successful exhibition to date and began a trend towards a balance of history and art exhibitions at the Museum. We received major

write-ups which reached over 2,000,000 readers of such publications as Western Horseman, Gateway Magazine and newspapers as far away as California. Over 900 attended the opening of the exhibition in May.

Juried Art Competitions

The Fall American Show was expanded to include entries from the entire state of New Mexico. Over 345 entries were submitted with the juror selecting 115 for exhibition. This was the largest pool of entries in our history. We were able to award more prize money this year thanks to our sponsors like Ruidoso State Bank and New Mexico Arts, a division of the Office of Cultural Affairs.

The Fall Photography Competition benefited from the eye of our juror who selected over 60 of the finest photographs from the 175 submitted. First National Bank's sponsorship along with that of the New Mexico Arts helped to make this show possible.

Billy the Kid Scenic Byway Interpretive Center

One of the unique ways in which the Museum is involved in the community is our work with the Village of Ruidoso in the Scenic Byway Interpretive Center project. The Center is a joint venture between the Village of Ruidoso, the State of New Mexico and the Federal Department of Transportation. The Museum will operate the Center under contract with the Village. The operations are unique in that they will be paid for through the proceeds of a gift shop in the facility. Construction began on the Center in the Fall of 1997 and will be complete in April of 1998. The Center will help promote tourism along the 50 plus mile Byway route which includes the Villages of Ruidoso, Ruidoso Downs and Capitan and the other areas of Lincoln County like Lincoln, Alto, and the Hondo Valley. It is anticipated that 100,000 visitors will stop at the Center annually.

Long Range Planning

The Museum's Board of Directors held a long range planning retreat in October. The day and a half effort formulated new Vision and Mission Statements for the Museum as well as plans for the future. This effort is now being translated into action steps by the Museum staff. Our Board of Directors is comprised of 18 individuals from the community and the business world. These individuals make the policy decisions for the Museum and raise funds to support our activities. Over half of the Board reside in New Mexico with the majority of these living in the Ruidoso area.

School Art Show

In April of 1997, we conducted the first Henriette Wyeth School Art Show. Over 78 classrooms representing 1100 students participated. The show was named in honor of Henriette Wyeth Hurd, one of the nations leading artists who died shortly before our school art show was to open. The purpose of the school art show is to foster an artistic spirit among school children of the area and to promote the arts as a necessary and worthwhile part of the curriculum of the schools.

A Community Place

Last year, the Museum played host to the following community organizations:

New Mexico Ski Writers Tour, Rotary Club group study exchange, Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lincoln County Medical Center, National Tour Association, EMS Region III, Ruidoso Valley Greeters, Ruidoso Public Schools, New Mexico Public Health Service, New Mexico DWI Division, New Mexico Land and Title Association, Ruidoso Downs Racing, Inc., New Mexico Wool Growers, New Mexico State Board of Education, New Mexico State Legislative Study Committee, the New Mexico Rural Conservation and Development Association, New Mexico Quarter Horse Association and the National Association of Chamber Ambassadors.

We always go out of our way to help a group or organization use the Museum.

1997 Statistics:

During 1997 the Museum received general operating income of \$1,264,000 from the following sources:

33%	Contributions from members, businesses and individuals
32%	Contributions from Foundations
17%	Special Event Income
14%	Admissions
5%	Retail Operations
1%	Grants from local, state and federal government
<hr/>	
100%	

Expenses for 1997 were \$1,112,000 and were applied to the following activities:

38%	Staff Salaries
5%	Staff Benefits
5%	Administration/Office
8%	Marketing
12%	Facilities Maintenance
1%	Collections Management
15%	Exhibitions
2%	Educational Programs
14%	Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium
<hr/>	
100%	

Attendance at the Museum for 1997 was 56,175 as compared to 52,936 for 1996 or a 6% increase over the previous year.

Total attendance at all programs, activities and events not held at the Museum was estimated to be 16,000. This represented an increase over the previous year of 3,000.

Total attendance at all activities and events at the Museum or at another location was estimated to be 72,000.

5,371 hours of work were contributed by over 135 individual volunteers during 1997. Volunteers serve as docents (teachers and guides), work on the Cowboy Symposium, help with museum clerical tasks and work in the collections and exhibition departments. Without the help of volunteers, the Museum would not be able to offer our visitors the services that we have become known for.

The Future: To become a premiere attraction in the Southwest

We believe that the future is bright for the Museum. During 1998 and beyond, we hope to accomplish the following activities:

Lincoln County Cowboy Symposium of the Air, created by the late Ray Reed and Dallas radio personality Larry Scott, hit the airwaves on five radio stations in February. This one hour radio pro-

gram is taped in front of a live audience in Stephenville, TX and features the music that is heard on our Cowboy Symposium Stage. The LCCS of the Air is a vehicle to promote the Museum, the LCCS, the community and region. Our hope is to have the show play on 30-40 radio stations weekly from coast-to-coast.

The Hall of Fame will receive new exhibits and activities during the coming year. We will add new computer driven interactive



Interior of the Race Horse Hall of Fame. This exhibition includes interactive computer technology as well as numerous photographs and labels.

exhibits so that visitors can vote on their favorite Hall of Fame nominees. In addition, several new exhibitions will be installed featuring the artifacts related to Go Man Go and other famous horses. The Hall will also be the home to a virtual reality type horse race game that the Museum is developing with a specialty firm in Toronto, Canada. We hope to have this game up and running for the summer season.

In order to serve our collections and thus our visitors and community better, the Museum has hired a Curator of Collections with extensive collection management and exhibition experience. Our new Curator, Barbara Bertuccio will arrive in May and will work

with the collection and exhibition programs of the Museum. This is a major step forward for the Museum and marks the first step on the long road to receive accreditation of the Museum by the American Association of Museums. Accreditation will tell our community that the Museum's operations meet the standards as set by the American Association of Museums. Accreditation is a major five year goal for the Museum and comes directly from the Long Range Plan.



Native American exhibition which is part of the Museum's effort to provide information on the cultures of our area.

Another major goal for the future is to build a new wing at the parking lot level of the Museum that would connect to the existing facility. Although only in the talking stages, it is hoped that the new wing will expand the visibility of the Museum and address existing needs for additional program space, a new gift shop, a food service area and an expanded children's exhibit and program space.

The Museum has published several important documents that help the staff look forward to the future. Our new Vision and Mission Statements are the guides by which we will develop the Museum. The Visitor Service Pledge is how we want to interact with our visitors and our Statement of Operating Principles guides us in our relations with each other. These guidelines will help the Museum of the Horse become a Museum for the Next Century.



The Museum Mercantile gift shop generates income for the Museum. It is open seven days a week and you need not purchase an admission ticket if you wish to shop. Museum members receive a discount on all purchases.

An Invitation to become a part of the Museum of the Horse

The Museum needs the support and help of everyone to continue to grow and be a successful part of this community. You can help us achieve this goal by contributing:

- Your time as a volunteer
- Your commitment by encouraging people to visit the Museum
- Your funds to help sustain our operations by becoming a member or sponsor

If you would like to volunteer in any of the above ways, please call the Museum at 378-4142 and ask for the Museum Director.

The Museum of the Horse is a non-profit organization. We are committed to providing a high quality experience for our visitors and to the preservation of our collections. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our collections and to the preservation of our collections. We are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our collections and to the preservation of our collections.

Statement of Operating Principles

As an organization, the Museum of the Horse believes that its staff is one of its most important resources. Through their efforts, the Museum delivers its programs and services to the public. Each employee will be treated with respect by the Museum in all of its undertakings because with respect comes loyalty. Thus, the Museum pledges to each employee that it will:

- Provide clear expectations through the setting of goals and objectives
- Provide an atmosphere where open communication is encouraged
- Provide for a safe work environment
- Provide the proper tools and training to accomplish our goals and objectives
- Provide for continuous training and educational advancement opportunities
- Provide clear lines of responsibility and authority
- Provide an atmosphere that fosters creativity and the development and expression of ideas

The Museum further pledges to formally review each employee's work goals and objectives on a regular basis and to compensate its employees with the best package of wages and benefits consistent with its financial abilities.

Providing a decent future for all students

Cooperation between educational institutions in developing centralized vocational training can help build a solid economic future for those who don't want to go to college.



Jim Miller, who heads the Ruidoso branch of Eastern New Mexico University, shows the possible vocational training area he has available.

• At-risk students in school sometimes can mean even greater problems after the school years. So what can be done in Ruidoso?

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Working on the philosophy that every student at some point in his or her academic career may be at risk, Ruidoso School District officials try to put programs in place before a crisis.

In some cases, they have forged partnerships with other agencies to broaden the reach, to offer more and to spread the financial burden. At all levels, community and parental involvement is an essential ingredient.

One of the latest partnerships aims to create an "Area Career Center" to offer job training to students who may not go on to college, and to provide opportunities to adults returning for training, people trying to pull themselves off welfare and for college students.

The effort has been headed by Gary

Cozzens of Region IX Education Cooperative and Jim Miller, administrator of the Ruidoso Instruction Center of Eastern New Mexico University.

"When I went to school in Portales in the early 1970s, high schools offered shop, home economics, auto mechanics, distributive education and other vocational classes, but a lot of that has dried up and gone away," Cozzens said. "Ruidoso has several, but the outlying school districts have mostly agriculture and some business and marketing."

"A void has been created and we're trying to address the needs."

The concept for a career center was started last year, he said.

"The School-to-Work movement (initiated in 1994) seemed like the perfect opportunity to start (vocational programs) up again," Cozzens said. "Each district by itself couldn't, but if we pooled resources, it was do-able."

The "pool" includes the Department of Labor, the educational cooperative, \$50,000 seed money from the county commission, Eastern New Mexico University and the involvement of all or most of the school districts in Region IX:

Ruidoso, Hondo, Corona, Capitan, Carrizozo, Tularosa, Cloudcroft and Mescalero.

To open the door of the career center in the fall of 1999, a site must be selected - possibly at the ENMU-Ruidoso campus - and the school boards and governing board of Eastern must approve, as well as the State Board of Education. Other site options include building a new center or conducting classes at different locations that tie in to the areas of study.

As envisioned by Miller and Cozzens, those study areas will be health care, information technology, retail management, child development, heavy equipment operation, hospitality and tourism, paralegal, building trades, and mathematics and English.

"We went to the Department of Labor for an occupational forecast," Cozzens said. "One of the top was health care. Then we called Valerie Miller (administrator of the Lincoln County Medical Center) and asked for specifics. She said nurses' assistants and licensed practical nurses were in

greatest demand."

They're also talking to state highway and transportation department officials about training students at their local yard.

A great deal of coordination will be needed with each school district, because they have different school calendars, grading systems and days off because of snow, Cozzens said.

If the center is located at Eastern, renovation and equipment would cost from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, Cozzens said. Annual operation could come to another half million dollars.

While the school districts will pay for their students and others will pay tuition, Cozzens said grants will be pursued to pick up some of the initial and operating costs. The county will be asked to dedicate \$50,000 a year and text book money will come from the state.

"We have a long way to go yet," Cozzens said.

"...School-to-Work ... seemed like the perfect opportunity to start (vocational education) up again."

Gary Cozzens
Region IX Education
Cooperative

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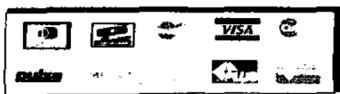
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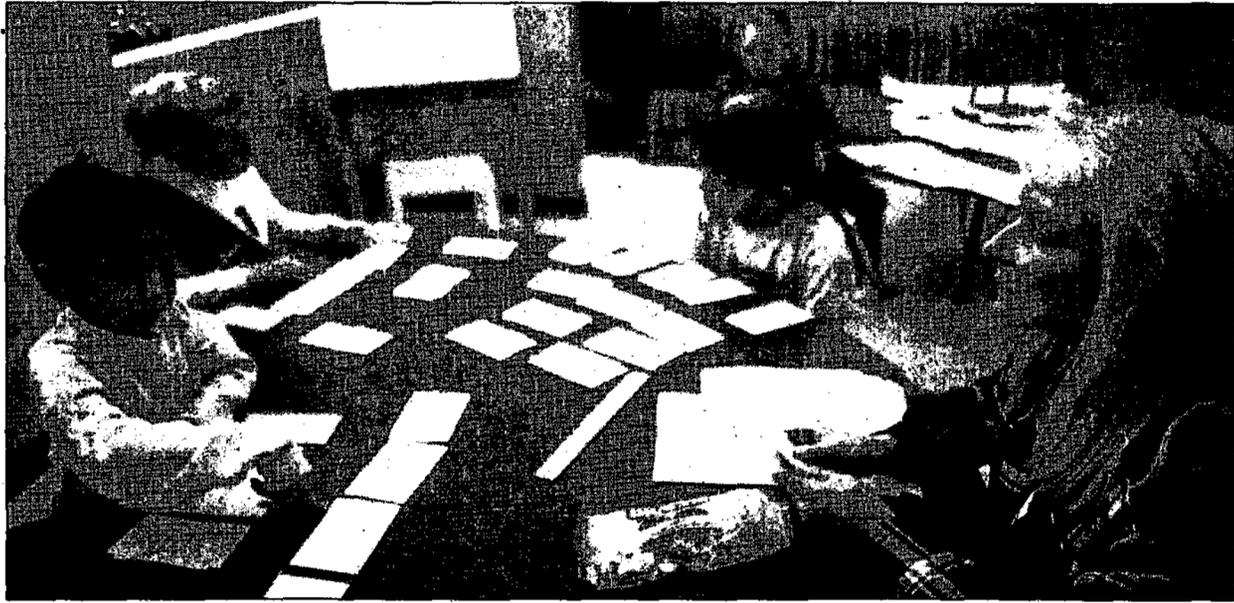
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Everybody is at risk sometime in their life

Ruidoso's schools seek to assess every pupil as early as possible, determine those potentially at risk, and place them in the learning environment that will do best to develop their potential as adults.



The early years of education are when teachers must determine whether a student needs special attention because they are at risk.

Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News

"We never have enough programs, and we keep expanding."

Paul Wirth
Director of Instructional Support

Providing vocational training may keep many students in school. But the need for job training isn't the total answer. Identifying a student who's at risk early is important, either through screening programs, through teacher observations, counselor referrals or other means.

Once identified, school officials can draw from many programs to work out the problems, said Ruidoso School Superintendent Mike Gladden.

They include the GRADS program for pregnant or new mother teens, the special mathematics remediation program for Native American students at lunch and "Parents as Teachers" to involve parents in their children's progress.

"We don't focus on defining what at risk is; instead, we have a variety of flexible programs, and if a problem arises, we meet and discuss what is to be used," said Paul Wirth, director of instructional support for the district. "That could be a social worker at home while at the same time starting remedi-

ation assistance."

District statistics reflect a mobile society, uniquely structured with a large segment of low-paying jobs oriented toward the tourist industry, mixed with seasonal residents staying in second homes. In the county, 68.9 percent qualify for free or reduced lunches and 45.7 percent were born to single mothers.

"It's usually a combination of factors that puts a student at risk," Wirth said. "You never have enough programs and we keep expanding."

People in the community can help by volunteering in schools, becoming mentors or by being involved with school programs, he said.

"You could see by (a recent attitude) survey that students really feel distanced from many adults," Wirth said. "They told us that when they interact with adults, too often they are seen as 'kids,' not individuals, or if several are together, they are looked at as being gangs and up to no good."

Trying to meet the increasing

demand, the district now has 2.25 social workers in the schools, Gladden said.

"Medicaid reimbursement allowed us to upgrade health services to 3.5 nurses and that probably will go to four next year," Gladden said.

Through a number of programs, children can receive help at any stage. From birth to two years old, Region IX identifies at risk children; Nob Hill school provide preschool help for three- and four-year-old children; and the district takes over once they enter the first grade.

An extended day-care program, funded through several contributors and housed at Sierra Vista Primary, has reduced the number of children staying at home alone after school, Gladden said. The next step will be to offer career training as well as college courses at Eastern, he said.

A breakfast program also has set the stage for better learning by providing proper nutrition. Extracurricular activities ranging from a chess club to varsity athletics can help keep a child

interested in school, Wirth said.

Most at-risk students in the Ruidoso district participate in regular classes. The extra services and tutoring they receive are blended into the school day.

But a small number of students must be isolated from the main stream, as much for the benefit of other students as for themselves, Gladden said. Disruptive behavior makes it difficult for anyone to learn. Students needing closer supervision may be assigned to the Gavilan Canyon School where two teachers (one added this year) take different grade levels, breaking the group into fifth to eighth graders and ninth through twelfth. Approximately 11 students from a district enrollment of 2,380 attend the special school.

Student and parents sign a contract with the school, which outlines what is expected from both sides. The program is individualized for each student with the goal of moving them back into regular classes at some point, Gladden said, adding, "They are not meant to stay there."

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Capitan schools get wired on computers

"My goal is to get it to a point where people forget computers are even in the classroom. They will only be aware that learning is taking place and computers will be so seamlessly integrated, it all flows."

Becky Borowski
head of the media center



Students in the Capitan School District find learning experiences through technology.

Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News

Getting the initial technology has been a boost for the district. The challenge now is keeping it up to date.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

The goal of placing a computer on every teacher's desk and hooking classes up to the Internet is a reality in the Capitan School District.

The latest boost to the school district's technology program was a \$40,000 Literacy Challenge grant.

Part of the commitment to receive that money is to promote community and staff awareness of the capabilities of the equipment, said Becky Borowski, who heads the district's media center.

To that end, the center conducts monthly open houses

Using a \$9,000 Learn and Serve grant, student mentors bought equipment and dedicated hours to training teachers as well as students, she said.

A third grant for \$1,000 was used to convert television screens into 27-inch computer monitors in classrooms

But the technology changes every week and the district must keep pace to give its students a chance to compete for scholarships and jobs with students from more affluent and big city school districts.

Although the general public may not see the connection, to improve the district's positions for future requests from the state, more eligible high school students need to sign up for free and reduced price lunches, Borowski said.

The response is good at the elementary and middle school levels. But high school students often opt for meals from somewhere other than the school cafeteria.

"The lower number knocks us out of opportunities," Borowski said. "We need the real number eligible to get footing to apply for Literacy Challenge grants, as much as \$60,000 this year. Even if the students don't intend to eat in the cafeteria, by signing up if they are eligible, it helps us qualify for more money."

The benefits could extend to a greater discount from the Federal Communications Com-

mission on the district's charge for Internet access.

"Down the road, we want to set up labs in the classrooms, possibly with corporate sponsors," Borowski said. "In English classes, they would be writing labs to get kids thinking about rewriting and refining what they submit. Science teachers also would like a lab situation."

"My goal is to get it to a point where people forget computers are even in the classroom. They will only be aware that learning is taking place and computers will be so seamlessly integrated, it all flows."



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Capitan deals with population growth

The village now is growing faster than any community in Lincoln County, and schools are among the first to feel the pressure.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Enrollment in the Capitan School District has climbed 33 percent, from 487 to 647 students, since 1990.

To cope with that increase, the district has and is in the process of converting storage rooms and the elementary teacher lounge into classrooms.

After those projects are finished, no more space is available. District officials are turning to their community for suggestions, including whether to add on to the existing buildings or to construct a new high school.

The school board needs to decide what action to take to meet the growth crunch by next fall, says District Superintendent Diana Billingsley.

"What we're doing now is to open up a classroom in the administration building for kindergarten," Billingsley said. "We used the last room in the elementary school for an added second grade class this year and we made a storage room into a special education classroom."

So far, the numbers are holding at the middle school, which was opened in 1994 with room for growth. Space will suffice another three years there before the elementary student surge hits, she said.

The high school also is out of

space, except for one storage room, Billingsley said.

"The plan next year is to take the elementary teachers' lounge and put in a wall to make another classroom for kindergarten to move back; and to add a third grade classroom," she said. "Then the special ed students will be moved here (the administration building) and the space they vacate will be used for third grade."

"That gets us by for next year only."

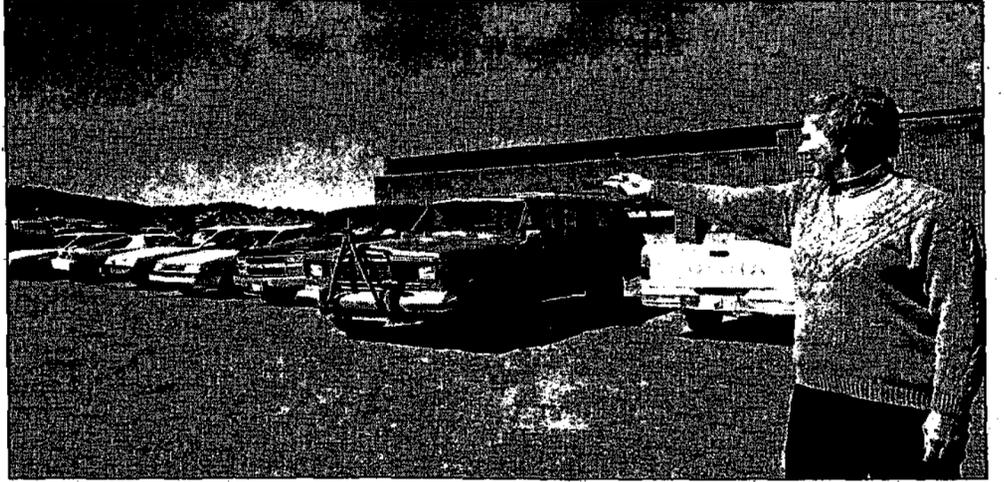
Most of the growth is occurring at the elementary level, she said. The district already has four kindergarten classes and probably will need one more before any new construction occurs. They likely will move into the other half of the teachers' lounge, she said.

By the 1999-2000 school year, the district will be short two classrooms and have no place to go with the extra students, she said.

"To be real honest, I don't know what we'll do," Billingsley said.

"We plan to add one teacher in high school next year — she gets the storeroom — and we still won't have enough math and social studies classes."

The district is bonded at just 14 percent of its capacity. Most people would consider that a plus, but in the state's eyes it's a negative. To be eligible for critical capital outlay money from



Dianne Stallings/Ruidoso News

District Superintendent Diana Billingsley points out a new project site area for continued expansion.

the state, a district must be bonded to 75 percent of its capacity, Billingsley said.

That means Capitan district voters may be asked to approve bonds to pay for expansion of existing buildings or construction of a new high school, roughly estimated to cost about \$10 million without a gymnasium.

But there's a hitch in that scenario too.

The district can bond only to about \$7 million because it still is paying off \$1,250,000 in bonded debt.

However, once the district is bonded to the maximum, it could turn to the state for critical capital outlay help and it could sell more bonds as it pays off the existing bond issue.

"I have no idea how many years that might take," Billingsley said.

Hoping a new high school may be a possibility, school officials have contacted the Lincoln County Commission about selling the district the property that now houses the county road department equipment yard adjacent to the school complex.

Land the district owns across U.S. 380 from the complex isn't suitable for buildings, but could be used as a community and practice field, she said.

The scarcity of land around the school complex also would be a problem for adding on to existing buildings, she said. The only piece available for the elementary school would wipe out the children's play-

ground, Billingsley said. If the addition was attached to the middle school, it would swallow all of the available parking area.

"If we built a new high school, we would move the fourth and fifth grades out of the elementary school to the middle school and shift the sixth, seventh and eighth grades to the old high school," Billingsley said.

Although the problem seems daunting now, Billingsley said she's optimistic that with the help of parents and others in the community, the best solution will be found.

"Capitan people support their schools," she said. "And we are getting more young families interested in what will be here for their children in the future."

"We used the last room in the elementary school for an added second grade class this year and we made a storage room into a special education classroom."

Diana Billingsley
Capitan school
Superintendent

Rolls climb at ENMU-R

BY JULIE BAXTER
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso's efforts to reach beyond its campus to other parts of the county is paying off. At least in ENMU-Ruidoso Director Jim Miller's opinion.

Spring enrollment at the Ruidoso branch of the university increased 7.76 percent from 1997 to 1998. In students, that percentage equals 46 more bodies. The increase isn't as large as the 13.3 percent increase seen in the fall semester, but Miller said he's still pleased with the numbers — especially in a time when other colleges' spring enrollment is down. And Miller said he's also pleased with the response to classes offered in Capitan and Carrizozo.

"This time we took more classes out into more parts of the county," he said.

Miller also said a relationship with the Ruidoso schools and more daytime classes also helped boost enrollment.

ENMU-Ruidoso has developed a working relationship with the schools to train teachers and staff in technology, Miller said.

The school has also opened up more classes in the day, which Miller sees as an indication that the student body is getting younger. Although a majority of students at the Ruidoso campus are "non-traditional" or older students seeking continuing education or returning to school after a hiatus, Miller sees indicators that younger students are taking advantage of the college, too.

"The daytime classes did very well," Miller said. "That interest is typically from younger students."

New classes like Native American humanities, community orchestra and welding also generated a lot of interest, Miller said, along with an old favorite — computer classes.

Miller said the increasing enrollment is a sign that the college in Ruidoso is covering the full continuum of educational services — from adult literacy to master's degrees.

"This time we took more classes out into more parts of the county."

Jim Miller
Director, ENMU-Ruidoso

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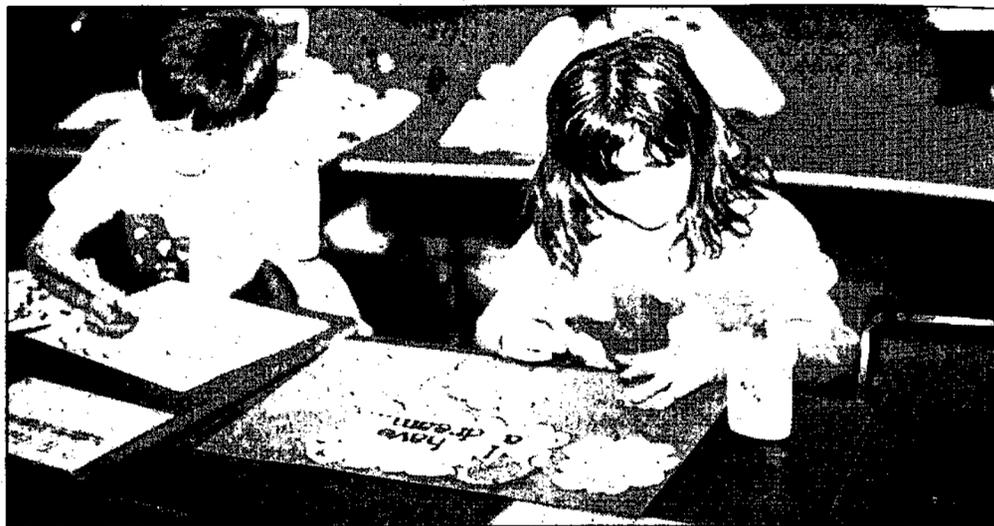
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Filling the child care gap while parents work

It's taken patience, imagination, and lots of help from many sources to keep the after-school program going at Sierra Vista Primary school. But the system works, and it's been a model for similar efforts all over the state.



Keeping children occupied after school is a key element in the schools' extracurricular program.

Julie Bauer/Ruidoso News

• The district has continued its after-school program after having to scramble for financing.

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Home alone may be the premise for a great movie, but it's a lousy way for a 6-year-old to finish a school day, educators say.

Ruidoso Municipal Schools has managed to continue its after-school program called RASCALS (Ruidoso After School Care and Learning Club) at Sierra Vista Primary School despite having the program's financing yanked last year.

"For parents who work until 5:30 or 6 p.m., this really provides a safe place for their kids to be," said Superintendent Mike Gladden. "We have adequate and appropriate staff. And the cost is really very minimal."

About 120 students are enrolled in the after-school program, he said. Most are in kindergarten through third grade, though some fourth and even a

few fifth grade students attend.

For three years, the program had been funded annually at about \$45,000 by the state's Children, Youth and Families agency, Gladden said.

"And we were the model for the state. They would come down and do their evaluations and Ruidoso was the model of the state," he said.

Even so, state funding disappeared last year. The school district scrambled and found alternate ways to fund the program, which Gladden described as a vital service to students and parents.

"The thing it does — you don't have latchkey children going home without their parents being there," he said. "It's becoming ever more important that we have adequate and proper child care services. That's the main thing, because you have parents who are working, and sometimes not at just one job."

Because the program involved health and nutrition, the school was able to access Medicaid funding for much of the cost.

"All Medicaid funds for the kids

have to be expended on health areas for students. And the really neat thing is you are not under all of the red tape of Children, Youth and Families," Gladden said.

Additional money was allocated to the program by the Lincoln County Commission as well as the Wal-Mart Super Center, he said.

"Wal-Mart realizes how important it is for their employees to have child care," he said.

Child care issues have always been a problem in Ruidoso, Gladden said.

"I think it's difficult to find affordable child care," he said. "And then there's just not enough programs offered in the community."

For example, for parents wanting to take night classes at Eastern New Mexico University, child care is an issue.

"And I know that Jim Miller (ENMU-Ruidoso administrator) from time to time has tried to come up with a remedy of how parents can attend the classes and have proper child care services available," Gladden said. Proper care is especially important

during a child's early years, he added.

"Those are the years that we really need to be making an impression and helping kids and parents," Gladden said. "The more we can do there, the more stays (as a child goes through school)."

One solution to part of the problem would be to replace half-day kindergarten with whole-day programs, he said.

"We were hoping the Legislature would pass whole-day (at the recent legislative session), but they didn't do that. Maybe in the future..."

Besides private child care, there is the federally sponsored preschool program, Headstart, for qualifying low-income families.

Additionally, some preschool child care is available through the school district, such as a program for developmentally disabled and 3- and 4-year-olds. The program now has an enrollment of 44 children, he said.

"...you don't have latchkey children going home without their parents being there."

Mike Gladden
School superintendent

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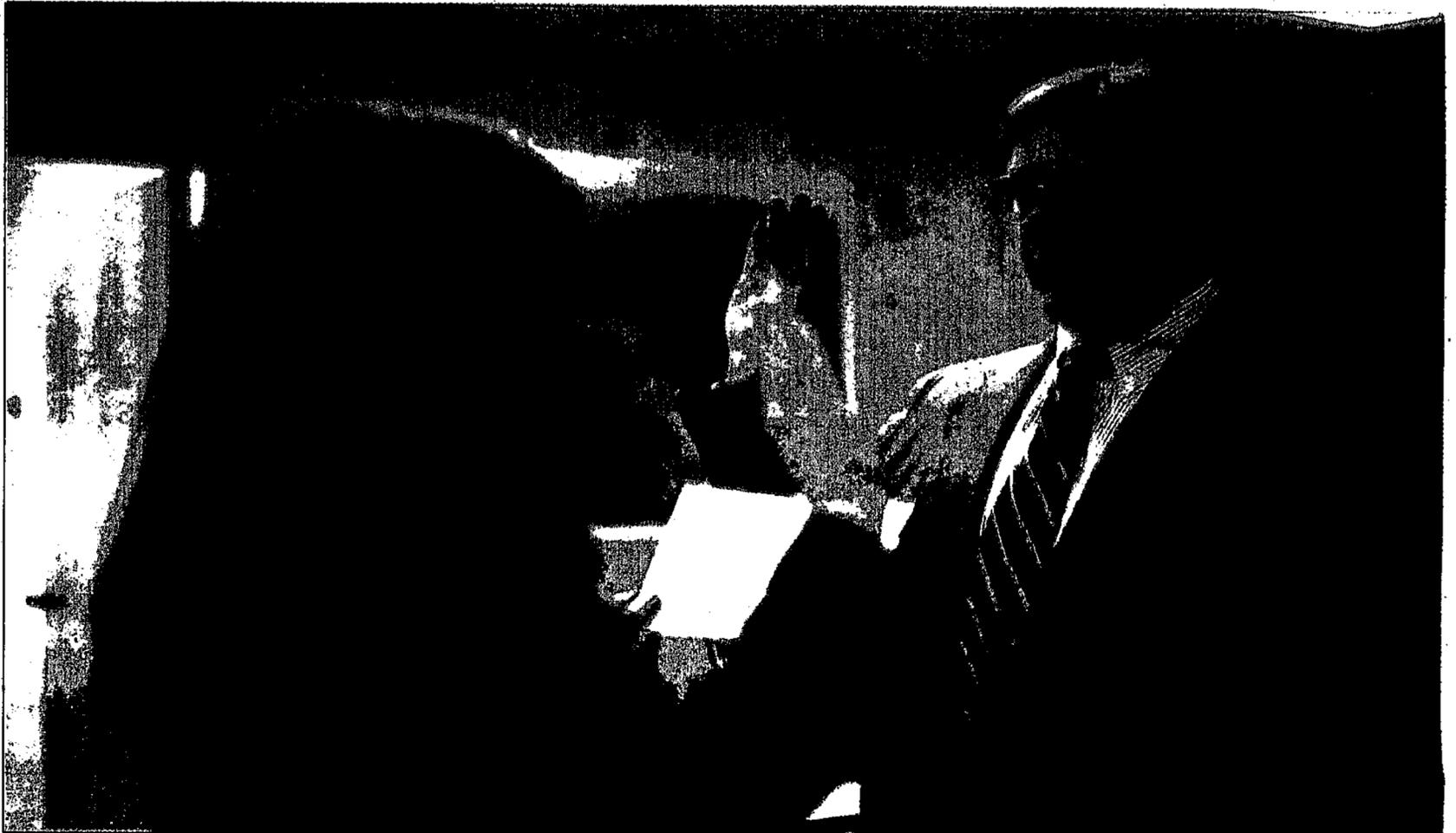
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Ruidoso and its mayor seeking a vision

"Visioning allows you to speed up the process ... because you are more directed about where you want to go."

Robert Donaldson, Ruidoso mayor



Robert Donaldson was sworn in as mayor of Ruidoso on March 9. He says he is an advocate of the visioning process, emphasizing as much consensus as possible while maintaining practicality.

'Visioning' is all about what residents of Ruidoso want to see in their future. Realizing that future, however, is a different matter.

• Ruidoso's new mayor, Robert Donaldson, addresses why the ongoing "visioning" process is so important for the village, and some of the issues involved. Donaldson, owner of a mortgage company and a ski shop, was a council member when the visioning process started.

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Forging a consensus

The hazard of not getting the visioning process under way in Ruidoso is that it leaves planners without a focus, without some form of consensus, said Robert Donaldson, Ruidoso's new mayor and a former councilor.

"You need to get everybody moving in the same direction," he said. "Not that you are going to have 100 percent participation, but the idea is to come to some sort of consensus of where the village needs to be headed."

"It's kind of hard to do that if you don't go through the process of finding out what people want Ruidoso to be."

"You have some people who have moved here who want it to be a tax haven, to be able to run away from things, get away from high taxes and things like that."

"You have other people who want a world-class community, that want all kinds of quality of life services."

"It's trying to come together as to what that vision is."

"You don't want the majority to overwhelm the minority view. What you do is temper the majority view with what the minority wants. But it creates a vision that, hopefully, everybody can see and get behind."

"At times without a vision, you may go down this path on this item and this path on another item — and actually be working in opposites, so you end up with a conflicted view."

"You want a clear view: All ordinances and all policies should be made to enhance that view. That's

why you go through the process. It keeps you from spinning your wheels."

A new viewpoint

Ruidoso underwent a strategic planning process back in the 1980s, but it was done on a smaller, simpler level than the current process, Donaldson said.

"We are taking it a step further, maybe even a couple of steps further than what we've ever done before. I think we need to keep doing this on a fairly regular basis, because how people envisioned Ruidoso in the '50s was different in the '60s."

"In the '70s, it was a totally different view that created a lot of the problems we have today because certain segments of the village got ahead of everything else ... And we have been playing catch-up ever since."

"For instance, construction (occurred) without paying attention to the infrastructure to support it. You may build a lot of homes based on a 25-percent occupancy rate because most are being used as second homes."

"But what happens if all of the homes are sold as primary residences? So, instead of being used 25 percent of the time, they are being used 100 percent of the time. Same amount of houses, but a tremendous difference in the impact on the infrastructure."

"We need to adjust to that. It's not that we can't. We just need to spend the time and put the emphasis on getting the infrastructure caught up with what's happening in town."

Putting the ski resort back in Ruidoso

Other ski resorts in the state and in southern Colorado have out-paced Ruidoso in terms of growth in the last decade, Donaldson said.

"We haven't kept up. And we really need to analyze why and what we can do to change that," he said.

"Rather than try to make summer weekends even bigger, let's try to get a consistency of tourism throughout the year. And our winters appear to have the most potential."

"Some people may think that this is self-serving because I own a ski shop, but I believe that we have somehow lost focus on the winter season. It has so much potential because there are so many days that (Ruidoso's lodgings) are not occupied."

"And Ski Apache has so much wonderful potential. Somehow we have to work with them more and to put together a more unified product to compete (with other ski resorts)."

"We have maximized the fall. We have good special events going on pretty much all the time and probably could develop some more. The summer is about as busy as it can get. The spring is an odd time because

school is finishing up, families are getting ready for summer vacations and the weather may not always be the best ...

The 'us vs. them' mentality

Many residents don't like the weekend crowds of tourists, Donaldson said. "There aren't enough people to live here and support those kinds of businesses," Donaldson said.

The four-day tourist weekends and holiday allows businesses to exist that wouldn't be able to make it otherwise, he said.

"The other days, they are ours. Part of the problem is visitors coming and really supplementing the businesses in the restaurants and retail businesses. If those businesses wouldn't exist."

"You don't have to think back that far. It's only 12 years, to realize that there really were a lot of options to go out to dinner or to shop."

"The things visitors like are really different from the things locals want. I mean, the things that we want if we were visitors and recreationalists is different."

"I think we should focus on that. I don't believe that if we look at what the recreationalists want, it will be exactly the same as what visitors want."

"We don't have to start what a lot of people have gone to — the 'us vs. them' mentality. What happens is we end up focusing on the visitor or the economy and don't talk about how it affects the local. If we can do it all. That's what the visioning is all about."

A late start?

"It would have been nice to have done the visioning in the '60s. But, again, the vision would have been different then."

"And it's not something that you do once. You may do it on a very deep, sophisticated level once, but it's something that needs to be continually reviewed because things change. The world economy changes. What people are looking for in taking their vacation changes. We need to be able to change as those views change."

"There were times when Ruidoso was known as one of the wildest resort towns in the western United States. There probably wasn't any place in the West with a wilder night life. Is that what we want the town to be now? Probably not."

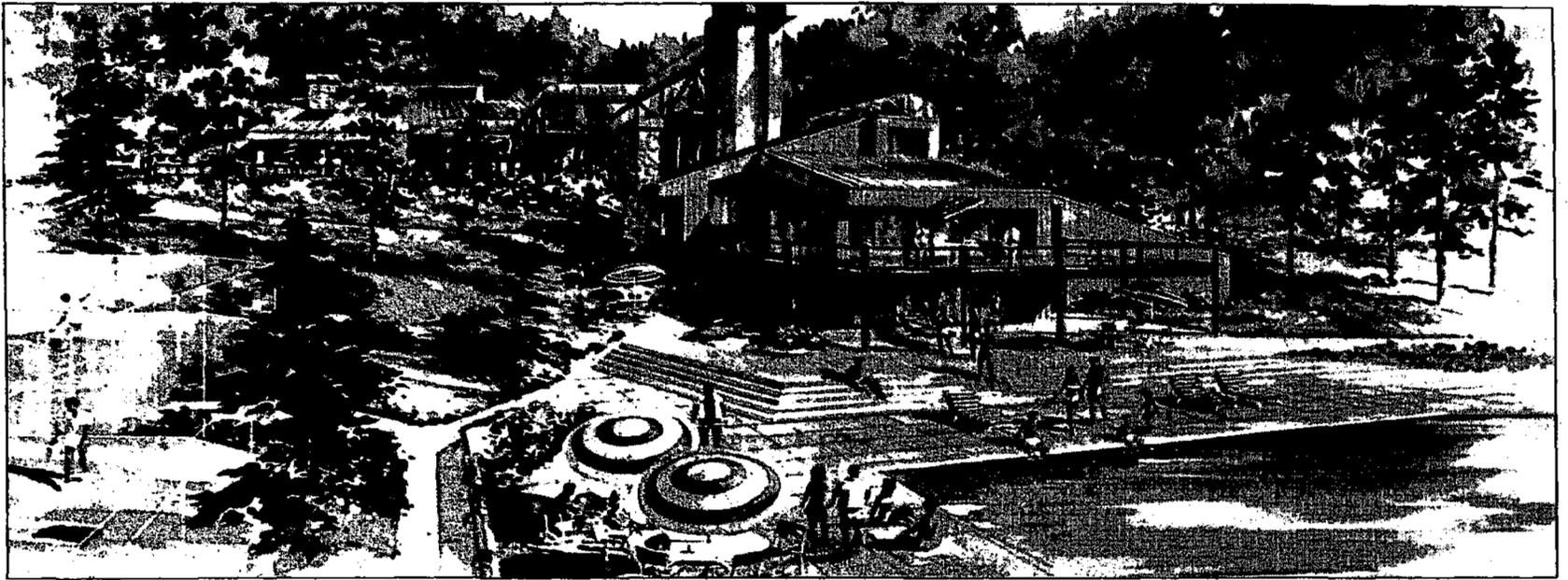
"So, there's going to be an evolution anyway. What visioning does is help us understand where we want to go (as a community) rather than let it take place under its own momentum. "Visioning allows you to speed up the process ... because you are more directed about where you want to go."

Other aspects of the visioning process are detailed in the following pages.

Plans are plentiful; money is limited

"You need to have a dream...But you also need a reality. And it all comes down to money."

Gary Jackson
Village manager



This was one proposal for a new 300-acre resort community proposed on the shores of Grindstone Lake. It never came to fruition, and Grindstone's dam has developed leaks.

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...but determination can take up the slack, says Jackson

• *Wishes and dreams have a history of running into a brick wall of limited resources in Ruidoso.*

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Ruidoso's recent past is littered with grand plans gone flat.

- A non-profit airline.
- A poshy retail center bordering Grindstone Lake.
- A huge recreational center with all the frills, including an indoor swimming pool.
- An old-fashioned locomotive train on tracks circling Ruidoso.
- A river walk park spotted with gazebos, bridges and a glass-encased underwater viewing area.
- And a complete facelift to midtown, with new village buildings, a

museum and more — a multi-million-dollar Main Street project proposed in 1991.

All of the above endeavors were more than just talk; designed plans and public meetings accompanied several. But Ruidoso's current visioning process probably won't come near any of them.

"You need to have a dream and you need to have a vision," Ruidoso Village Manager Gary Jackson said. "But you also need a reality. And it all comes down to money."

To illustrate the limited resources, Jackson at every 2020-Share the Vision meeting gives those attending \$100.

The money is imaginary. But the problem of allocating a limited amount of resources is very real. The handout asks residents to spend their \$100 on community problems, needs and projects. The items range from streets to

public safety, from aesthetic controls to more and better foot trails.

The handouts are tailored to each meeting's subject, whether it's on infrastructure and public facilities or arts, culture and recreation.

The handout is a tool that assists Jackson and Deputy Manager Alan Briley with one of their tasks: "To pull the dream back to reality," Jackson said.

The reality is that money soon will be a delicate subject for the Ruidoso Village Council, Jackson said.

Because Wal-Mart moved from Ruidoso to Ruidoso Downs in the fall, Ruidoso expects gross receipts tax revenue to drop by about 14 percent. The majority of the village's total revenue is from gross receipts taxes.

The upshot is that cuts will have to be made to the village budget for a second year in a row, Jackson said. The

budget process for the 1998-99 fiscal year already has begun and a preliminary budget is scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

Despite dwindling resources and the village's current per capita debt, which is the one of the highest in the state for same-sized cities, Jackson said residents shouldn't give up on "dream" projects.

The grandiose Main Street project, for example, can be continued on a modified scale, he said. (Midtown repaving, parking bays, sidewalks and street lighting, along with public restrooms facilities, were completed as Main Street projects.)

"You never want to say never," Jackson said, adding that even large-scale projects can be accomplished when there's enough local support and determination.

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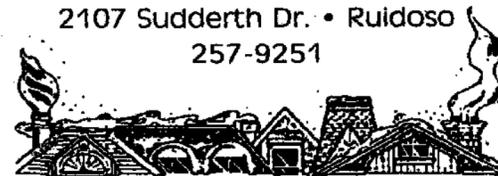
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'Visioning' is a process, not a solution

What's the future of this growing community?

• Village leaders are conducting Ruidoso's most in-depth search of residents and visitors' perceptions before charting a plan for the future.

BY TONI K. LAKSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Some people think Ruidoso should strive to make itself as attractive as it can to bring in more tourists, residents and businesses.

"Other people say we should close the gates," said Ruidoso Village Manager Gary Jackson.

The village's ongoing visioning process is all about finding out what Ruidoso wants for Ruidoso.

"The idea is to come to some sort of community consensus of where the village needs to head," said Ruidoso's newly elected Mayor Robert Donaldson.

Ruidoso, like any city, is going to change with time, he said.

"What a visioning does is help us understand where we want it to go rather than let it take place under its own momentum, where you don't know where it's headed," he said.

"Visioning allows you to speed up the process ... because you are more directed about where you want to go."

Another benefit to the strategic planning process is that it will help merge residents' perceptions of what Ruidoso is with the reality, Jackson said.

If eight different groups of people were asked to define Ruidoso, eight different responses might be the response.

"It's amazing that you would not necessarily get a consensus," he said.

First steps

Kicked off last June, the strategic planning endeavor is still at the stage where village leaders are forming questions for a community survey. Five or more public meetings are being held to narrow the list of questions and issues to be presented on the survey. Between 2,000 and 3,000 surveys will be given to residents, visitors and businesses to fill out.

Responses to the survey will be used by the Ruidoso Village Council,

along with other tools, to draft a new five-year comprehensive plan for the village. Some of those additional tools would be informational studies of community segments, such as a survey of the lodging industry, Jackson said.

Though Ruidoso has limited resources and a high per capita debt, the community-wide survey will help village leaders develop budgets over the next five years. Jackson has said the allocation of \$30-\$40 million during that period would be guided in part by responses.

While this strategic planning effort, called "2020- Share the Vision," is not Ruidoso's first attempt to solicit public input for a strategic plan, it is the village's most in-depth.

Growth issues

To start the visioning process, the village brought in an expert for a public presentation in June.

Myles Rademan, with 25 years' experience with growing mountain towns, basically said communities have to act collectively to stay competitive and overcome conflict.

In a recent telephone interview, Rademan said his perception of Ruidoso was that of "a town still divided on some key issues."

None of the issues facing Ruidoso are unique. Rademan, in his literature, listed common "flashpoints" of conflict: taxes, shopping, traffic and parking congestion, affordable housing, growth and real estate development and community and cultural identity.

At his presentation, Rademan said conflicts can be resolved by the municipal government "going through the processes" of seeking resident's viewpoints.

Donaldson said Ruidoso is not keeping up with other ski resorts in the state and in Southern Colorado over the past decade.

"And we really need to analyze why and what we can do to change that," Donaldson said.

Pick up the pace

Both Donaldson and Jackson said they would like to speed up the visioning meetings.



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- \$ _____ Tourism promotion - economic development
- \$ _____ Street systems
- \$ _____ Solid waste collection
- \$ _____ Recreation & youth programs & facilities
- \$ _____ Educational opportunities including technical & vocational
- \$ _____ Public safety - police, fire & ambulance
- \$ _____ Urban design & aesthetic controls
- \$ _____ Transportation system
- \$ _____ Others - (please list & describe)
- \$ _____
- \$ _____
- \$ _____

How would you divide available money to make Ruidoso better? Take the test.

"We have to remember that we are in the early stages of the process still," Jackson said.

The village's ad hoc visioning committee started its meetings in November and has continued at a rate of about one meeting per month. So far, the committee has addressed three categories: parks and recreation; arts and culture; and infrastructure, public facilities and services.

While between 20 and 30 people attended the first two sessions, in which residents tell the committee what issues should be included on the questionnaire, about a dozen came to

the meeting on infrastructure. Two categories remain: the environment and economic development. Both are areas of considerable interest, said Jackson.

Issues such as forest health, the river, hillside protection, litter and the hospital are included in the topic of environment.

The meeting on economic development, business and tourism will address the issues such as housing, conventions and trade shows, transportation, the Main Street project, industrial development and incentives for businesses.



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Ruidoso now must remedy prior neglect

It will take years and millions of dollars for the village to repair its infrastructure, but that's the price of growth.

• For most of Ruidoso's history, development standards didn't exist. Residents now are paying the cost to replace or install missing infrastructure.

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Until the late 1980s, in Ruidoso it was virtually "anything goes" when it came to development.

"And it shows. You know, you can go down any street and you are going to see a little tiny cabin next to a little tiny trailer next to a \$300,000 house — because there weren't any controls," said Ruidoso Deputy Manager Alan Briley.

"I would venture that for many, many years while Ruidoso was growing, they didn't have any subdivision rules and regulations as far as paving the streets, the right-sized water lines, fire hydrants ... they didn't have those until later."

Planning regulations, including standards for new subdivisions, were established in 1988, he said. Ruidoso now is trying to catch up on previous development. About 30 miles of 2-inch water lines need to be replaced with 6-inch lines. There are about 25 miles of dirt roads. The sewer plant, owned jointly with Ruidoso Downs, needs upgrades to its system to stay within capacity. And many Ruidoso neighborhoods are without access to sewer lines, Briley said.

"What they would do is build a house or two and hook to the main line," Briley said of developers. "Which was fine. But the town grew and four or five houses built up around the first two and they kept hooking to that 2-inch line.

"All of a sudden, we are faced with 30 miles of lines that don't carry the water that's needed. And now we are stuck with the situation."

Nor can fire hydrants be tied to the lines because minimum standards require 6-inch lines to meet flow and capacity requirements.

Ruidoso's history contributes to one of the highest debts per capita for cities of the same size in New Mexico, and why more money is needed, Briley said.

Some of the debt is for the Grindstone water treatment plant, some the Alto Crest treatment plant, and some for water and sewer improvements. In addition, \$3.5 million in general obligation bonds provided items such as the library and the White Mountain Recreation Center, Briley said.

Even with the 1996 bond election, in which \$2 million was dedicated to water system improvements and \$1.5 million for the sewer system, it will probably take the village 10 years or more to replace water lines and pave roads, he said.

Sewer extensions are not yet on the drawing board. Most of the work on the system has been to reduce the amount of water leaking into pipes and unnecessarily increasing the load on the sewer plant.

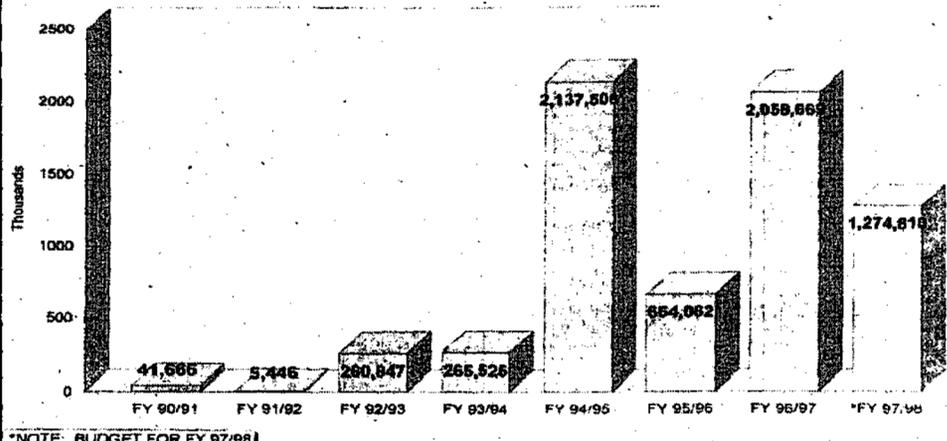
"It's catch-up," Briley said. "When we look at our budgets, what we have done in the infrastructure categories, in capital improvement projects over the past 10 years ... most everything is existing streets, existing water lines, existing sewer lines. We're not building new roads across hills and stuff like that. It's all repair and maintenance."

Mayor Robert Donaldson

"We just need to spend the time and put the emphasis on getting the infrastructure caught up with what's happening in town."

Robert Donaldson
Mayor

WATER DEPARTMENT CAPITAL EXPENSES BY FISCAL YEAR



NOTE: BUDGET FOR FY 97/98
Here's how Ruidoso has put money into water operations during the 1990s. And there's much more to do to bring the system up to par.

echoed Briley, saying construction in the 1970s and 1980s took off without attention to infrastructure.

"You may build a lot of homes based on a 25-percent occupancy rate based on most being used as second homes," Donaldson said. "But what happens if all of the homes are sold as primary residences?"

"So, same number of houses, but a tremendous difference in the impact on the infrastructure ... We need to adjust to that. It's not that we can't. We just need to spend the time and put the emphasis on getting the infrastructure caught up with what's happening in town."

Adding to the problem is the lack of money dedicated to Ruidoso's infrastructure in the early '90s, village leaders say. It's only been in the last three or four years that the Village Council has put an emphasis on upgrading water storage,

water lines and streets. And most of that work has targeted improvements to the water system — such as storage tanks and lines, Briley said.

Streets

Village streets fared about the same as water lines in early developments, Briley said.

"They didn't have real regulations for street width, paving, drainage control — nothing like that," he said.

The village plans to pave 3 or 4 miles of dirt roads a year. "And that depends on the budget. I think this year we had 3.6 miles of new paved roads. So, you can see it will take some time to get all the roads fixed," Briley said.

It costs the village about \$190,000 per mile to pave dirt roads.

"We may only get \$70,000, \$80,000, maybe \$100,000, if we

are lucky, into the (yearly) street budget for paving roads," Briley said.

Sewer plant

The sewer plant owned by Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs was built about 20 years ago at a cost of roughly \$2 million, paid for largely with federal money, Briley said.

Between 1 and 1.5 million gallons of sewage run through it daily. Its capacity is 2 million gallons of sewage a day, but because of holding tanks, called equalization basins, flows of as much as 5 million gallons per day can be handled, Briley said.

The joint board overseeing the plant will receive a \$850,000 state loan for upgrades. Most of the money, said Briley, will be used to

See next page

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Extra Tasty Crispy™	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hot & Spicy Chicken	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kentucky Nugget®	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Hot Wings™ Pieces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Biscuits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Side Items (please list)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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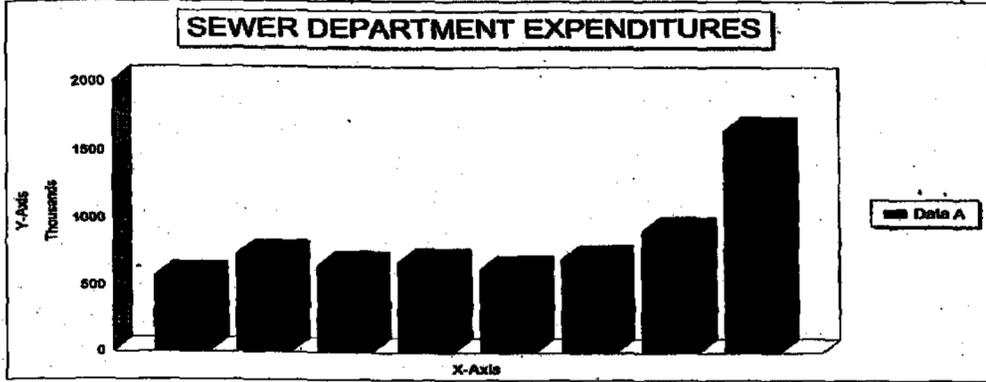


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Sewer department expenditures, flat for years, has taken a jump since 1997.



Alan Briley, Ruidoso's current deputy village manager, is an engineer.

Ruidoso and the Downs share a sewage treatment plant, and the use balance is shifting a bit, for whatever reason.

Continued ...

improve the plant's system for disposing of solids, thus increasing capacity.

Another tactic to extend the life of the plant is to lower the amount of water leaking into the system, Briley said.

"Sewer lines are placed in the lowest areas so everything can gravity flow (down the lines)," he said. "Those areas are usually streams, springs whatever. So, you build these sewer lines under or next to rivers and the water seeps into them."

A 1991 study estimated that 900,000 gallons of seepage per day was going into the treatment plant, he said. The village, using \$1.2 million from 1995 bonds, has completed several projects to repair and seal sewer lines.

"So, if we are, on an average, treating 1.5 million gallons per day and we eliminate, say even 500,000 gallons, we have just increased our capacity by 30 percent," Briley said.

Ruidoso now pays 91 percent of the plant's operating

costs and Ruidoso Downs the remainder, based on how much each village uses the plant. Those percentages translate into a cost of \$526,000 for Ruidoso and \$45,000 for Ruidoso Downs.

However, the percentage of use has shifted in the past year, he said.

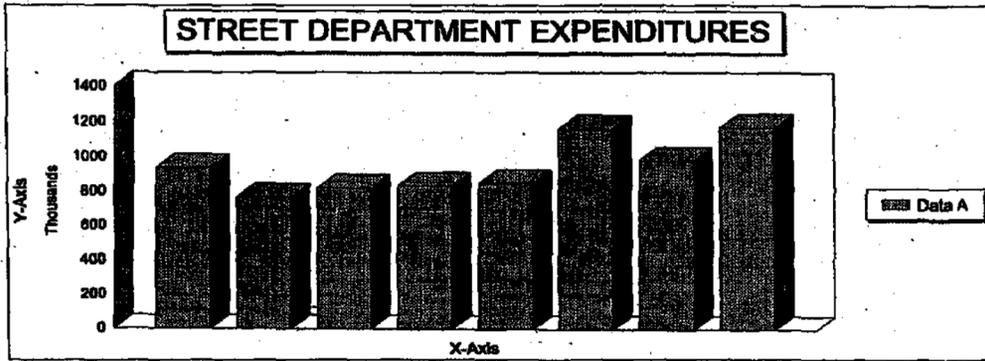
"Ruidoso Downs is getting increased flows. Whether they are hooking on a lot more customers, getting more extensions or we are getting rid of some of our infiltration, it is getting in the 75:25 range," Briley said.

Sewer lines

The village receives two or three comments a month about when sewer lines will be available to certain Ruidoso neighborhoods.

However, the village under state law isn't required to extend sewer lines to everyone, and presently doesn't have plans to do so, Briley said.

A state official estimated that more than half of Ruidoso's homes are on septic tanks. Bri-



Here's the progression of street expenditures in Ruidoso beginning in 1990 (left) to 1998.

ley believes that estimation is high. At the end of 1997, there were 6,153 residential customers and 481 commercial customers paying for sewer, he said. Some of those customers remain on septic tanks, but pay the monthly rate because sewer lines are available to them, Briley said.

For those who don't have sewer trunk lines to tie-on to, the problem facing the village is how to pay for the capital costs of sewer extensions.

The \$11 a month residential customers pay doesn't cover the

expense of running new lines, Briley said.

"It all comes back to impact fees," he said. "I know that you can't put impact fees on houses that are already there. But these homes have never put a dime into the system for new extensions. And Ruidoso does not have an active system to run new extensions for people to tie onto."

Water lines

About \$1 million from the 1995 bond issue is to replace

water lines, Briley said.

"That got us about 6 miles," he said. Four of the miles were replacement of main pipes and the remainder for smaller tie-in lines.

It costs about \$35 a foot to replace a 2-inch water line with a 6-inch water line.

"That is about \$6.5 million," Briley said. "We know that we are not going to sell \$6.5 million worth of bonds or put that into our budget. So, you can see with (few) dollars and the limited budget, it's going to take awhile to fix what's already under the ground."

"If we are, on an average, treating 1.5 million gallons per day and we eliminate, say even 500,000 gallons, we have just increased our capacity by 30 percent."

Alan Briley
Deputy village manager

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Ruidoso Parks and Rec: the bucks stop here

Ruidoso's Parks and Recreation Department faces budget constraints.

BY LAURA CLYMER
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

The name has changed but the philosophy remains the same in the director's chair of the Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Department.

Rafael Salas, who has been with parks and rec since its inception in 1983, became director a year ago after former director Debbie Jo Almager accepted a position with the city/county of Los Alamos.

Almager, with the help of Salas, longtime pool director Ellen Bizzell and others, mapped out the department's master plan and long range goals several years ago.

Despite a tightening of the fiscal belt, Salas said he's committed to sticking with those plans. However, the department might not be able to achieve the goals at the pace it wants because capital outlay expenditures have been put on hold.

"I really want to stay focused on the recreational sports," Salas said.

"We're very fortunate that our community offers the youth leagues - all on a volunteer basis - and we try to work with them the best we can."

Rafael Salas,
Parks and Recreation
Director



The youth of the Ruidoso area, by the hundreds, play soccer at the White Mountain Sports Complex.

Laura Clymer/Ruidoso News

And that's what his fiscal 1998-99 parks and recreation budget is built around.

"I'm going to go with what I feel is operational - what will allow us to give good service of our programs," he said.

For Salas, that means main-

taining the programs and facilities already established. Hence, budget figures for 1998-99 don't stray far from 1997-98 figures.

In 1997-98, \$507,532 was budgeted for the year. That amount slips 3.8 percent to \$488,219 for 1998-99.

The difference between the last fiscal year and the upcoming one is capital outlay, Salas said. The department rolled over just about \$83,000 in capital outlay money from 1996-97 to 1997-98.

Of that capital outlay money, \$41,000 was spent on bridge replacement at Two Rivers Park and another \$22,000 was spent on two mowers for maintenance of the new soccer fields at White Mountain Recreation Complex.

Salas has earmarked \$54,000 for capital outlay expenses this year - \$30,000 for office computers, Christmas decorations, weed eaters and other maintenance equipment; \$14,000 for the pool; and \$10,000

in furnishing for the expanded senior citizens center.

Salas does have concerns about the budget. If money needs to be cut, Salas and his staff have to determine where to slice and dice.

The first to go would be the department's special event programs such as Christmas in the Park and the annual Easter egg hunt, Salas said.

He hopes it doesn't come to that.

Perhaps the most evident accomplishment in the past year, Salas said, was the pooling together of resources among the city and county and citizen action groups.

Joint efforts resulted in the building of the soccer fields and baseball diamond at White Mountain Recreational Complex.

A \$68,000 gift from the county will be spent mostly on improvements at the little league baseball park at Gavilan Canyon, the addition of another

soccer field at White Mountain and the addition of a T-ball baseball field at North Park.

"We're bringing up the quality of the playing fields. It was the citizens who requested the recreation money from the county," Salas noted.

Like his predecessor, Salas sees parks and recreation playing an active role in providing activities for the Ruidoso youth.

"There's a concern for the youth. They want activities directed towards them," Salas said.

With the Ruidoso School District building two new gyms, Salas would like to bring back programs, such as youth volleyball, which fall to the wayside because of a lack of facility space.

Where parks and rec can't pick up the slack, the community has been more than willing.

"We're very fortunate that our community offers the youth leagues - all on a volunteer basis - and we try to work with them the best we can," Salas said.

Salas also wants to make sure parks and rec programs are accessible financially to Ruidoso residents.

"We want to offer a good program for the least expensive price," he said.

Perhaps the best example of that is Bizzell's operation of the city swimming pool.

"Last time we did any price increases was 1990," said Bizzell who has been with the department full time for 12 years. "Swim lesson prices haven't changed in 10 years because we're trying keep it within everybody's budget."

"I want everybody out there swimming and having fun. The prices we charge are really to cover the heating and the chemicals. We're just trying to do a service."

At this point, any additional parks and rec services or programs would result in a drop in service, Salas said.

"One of the main goals is to maximize use of all of our facilities," he said.

► Fiscal year '97-98

Parks and recreation budget for recreational-based programs (doesn't include cemetery maintenance and other programs not defined as recreational).

Parks and recreation
\$507,532

Swimming pool \$92,121
Sr. Citizens Center \$56,660

Source: Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Department

► Fiscal year '98-99

Proposed parks and recreation budget for recreational-based programs (doesn't include cemetery maintenance and other programs not defined as recreational).

Parks and recreation
\$488,219

Swimming pool \$90,585
Sr. Citizens Center \$76,357

Source: Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Department

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From the Management & Staff of



RUIDOSO NEWS

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Downs shoots for basketball gymnasium

With the move of Wal-Mart from Ruidoso to Ruidoso Downs, the village has found itself with more gross receipts tax money and a way to help meet the needs of its youth.

• Mayor Joe Hayhurst wants to start construction this spring and have the gym finished by August.

BY TONI K. LAXSON
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

After months of inquiries about what Ruidoso Downs would do with the extra gross receipts tax revenue generated by the relocated Wal-Mart discount store, Mayor Joe Hayhurst has announced plans to build a basketball gymnasium.

"The first thing we wanted to do was something for the kids," Hayhurst said.

The gymnasium will be located at the All-American Park and will offer three practice courts and one playing court, he said. It will be a metal building like the senior citizens center, also at the park.

"It will be used for other things, such as the (Downs Auxiliary's) crafts fair, but it's primarily for the kiddos," Hayhurst said.

One intended use is to provide courts for the area's Little League Basketball games and practices, he said.

Wal-Mart moved from the village of Ruidoso to Ruidoso Downs in mid-October.

Leann Weihbrecht, village clerk-treasurer, said the Downs' budget is up by about \$450,000 in gross receipts revenues generated from mid-October through January. The

village's annual budget, excluding federal and state grants, had been about \$1 million. Because of grant money, Ruidoso Downs' actual 1997-98 budget is at roughly \$2 million.

The village has about five more months of gross receipts revenue before the end of the fiscal year. The state, which collects gross receipts taxes, sends municipalities their portions of the revenues after about a two-month delay.

None of the money has been added to the village's 1997-98 fiscal year budget.

The village is applying for federal and state permission for the gymnasium, which is required because the park was built with federal assistance, said Weihbrecht.

With state and federal approval, the Downs Council will make a budgetary amendment of roughly \$400,000 to start construction of the facility this spring, Hayhurst said.

He hopes to have the gymnasium completed by August, Hayhurst said.

The village also must apply for a conversion of the park's purpose, she said.

"All the property over there is for outdoor recreational use. When you put a building on it, it's considered indoor use."

The building will be 100 by 200 feet, Hayhurst said, and will be placed in the west corner of the park on the side next to U.S. Highway 70.



Cameron Anover, 11, right, takes a shot with Jacob Lopez at Ruidoso Downs' All-American Park.

Toni K. Laxson/Ruidoso News

"It will be used for other things, such as the (annual) crafts fair, but it's primarily for the kiddos"

Joe Hayhurst,
Mayor, Ruidoso Downs

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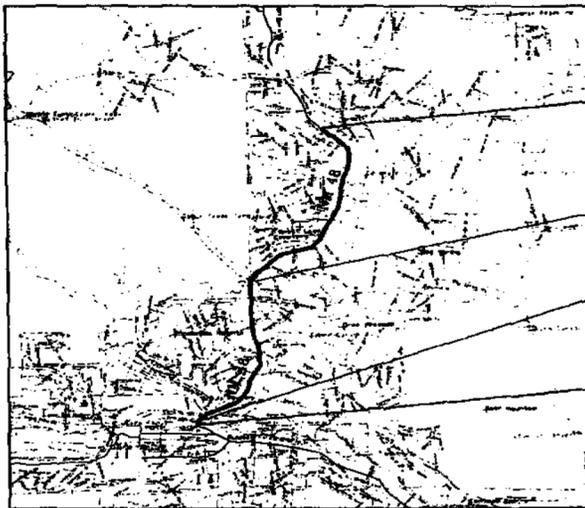
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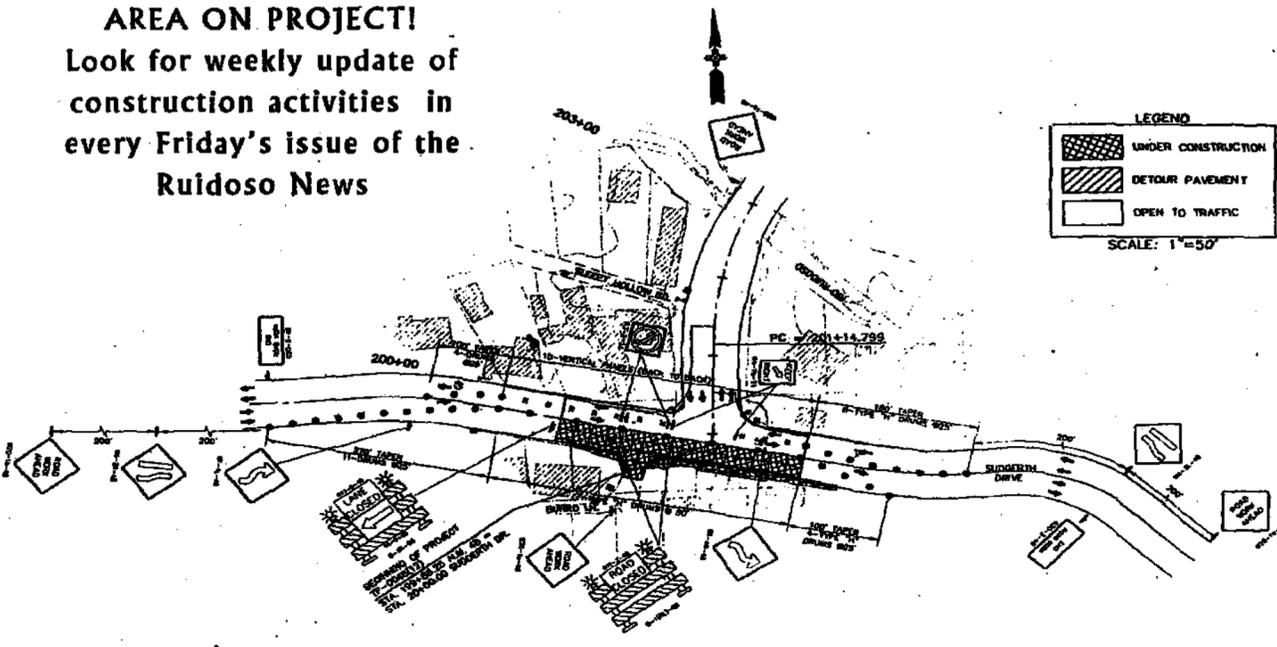
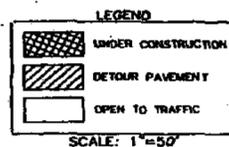


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