

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2003 • OUR 56TH YEAR, NO. 82 • 50 CENTS

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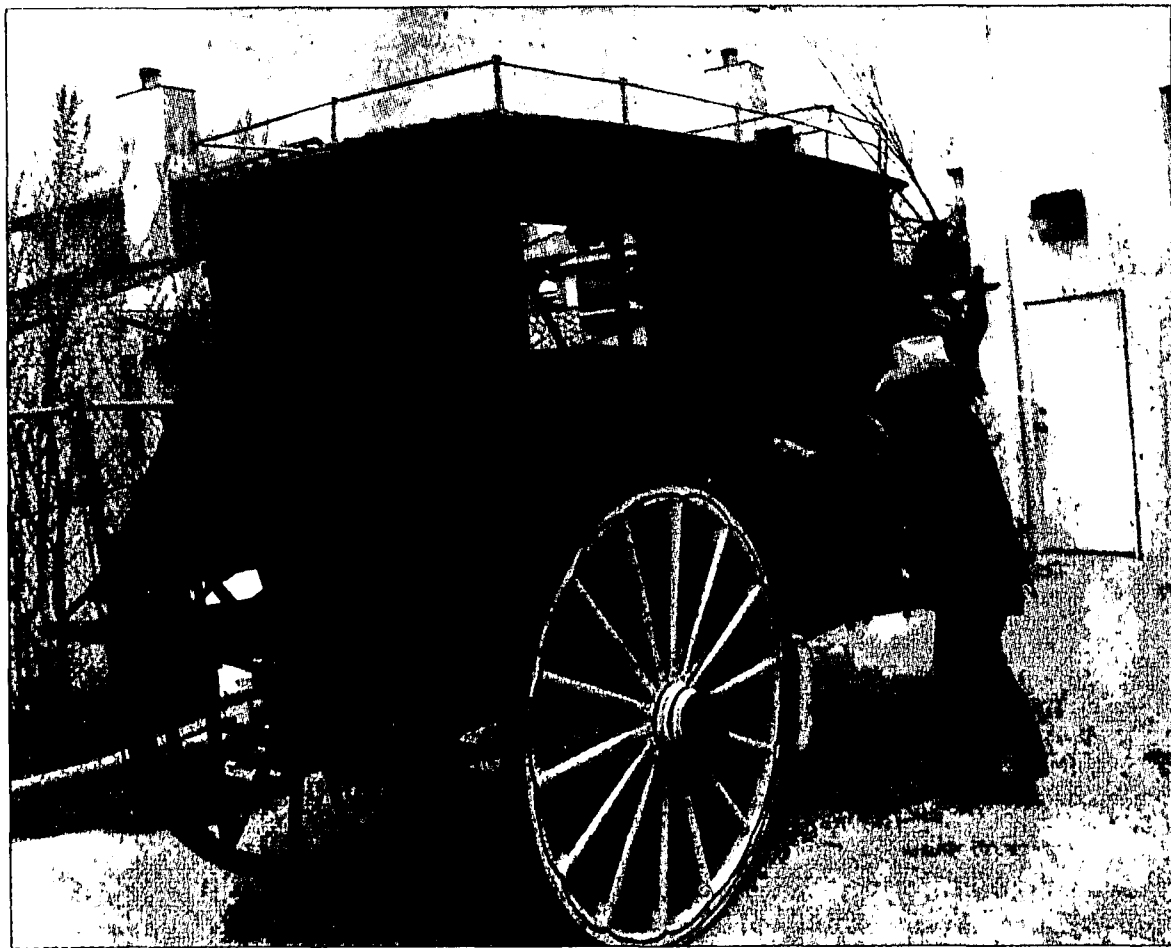
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A PIECE OF HISTORY



KEITH GREEN/STAFF

An original Wells Fargo stagecoach, more than a century old, was unloaded from a trailer at the Hubbard Museum of the American West on Wednesday morning, a central element in new exhibit titled "Gunfighter" to open for a summer long run on May 24. The stagecoach, built sometime between 1880 and 1899, was provided by Wells Fargo Bank.

Village water request 'part of plan'

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

.com

Clarifying the reasoning behind Ruidoso's application for acquisition of unappropriated water in the Tularosa Basin north of Carrizozo, village manager Lorri McKnight said it's part of an attempt to plan ahead.

The village's application is being protested by the board of trustees of the county seat of Carrizozo. Other protests also are anticipated.

McKnight explained that the village undertook an evaluation of its water supply from sources to water meters. An evaluation of surrounding watersheds also was completed.

"Because of pending legal issues at this time, these evaluations remain confidential," she wrote, but will be released when those legal issues are resolved.

"Currently, a well monitoring program and water resource management plan are being implemented," McKnight said. "This allows the village to track its water supply and to manage that supply to ensure it is secure even in time of drought."

But planning for the future requires investigation of possible additional water sources, she said.

"The acquisition of existing water rights has always been the first choice and the village stands ready to continue to do so," she said. "To date, however, that has not been enough."

Anticipated growth and persistent drought are two factors that affect water planning, she said, as well as regional needs and cost.

"But the limited number of possible additional sources of water is the most important factor," she said. "There just are not many places to investigate additional sources."

One possibility is the upper Tularosa Basin, north and east of the county seat of Carrizozo, she said. "Hydrological studies estimate that a significant amount of recharge is generated in this area. The amount of recharge is greater than the relatively small amount of current use. This difference is unappropriated water. Ruidoso is proposing to do a hydrological analysis in this area to determine just how much difference in water use and

availability this really is."

To defend the process against potential speculation - which could drive up prices - the village filed an application for the unappropriated water.

"As part of the application process, the village must show it will protect the existing water users. It must determine if water actually is available for municipal use and how much can be utilized on an ongoing basis," McKnight said.

"We will contact landowners for permission to access their property and pay a fair price for that access and any damage. This may be an expensive and lengthy process."

McKnight said before action is taken, Ruidoso officials will meet with area landowners, the Carrizozo trustees, Lincoln County Commissioners and others.

"We can all benefit from knowing what water is available and working together to develop a plan that takes everyone's concerns into account," she said.

"We can all benefit from knowing what water is available and working together..."

Lorri McKnight
Ruidoso village manager

Weather plays big role for burn permit holders

County officials ask for common sense and better communication by landowners.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

.com

Just because a person obtains a permit from the State Environment Department to burn debris, doesn't mean proper conditions exist.

The state only looks at air quality issues. The landowner or person handling the fire still is responsible for taking necessary precautions to ensure control, to notify local authorities and to wait for the right weather conditions.

Those ground rules were emphasized Tuesday at the monthly meeting of the Ruidoso Wildland/Urban Interface Group.

"The Environment Department is strictly looking at air quality issues, a permit is not carte blanche to burn on a windy day or to be irresponsible," said Barbara Luna, who heads the Smokey Bear District of the state Forestry Division.

"We need to clarify the landowner's responsibility for a fire that gets out of hand. We need to get out to the public that they should take precautions,

See BURN, page 2A

UP AND COMING ART



SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

"Mountain Gods" by Mescalero High School senior Terrence Blake won first place at the Seventh Annual Henriette Wyeth Memorial School Art Show, judged Wednesday by Ruidoso Downs artist Ann Templeton. The high school exhibition opens at 10 a.m. Sunday with works from students of Capitán, Carrizozo, Cloudcroft, Mescalero Apache School and Ruidoso.

\$50M plan includes housing, river walk

'First-class' project is water conscious, developer says

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

.com

Consultants laid out plans for a \$50 million mixed-use development off Sudderth Drive Tuesday, with 130 condominium units, a 300-car parking garage, six retail/office spaces and a river walk.

Developer John Hamilton of Alto, and property owner Mark Clark said the condominiums will sell for \$350,000 to \$550,000 and that the entire project will be "first class."

The 14-acre tract currently is used as a recreational vehicle park. Ground breaking could be as early as September.

Details of the project were reviewed as an informational item for the Ruidoso Planning and Zoning Commission. It would be premature to schedule a public hearing, said village planning director Mike Runnels. At least two of the board members, vice chairman Phillis Barnett and Bill Hirschfeld, greeted the proposal enthusiastically. "I'm very excited about something like this," said Barnett, a chamber of commerce member. "It's like a shot in the arm. It would be great for Midtown if you can work out the issues."

Hamilton said he doesn't intend to fight the village to build the project. His consultants will work with village department heads to resolve issues, such as water demand. But if they reach an impasse, the project will be dropped, he said.

"I see this as a win-win situation," he said. "We will not butt heads. If this is something you folks say you're not interested in, we won't come."

He brought the project to the commission to gauge their interest before pumping more money into the proposal, he said. The condominiums would require a variance on building height because they are designed for multiple floors with parking underneath. That would be the main concession for the village, but parking space and a park would be the offset.

The \$2.5 million parking garage would handle the overflow for the condominiums, as well as provide parking for the shops and for the village in general, he said.

Steve Grossman, a consulting architect, said the developers envision building a river trail "that has

See PROJECT, page 5A

Fort bill amended; meeting Saturday

Proposed commission numbers changed

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

.com

The membership of a proposed Fort Stanton Commission would expand under an amendment to the House Bill scheduled for review Saturday.

The number on the commission would grow from five to seven. Instead of the Lincoln County manager, the chairman of the County Commission or his designee would be appointed. The mayor of Ruidoso or his designee and the director of the state Historical Preservation Office were added.

Three members would be appointed by the governor. The Secretary of the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department also would serve.

County manager Tom Stewart said he sees no problems with the change and urged supporters of fort preservation and development to focus on the goal of creating the commission and not splinter on differences over the board membership.

The commission's goal would be to devise a preservation and development plan for the 1855 fort northeast of Ruidoso that was closed as a state hospital in 1995. The bill also would create a Fort Stanton Development Fund in the state treasury as a repository for gifts, grants and other money. The bill would appropriate \$300,000 from the state's general fund to start the effort in 2004.

A show of strong support for the creation of a Fort Stanton Commission is important, he said. Members of the House Committee on Government and Urban Affairs are scheduled to heard House Bill 926 at 9 a.m. in Room 324 in the Round House in Santa Fe.

Anti-war group upset after denied access to center

Another meeting is scheduled for Saturday.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Organizers of an anti-war group claim they were denied access to a Lincoln County senior center for a meeting last week.

Ray Wilson contends the group that opposes a war in Iraq received prior approval to use the Capitan Senior Center, but was denied access Saturday at the last minute by a supervisor. The group met on the front porch instead, he said.

"We believe the center's action was

both unfair and illegal since public meetings for other groups are allowed," Wilson said.

The group plans to be on the corner of Mechem and Sudderth drives from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday with protest signs, petitions, voter registration materials and an opinion poll.

When first contacted Thursday, county manager Tom Stewart said he had not heard of the center incident, but would investigate. No one from the anti-war group contacted him to complain, he said.

"I agree everybody needs to have the right to protest and I will find out why they were denied," he said. "Everyone has the right to speak out and to use

government facilities when they are available. Freedom of speech and the right of assembly will be guaranteed in this county."

Calling back later, Stewart said although he didn't know the details of the conversation between organizers and the center director, the reason the center was locked on Saturday is that the normal operation hours are on weekdays.

"We're not going to bring in government employees to open a facility normally closed without reimbursement for time and utilities," Stewart said. "I would treat every organization the same. I'm not sure how the discussion went, but there was no offer of reim-

bursement."

Wilson contended Thursday that center officials never told him there would be a problem meeting on a Saturday, "or we probably would have scheduled during the week." The group is willing to pay to cover any costs to the county, but no one mentioned charges, he said.

He claims the person who agreed to schedule the meeting later said the issue was too political.

The committee submitted a new request for a meeting at the center next month, Wilson said.

"Yesterday was the first time I heard about compensation for using the room," he said. The group doesn't have

a problem working within the county's regulations, but, "it just would be nice to know about them in advance."

The committee still is working on obtaining a ruling about the legality of setting up at local post offices, he said. He received differing opinions from different post masters.

Committee members contend a free speech discussion of the war is needed and they have contacted the New Mexico American Civil Liberties Union to resolve the issue.

People with concerns about the possible war in Iraq, civil liberties restrictions and grassroots political responsibility are asked to call Wilson at 910-1785 for more information.

BURN: Even after permits are issued, holders should wait for good weather to act

FROM PAGE 1A

notify neighbors, and wait for the right conditions."

Local rules may be needed to cover those issues, she said.

Thomas Chavez, Ruidoso emergency manager, said recently a homeowner, who was welding and started a fire, was held responsible in court and must pay damages and firefighting costs.

Jack King, with the environment department's Ruidoso office, said when permits are issued, people must initial a section acknowledging that they are responsible for fire suppression costs and damages, if a fire burns out of control. Most people don't pay attention to what they are initialing, he said.

Better coordination also is needed among agencies to ensure the proper authorities know when a burn occurs, embers agreed.

Sharon Stewart with the Sun Valley Sanitation District, said when she first moved to the area, people would call the sheriff's office, the local fire department and the U.S. Forest Service before burning so they could respond to callers who saw smoke.

"It's not that much trouble instead of relying on a dispatcher (to notify the right agencies)," she said. "I think it's wiser to require (the permit holder) notify all three."

Debbie Haines with Zia Natural Gas said utilities use a New Mexico One Call system for lot owners to contract before they dig to ensure they don't hit buried lines. The system could be valuable for a burn, she said.

But Bill Martin, county emergency services coordinator, said the one-call system involves a 48-hour waiting period, which wouldn't always work in a burn that depends on certain weather conditions.

But he acknowledged notification to the sheriff's office also carries problems. Volunteer fire departments often are difficult to contact,

he said.

"I think we need to coordinate a notice process, but I'm not sure where it would be centralized," Martin said. "We need to start working on this immediately."

Ruidoso urban forester Rick Delaco said the 48-hour wait on utilities involves time to look at the site. Although that might be necessary for a burn initially when the permit is issued, once that is accomplished, the owner probably could call the day of a burn without any delays.

The window is 72 hours for an ED permit.

If people spot smoke and volunteer fire departments are dispatched when there is no emergency, the effort wastes time and money, Martin said.

Luna said an informal net-

work already exists with many calls coming to the state forestry or the sheriff's office. A contractor said the sheriff's office requires a call on the morning of a burn and every subsequent morning the burn continues.

Delaco said picking the right time of day also can be a problem because the best for air quality is between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., but the best for wind and weather usually is early morning or late afternoon.

When neighbors see smoke on a windy day, the county often receives calls from people asking "who the rocket scientist is that approved the

permit," said Greg Shaver, grants administrator and forestry coordinator for the county. A permit covers a time period within which a burn may occur, not a specific time of day or date, he said. It's up to the landowner to use common sense and not light a match if the wind is strong, he said.

Precautions for a burn should include enough manpower and water to ensure control, members said.

"Public education would eliminate a lot of the problems from an agency point of view," Martin said. "People aren't educated on the best methods of burning."

Sherry Barrow, who owns SBS Wood Shavings, urged that any public education campaign also include information about alternatives to burning, such as using small-diameter trees in her wood shavings business in Glencoe.

Van Patton, a developer and owner of Sierra Contracting, suggested using material for erosion control.

"Not every property would qualify, but if it can be used instead of burning, it's worth checking," he said. An owner would have to be sure the debris wasn't dropped in an arroyo where it later could be washed down and clog culverts, he said.

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The Ruidoso News (USPS # 2400, ISSN # 1542-1542) is published each Wednesday and Friday at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, NM 88355. Second-class postage paid at Ruidoso, NM 88355 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Ruidoso News, P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88355. The Ruidoso News reserves the right to accept advertising and circulation that it considers desirable. Liability for any error in advertising that is caused by the value of the actual space in which the error occurs and shall be limited to the value of the next issue. No portion of the Ruidoso News may be used in any manner without the expressed written consent of the publisher.

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PROJECT: River walk promised

FROM PAGE 1A

languished for years," possibly with other amenities for the public. Once completed, that portion of the project would be deeded back to the village, he said. "We hope it would start development of the rest of the river walk through the park and into town where possible."

P.R. Patton, a consulting civil engineer from Roswell, said he reviewed the various permit issues with local and state agencies. A portion of the project would impact the river and river flood plain, he said. They plan to build a bridge and the parking garage will be "snuggled" into the hillside, he said.

Trees of more than 12 inches in diameter were tallied and as many as possible will be spared, he said.

The traffic impact on Sudderth should be minimal with slight modifications suggested by the state Highway Department such as turn lanes, acceleration and deceleration lanes, Patton said.

Traffic at the site varies from zero in slow seasons to "terrible" during the height of the tourist season, he said.

He contended that with low-flow appliances and sea-

sonal residency — possibly switching tenants from other existing housing — no more water than currently used, and possibly less, would be needed. Landscaping would be designed with water conservation in mind.

"I see this as a win/win situation... If this is something you folks say you're not interested in, we won't come."

John Hamilton
Alto developer

would flow to the three-deck garage that would not be visible from the street. Two spaces per condo unit would be allotted with additional guest parking.

A road running through the project with a cul-de-sac would be turned back to the village when completed.

Runnels, who lauded the cooperation of the developers, said occupancy assumption is based on the village's existing composition of about 53 percent to 55 percent being seasonal or second homes. Hamilton said the cost of the units is high enough to discourage most people from renting them to others, even though the location would be good.

Commission chairman Glen Barrow, who said at his home, bath water is used to irrigate flower beds, kept returning to water questions and the village's lean reserve in the middle of a drought. Hamilton said when the application is presented, his consultants will provide figures for the board to review of consumption at full occupancy 100 percent of the time down to 10 percent.

Patton insisted that while a typical home in Ruidoso is estimated to use 200 gallons of water per day per person, the number in the condominiums would be 55 gallons of water per day.

"It would be a three-to-one advantage for everyone put in this development," he said.

Appealing to Rick Silva, a commission member and county tax assessor, Hamilton pointed out that the difference in gross receipts taxes collected from nightly rentals of 90 recreational vehicles compared to property taxes on \$550,000 condominiums would be substantial. The project would add to the village's taxable base, he said.

"We'll be building a section in downtown Ruidoso to be proud of," Hamilton said. "We are looking to dump serious tens of millions of dollars here."

He contended that the financing is ready.

"I own \$100 million in real estate now and this is just another," Hamilton said. "If not here, there will be another spot. But this is where I am going to retire."

Richardson appoints Stewart to volunteerism board

Lincoln County manager Tom Stewart was appointed to the New Mexico Commission on Community Volunteerism by Gov. Bill Richardson.

The commission oversees the AmeriCorps program in the state, part of a national service program.

Although he still hasn't received written con-

firmation of the appointment, he attended his first meeting last Friday.

After nearly a full-day session, someone noted that members usually receive some training before taking any action. But that didn't seem to impede the commission. Stewart said members sent four out of 18 applications forward.

THRIFTWAY

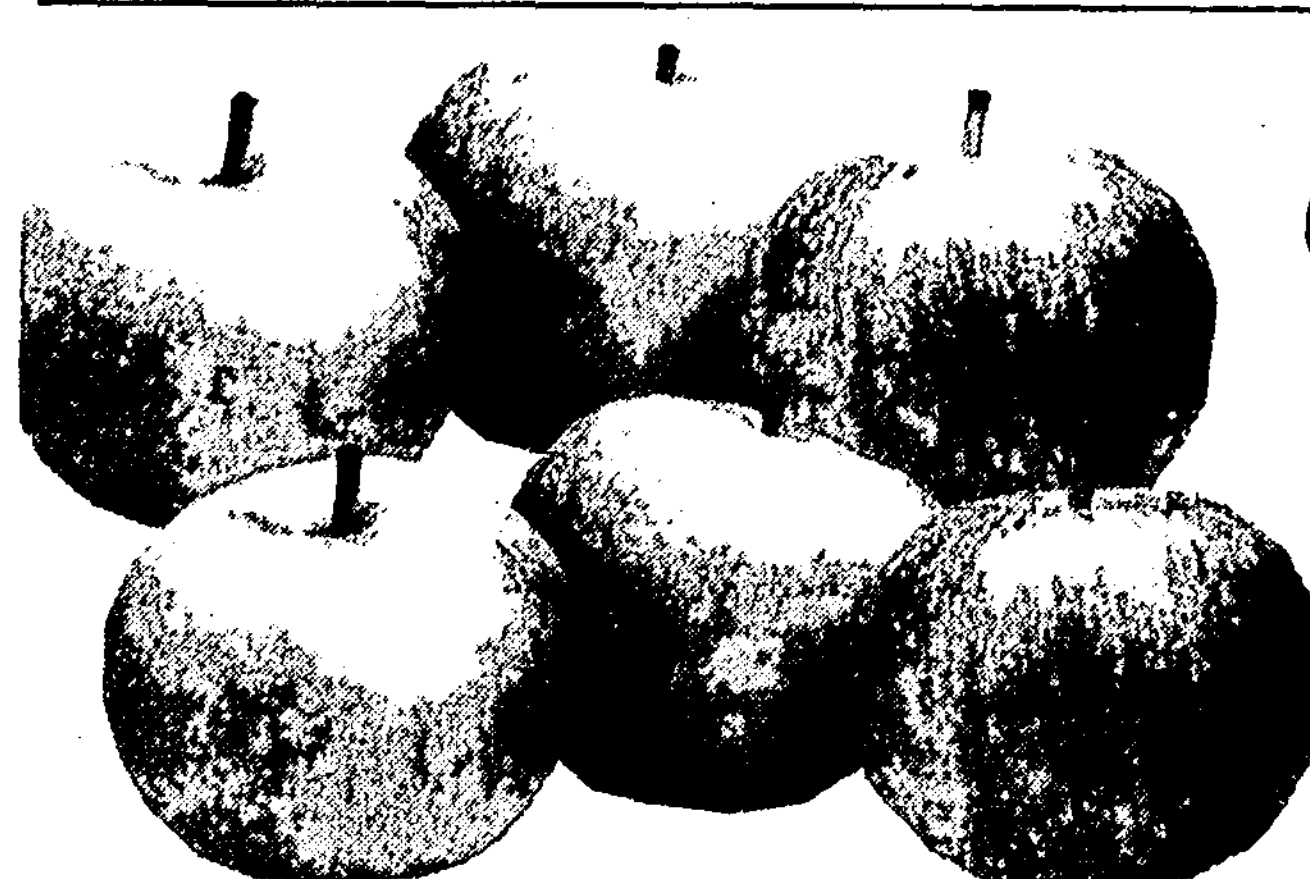
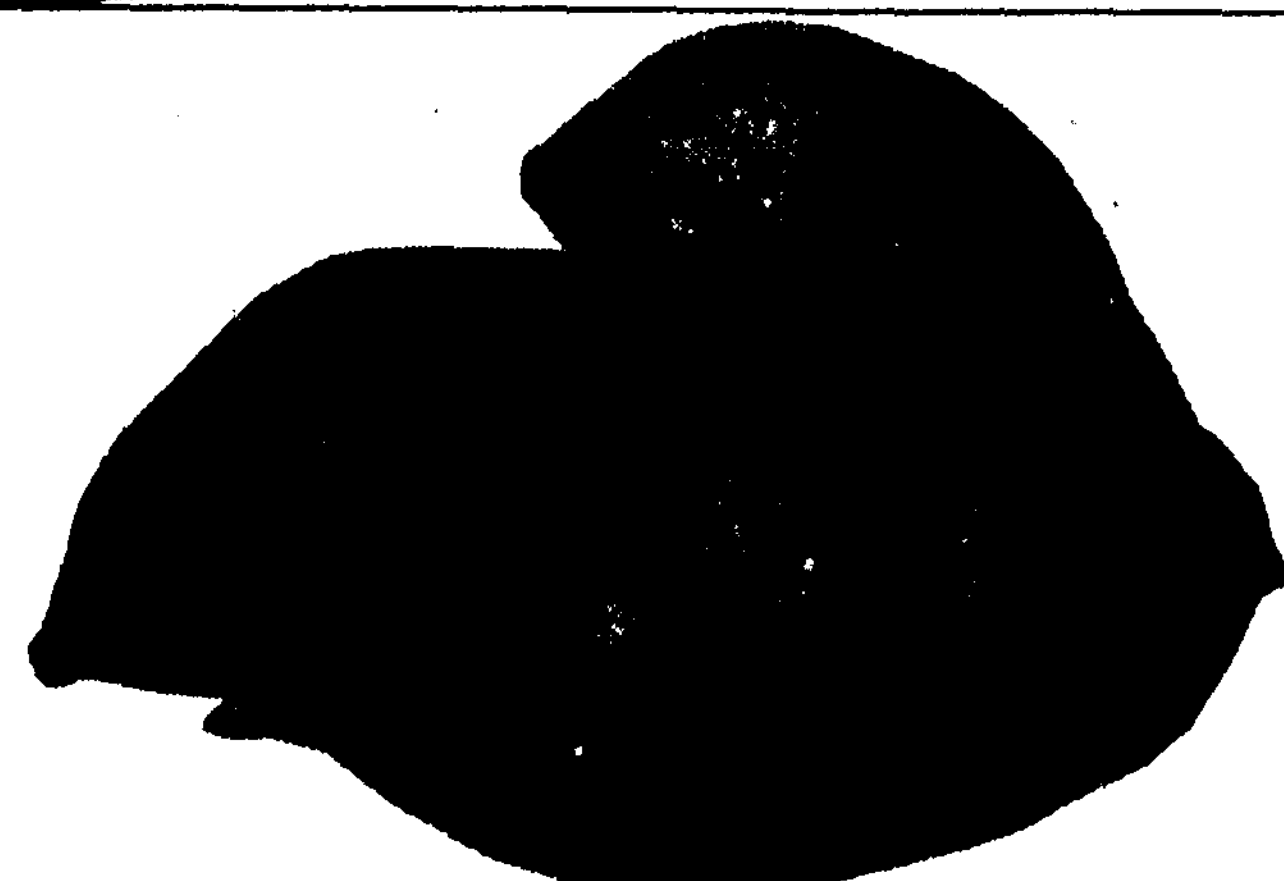
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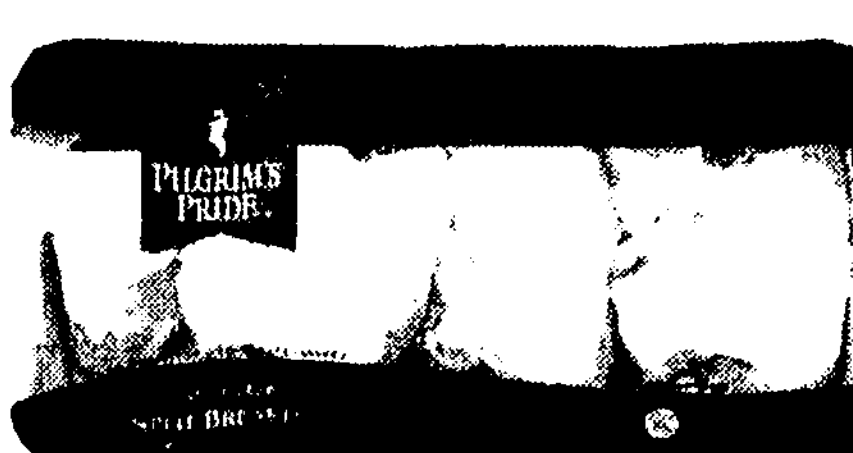
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RUIDOSO NEWS OPINION

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2003

RUIDOSO NEWS

Brad L. Treptow, publisher
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A MediaNews Group Newspaper. Published every Wednesday and Friday
at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso, New Mexico

OUR OPINION

It's action time for Fort Stanton supporters

A critical committee hearing is Saturday in Santa Fe

Let's ride. That's one generic way to let the people of Lincoln County know that if they really, truly want to see old Fort Stanton become more than crumbling walls, they need to act.

That action can begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in Santa Fe, when the House Committee on Government and Urban Affairs meets in Room 324 of the Round House (otherwise known as the state capitol building) to hear House Bill 926.

That's the bi-partisan bill Rep. Dub Williams (and several others) is sponsoring to

establish a Fort Stanton Development Commission with the goal of putting the historic old fort to positive use in the years ahead — possibly as a living museum and an education and convention center, complete with riding stables. The commission would be under the administrative wing of the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

Lincoln County Tom Stewart put it succinctly:

"It's imperative that we show legislators the strong local support for this action."

People, it's time to saddle up and head north this Saturday.

The steam's rising above freezing White Oaks

It's been a long, cold winter in White Oaks, with the wind — mostly dry wind — howling and people keeping close to home in the community, and in the boonies round about.



MOUNTAIN
ASIDES
KEITH GREEN

So says Ivy Heymann, who for a good many years has been making distinctive pottery in her studio about three miles or so up the valley between the Patos and

Jicarilla mountains.

Ivy was in Ruidoso this week and came by the newspaper office to drop off a flyer touting the 10th anniversary edition of the Artists of White Oaks Studio Tour, scheduled the weekend of April 26 and 27.

I asked her how she'd survived the winter.

"Just barely," she said. "It's gotten to about 10 above for weeks, and colder at night. And the wind doesn't quit."

So everybody's keeping their heads down?

"Well, until the Ruidoso News reported about Ruidoso's plan to buy up water rights and drill

wells on the flats west of Highway 54.

"That got everybody's attention. I made a few phone calls and we had a meeting at the White Oaks fire house. It was jam packed...more than 40 people showed up, and they were steaming. Nobody has water rights to sell; everybody around here has a private well and everybody depends on that three-acre-feet per year the state allows."

"What with the drought of the past few years, it's not been easy. Last fall, my 350-foot-deep well was sucking crud."

"Drilling out there in the flats north of Carrizozo would pretty much drain everybody's wells around here."

"I depend on my cistern, mostly. I have to use runoff water for my pottery making. The well water is too cruddy."

"That idea of Ruidoso buying back Bonito Lake from Alamogordo might work."

"It burns me, the way Ruidoso's council did that scheming behind closed doors. That's no way to do business."

And what about that idea of a coal mining operation on those same flats at the mouth of White Oaks Canyon?

"Hmmm...I don't know. That wind is something; it blows off those flats right up the canyon. Coal dust wouldn't be much fun," said Ivy.

"But, you know — I've always got an opinion."

So, what else are people in White Oaks talking about as spring approaches?

"Well...the word is going around that somebody has bought the old Brown Hotel and plans to do something with it," Ivy said. "Maybe put some rooms up above and something downstairs. We've got the No Scum Allowed Saloon, but there's no restaurant."

The saloon, according to that flyer, will be the scene of a Saturday night dance on the studio tour weekend.

"It will be interesting see what happens with the hotel," Ivy said. "Somebody's going to have to do a lot of work there, though..."

Meanwhile, Ivy will be making more pottery using that nice soft cistern water. She'll be one of the 23 artists on the studio tour.

It's not easy ruling the world...



"MY WAR WILL BRING DEMOCRACY TO THE MIDDLE EAST... AND IF THOSE ANNOYING LITTLE FRENCH AND TURKISH DEMOCRACIES WOULD DO AS THEY'RE TOLD, I COULD GET ON WITH IT!"

YOUR OPINION

Anti-war demonstrators lower troops' morale

To the editor:

I have no problem with people being anti-war. Everyone has the freedom of speech and the right to their opinions. However, I'm against anti-war demonstrations, especially in time of war, because they lower our troops' morale while they simultaneously raise our enemies' spirits.

On the other hand, I'm for everyone privately voicing their concerns to our elected officials. It doesn't take long to make a phone call or to write a letter, a post card or an e-mail.

During the Vietnam War, I would sometimes listen to Hanoi Hannah on a frequency that was beamed around the world. Hannah called the American war protesters "comrades," and she thanked them for supporting the North Vietnamese in their struggle against the "American imperialist war-mongers."

Per the tyrant, Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi regime considers the current war protesters as its allies.

I'm not saying whether or not we should go to war with Iraq.

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Bingaman vs. Estrada

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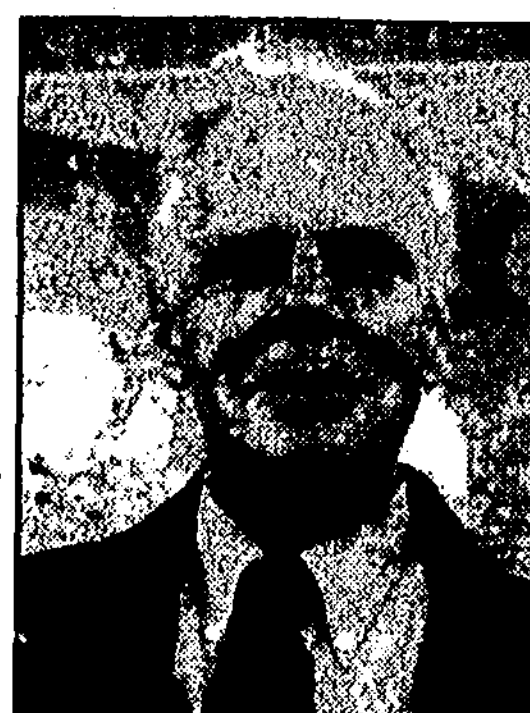
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SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

Resident claims lack of enforcement by P&Z

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A former shop owner in Ruidoso Tuesday criticized violations of municipal rules that seem to continue without enforcement action.

Sarah Maes said she left the area for about 18 months and came back in late September 2002. Living somewhere else "made me see Ruidoso with new eyes and what I saw I did not like," she told members of the village Planning and Zoning Commission. "I've been simmering over this for months."

"If I sound frustrated, it's because I am extremely frustrated. I feel like we have a second-rate town because it looks second rate. We could have the most beautiful town in the state of New Mexico with a little effort. These are little things, but if they were all done correctly, it would make a huge difference in this community."

Rolling down the main arteries of Sudderth Drive, Mechem Drive and U.S. 70, she found 18 large signs out of compliance, "and that doesn't count the small ones," Maes said. Others were neglected with broken frames and cracked plastic, she said.

"This is a small town and these roads are one ones traveled by tourists," she said. "They look shabby."

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• A grouping of businesses she called "big messes," including a garage with rusted cars and vehicles with flat tires not hidden by a fence, and an abandoned miniature golf course with an old car, a trailer and other debris scattered.

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• A business that she thought sold ice "because ever since I've been here, seven or eight years, there have been two ice machines in front of the garage, also a truck. I don't know if it's for sale, but it looks like it doesn't run."

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• Stricter rules for hillside protection.

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"They have an illegal carport and about 15 cars sitting there," Maes said. "I think it devalues the property on Bonanza. They also don't have a site plan."

Board attorney Charles Rennick said the common theme through most of Maes' examples is lack of, noncompliance with or failure to update site plans.

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Hotel buffer zone goes before Ruidoso Village Council

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A transition zone would be created between a commercial hotel and a residential area above U.S. 70, if Ruidoso village councilors approve the request.

During a hearing earlier this week in front of the village Planning and Zoning Commission, planning direc-

tor Mike Runnels explained that when applicant Larry D. Strain first sought rezoning, the board didn't like the idea of commercial uses bumping us against residential lots. They asked him to resubmit as a residential planned-use development to form a transition zone between the Best Western hotel and residential lots on Warwick Drive.

The only opposition

received came from people who were unsure about the future use of the land.

"I assured them he will have to come to the board with a plan for approval before anything happens," Runnels said.

The commission recommended approval to the council. The preliminary and final plats for the Strain development are up for approval at

the council's 6:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday, but a public hearing must be scheduled on the proposed amendment to the village's zoning map.

In other agenda items, the council:

• Under the consent agenda, will take action on an amendment to the professional services contract between the village and the DWI Prevention Program for Tracie Ebbs-Montano

• Will consider adoption of a resolution for an annual cooperative agreement with the New Mexico State Highway

and Transportation Department for a street department project.

Reports are listed on the village's water conservation phase, the Community Forest Management Plan, the Neighborhood Fire Smart Program and the village's Comprehensive Plan.

Approval of a professional services contract with the Santa Fe de Design Workshop Inc. for help on the Comprehensive Plan also is set for action. Councilors meet at village hall on Cree Meadows Drive.

MEETING WATCH

Ruidoso Schools

Meeting: Ruidoso Board of Education, 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, in the Administration Office

The public is welcome.

Discussion:

• Report on Ruidoso Schools Performing Arts Center grand opening

• Report on Ski Program - Frank Cannella

• Legislative update

Action items:

• Calendar for 2003-04 school year

• Budget adjustments

Closed session - personnel (administrators)

Next regular meeting: 7 p.m., April 8

The public is welcome.

Capitan Schools

Meeting: Capitan Board of

Education, 6 p.m., Thursday, March 13, Administration Building

Actions:

• Approval of consent agenda items: athletics, cafeteria, activity; payrolls paid; bills paid; budget transfers and/or increases

• 2001-02 audit presentation, Terry Cone

• National School Lunch and Breakfast Program - SDE review - Larry Miller

• Excellence for Student Achievement Award Recipient - Gary Tregembo

• 2002-03 budget increase

• Employment - substitutes

Informational:

• 120th day enrollment update - Larry Miller

• 2003-04 budget input - Larry Miller

• Strategic Plan status - Larry Miller

• Utilities comparison, Larry Miller

• Other informational reports

Executive session:

• Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) Limited personnel matters

Personnel evaluation:

• Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H) (4) Personally identifiable student information - discipline

The public is welcome.

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RUIDOSO NEWS

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OUR OPINION

It's action time for Fort Stanton supporters

A critical committee hearing is Saturday in Santa Fe

Let's ride. That's one generic way to let the people of Lincoln County know that if they really, truly want to see old Fort Stanton become more than crumbling walls, they need to act.

That action can begin at 9 a.m. Saturday in Santa Fe, when the House Committee on Government and Urban Affairs meets in Room 324 of the Round House (otherwise known as the state capitol building) to hear House Bill 926.

That's the bi-partisan bill Rep. Dub Williams (and several others) is sponsoring to

establish a Fort Stanton Development Commission with the goal of putting the historic old fort to positive use in the years ahead — possibly as a living museum and an education and convention center, complete with riding stables. The commission would be under the administrative wing of the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

Lincoln County Tom Stewart put it succinctly:

"It's imperative that we show legislators the strong local support for this action."

People, it's time to saddle up and head north this Saturday.

The steam's rising above freezing White Oaks

It's been a long, cold winter in White Oaks, with the wind — mostly dry wind — howling and people keeping close to home in the community, and in the boonies round about.



MOUNTAIN
ASIDES
KEITH GREEN

So says Ivy Heymann, who for a good many years has been making distinctive pottery in her studio about three miles or so up the valley between the Patos and

wells on the flats west of Highway 54.

"That got everybody's attention. I made a few phone calls and we had a meeting at the White Oaks fire house. It was jam packed...more than 40 people showed up, and they were steaming. Nobody has water rights to sell; everybody around here has a private well and everybody depends on that three-acre-feet per year the state allows."

"What with the drought of the past few years, it's not been easy. Last fall, my 350-foot-deep well was sucking crud."

"Drilling out there in the flats north of Carrizozo would pretty much drain everybody's wells around here."

"I depend on my cistern, mostly. I have to use runoff water for my pottery making. The well water is too cruddy."

"That idea of Ruidoso buying back Bonito Lake from Alamogordo might work."

"It burns me, the way Ruidoso's council did that scheming behind closed doors. That's no way to do business."

And what about that idea of a coal mining operation on those same flats at the mouth of White Oaks Canyon?

"Hmmm...I don't know. That wind is something; it blows off those flats right up the canyon. Coal dust wouldn't be much fun," said Ivy.

"But, you know — I've always got an opinion."

So, what else are people in White Oaks talking about as spring approaches?

"Well...the word is going around that somebody has bought the old Brown Hotel and plans to do something with it," Ivy said. "Maybe put some rooms up above and something downstairs. We've got the No Scum Allowed Saloon, but there's no restaurant."

The saloon, according to that flyer, will be the scene of a Saturday night dance on the studio tour weekend.

"It will be interesting see what happens with the hotel," Ivy said. "Somebody's going to have to do a lot of work there, though..."

Meanwhile, Ivy will be making more pottery using that nice soft cistern water. She'll be one of the 23 artists on the studio tour.

It's not easy ruling the world...



"MY WAR WILL BRING DEMOCRACY TO THE MIDDLE EAST... AND IF THOSE ANNOYING LITTLE FRENCH AND TURKISH DEMOCRACIES WOULD DO AS THEY'RE TOLD, I COULD GET ON WITH IT!"

YOUR OPINION

Anti-war demonstrators lower troops' morale

To the editor:

I have no problem with people being anti-war. Everyone has the freedom of speech and the right to their opinions. However, I'm against anti-war demonstrations, especially in time of war, because they lower our troops' morale while they simultaneously raise our enemies' spirits.

On the other hand, I'm for everyone privately voicing their concerns to our elected officials. It doesn't take long to make a phone call or to write a letter, a post card or an e-mail.

During the Vietnam War, I would sometimes listen to Hanoi Hannah on a frequency that was beamed around the world. Hannah called the American war protesters "comrades," and she thanked them for supporting the North Vietnamese in their struggle against the "American imperialist war-mongers."

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Board attorney Charles Rennie said the common theme through most of Maes' examples is lack of, noncompliance with or failure to update site plans.

"Some grow beyond their site plans," he said. "Some are out of compliance from the day they open. They need to come in and get into compliance, but they haven't. So the thread is people aren't adhering to site plans and she's looking for enforcement on that."

Hotel buffer zone goes before Ruidoso Village Council

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A transition zone would be created between a commercial hotel and a residential area above U.S. 70, if Ruidoso village councilors approve the request.

During a hearing earlier this week in front of the village Planning and Zoning Commission, planning direc-

tor Mike Runnels explained that when applicant Larry D. Strain first sought rezoning, the board didn't like the idea of commercial uses bumping up against residential lots. They asked him to resubmit as a residential planned-use development to form a transition zone between the Best Western hotel and residential lots on Warwick Drive.

The only opposition

received came from people who were unsure about the future use of the land.

"I assured them he will have to come to the board with a plan for approval before anything happens," Runnels said.

The commission recommended approval to the council. The preliminary and final plats for the Strain development are up for approval at

the council's 6:30 p.m. meeting Tuesday, but a public hearing must be scheduled on the proposed amendment to the village's zoning map.

In other agenda items, the council:

• Under the consent agenda, will take action on an amendment to the professional services contract between the village and the DWI Prevention Program for Tracie Ebbs-Montano

• Will consider adoption of a resolution for an annual cooperative agreement with the New Mexico State Highway

and Transportation Department for a street department project.

Reports are listed on the village's water conservation phase, the Community Forest Management Plan, the Neighborhood Fire Smart Program and the village's Comprehensive Plan.

Approval of a professional services contract with the Santa Fe de Design Workshop Inc. for help on the Comprehensive Plan also is set for action. Councilors meet at village hall on Cree Meadows Drive.

MEETING WATCH

Ruidoso Schools

Meeting: Ruidoso Board of Education, 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, in the Administration Office

The public is welcome.

Discussion:

• Report on Ruidoso Schools Performing Arts Center grand opening

• Report on Ski Program - Frank Cannella

Action items:

• Calendar for 2003-04 school year

• Budget adjustments

• Closed session - personnel (administrators)

Next regular meeting: 7 p.m., April 8

The public is welcome.

Capitan Schools

Meeting: Capitan Board of

Education, 6 p.m., Thursday, March 13, Administration Building

Actions:

• Approval of consent agenda items: athletics, cafeteria, activity; payrolls paid; bills paid; budget transfers and/or increases

• 2001-02 audit presentation, Terry Cone

• National School Lunch and Breakfast Program - SDE review - Larry Miller

• Excellence for Student Achievement Award Recipient - Gary Tregembo

• 2002-03 budget increase

• Employment - substitutes

Informational:

• 120th day enrollment update - Larry Miller

• 2003-04 budget input - Larry Miller

• Strategic Plan status - Larry Miller

• Utilities comparison, Larry Miller

• Other informational reports


Executive session:

• Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H) (2) Limited personnel matters

Personnel evaluation:

• Pursuant to Section 10-15-1 (H) (4) Personally identifiable student information - discipline

The public is welcome.



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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2003

ECONOMIC PROFILE

Service sector

The ISM Non-manufacturing index, which tracks the service sector, fell in February to 53.9 from 54.5 in January, but it was the 13th straight month over 50, signaling continued expansion. Economists expected the index to fall to 53.5.

Contributing to service sector growth were real estate, health care and banking. The real estate industry is booming thanks to the lowest mortgage rates in 40 years.

While the economy continues to struggle amid worldwide geopolitical tension, the service sector has remained strong. However, the service sector needs to gain even more momentum in order for economic growth to accelerate.

Manufacturing

The ISM Manufacturing Index fell in February to 50.5 from 53.9 in January, indicating the manufacturing sector is still expanding, but at a slower rate. Economists expected a reading of 52. It was the fourth month in a row showing expansion.

The manufacturing sector will not see significant and pro-

longed expansion until there are more signs of an increase in final demand, which would lead to more aggressive inventory building.

Construction

Construction spending rose 1.7 percent in January to a record \$877.9 billion at an annual rate following a 1.5 percent rise in December. Economists expected a 0.4 percent increase.

Residential construction rose 2.5 percent to a record \$452.6 billion annual rate.

Single-family home construction rose 3.5 percent while multi-family housing surged 9 percent.

Non-residential construction fell 0.3 percent in January and is down 14.9 percent over the last 12 months.

While 40-year low mortgage rates are keeping residential construction strong, geopolitical uncertainties and foggy earnings estimates are holding back construction of offices, factories and warehouses.

From the Web site drsohn.com, courtesy Wells Fargo & Company.

The Economy and the Markets

Consumer confidence craters

BY MICHAEL SWANSON
WELLS FARGO & COMPANY

Consumer confidence continues to crater based on the flood of news concerning the possible war in Iraq and other geopolitical tensions. Also weighing on the consumer's mind is the lack of progress in the economic rebound.

Economic growth through productivity gains and recovery of corporate profits has done practically nothing to reassure nervous consumers and workers. The old saying in politics is that "all politics are local" means that every policy will be interpreted based on its local impacts. This is just as true in economics where the real litmus test for consumers revolves around their employment status and wage gains. Without a significant and sustained growth in payrolls soon, the ability of consumers to continue their strong surge in spending growth will be threatened.

The current recovery so far is generating much weaker growth in payrolls than even the infamous "jobless" recovery following the 1990-91 recession. Through January 2003, total payrolls have not even recovered to the level of the estimated recovery start (January 2002).

Following the 1990-91 recession, significant payroll growth returned within 12 months and rapidly gained strength going into the second year of recovery. The current recovery has shown no signs of adding any real growth to employment numbers. In fact, the most recent initial jobless claims remained well over 400,000, which is seen as the critical mark for growing payrolls.

Even though the benchmark unemployment rate has not risen dramatically, the sense of frustration from job seekers will continue to grow without an increase in job openings.

Ironically, manufacturing payroll has not been the culprit in the current bleak employment outlook. So far, the current recovery is virtually identical to the previous recovery in terms of manufacturing job losses. The real weakness has been in the growth engine of

the economy — the service sector. By this time in the last recovery, service sector employment had increased by 0.9 percent, more than offsetting the drop in manufacturing. In the current recovery, the service sector has only expanded payrolls by 0.5 percent which has not been enough to overcome the drag of manufacturing losses.

A couple of major contributors to this weakness are health services and state and local government. Both of these massive sectors have been growing at a much slower rate than the last recovery. State and local government are obviously under stress from the numerous and massive state budget shortfalls. Health services seem to be constrained by cost management plans and lack of public funding growth in some areas. This lack of dynamism in these two sectors will put additional pressure on private sector services to pick up employment growth and keep the economic ball rolling.

Bonds: Inflation worries

It appears that the bond market is responding to a greater risk of increasing inflation going forward due to the double hit of aggressive monetary and fiscal policies. The spread between TIPS and 10 year Treasuries continue to climb hitting their highest levels since 1999 as some investors are looking to protect some portion of their portfolios against the risk of higher inflation. Even though the current core-inflation growth rate remains subdued.

The combination of aggressive money supply growth and ultra low interest rates and government deficits has raised the risk factors of inflation to a higher level.

The inflation outlook remains a race between the deflationary effects of low wage countries like China and strong gains in productivity in the U.S. and the Federal Reserve's resolve to prevent a Japanese-style deflation from breaking out in the U.S.

These are not investment recommendations. Consult your financial advisors.

FOUR DIAMONDS FOR LA LORRAINE



LISA MORALES/STAFF

La Lorraine's Four Diamond-winning staff includes, top row, from left: Tim Keaton, Jake Woodall and chef David Keaton. Front row: Margarita Marmolejo, owner Kathy Garber, Annette Romero and Danoel London. Not pictured is Michael Haluschak. The prestigious award was presented on Monday night at the seventh annual Hospitality Industry Awards celebration.

Midtown restaurant one of five best in New Mexico

La Lorraine French Cuisine in Ruidoso was one of five New Mexico restaurants to receive the AAA Four Diamond Award for 2003. The awards were presented at the Hyatt Tamaya Resort at Santa Ana Pueblo Monday night.

The awards were presented as part of the 2003 New Mexico Restaurant Association's seventh annual Hospitality Industry Awards event.

It was La Lorraine's first Four Diamond listing. Another new entrant in the prestigious list was Rancho de San Juan Restaurant in Española.

Repeat winners are Momentos de la Vida in Arroyo Seco, Ranchers Club of

New Mexico in Albuquerque and The Old House in Santa Fe.

"AAA Four Diamond Award winners know the language of quality as they consistently deliver premier experiences, complete with superior personal service, first-class amenities, and impressive surroundings," said Brenda Yager, AAA New Mexico's public and government affairs manager.

Only 3.87 percent of the estimated 14,000 AAA-rated restaurants receive the Four Diamond designations each year.

The Four Diamond symbol will be included in each restaurant's listing in

the 2003 AAA Arizona/New Mexico TourBook guide. Some 46 million AAA members depend on the guides to assist them with travel-related decisions. An establishment's diamond rating in the guide often is the deciding factor when members choose a lodging or restaurant.

More than 60 AAA tourism editors visit nearly 70,000 lodgings, campgrounds, restaurants and other attractions each year throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean. The editors conduct unannounced evaluations of lodgings and restaurants, considering cleanliness, ambiance, amenities and service.

NAR economist assesses war's impact on housing market

WASHINGTON — Even with the likelihood of war on the horizon, conditions for a historically strong housing market are expected to prevail during 2003, according to the National Association of Realtors.

David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said a primary concern would be the length of any war.

"If the Iraqi regime is toppled in short order, there likely will be modest disruption

to the U.S. economy and housing markets, and confidence would be restored," he said.

"However, a prolonged conflict or an unexpected turn of events could be very costly. The result would be growing federal budget deficits that would cause interest rates to rise and put the brakes on both housing and the economy, not to mention consumer confidence."

Based on the current

direction of the economy, Lereah expects the 30-year fixed mortgage interest rate to rise gradually from an average of 5.9 percent in the first quarter to 6.5 percent by the end of the year. "In other words, the average mortgage interest rate this year should be a historically low 6.2 percent."

"Another factor favoring housing in the current environment is the volatility of the stock market," Lereah

said. "The general stability of real estate has become more attractive to investors over the last few years."

NAR forecasts 5.50 million existing-home sales in 2003, down slightly from a record of 5.57 million sales in 2002. New-home sales should total 946,000 units this year, down modestly from a record of 976,000 sales in 2002. Housing starts are forecast at 1.71 million units this year, the same as in 2002.

Focus on Agriculture

Strained relations on the international food front

BY STEWART TRUELSEN
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU

Garden Fresh Market stores in the Chicago area are pulling French food products off the shelves in protest of France's position on war with Iraq. Evian water, Marquis de Dijon mustard and Cantalou chocolate are among more than a dozen items removed. The general manager says he hopes the boycott will spread to other food chains. Imagine epicureans having to get by with locally bottled water, yellow mustard and Hershey's chocolates.

But there is a much bigger food fight between the United States and Europe that is affected by strained relations over Iraq. The United States is deciding whether to bring a World Trade Organization (WTO) complaint against the European Union for its moratorium on approving new biotech crops. Farm Bureau believes the European Union is not going to reform its biotech rules any time soon

without WTO intervention.

Farm Bureau's opinion is shared within Congress. Earlier this year, House Republican leaders sent a letter to President Bush in which they called for action saying, "While some have argued that pursuing official WTO action will not solve the problem of access, it is our view that official action would send a message to countries around the world that prohibitive policies on biotechnology are illegal, not based on sound science and detrimental to the pursuit of ending world hunger."

The administration could take action at any time, but there is speculation it may wait while it is courting European allies on Iraq. Unfortunately the issue has dragged on far too long already and is costing American farmers dearly. They lose around \$300 million a year in sales to the European Union because of the moratorium, plus the ban casts a pall over biotechnology.

Asian countries are moving swiftly to plant biotech cotton, but are more reluctant to grow food crops because of Europe's intransigence. In Africa, it's even worse. The Republican letter noted that 800 million people are malnourished in the developing world and could be better fed through drought-tolerant crops from biotechnology.

Monsanto Co. recently received regulatory approval for a new corn genetically enhanced to fight rootworm. Seed will be marketed in time for spring planting, but the corn will not be approved for consumption in the European Union, and American farmers whose crops are exported may be cautious about planting it.

New York Times foreign affairs columnist Thomas L. Friedman normally doesn't comment on agriculture but a meal at a European restaurant prompted him to consider the European Union's position on biotechnology. The restaurant menu warned patrons that

American meat served there could contain genetically modified organisms. Friedman and his lunch guest made an observation, "Europeans, out of some romantic rebellion against America and high technology were shunning U.S.-grown food containing G.M.O.'s — even though there is no scientific evidence that these are harmful."

American farmers could have told the rest of the nation what is so obvious now because of Iraq. The differences in foreign policy particularly with France and Germany are not so remarkable when you consider the differences over biotechnology and the larger agriculture issues of trade and farm policy.

Resolving these issues requires patience but persistence as well. Farmers say press on.

Stewart Truelsen is the director of broadcast services for the American Farm Bureau Federation.

County backs Senior Olympics

■ The commission agreed to continue liability insurance for the county-wide program.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Continuing financial support in the form of a liability insurance policy was pledged by county commissioners to the Lincoln County Senior Citizens Olympic Committee this year.

Bart Young, chairman of the senior group and coordinator for the Senior Olympics county events, told commissioners last week those 50 and older are eligible to compete in the local, state and national competitions. Many, but not all, participants are retired, he said.

To enter local events, Young requires a minimum of three months' residence a year. Not all events require athletic prowess, he said.

He listed the 26 activities as airgun, archery, badminton, basketball free throw, basketball team, eightball pool,

bowling, cycling, dance, field events, fun events, golf, horse shoes, racquetball, recreational events, road race, shuffleboard, swimming, tennis, softball team, table tennis, talent, track, volleyball and triathlon.

"There's a lot to do," he said of the 25-year-old state program. This year, the state Olympics will be in Las Cruces in August.

To qualify for the state with 1,700 other people competing, a person must win in a local event in May. Some are scheduled in Ruidoso, Capitan and Carrizozo, he said.

The competitions are divided into age groups of five years with the oldest being 100 to 104. New Mexico claimed the longest-running individual, who competed until he was 102, from Laguna. He died last year. Lincoln County boasts some competitors in their 80s, he said. Between 40 and 60 people compete locally, Young said, but there is room for plenty more.

The cost is \$40 to enter. Ribbons and medals are awarded to winners.

The national organization has run a meet every two years since 1987 and will stage the event in Virginia this year, Young said.

"It's great for a person's lifestyle, good health, good activity and there's a lot of socializing to it," Young said. "You meet people year after year and if you start when you're 50, 60 or 65, you can continue as long as you can make it."

Six Lincoln County residents are going to the national competition this year at the end of May and early June, he said.

The commission approved continuing to provide liability insurance for the committee.

County Attorney Alan Morel said as an appointed board, members are covered by the county's umbrella insurance policy. However, a commercial senior games insurance program also will cover participants for \$149 per participant. Young said every participant signs an injury liability waiver. A general liability policy also is required for the local board by the state organization, which the commission agree to buy again this year.

POLICE BRIEFS

Household battery

Ruidoso police arrested Ray Allen Ezell, 39, of Ruidoso Tuesday, charging him with battery against a household member.

DUI arrest

Police arrested Kelly L. Neill, 23, of Ruidoso, Wednesday, charging her with

aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol.

Burglar takes money

The office of Canyon Creek Lodge, 900 Carrizo Canyon Rd., was burglarized between 8:30 p.m. Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, according to police reports. The burglar took \$310 from the cash register and \$133 from the cash

box. Entry was apparently through a window, which was not locked.

House burglarized

Someone kicked in a rear door in a residence in the 100 block of Robin Road and took a Sanyo television valued at \$160, a microwave valued at \$100 and a pine, log-style head board valued at \$400.

Downs arrest

Ruidoso Downs police arrested Raymond L. Montano, 39, of Glencoe, at Old West Cantina on Highway 70 in Ruidoso Downs after an accident with no injuries Feb. 15. Montano was charged with second-offense driving under the influence of alcohol and obstructing an officer.

FUNERALS DEATHS

Gilbert Foyt

Visitation for Gilbert Foyt, 66, of White Oaks, will be from 9:30 to 1 a.m. today, March 7, at LaGrone Funeral Chapel, where the funeral will be at 11 a.m., with burial to follow at the Capitan Cemetery. Officiating will be the Rev. Dave Bergs.

Mr. Foyt died Tuesday, March 4, 2003, at his home.

He was born Feb. 10, 1937, at Peak, Texas.

He moved to White Oaks in 1993 from Bandera, Texas. He was a retired, self-employed appliance technician and a member of the Catholic Church.

He married Dorothy Glueck on Oct. 28, 1961, in Columbus, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, of White Oaks; a son, Joseph Foyt, of Capitan; brothers Elo Foyt, John Foyt, Clifford Foyt and Leonard Foyt; and sisters Charlene Sulak, Evelyn Foyt, Carolyn Tournier, Marilyn Hintzel, Betty Scruggs and Barbara Vaden.

The family suggests memorials to the National Parkinson's Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 02-5163, Miami, FL 33102-5163.

Irene Nowack

Irene Doris Nowack, 67, of Alto, died on Saturday, March

1, 2003.

She was born July 19, 1935, in Grand Rapids, Mich.

She moved to Lincoln County six months ago from Vero Beach, Fla.

Survivors include a son, Anthony Nowack, of Chesterfield Township, Mich.; daughters Brenda Nowack of Grand Rapids, Gina Nowack of Clinton Township, Mich., and Tammy Nowack-Alderton of Hudsonville, Mich.; sisters Doris Irene Scott, her identical twin, of Alto, and Ruth Nelson Schregardus of Kentwood, Mich.; and 13 grandchildren; her fiancé, Lee Walker, of Alto; 13 grandchildren; and numerous life long friends.

Jack Krattiger

Services for Jack Krattiger, 78, of Roswell, are scheduled for 2 p.m. today at LaGrone Funeral Chapel in Roswell, with Dr. Onsy Whicker of Tabernacle Baptist Church officiating.

Mr. Krattiger died Monday, March 3, at Eastern New Mexico Medical Center. Cremation will take place after the service.

He was born Sept. 20, 1924, in Clovis, to Arthur and Flora Marshbanks Krattiger.

He had been a Roswell resident since 1962. He was of the Protestant faith. He had been

employed as a banker, and also worked for Beneficial Finance.

He was a life member of the B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 969, was an avid senior golfer and a member of the Senior Golfers Association, and the Roswell Red Coats. He served his country during World War II.

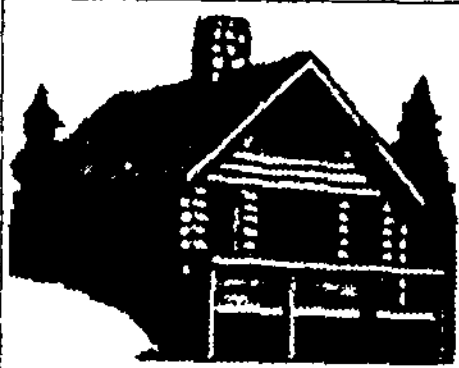
Survivors include sons Bill Krattiger of Roswell and David Krattiger and his wife, Beverly, of Ruidoso; a grandson, D.C. Krattiger Jr.; a brother, John Krattiger of Clovis; a sister, Patty Ruth Rieck of Tyler, Texas; and his fiancée, Jenette Smooth of Capitan.

Arrangements are under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel and Crematory.

Vicent Hibbets

A memorial service for Vincent Charles Hibbets, 44, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at St. Joseph Catholic Mission in Mesalero.

Mr. Hibbets died Sunday, March 2, 2003, in Seattle, Wash.

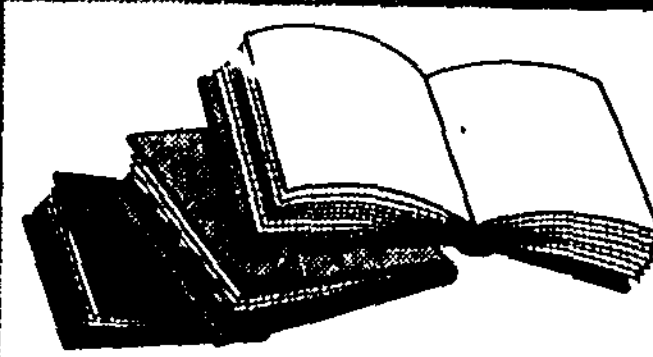


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WEDDINGS ENGAGEMENTS

Lewis-Serna

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Lovelace and Mr. Nick Serna of Carrizozo announce the forth coming marriage of their son,



Ron Serna and Leslie Lewis

Ron Serna, to Leslie Lewis. Ron is employed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and Leslie is an R.N. for the Colorado Department of Corrections, both in Canon City, Colo.

The wedding is planned for April 5, 6 p.m., at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Carrizozo with the reception and dance to follow at the Carrizozo Country Club.

Field-Ward

Frank and Linda Field of Alto have announced the engagement of their daughter,



Patrick Ward and Cynthia Field

Cynthia Lyn Field, to Patrick Anthony Ward, son of Lee and Angela Ward of San Antonio, Texas. A July 12 wedding is planned in

San Antonio.

Cynthia is a graduate of La Cueva High School in Albuquerque. She earned her bachelor's degree in education from New Mexico State University in 1997. Patrick is a

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graduate of Russellville High School in Russellville, Ark. He earned his bachelor's degree in industrial technology from Sam Houston University in 1994. Both are teachers for N.E. Independent School District in San Antonio.

Montano renewal

Josephine M. (Barela)



Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Montano

Montano and Manuel "Konkies" Montano will renew their wedding vows today during a private wedding and reception.

On hand to celebrate the renewal will be their children - Sylvia, Love, Ashley and Herman - and their mothers, Polly Lara and Dora Montano.

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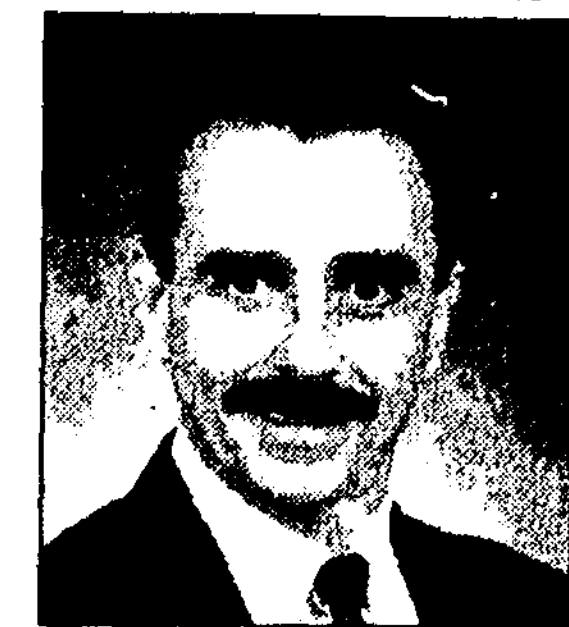
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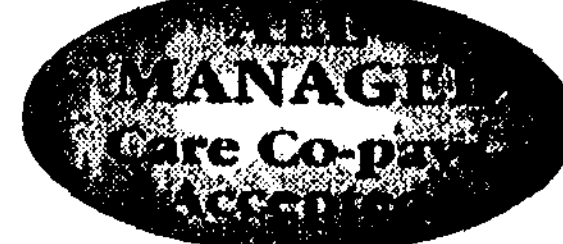
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LINCOLN COUNTY

Capitan police fight climbing crime rates

■ A small force doesn't stop the CPD from deterring scofflaws.

BY LIONEL W. LIPPMAN
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

No one in Capitan will be surprised that beneath the placid rural appearance of the village there exists a dark under belly of criminal activity.

While this criminal activity has not reached the proportions of large city crime, Capitan Chief of Police Chuck George has noted that crime is on the rise in Capitan. George said he anticipates that this trend will escalate as Capitan's population grows and becomes more transient.

Capitan's police blotter so far this year indicates 30 entries, including assaults, larceny over \$250, theft of a welfare check, criminal trespass and criminal damage to village property, and the arrest of a juvenile who had been at large for a year after escaping from an institution in Clovis.

Other crimes include auto burglary; minor in possession of alcohol; indecent exposure; a juvenile in possession of burglary tools, who resisted arrest, criminally trespassed and violated his probation; and a student at school being arrested for possession of a switchblade knife.

That illegal drugs, and the sub-culture that goes with them, exist in Capitan is becoming more prevalent is attested to by various arrests for drug paraphernalia. While alcohol still seems to be the drug of choice among the youth, marijuana and harder drugs are being used by a

small, but growing, segment of the population.

As Capitan's demographics change, it seems that from the standpoint of criminal and illicit drug use it is becoming more and more like the rest of the country.

George and his two patrolmen stay extremely busy with domestic violence complaints, as well as a plethora of misdemeanors. However, had they the time and the man power to conduct lengthy criminal investigations, the chief is certain that the existence of illicit drug laboratories and dealers could be found in Capitan.

George has forged alliances with other law enforcement agencies, both on the state and federal level, in an effort to utilize their expertise and efforts to eradicate the drug trafficking that he is sure exists in Capitan, both among juveniles and adults.

Despite Capitan's lack of law enforcement resources, George and his two patrolmen run a thoroughly professional operation, one that attempts to bridge the gap between policemen and the public they are sworn to protect. The chief and his patrolmen have made a deliberate effort to get to know the citizens of Capitan who obey the law, on a personal basis.

Having demonstrated that scofflaws will not be tolerated, the Capitan Police Department has won the trust of the law-abiding citizens and by doing so has leveraged its slender resources. Now citizens come to the police to report suspicious activities that they have observed in their neighborhoods.

FFA homecoming at Capitan Schools

As the agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor at Capitan Schools, I see the community has really changed since I attended school here, graduating in 1984.

Back then the ranching students made up about 80 percent of the class as opposed to 10 percent now. It is really nice to be involved with a subject that still can meet the society's needs.

Agriculture education is not only about farming and ranching, it is about so many different areas that a student can find something to gain life-long skills in. The areas that we mainly focus on now are natural resources, such as forestry, home-site, land, wildlife, and mechanics.

We still do teach areas of production agriculture that cover plant and animal sciences. The leadership areas of this program are very important, as they teach students work ethic, self-confidence, and teamwork.

When enrolled in agriculture education, a student can join FFA, which is a dynamic youth organization that allows students to gain premier leadership, personal growth and career success. The leadership skills are gained through supervised projects or jobs, which students keep records on, and leadership activities that promote skills that students are confronted with the rest of their lives.



County Views
BY TODD PROCTOR

New Mexico has 70 FFA programs with 3,791 members. This year Colt Freemole and Robbie Burchett achieved the State Farmer degree, which will be awarded at the state FFA convention in the first part of June. Two of the younger members who are greenhand, first-year members will also be competing in leadership competition. Staci Stanbrough and Taber Midgley will be putting their public speaking abilities to the test in the FFA creed speaking. The FFA district VII competition of 11 different schools was held to select the top five students to represent it at state.

Capitan FFA member Codi Montes was the state president last year and ran for the national office this year. Codi did not receive the office position, but did get appointed to the National FFA Alumni Council. This is an example of a student who sets goals and achieve them with hours of hard work and dedication.

Last year 15 students exhibited livestock at the county, state and eastern fairs and sold \$15,983 worth of animals. This is an example of students achieving goals financially that will help them in the future.

The beautiful thing about Agriculture education and FFA is that students can and will gain many life skills if they are willing to work for them.

The 25 FFA members are gearing up for a busy two months of participating in career development competitions throughout the state and putting their leadership skills to work on the annual parent-member FFA banquet.

During the summer months, students will have jobs and production projects that they keep records on to apply for awards and scholarships. As a teacher, it makes your job more enjoyable when you see students achieving great things, and I am lucky to be in a position to witness such inspiring tasks.

Todd Proctor was raised on ranches in Corona and Hondo. After high school, he attended college in Silver City and finished up at Las Cruces in 1988. After teaching elsewhere for three years, in 1993 the job at Capitan came open and he returned home.

BLM to discuss proposed public grazing rules

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lincoln County ranchers who graze on public lands and others interested in their oversight may want to drive to Albuquerque March 26 for a meeting on proposed new rules by the Bureau of Land Management.

The BLM Monday published two notices in the Federal Register announcing consideration of grazing rule changes aimed at improving the agency's management of public range lands.

The regulatory changes under consideration would extend the time for a grazing permittee's temporary nonuse of a permit from the current three-year limit to five years; and would authorize the BLM to designate a new type of grazing unit called "Reserve

Common Allotments."

Ranchers could use these allotments for livestock forage while their normal allotments undergo range improvement treatment.

"The changes under consideration would enhance community-based conservation and promote cooperative stewardship of the public range lands," said BLM Director Kathleen Clarke. "The potential changes would also improve BLM business practices and provide greater flexibility to managers and grazing permittees in the administration of public range lands."

The changes being considered reflect Interior Secretary Gale Norton's emphasis on consultation, cooperation and communication in the service of conservation, Clarke said. Those four C's are the basis for the administrations new environmentalism, one that looks to those closest to the land, rather than Washington, D.C., for answers to public land issues, she said.

The two publications are only preludes to the scheduled release of proposed regulatory changes in the form of a proposed grazing rule during the summer, she said. The first notice gives advanced notification of rule making and describes the general nature of the possible changes.

The second, a notice of intent, announced the agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will analyze the potential impact of the changes, as well as the potential effects of alliterative options.

Effective Monday, the public has 60 days to comment on the advance notice. That comment period ends May 2. They also may comment on the scope and other aspects of the EIS associated with the potential rule changes.

The BLM is conducting four EIS-related "scoping" meetings this month. The other three are in Montana, Nevada and Washington, D.C. The meeting in Albuquerque will run from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Albuquerque Hilton, 1901 University Blvd. NE.

Copies of the advance notice and notice of intent can be obtained at any BLM office or accessed from the bureau's national Internet Web site www.blm.gov/nhp/news/regulatory/index.htm or the Federal Register Web site at www.access.gpo.gov. Contact Kitty Mulkey for more information at (505) 438-7511.

New RC&D head looks forward to a slower pace

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

In a professionally lateral move, Dick Shaw applied and received the open position as Coordinator for the South Central Mountain RC&D.

Replacing the retiring Howard Shanks, the RC&D office in Carrizozo became home to Shaw in January. Shaw previously was with the NRCS in Clovis for 21 1/2 years. The Curry County office of the NRCS is the busiest in New Mexico with more than 700 contracts with area farmers and ranchers. The pace in South Central Mountain RC&D will allow Shaw to gear down a little and spend some time doing things he loves to do.

Shaw and his wife, Glenna, have made a home in Ruidoso where Glenna's mother lives. Glenna was a secretary for the Clovis Municipal School District

for 12 1/2 years. The couple have visited the area for many years and looked forward to the move. Shaw enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing and backpacking.

The Shaws have three children, which Dick says, "are my bragging rights." All three are Clovis High School graduates and valedictorians. The oldest son, Ryan, is a graduate of West Point and is currently with the U.S. Army Special Forces out of Ft. Campbell, Ky. Tara is a Texas Tech with a law degree and is currently a briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court in Austin. Lucas is working on his Ph.D. in psychology at Texas Tech.

Shaw said he left behind some life-long friends in Clovis, which was hard to do. But he is enjoying the area and looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends.



Dick Shaw

MEETING WATCH

Sunday, March 9

MalPais Colt 4-H meeting, 2 p.m., Carrizozo School Cafeteria

Monday, March 10

No school in Carrizozo for teacher in-service

Special meeting Carrizozo City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall

Tuesday March 11

Chamber of Commerce meeting, Noon, Uptown Cafe
Regular City Council meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall

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- John Lewis
- Nancy Lopez
- Mabel Ganson Dodge Luhan (1879-1969) - hostess, promoter of art and social causes, author
- Tommy S. Macaione
- Maria and Julian Martinez
- Bill Mauldin - cartoonist; Pulitzer Prize winner
- Douglas MacArthur - general
- George McJunkin
- Jim Morrison - rock 'n roll musician
- John Nichols
- Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) - abstract painter best known for her large paintings of desert flowers and scenery presented in close-up views
- Juan de Onate
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County hesitant to condemn property for wider road

■ One property owner worries emergency services aren't able to reach parts of Brady Canyon.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A request for Lincoln County to condemn private property for a wide enough road to deliver emergency services in Brady Canyon was delayed to hear a recommendation from the county road review committee.

Ray Munson, who lives toward the end of the canyon, told county commissioners last week that his property falls within the extraterritorial zone around the village of Ruidoso but within the unincorporated portion of the county.

"For quite a while, we've been trying to get right of way to make the road safer in case of fire," he said. "It's a narrow road, winding. In some places, you have to back up to let people pass."

Officials with the village wrote him that a 25-foot easement would be required to meet standards for any

kind of emergency services vehicles.

"It's a high-priority fire hazard area," Munson said. All but three property owners of the 10 along that road have agreed to grant the necessary easement, but one who lives in Texas, another at La Luz and a third in Roswell refuse, he said. The road varies from 14 feet to 30 feet in width, Munson said.

"I'm here to ask commissioners to use your power of condemnation to acquire the required width for a 25-foot road," he said.

Asked for guidance by commissioners, County Attorney Alan Morel revealed that he represents Munson in an issue under litigation dealing with the road.

Sticking to information that is part of the public record, he explained that when Munson bought the property, he also was issued title insurance. He subsequently learned no legal access existed to his land and to many other properties where the road leaves Ruidoso and goes up the canyon.

"The insurance company has retained counsel to litigate the issue and prove there is an prescriptive easement over that roadway," Morel said. "Cars have been going up and down the road for at least 50 years. That litigation is ongoing. Unfortunately, it won't result in 25-foot-wide road because a prescriptive easement can only cover the area actually used, not what someone would like."

Munson wants the county to use its power of eminent domain to take property from the three resistant land owners and pay them "just compensation," Morel said.

"If everyone agrees on the worth, it can be done without litigation," he said. "But Mr. Munson indicates they will fight and I believe it will involve litigation."

Commissioner Earl Hobbs said while he's sympathetic with Munson's plight, the existing lawsuit should be settled before asking the commission to take action. He questioned if

Munson exercised "due diligence" in determining that he had access before purchasing.

"We're not asking the county to maintain the road," Munson said. He said several neighbors can't buy insurance on their homes because emergency services can't reach them.

"It's not a county issue to guarantee home insurance," Commission Chairman Rex Wilson said. "I talked to two companies this week that said they are issuing insurance coverage in that area."

An irritated Munson challenged commissioners about what he receives in return for the property taxes he pays.

"We pay the same amount of taxes as everyone else in the county," he said. "We get no road maintenance. We get nothing. We get no emergency service. What do we pay taxes for?"

Wilson responded that there are people all over the county who took advantage of lower land prices to build where they receive few services, but

that was their preference.

"They don't want the county doing anything for them," he said.

"They don't have these neighbors," Munson replied.

"I didn't choose your neighbors for you either," the chairman shot back.

Commissioner Maury St. John pointed out that if Munson was able to move a doublewide mobile home onto his lot, he should be able to show that width of road is subject to a prescriptive right of way.

Morel said the issue at some point must go to the road review committee, which will submit a recommendation to the commission. Munson was advised to submit a request to the committee.

Morel said a prescriptive easement would constitute a private access for the adjoining property owners in this case. The county requires a 50-foot easement for roads in subdivisions, he said.

Munson said he's worried the litigation may drag on for years.

Commission reworks volunteer boards

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

To take advantage of all of the people who want to continue to volunteer, Lincoln

County commissioners reworked the composition of one of their advisory boards last month.

County Attorney Alan Morel, working with only vague direction from the commission, drafted a proposed rewrite for the Public Land and Rural Affairs Advisory

Committee. He suggested a board of seven members, five appointed from individual commission districts and two at large, with two people called alternates. In case of a vacancy, the first alternate designee would move into a voting position.

But Pete Gnatkowski, county extension agent, who was appointed to the new board last month, said he preferred not designate a first and second alternate because each person may have different interests and expertise.

"If I'm not able to attend, I would like to be able to call on someone who I feel has the knowledge to deal with the issue," he said.

Commission Maury St. John proposed placing the responsibility on the board member who is going to be absent to line up one of the alternates to fill his spot.

Commission Chairman Rex Wilson said he didn't like the concept of a first and second alternate to fill vacancies or to sit in when someone is absent. The commission should decide at the time who will fill a vacancy, he said.

He also was reluctant to enlarge the basic membership because of the expanded requirement to constitute a quorum, which was one of the problems that caused the commission to combine the Public Land Use Advisory Committee and the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Council. Individually, the boards often couldn't muster a quorum.

When five alternates were suggested, county planner Patsy Sanchez asked if she would pay them per diem and send each an agenda for every meeting.

"I hadn't thought about that," Wilson said.

Oscura resident Jerry Carroll said anyone accepting the post of alternate should accept the liability of travel and the obligation to attend without compensation. If they

are called upon to vote, they should be reimbursed, he said.

A requirement to not miss three consecutive meetings still applies, Wilson said.

"I anticipate that several of the alternates will attend every meeting," Gnatkowski said.

Carroll asked that the goal of the board be rewritten to include the protection of private property rights and public land, a phrase removed in the amendment rewrite.

On a motion by Commissioner Leo Martinez, the commission approved the new wording based on five alter-

nates with no priority designation, members must designate an alternate to vote in their place and if an alternate votes, he can receive compensation for the meeting. Wording also will be added on the protection of private rights.

The rewritten ordinance will take effect later this month. After that, the alternates can be appointed. Regular members were selected last month.

The commission also approved revisions to the county's personnel policies and procedures.

One of the issues raised dealt with performing personal errands or business on county time or in county vehicles.

"I think that's well worth noting," St. John said.

The rewrite states that personal business shall not be conducted during work hours. Deleted were the words "while on county premises."

"I'd leave it the way it was," Wilson said.

Hobbs preferred the new version, saying that some county employees work away from county property and the broader wording would cover

them.

"I like the change," St. John agreed.

Sheriff Tom Sullivan said it makes no sense for a deputy who is working in the county and is driving home through Ruidoso to have to finish the trip and return to the village to buy a loaf of bread instead of buying it on the way.

"He's getting paid for the time," St. John said.

"You expect him to drive all the way home to get his personal car and come all the way back?" Sullivan asked.

"Can't he keep a time sheet and deduct the time?" St. John asked. "I do."

Morel said deputies fall under a collective bargaining agreement and not this personnel policy, but Wilson said the same situation could apply to someone from the county road department.

County manager Tom Stewart said the county vehicle use policy provides for some common sense. The intent is not to have a person doing personal business when he should be paying attention to his duties, he said. He preferred keeping the clause to prevent abuses.

St. John agreed the policy is aimed at preventing excesses during working hours.

Wildland firefighter test is March 18

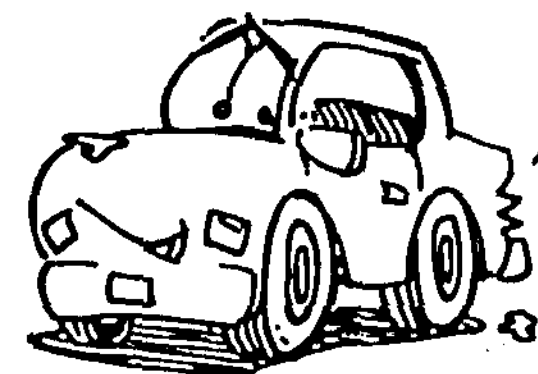
Physical fitness testing for wildland firefighters will be conducted by the New Mexico State Forestry Division for three days beginning March 18.

Bill Rogge, fire management officer, said the training will be conducted at the Capitan district office, White Oaks and Second streets, from 8 a.m. to noon each day.

The forestry division uses wildland-qualified firefighters on a call-when-needed basis to meet area fire emergencies. Firefighters are paid for their time when called. About 40 people in the county have qualified, but the annual fitness test is required.

More information is available from Rogge by telephone at 354-2231.

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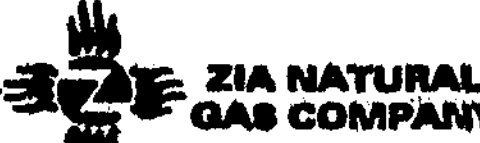
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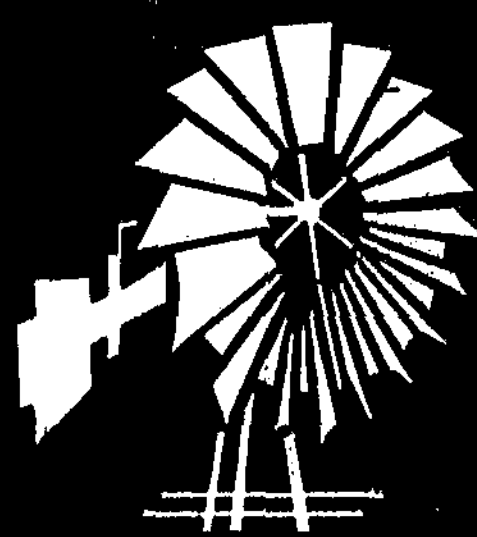
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SPORTS

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PAGE 1B

Baseball gets started this weekend

BY TODD FUQUA
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Baseball is always an optimist's game. It begins in spring, when the hope of a successful season is always in reach.

If it's a tough year, the optimism may have dried up and blown away by the end, but most don't think about that at the beginning of the year.

That's certainly not how Ruidoso baseball coach Mike Morris is thinking, anyway. He's hoping his team can get past last year's 6-15 finish and challenge for a state berth.

"We got rid of the problems from last year, and the kids have good attitudes," Morris said. "There's no arguing or complaining; these kids are ready to play baseball."

The Warriors begin the season Saturday when they travel to Truth or Consequences for a noon doubleheader against Hot Springs. They'll have four more games before going to the Eunice tournament March 20-22.

In particular — good school baseball, especially — high pitching can almost guarantee a winning season. Morris thinks he has a rotation that can give the Warriors that winning season.

Reese Parkinson, Jamie Urban, Josh Adams, Willie Lundquist, Wes Adaza and Jake Tetrault are back from last year's team. They also get a boost

from Senior Malcolm Bradley, who transferred in from Kansas this season.

One area which is still difficult to judge is the Ruidoso hitting. The wind and cold weather of late has made it a bit difficult to get a full batting practice out of the team.

"We're still trying to figure out positions for the varsity," Morris said Tuesday. "I've got about 13 out right now, but I've still got some guys coming out late from basketball."

Guys like Adams and catcher Austin Beier, both of whom have to take it easy on their throwing arms until they're good and ready for varsity competition.

"Our pitching just didn't come through last year, so we started them early this time," Morris said. "Everyone is experienced."

Experience is what the Warriors need against a tough District 4-3A. Gone is Santa Teresa, but remaining



Willie Lundquist fires the ball to first base during infield drill Tuesday at White Mountain Athletic Complex. The Ruidoso baseball team opens their season Saturday with a noon doubleheader at Hot Springs.

are defending Class 3A champion New Mexico Military Institute, top contender Lovington and always scrappy Portales.

Weather permitting, Ruidoso will have 12 games under its belt by the

time it faces Lovington on the road April 8.

"As far as I'm concerned, the season doesn't start until district," Morris said. "We'll have all those other games to improve."

Ruidoso softball team braves elements to prepare for season

BY TODD FUQUA
RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Blowing sleet, falling snow and bone-chilling cold.

This is *softball* weather? According to Ruidoso softball coach Billy Page, yes.

"These girls are tough," Page said. "We're not going to let someone outwork us. I didn't give them much chance to change their minds, they just went right to it."

The Lady Warriors have dealt with the cold, icy weather that blanketed the Ruidoso area the past week, and aren't letting anything stop them from having a good softball season this year.

"Their attitude is good, they're just anxious to play their first game," Page said.

The Lady Warriors begin their season at Goddard Tuesday at 4 p.m. After that,

they have only seven games — including three in the Truth or Consequences tournament — before starting play in District 4-3A.

Ruidoso is coming off a 7-18 season which saw them out of

contention for a playoff berth after the first five district games.

Their district doesn't get any easier. Santa Teresa — the only district team Ruidoso was able to defeat last year — has left, and St. Michael's has joined the fray.

Add to that lineup a determined Portales team and the

defending Class 3A champion Lovington Wildcats, and it's easy to see how difficult things could be for the Lady Warriors to get out of district this year.

"We have to play the best teams in the state this year, they're in our district," Page said. "If you can beat them and get to state, then everything else is gravy."

Pitching is even more important in softball than it is in baseball at the high school level. The motion on the arm is much less strenuous, and often a team needs but one good pitcher to have a winning season.

Ruidoso was with only one

pitcher shortly into the season as a result of an ankle injury to Jessica Gibson. Gibson — a sophomore — will be back this season and joined by a pair of freshmen; Adapolina Page and Rachel Adaza.

Page and Adaza spent all of last summer playing on ASA and USSSA club teams in Alamogordo, and went to state, regional and national tournaments. They've played in more games than all of coach Page's seniors combined.

Those seniors — Simona Ramos, Janelle Clawson and Jaclyn Castañon — all played last year, and Page hopes they'll anchor a

solid hitting lineup.

That lineup will likely be led again by Dusti Franklin at first base. Franklin hit over .500 last season and was named to the all-district team. Page said Clawson has been working on being a pure hitter — rather than just swinging for the fences — and Vickie Celusniak is a possible .400 hitter.

"We have to play the best teams in the state this year, they're in our district. If you can beat them and get to state, everything else is gravy."

Billy Page
Ruidoso softball coach

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
March 11	Goddard	Away	4 p.m.
March 17	Dexter	Away	4 p.m.
March 20-22	T or C Tourney	Away	TBA
March 27	Socorro	Away	3 p.m.
April 4	Socorro	Home	3 p.m.
April 5	Dexter	Home	2 p.m.
April 8	Portales* (2)	Away	4 p.m.
April 11	St. Michael's (2)	Home	4 p.m.
April 12	Portales* (2)	Home	1 p.m.
April 15	Roswell (2)	Home	4 p.m.
April 19	Lovington* (2)	Away	1 p.m.
April 22	Hot Springs (2)	Away	3 p.m.
April 29	Lovington* (2)	Home	4 p.m.
May 3	St. Michael's* (2)	Away	2 p.m.

*Denotes District 4-3A game

Ruidoso Downs 2003 Stakes Calendar

May Friday, May 23 Saturday, May 24 Sunday, May 25 Friday, May 30	Ruidoso QH Futurity Trials Ruidoso QH Derby Trials Fine Loom Handicap Bayer Legend Derby Trials	Sunday, July 13* Sunday, July 13* Thursday, July 17 Saturday, July 19 Saturday, July 19 Sunday, July 20 Sunday, July 20 Saturday, July 26 Sunday, July 27	Land of Enchantment Lincoln Handicap American Airlines Juvenile Challenge Trials Governor's Handicap Rainbow Derby Rainbow Juvenile Rainbow Futurity Ruidoso Oaks Kachina Stakes
June Sunday, June 8 Sunday, June 8 Sunday, June 8 Saturday, June 14 Sunday, June 15 Saturday, June 21 Sunday, June 22 Thursday, June 26 Friday, June 27 Saturday, June 28 Saturday, June 28 Sunday, June 29	Ruidoso QH Derby Ruidoso QH Futurity Juvenile Ruidoso QH Futurity First Lady Handicap Bayer Legend Derby Aspen Cup Free Spirits Zia Futurity Trials Zia Derby Trials Rio Grande Señora Trials Rio Grande Señora Trials Master Sails	Saturday, Aug. 2 Saturday, Aug. 2 Sunday, Aug. 3 Thursday, Aug. 7 Saturday, Aug. 9 Sunday, Aug. 10 Friday, Aug. 14 Friday, Aug. 15 Saturday, Aug. 16 Sunday, Aug. 17 Sunday, Aug. 24 Saturday, Aug. 30 Saturday, Aug. 30 Sunday, Aug. 31 Sunday, Aug. 31	Mr. Jet Moore Desert Rose American Airlines Juvenile Challenge AQHA Professionals Choice Claiming Trials Norgor Derby Ruidoso Mile All American Futurity Trials All American Derby Trials Ruidoso Thoroughbred Futurity Trials 550 Championship AQHA Professional's Choice Claiming Brigand Handicap All American Gold Cup Ruidoso Thoroughbred Derby All American Derby
July Thursday, July 3 Friday, July 4 Saturday, July 5 Sunday, July 6 Thursday, July 10 Sunday, July 13* Sunday, July 13* Sunday, July 13* Sunday, July 13* Sunday, July 13* Sunday, July 13* Sunday, July 13*	Rainbow Futurity Trials Rainbow Derby Trials Highlander Handicap Fern Sawyer Handicap Kachina Trials Zia Futurity Zia Derby Zia Handicap Sierra Stakes Rio Grande Señora Futurity Rio Grande Señora Futurity Road Runner Handicap	Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1 Monday, Sept. 1	Ruidoso Thoroughbred Championship Ruidoso Thoroughbred Futurity All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile All American Juvenile

*Denotes Zia Festival race

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache
New Snow Past Week: 8 in.
Weather at Report Time: Clear
Road at Report Time: Clear
Midway Depth: 60 in.
Surface Conditions: Powder and packed powder
Skiing Conditions: Excellent
Trails Open: All 55 trails
Lifts Open: All 11 lifts
Snowmaking Past 24 Hours: No
Forecast: Mostly sunny

Preps on Tap

Friday, March 7
Boys Basketball
Region B Tournament
Capitan vs. Jal at Jal, 7 p.m.
Girls Basketball
Region A Tournament
Carrizozo vs. Victory Christian at Carrizozo, 7:30 p.m.
Track
Ruidoso in West Texas Relays at Odessa, Texas, 11:30 a.m.
Tennis
Ruidoso in Goddard Invitational at Roswell, TBA

Saturday, March 8
Baseball
Ruidoso at Hot Springs (2), Noon
Track
Ruidoso in West Texas Relays at Odessa, Texas, 11:30 a.m.
Tennis
Ruidoso in Goddard Invitational at Roswell, TBA

Monday, March 10
Golf
Ruidoso boys/girls at New Mexico Military Institute Invitational

Tuesday, March 11
Baseball
Socorro at Ruidoso, 3 p.m.
Softball
Ruidoso at Goddard, 4 p.m.

On Deck

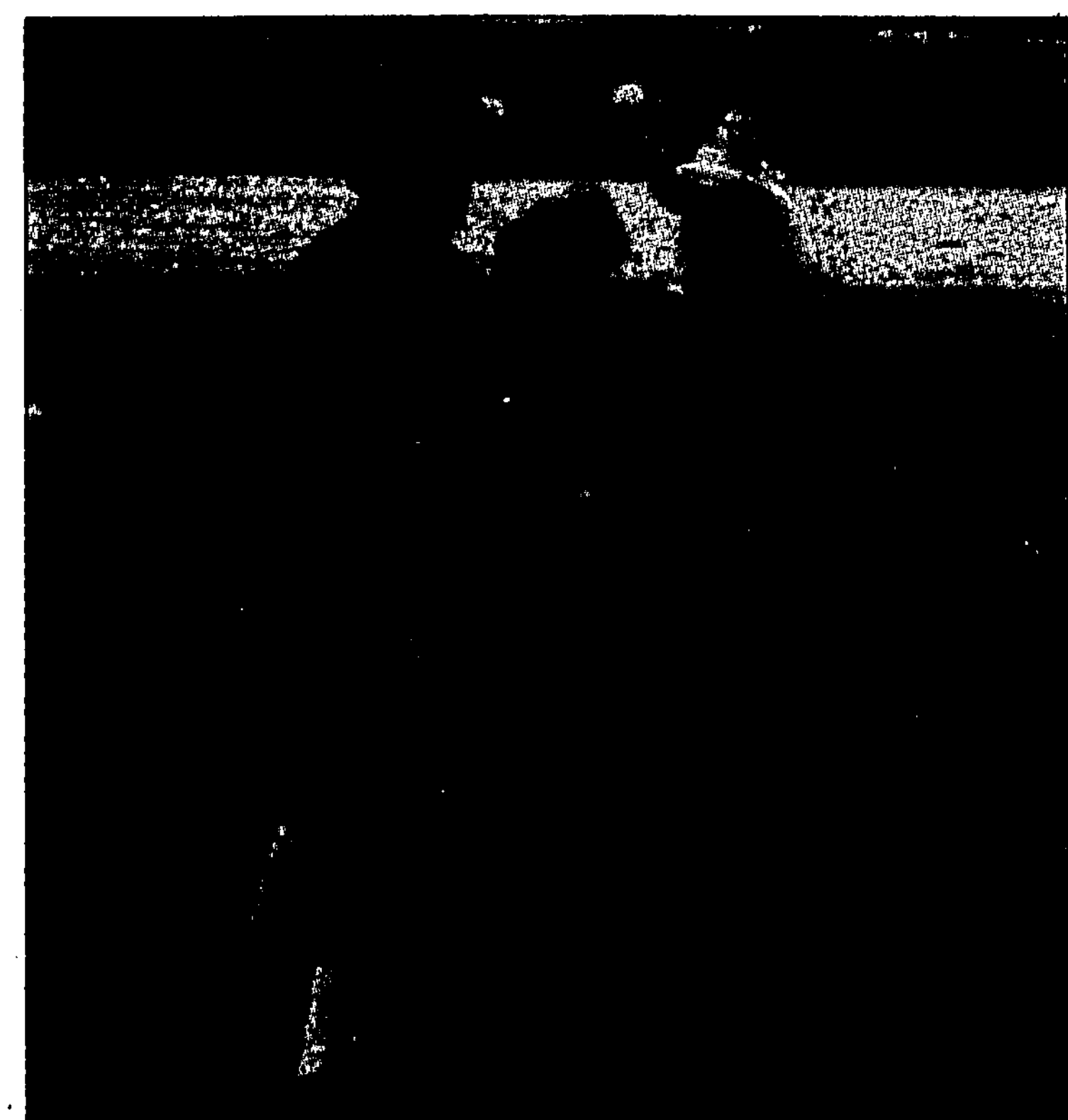
USSSA softball meeting
Ruidoso USSSA Sports will hold their 2003 slow-pitch softball league organizational meeting Tuesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. at the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center, 421 Suddreth Dr. This is a mandatory meeting for all team managers. Anyone interested in playing slow-pitch softball are invited to attend. For more information call Vicki at 378-4279.

Softball sign-ups underway
Sign-ups for 12 and Under softball teams are now being held for the season which begins in April and ends in July. Girls who turned 13 years old after Jan. 1 are eligible. There are only six slots available on the team. To register, contact Kim Chavez at 258-1308, or call 910-3730 or 420-2549.

Pecos Valley Stampede
This year's Pecos Valley Stampede, sponsored by the Roswell Runners Club and the Roswell Recreation Department, will be held Saturday, March 22 beginning at the recreation office at 1101 W. 4th St. in Roswell.
Registration fee prior to March 15 is \$20, and will be \$25 thereafter until race day. Packet pickup for runners will be Friday, March 21 from 4-6 p.m. at the recreation office. Race day registration will be held from 7:15-8:15 a.m. at the office.
The race will consist of a half marathon, 10K run, two mile run and two mile walk, and prizes will be given for nine different age divisions. A drawing for door prizes will also be held for all the participants. For more information, contact Bob Edwards at (505)-627-5507.

Sierra Blanca Scramble
The Optimist Club of Ruidoso announces its 11th annual Sierra Blanca Scramble to be held May 10 at Cree Meadows Country Club. Cost to enter is \$50 per golfer, which includes green fees, cart and prizes. For more information, contact Eric Eggleston at 257-5815 or Lane Adams at 257-4033.

Youth Basketball in Albuquerque
North American Youth Sports will hold an annual youth basketball tournament at Del Norte High School in Albuquerque April 11-13. The tournament will feature brackets for boys and girls for grades 5-12, and all grades are based on what grade in which the student is currently enrolled.
Entry fee for the tournament is \$90 and guarantees each team a minimum of two games. Entry deadline is March 17.
For additional information or entry forms, call the NAYS hotline at 1-800-787-3265 or tournament director Susan Kabala at (505)-998-0969.



Stacie Cadena, right, throws the ball to Dusti Franklin during a cold and blustery Wednesday afternoon practice at All American Park.

TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Moore named Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year

BY BROOK STOCKBERGER
THE RUIDOSO NEWS

A six-game hiatus did not slow down James Moore. The New Mexico State forward missed the start of the Aggies' basketball season for academic reasons, but when he finally took to the court, the 6-foot-8 junior more than made up for lost time.

Wednesday he was honored for his play when the Sun Belt Conference named him the Player of the Year. The Dolton, Ill., native was also tabbed as a first-time All-Sun Belt selection. Moore — the first men's basketball player in school history to win a conference Player of the Year award — was humble when reached for com-



Moore

ment.

"It feels great," said the player, who along with his teammates, left for Bowling Green, Ky., Thursday where the league tournament is scheduled to start today. "But right now I just want to win a (conference) championship and get to the NCAA Tournament. I'm thankful, but there is more to do."

The honor marked just the second time in head coach Lou Henson's 39-year career that one of his players received such an award. "There are many outstanding players in the Sun Belt Conference this season and I think the conference is as strong as it has ever been," Henson said. "For James to be selected is really an outstanding accomplishment. He has been dedicated to his team this season and shown great leadership. If you do the things James has done this year you can see why he has been named Player of the Year."

Along with post Chris Jackson, Moore sat out

the team's first six games. But when he returned to the court, he showed very little, if any, rust. In 21 outings this season, Moore has scored an average of 19.2 points per game, numbers that were good enough to lead both the Sun Belt Conference and NMSU.

His 60 percent shooting percentage is also tops in the league and ranks him 15th in the nation. Moore became the Aggies all-time leader in blocks for a career (he has 142) and the 22nd member of the Aggies 1,000 point club (he has 1,207 points).

Moore also ranks in the top-ten in the Sun Belt Conference in field goal percentage (.596, 3rd place), rebounds (6.4, 8th), free-throw percentage (.829, 8th), steals (3.8, 7th), blocks (4.4, 2nd), and defensive rebounding (9.7, 8th).

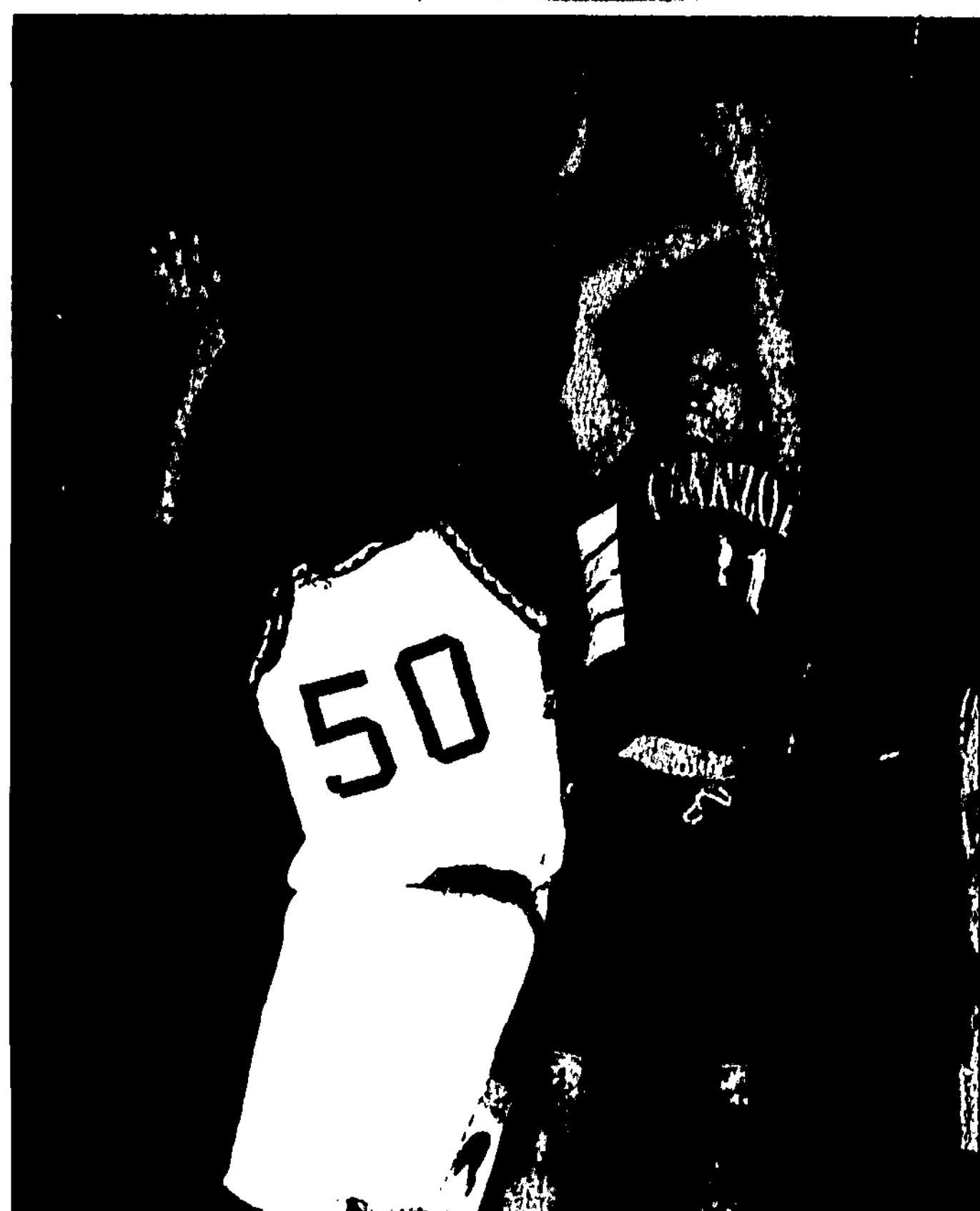
In conference games, Moore is in the top-ten in seven differ-

ent statistical categories including scoring (19.1, 2nd), field goal percentage (.566, 4th), blocks (2.9, 2nd), steals (2.8, 3rd), free-throw percentage (.848, 8th), defensive rebounding (6.6, 9th) and rebounding (6.1, 9th).

Moore and the Aggies are the second seed from the Sun Belt's Western Division and are scheduled to face the winner of the North Texas-Arkansas-Little Rock showdown Sunday at 7 p.m.

Brook Stockberger is sports editor for the Las Cruces Sun-News, a sister paper to the Ruidoso News.

STATE PREVIEW?



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Carrizozo center Christa Franck, right, shoots over Mescalero's Augusta Lang during the teams' contest Jan. 29 in Mescalero. The two teams could meet up again at state, but only if each wins their first regional game. The Lady Chiefs played Grady Thursday, and the Lady Grizzlies host Victory Christian tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Hound cagers secure LSC semifinal berth

PORTALES — The Eastern New Mexico University Greyhounds shot 61 percent and had five players score in double figures to defeat East Central University 112-79 Tuesday in the opening round of the Lone Star Conference Tournament.

With the win, Eastern secured a semifinal berth at Greyhound Arena tonight at 8 p.m. against Tarleton State. ENMU will also host the championship game on Saturday.

ENMU (20-7), was the LSC South champion with an 11-1 record and has won 16 of its last 17 games.

Cedric Palmer had 25 points to lead Eastern, while Jamaal Hunnicutt added 16 points and six rebounds. Kevin Iverson scored 15 points, had seven rebounds and four assists. Brent Cooper and Randy Johnson had 10 points

each.

Despite the final score, ECU (12-16) was actually close through much of the first half. The Tigers held a 17-13 lead at just over 14 minutes and led by three with 10:57 left after a layup by Theran Floyd.

The game remained close throughout the first half, but that was the last lead for ECU. The Hounds eventually went on a 19-3 run and entered half-time up 54-39. After a 15-9 run to open the second half, Eastern was able to put the game away.

Jason Wilkerson led the Tigers with 27 points and nine rebounds, while Karlin House added 18 points and Antione Benoit had 10.

LOUIS L'AMOUR

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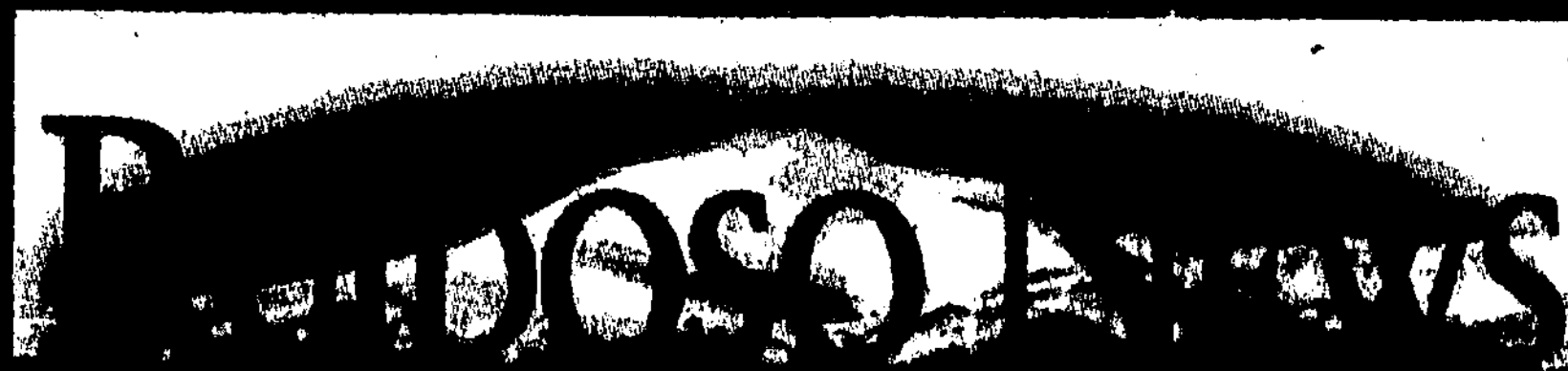
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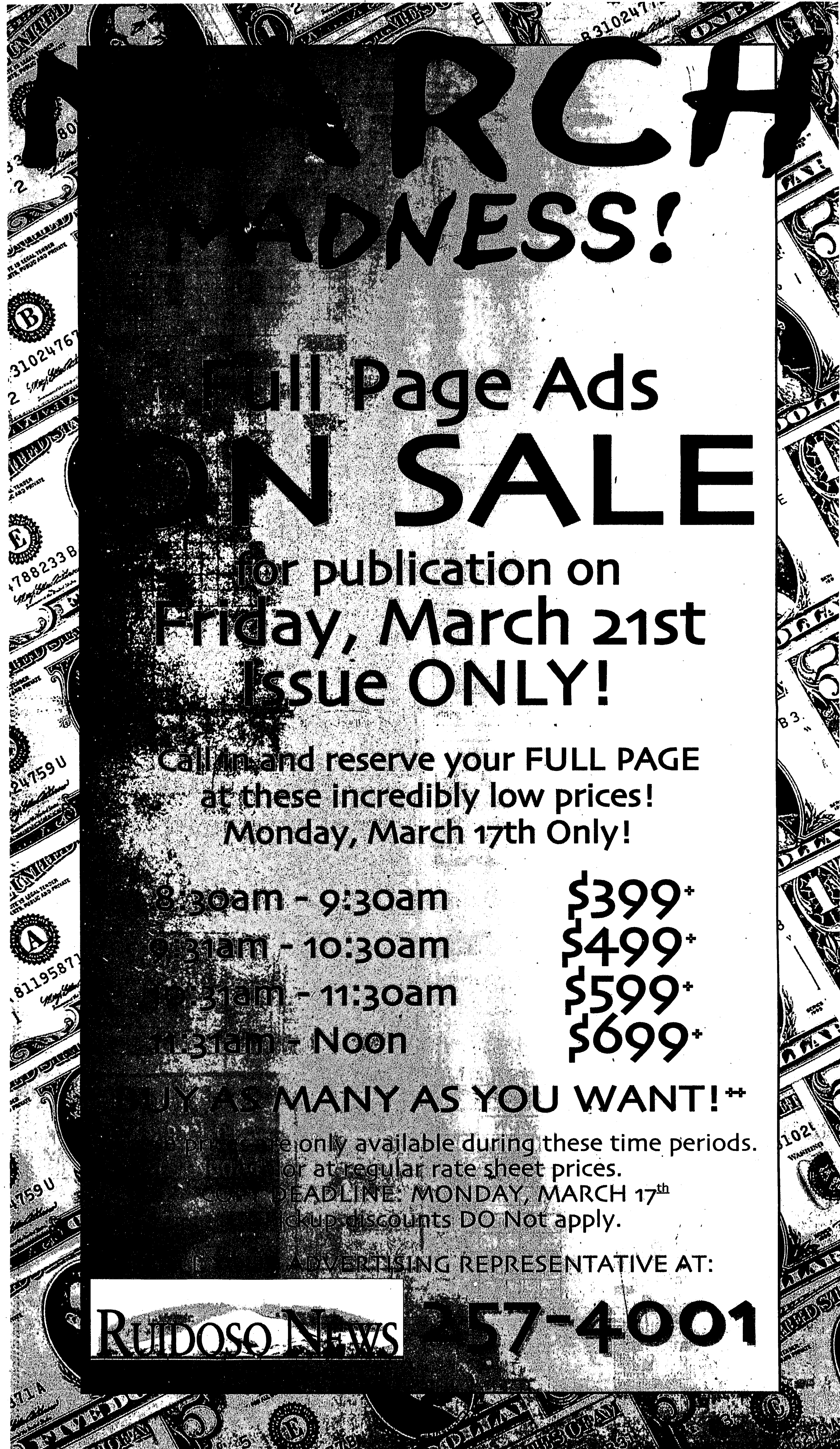
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LEGAL NOTICES

#5425 4T (2)14.21.28 (3)7

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT

Series 1997-1 Created Pursuant To A Pooling and Servicing Agreement Dated As Of March 1, 1997, Among UCFB Funding Corporation, As Depositor United Companies Lending Corporation, As Servicer, United Companies Financial Corporation, As Provider of the Limited Guarantee, and The First National Bank of Chicago, As Trustee,

Plaintiff,
No.CV 02-17 Div III

vs.

FRANK W. DORAME and
DEBERLY S. DORAME,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Special Master will on March 27th, 2003 at 10:30 AM be at the main entrance of the Lincoln County Court-house in Carrizozo, New Mexico, to sell and convey to the highest bidder for cash all right, title and interest of the above-named Defendant in and to the following real estate located in said County and state, which is more particularly described as follows

LOTS 4 AND 5, BLOCK 3 OF RIVER PARK ADDITION, RUIDOSO DOWNS, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN BY THE PLAT THEREOF FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF LINCOLN COUNTY, APRIL 26, 1967, IN TUBE NO 270

Said sale shall be made pursuant to the judgment entered on January 29, 2003, in the above-entitled and numbered cause, which was a suit to fore close a real estate mortgage held by the above Plaintiff and wherein the Plaintiff was adjudged to have a first and paramount lien against the above-described real estate in the amount of \$56,636.46 plus interest to the date of sale, publication costs, and a Special Master's fee, the total amount due and owing as of the date of sale being \$58,267.27

Notice is further given that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not fore closed herein and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due

Notice is further given that should the Plaintiff and/or Defendants herein bid and/or become the purchasers of said real estate and improvements at the foreclosure sale, they may use any part of their judgment granted herein and heretofore as credit against the purchase price should they be the highest bidder. From all other parties, the Special Master will accept only cash in payment of a bid, or a bank cashier's check, or a satisfactory letter of credit conditioned such that the Special Master receives cash or certified funds by 5:00 p.m. of the day of the foreclosure sale

Notice is finally given that the Special Master may continue the Special Master Sale from time to time if necessary without republishing the Notice Of Sale so long as the Special Master appears at the designated times scheduled for said Special Master's Sale and announces the postponement thereof to another specific date

By
s/ Faisal Sukhyani
Special Master
2222 Parkwest Drive N W
Albuquerque, NM 87120
3660
(505) 228-8484

Submitted by,

PICA & OLSON, L.L.P.

By

s/MICHAEL J. SEIBEL
Attorney for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 21160
Albuquerque, NM 87154-1160
(505) 883-9110

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information provided by the debtor will be used for that purpose

#5429 4T (2)14.21.28 (3)7

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,
COUNTY OF LINCOLN,
12TH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

Plaintiff(s),

Case No. CV 02-209

vs.

(1)Jeffrey J. Wallace a/k/a

LEGAL NOTICES

Jeffrey Wallace
(2)Leihua R. Wallace a/k/a
Leihua Wallace
(3)Union Federal Bank of Indianapolis
(4)Unknowns: All Unknown Occupants And/Or Tenants Of The Subject Real Estate
(5)Unknowns: All Unknown Spouses Of Any Party Hereto And All Other Persons Living Or Dead Whose Names Are Unknown, Who Claim Any Interest In The Subject Real Estate

Defendant(s).

Notice of Special Master's Sale of Real Estate

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER IN THE ABOVE CAPTIONED MATTER, THE SPECIAL MASTER INDICATED BELOW WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER IN THE LAWFUL MONEY OF THE UNITED STATES, OF AMERICA THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED BELOW

THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF SAID SALE IS:

Date: March 27, 2003
Place: Front Steps of Lincoln County Courthouse
300 Central Ave.
Carrizozo, NM 88031
Time: 10:30a.m.

Real Estate:
Common Description:
11 Taos Rd. a/k/a 118
Taos Rd.
Alto, NM 88312

Legal Description:
Lot 11, of FOX RUN SUBDIVISION, Lincoln County, New Mexico, as shown by the Replat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk and Ex-officio Recorder of Lincoln County, New Mexico, on August 11, 1981, in Cabinet D, Slide Nos. 35 and 36

Mobile or Manufactured Home

Common Description:
None Known

Legal Description: None Known

The date of the Court Order is January 22, 2003, pursuant to which an Order of Sale was issued on January 22, 2003. The referenced Court Order entered judgment for Plaintiff for \$178,496.27 plus interest, costs of this action, including all costs of the sale and costs to preserve the Real Estate, including ad valorem property taxes. Additional interest of \$31.60 per day shall accrue to the date of said sale

Special Master

KLEINSMITH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Faisal Sukhyani
2222 Parkwest NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
(505)228-8484

s/Philip M. Kleinsmith,
#6261
6035 Erin Park Dr., #203
Colorado Springs, CO
80918
1-800-842-8417

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF EL PASO

Acknowledged, subscribed and sworn to before me on the 11th day of February, 2003, by Philip M. Kleinsmith at Colorado Springs, Colorado. My commission expires

(SEAL)

s/Sandi Burman
Notary Public

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained from you will be used for that purpose

#5447 4T (2)28 (3)7.14.21

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT

No CV 02-244

BANK ONE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RICARDO BARRIOS, if living; If deceased, THE ESTATE OF RICARDO BARRIOS, Deceased, THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES OR LEGATEES OF RICARDO BARRIOS, Deceased, JOHN DOE and JANE DOE, (true names unknown), Tenants,

Defendant(s).

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 26, 2003, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the undersigned Special Master will, at the northeast entrance of the Lincoln County Courthouse, Carrizozo, New Mexico, sell all the right, title and interest of the above-named Defendants in and to the hereinafter described real estate to the highest bidder for cash. The property to be

LEGAL NOTICES

sold is located at 206 Morningside, Ruidoso, and is situated in Lincoln County, New Mexico, and is particularly described as follows: Lot 4, Block 2, of SECOND ADDITION TO CREE MEADOWS HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico, as shown by the plat thereof filed in the office of the County Clerk and Ex-officio Recorder of Lincoln County, New Mexico, on September 8, 1955.

THE FOREGOING SALE will be made to satisfy a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above-entitled and numbered cause on February 13, 2003, being an action to foreclose a mortgage on the above-described property. The Plaintiff's judgment, which includes interest and costs, is \$138,799.11 and the same bears interest at 10.375% per annum from March 1, 2003. The amount of such interest to the date of sale will be \$1,025.70. The Plaintiff has the right to bid at such sale and submit its bid verbally or in writing. The Plaintiff may apply all or any part of its judgment to the purchase price in lieu of cash. The sale may be postponed and rescheduled at the discretion of the Special Master.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the real property and improvements concerned with herein will be sold subject to any and all patent reservations, easements, all recorded and unrecorded liens not foreclosed herein, and all recorded and unrecorded special assessments and taxes that may be due. Plaintiff and its attorneys disclaim all responsibility for, and the purchaser at the sale takes the property subject to, the valuation of the property by the County Assessor as real or personal property, manufacture of any mobile or manufactured home to the land, deactivation of title to a mobile or manufactured home on the property, if any, environmental contamination on the property, if any, and zoning violations concerning the property, if any.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the purchaser at such sale shall take title to the above described real property subject to a one (1) month right of redemption.

s/Nick Vega,
Special Master
PO Box 383
Carrizozo, NM 88301
(505) 430-4538

#5460 4T (3)7.14.21.28

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
12TH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

Steven Alan Anderson
Petitioner,

vs.

Sandra Lynn Anderson
Respondent

Case No. DM03-29

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF SUIT

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
TO SANDRA LYNN ANDERSON, GREETINGS:

You are hereby notified that Steven Alan Anderson, the above-named Petitioner, has filed a civil action against you in the above-entitled court and cause, the general object thereof being to dissolve the marriage between Petitioner and yourself. Unless you enter your appearance in this cause within thirty (30) days of the date of the first publication of this Notice, judgment by default will be entered against you. The first date of publication is March 7, 2003.

s/Steven Alan Anderson
Petitioner
P.O. Box 1772
Alto, New Mexico 88312
505-336-2566

WITNESS the Honorable Karen L. Parsons, District Judge of the 12th Judicial District Court of New Mexico, and the Seal of the District Court of Lincoln County, this 28th day of February, 2003.

s/Jan Perry
Clerk of the District Court
By: Elizabeth Ysasi

#5461 1T (3)7

LEGAL NOTICE

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2003

CALL US: SANDY SUGGITT, FEATURES DESK • 257-4001 • SSUGGITT@RUIDOSONEWS.COM

PAGE 1C

Creative fire

Silversmithing is more than just a hobby for this part-time Ruidosoan

BY SANDY SUGGITT
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

.com

geometrics."

Margie Melby had been copper enameling for 24 years when she took a class in silversmithing in 1990 — and found her passion.

"I thought once I got into silversmithing that I could use dimensional pieces with copper enamel, but once I got into silversmithing, I was just hooked," she said. "There are so many ways you can go. This took me in another

"I can hardly go to sleep at night, thinking of the wonderful pieces I collected during the day."

Margie Melby
ARTIST

Melby makes every piece of her jewelry — pin heads, findings, clasps and hooks and eyes.

"That's the fun of it," she said. "If I buy findings, it's store bought. These have the touch of the hand on them, they're not mass-produced pieces."

Melby uses found items for many of her pieces, though, searching in antique shops, thrift stores, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, trash and treasure stores.

She received a bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Texas in Austin, and while attending graduate school, began making papier mache box purses, which she sold in Austin boutiques. Since that time, she has focused on art, painting, enameling and finally metal work.

Melby studied with Rachelle Thiewes at University of Texas El Paso and has taken workshops with Boris Bally, Richard Mawdsley, Glenda Arentzen, Claire Sanford, Bob Ebendorf and others.

Although her main studio is in El Paso, she has a sander and torch at her house in Ruidoso, and a studio at a ranch in Winston, where she teaches arts and crafts to children who attend horsemanship camp, an archeological seminar studying the Indian pueblo or a group of city slickers.

Melby's boxes and jewelry can be seen at The Adobe gallery, 2905 Sudderth Drive.

whole dimension. I can hardly go to sleep at night, thinking of the wonderful pieces I collected during the day."

Melby creates pendants, earrings and other "art for the body," and five years ago began a line she calls "Soldiers of Conscience," some of which are mounted in wooden shuttered display boxes.

"I wanted these to speak to the people, to be more than a piece of jewelry," she said.

And speak they do. Each piece has a manually stamped saying on it, some Melby makes up and others she borrows from Mother Teresa or whoever appeals to her at the moment:

"Live now, wait not till tomorrow," says one pendant.

"Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous."

"Be there when friends need you, be loyal," says another.

Each letter is hand made with a chasing hammer and steel stamps.

"Without being conscious of it, my things have all taken on a personification," Melby said. "For example, this is an angel — here's its head and body. I like the figure as a way to work with my pieces rather than



Margie Melby, below, enjoys a hands-on approach to her work. "I just love using the torch," said the silversmith. At left, she is making sterling silver pin heads.

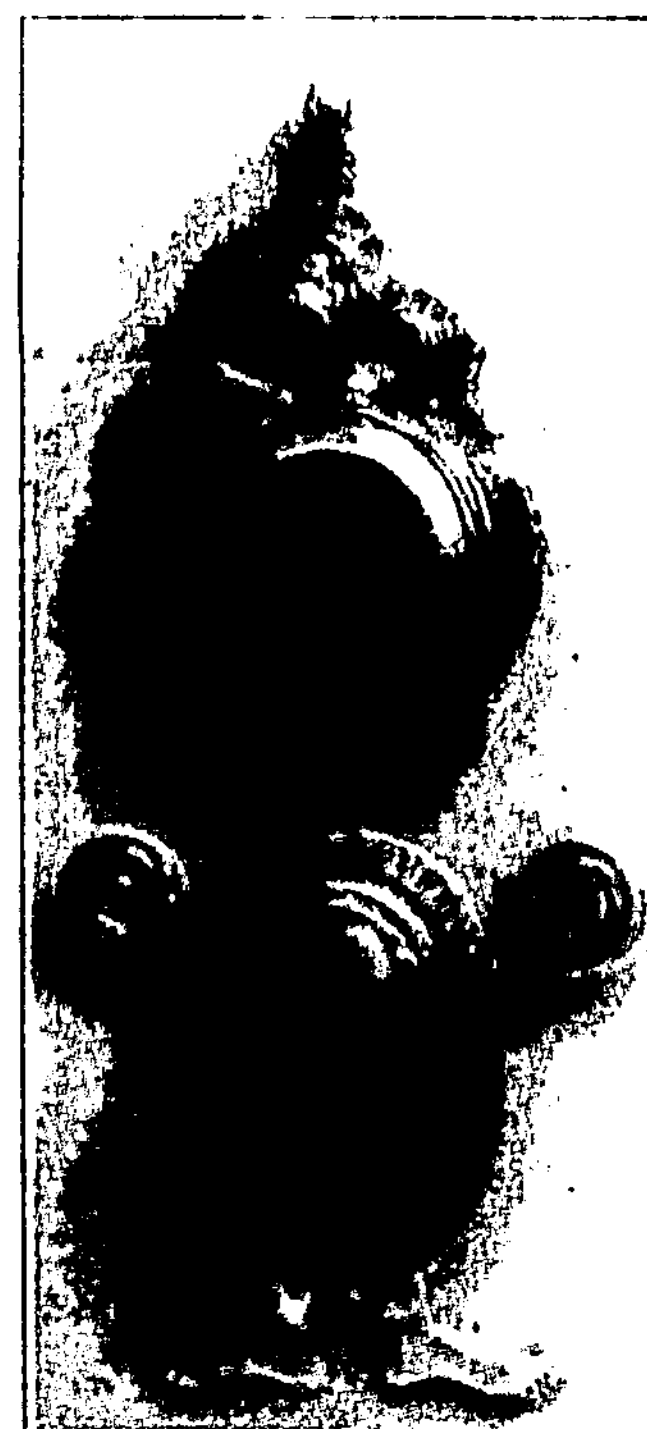


PHOTOS BY SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF



SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

A pendant from Melby's "Soldiers of Conscience" line made with sterling, old brass, bone and turquoise, mounted in a shuttered display box. This can be seen at The Adobe Gallery.



COURTESY MARGIE MELBY

Melby's "Soldiers of Conscience" all have inspiring inscriptions.

From gossamer bags to Skee Ball, bridal choices are endless



Dave Barry
DAVE'S WORLD
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

Every year, as we enter wedding season, I go to the bookstore and pick up a bridal magazine. Then I crumple to the floor with lower-back spasms, because during wedding season, bridal magazines achieve roughly the same mass as Ted Kennedy, D-Mass. They have hundreds of pages of advertisements and articles designed to help the bride, as she gets ready for her Special Day, go completely insane.

She can't help it. Your modern American wedding is more complex, in terms of logistics, than the invasion of Iraq. For one thing, the invasion planners don't have to decide on guest favors; the bride does, and it's not a simple decision. Here is what Modern Bride has to say on this topic in its 312-pound March issue:

"Gone are the days of giving guests mixed nuts in little plastic cups as wedding favors ... Brides today have so many options ... Choose unique favor containers — tiny tins, clear plastic cones, little gossamer bags — and fill them with your favorite treats. Give each guest a silver frame ... Or tie a stack of your favorite cookies together with personalized ribbon. The choices are truly endless!"

And they are! Truly! Endless! Which is why tonight, while you're snoring the

snore of the carefree, some stressed-out bride-to-be, who had once hoped (The fool!) to get by with mixed nuts in a cup, will be staring at her bedroom ceiling, asking herself: "Tiny tins? Gossamer bags? Personalized ribbon? Should I maybe personalize the gossamer? What the hell IS gossamer?"

At dawn she's still struggling to make this decision, so she can get on with the other 158,000 critical bridal decisions — decisions she must make by herself, because she stopped talking to her mother weeks ago, following a bitter argument about the cake frosting. The bride, alone, must decide on her dress, shoes, flowers, invitations, place cards, caterer, photographer, and all the other wedding elements that must be perfect or her Special Day will be RUINED RUINED RUINED.

And don't tell me that the groom can help. Please. The groom is useless. Statistically speaking, something like 92 percent of all grooms are male. If you let males plan weddings you are going to wind up with Skee Ball at the reception.

No, the groom dropped out of the picture minutes after he proposed. For all the bride knows, he has been kidnapped by aliens. It does not matter. The bride must plunge grimly ahead, making

decision after decision, day after stressful day, night after sleepless night, until she has, at most, two remaining marbles.

Unfortunately, the bride reaches this state just when she is turning her attention to the most abused victim group in America: bridesmaids. If you've ever wondered why you see so many weddings where the bridesmaids are unrecognizable, the answer is that these poor women were following the fashion orders of a crazed bride who wants all her bridesmaids, regardless of their physical nature, to have exactly the same "look," because otherwise her Special Day would be RUINED RUINED RUINED.

A few years ago, my wife was a bridesmaid; the bride was the sweetest, most thoughtful person we know. But she insisted that all her bridesmaids get a certain hairdo, which meant that my wife emerged from the beauty salon with this foot-high THING on her head formed by (1) her hair; (2) a substance that appeared to be either very strong hairspray or Super Glue; and (3) 14 million bobby pins. She had enough steel on her head to make a Cadillac Escalade. Her hairdo was interfering with aircraft compasses. She did not look like my wife. And she wasn't! She

was ... a bridesmaid!

Can anything be done to halt this craziness? Yes. Alert reader Lori Rispoli has come up with a brilliant solution:

"Have you ever wondered," she writes, "why it takes a bride months and months to plan a wedding, but a good funeral can be pulled together in two days? The elements are all the same — church, minister, music, flowers, guests, food."

Lori is absolutely right. What we need is a law prohibiting brides from planning their weddings more than, say, a week in advance. A bride caught violating this law would be subject to severe punishment, such as being forced to walk down the aisle to the tune of "I Shot the Sheriff."

Wouldn't that be great? Brides — and their loved ones — would be spared months of insanity. Weddings would be simpler, cheaper and more relaxed. Everybody would win! Except of course the people who put out the bridal magazines. They'd have to find something useful to do. But I'm sure they'll have no trouble. The choices are truly endless.

Dave Barry is a columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132.

Studio tour features work in Nogal area

■ A dozen county artists within about three miles of each other have banded together for a new tour.

BY SANDY SUGGITT

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Heads up for another studio tour Saturday, April 5, featuring 12 artists and crafters within three miles of each other about five miles south of Nogal.

Organizer Emily Stephens said she had been thinking of doing a studio tour for about 10 years, and last year called blacksmith Richard Rumpf and asked what he thought about "a little studio tour with the artists in this neighborhood."



He thought it would be great, and the news spread, as it does in places like Lincoln County, and pretty soon he had a list of artists willing to give it a shot.

The name, High Mesa Artists Studio Tour, was Rumpf's idea, she said. The one she came up with — Meadow Muffin Art Tour — drew laughter instead of the kind of respect the artists expect. Western artist Virgil Stephens designed the logo.

Stephens said visitors will only have to travel in a three-mile radius and they can return to an artist's house and pick up something they can't live without. She anticipates that they'll want to spend the whole day and can have lunch at Bare Naked Bob's Bar-B-Que (put on by Bob Banhagel), which will be set up at ZW Gallery.

The artists include Western artist Virgil C. Stephens with pencil drawing, pastels and bronze sculptures; sculptor Pam Topper who specializes in figurative abstracts in steel, stone and bronze; fine woodworker Georgia, whose sculpted doors screens, window coverings and sculpture grace many buildings in the area; wildlife artist Madeleine Ann Sabo's acrylics, charcoal and wood-burning with acrylic washes, and, with her husband, Steve, wood-turned bowls and furniture from native New Mexico materials; and ceramicist Patricia Fox with her hand-built, hand-carved pieces enhanced with mother of pearl and 24-carat gold overlay.

Also in the tour are Jim Wall's landscape oil paintings and handcrafted wood plaques and signs; ZW Gallery blacksmith Richard Rumpf's sculpture and signs; the hand-made pottery of Teresa Hughes; Nanci Ferguson's weavings and rugs; Linell Nixon's quilts and hand-embroidered quilt squares by Donna Vannett; and Maryln Chewing's hand-made quilts and jackets using blue jeans and quilt tops.

To see the quality of arts and crafts on this tour, visit the Web site at <http://www.notevena.com/HighMesa.htm>.

Farzad plays here Saturday

Classical violin mixed with Persian, Latin, Folkloric, Pop and Jazz traditions has placed the music of violinist Farzad into the top spot on New Age/World Music playing charts. His original release "Mirror of Emotions" defies categories however, much as the artist himself transcends all cultural boundaries. The Persian born, Albuquerque-based violinist, educated in Iran, Texas and Indiana, seeks to unify listeners by celebrating mankind's creative differences.

Farzad performs selections from "Mirror of Emotions" and other works in concert at the Spencer Theater 8 p.m. Saturday, appearing on stage with a powerful array of supporting musicians, including veteran session guitarist Louie Shelton.

The Spencer debut is a prelude to his national coast-to-coast concert tour this summer, a 15-city gig followed by performances in South America and China.

Amity Records of Santa Fe is set to record the Spencer show for possible later release. Excellent seats are available for \$35 and \$38. Call the Spencer Theater at (505) 336-4800 for tickets.

The concert includes solos with the bass guitarist Louie Shelton, a recording industry giant who has recorded hits with everyone from Lionel Richie to Diana Ross. Also on stage is the gorgeous young concert violinist Naseem, who serves as the concert master of Baylor Symphony, and jazz- and Latin-influenced recording pianist Fritz Kersting, drummer/percussionist Paul Gonzalez, percussionist Chris Trujillo, bass player Pancho Tomaselli and Dennis Wade on keyboard.



Violinist Farzad will take the Spencer stage Saturday with an all-star supporting cast.

COURTESY SPENCER THEATER

Vegetarian celebration coming to School House Park

BY SANDY SUGGITT

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Coming to Ruidoso for the first time ever is The Great American Meatout from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. March 15 at School House Park and the Ruidoso Senior Citizens Center.

Organizer Mayra Romero, a local yoga instructor and owner of The Yoga Studio, said a veritable feast of vegetarian foods will be served in the senior center to introduce the public to the joys of a meat-free diet. There will be live music in the park, and any musicians who want to come jam are welcome, she said. The Humane Society of Lincoln County will also be there with some adoptable animals.

Food companies, retail stores and others have donated tasty treats and plenty of them. Locally, Capitan's Greenhouse Garden Cafe, River's Edge, Great Wall of China and Casa Blanca have agreed to provide meat-free dishes.

Just a few of the foods that will be available are: veggie burgers, soy ice cream and yogurt, veggie deli slices, meatballs, pasta rotini, soy chili, Thai Kitchen rice noodle soups, pretzels, energy bars, salads and dressings and Santa Fe Tamale Molly's vegetarian tamales.

"There'll be a ton of food and lots of literature, recipes and information on animal cruelty, lifestyle and diet changes," Romero said.

"The purpose is to make people

more aware of what's available and to encourage them to cut back even 10 or 20 percent of the amount of meat they eat. Animal cruelty is the main issue — how the animals (raised for consumption) are treated. The whole idea is to make people more aware of their food options."

This is the 19th year of the "world's largest grassroots diet education campaign," one supported by celebrities, educators, public officials, health care providers and environmental and animal advocates, according to the Web site www.MEATOUT.org.

Romero's flyer urges people to sample the free food, pick up some literature and recipes and enjoy the music.

It cites as reasons for cutting down the amount of meat: reducing the risk of the top killers — heart disease, stroke and cancer, and the risk of infection by E.Coli, Salmonella, Listeria and other pathogens; to free up the amounts of grains and soybeans fed to livestock to feed the world's hungry people; to reduce pollution of air and water by manure, pesticides and debris, and to save "35 innocent, feeling cows, pigs and chickens per person each year from cruel and unnecessary caging, crowding, deprivation, drugging, mutilation, manhandling and brutal slaughter."

For more information, contact Romero or Dave Anderson at 336-8143.

Two artists represented at local McMahon gallery receive national honors



COURTESY PHOTO

Charles Pruitt's "Snow Shadows and Aspen" is shown above. Pruitt had two works accepted to a prestigious national show recently.

Midland, Texas, oil painter, Charles N. Pruitt has once again had two of his works selected, along with 75 other nationally recognized artists, juried into the prestigious C.M. Russell Show and Auction in Great Falls, Mont., March 19-22.

Pruitt is a signature member of Oil Painters of America and has won many awards. He is locally represented at McMahon Fine Art in Jira Plaza.

Also, Albuquerque artist James Trigg has been invited to show at the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library's 25th

Annual Art Show and Sale in Midland. He and 42 artists from across the country will be in the Feb. 28-March 14 show. Trigg has shown at the Haley library's show every year since 1992.

This year, he will show two original oil paintings depicting Truehas, N.M., "Summer Monsoon" and "Winter Evening." His work can be seen locally at McMahon Fine Art.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Philippians 1:1-11	Philippians 4:2-23	Colossians 4:2-18	Matthew 6:1-18	Psalms 51	Psalms 67	Psalms 77

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First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Hull and Cavan Canyon Road. Rev. James M. Smith, Pastor. Sunday School, K-12/Adult 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Chancel Choir Wednesday 7 p.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gateway Church of Christ 415 Sudderth, Ruidoso. 257-4381 Jay Williams, Minister. Sunday Bible study 9:30 a.m. sun. worship 10:30 a.m. 6 p.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LDS
Church of Jesus Christ LDS Mesclero Branch, North on Hwy 48, between Ruidoso and Capiton, Joe Magill, 336-4350. Sunday schedule: Sacrament starts at 10 a.m., Sunday School, Freshhood and Relief Society
Church of Jesus Christ LDS Mesclero Branch, 671-4630. Pastor, Charles W. Clay, Worship, 6:30 pm Tuesday, Bible Study, KRIV 7:30 AM, Sunday e-mail: HELPANDHOPE@ZANET.COM
Preschool Relief Soc. & Young Women, 12:10 a.m.
EPISCOPAL
Episcopal Church of the Holy Mount 121 Mesclero Trail, Ruidoso. Father John W. Penn, Rector. Sunday Eucharist 8 & 10:30 a.m., Wednesday. Daughters of King noon, Eucharist & healing 5:30 p.m., Choir practice 7 p.m.
Episcopal Chapel of San Juan Lincoln Sunday Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
St. Anne's Episcopal Chapel Glenview Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 a.m.
FULL GOSPEL
Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship Int'l., K. Bob's Hwy 70 in Ruidoso, Dinner at 6:00 Mondays. Special Priced Menu Women Welcome!
Ron Rice, 354-0255, e-mail: jgblmfruidoso-online.com
Mission Fountain of Living Water San Patricio. Sunday School: 10 a.m., Evening services 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Tuesday and Friday.
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Angus Church of the Nazarene Angus, 12 miles north of Ruidoso on Hwy 48, 336-8032, Charles Hail, Pastor. Sat. 7:00 p.m., Bible Study
LUTHERAN
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
1120 Hill Road, 258-4191, 257-3296. Kevin L. Knuth, Pastor. Sunday worship 9:30 a.m. (May-Oct), 10:30 a.m., Sun. School & Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m., Thurs. Eve. Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., call for location.
METHODIST
Community United Methodist Church Junction Road, behind "The Coffee House" Bob Sawyer, Pastor. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship 8:30 a.m., 10:35 a.m.
PENTECOSTAL
Apostolic Pentecostal Assembly, Eternal Life Ministries, Minister Harry A. Peyton, call for your personal Home Bible study, 430-9640, (Web page) http://www.100ministries.org
The Apostles of Lincoln County, UPC Remax Center, 1009 Mechem Dr., Unit #1. Pastor, Art Dunn. Sunday afternoon, 4:30 p.m. Adult, children's & youth classes Wednesday evening, 7:00 p.m., Bible Study
NAZARENE
Angus Church of the Nazarene Angus, 12 miles north of Ruidoso on Hwy 48, 336-8032, Charles Hail, Pastor. Sat. 7:00 p.m., Bible Study
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Abundant Life Family Church 2810 Sudderth Drive, Suite 210, 257-1188 Mark Gentry, pastor. Sunday worship 10:00 a.m., Thursday Bible study 7 p.m.
PRESBYTERIAN
Alternative Worship, 6:30 pm, Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m., Tuesday Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Youth Worship, 6:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church 101 Sutton Drive (Nob Hill), Ruidoso. 257-2220. Rev. Kenneth Davis, interim pastor. Sunday Church school 9:45 a.m., worship 11 a.m. Potluck fellowship after worship the third Sunday of every month
Mountain Ministry Parish Community United Presbyterian Church
Ancho. Reverend Scott King, Sunday worship 9 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.
Corona Presbyterian Church Reverend Scott King, Sunday Church school 9:30 a.m., worship 11 a.m.
Nogal Presbyterian Church Reverend Bill Sebring, Adult Sunday School 10 a.m., worship 11 a.m.
REFORMED CHURCH
Mesclero Reformed Mesclero. Bob Schut, Pastor. Sunday Church school 9:30 a.m., worship 10:30 a.m. Mon. junior high youth 6:30 p.m. Wed. high school meeting 7 p.m. Thur. Kids Club (grades 1-5) 3:30
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Ruidoso Seventh Day Adventist 207 Parkway, Ruidoso 505-439-0760, Assoc. Pastor Wilburn Morrow 622-1206. Saturday Sabbath school 9:30 a.m., Church service 11 a.m. Wednesday Prayer meeting 7 p.m.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Sacramento Mountains Unitarian Universalist Church, meeting in members' homes. Call 258-1881
www.mtsun.com/asmuc
AMERICAN MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP Rick Smith 682-2994
Monday Women's Bible study 8:45 p.m. at Schlitzky's
1:45 Tuesday, Ruidoso men's Bible study noon at Pizza Hut, Mechem Drive Wednesday Sept through May
Capitan in High and Se. High Youth Groups 6:30 p.m. at Christ Community Fellowship 1 mail RickStamerman@missionary.org
Calvary Chapel 127 Vision, next to Cable Co., 257-5915
Pastor John Marshall Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Mid week bible study 7 p.m.
Centro Cristiano Casa de Oracion 139 El Paso Rd. Ruidoso, 257-2324. Pastor Carlos Carron Reunion General Jueves 7:00 p.m., Domingo 10:00 a.m. Club Amistad Sabado 10 a.m. (Invited)
Christ Church in the Downs Ruidoso Downs, 378-4464 Al and Mary Lane, Pastors. Sunday 8:00 Sun a.m. 10:45 a.m. Children's ministries concurrent with late Sunday Services. Sat. outreach at 1pm, at church Thursday 7 p.m.
Cornerstone Church Cornerstone Square, 613 Sudderth Drive, 257-9265 John & Joy Wyatt, Pastors. Sunday School, 9:45, Church, 10:30 a.m., 6:30 pm with Children's Church Sun Eve. Handicap Services 11 a.m. Wed. Leadership Class 6 p.m. & Pastor 7 p.m. Wed.
Cowboy Church Nyon Sunday at the Glenview Rural Events Center. Everyone welcome. Preacher Buster Reed 7 p.m.
Grace Harvest Church Canyon Canyon Rd. 378-4213 Sun. morning prayer 8:30 a.m., Sunday school 9 a.m., service 10 a.m.
Miracle Life Ministry Center Ron Rice & Catherine Callahan, Ministers Available 24 hours for healing prayer 354-0255 e-mail miraclelife@ruidoso-online.com
Peace Chapel Interdenominational (ULC)
Alto North, 356-7075 Jeannie Price, Pastor. Morning chapel: 6:50 a.m. (Sept - June), Sun. Service 11 a.m.
NON-SECTARIAN
Spiritual Awareness Study Group Minister George N. Brown, Ph.D. U.L.C. Study 1 p.m. - 257-1569

Capitan Churches

BAPTIST
Trinity Southern Baptist Church (south on Highway 48) Mt. Capitan Rd. 354-2044.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; AWANA-Sunday 4:46 p.m.
Mountain Baptist Church
Independent-Fundamental. Pastor - W.G. Carter.
Sunday School-10 AM, Sunday Worship-11AM& 6 PM.
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:15 PM.
(Next to BBQ Place on Hwy 380)
Capitan, NM (505) 378-6134
CATHOLIC
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Capitan, 354-9102. Saturday Mass 5 p.m.; Sunday Mass 9 a.m.; Monday Adult Bible Study: 6 p.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Capitan - Highway 48. Les Earwood, Minister. Sunday Bible study: 10 a.m.; Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study: 7 p.m.
FOUR SQUARE
Capitan Foursquare Church Highway 48, Capitan. Harold W. Perry, Pastor.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.; Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study: 7 p.m.
METHODIST
Capitan United Methodist Church
Pastor Johanna Anderson and the congregation of Capitan United Methodist Church welcome Lincoln County residents and visitors alike to attend Bible study Sunday morning at 8:30, followed by worship service at 9:10. Communion is offered during worship on the first Sunday of every month, and a potluck luncheon is served the third Sunday at 12:30. White Oaks and Third in Capitan. 505-648-2846.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Christ Community Fellowship Capitan, Highway 380 West, 354-2458. Ed Vinson, Pastor. Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.

CARRIZOZO CHURCHES

ASSEMBLY OF GOD
The Word of Life Church
Rev. Chuck Fulton, pastor/648-2339. 711 'E' Ave., Carrizozo, NM. Affiliated w/the Evangelistic Assembly Church. Sunday 7:00 pm.
BAPTIST
First Baptist Church
Hayden Smith, Pastor. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 7:15 p.m.; Church training: 6:30 pm. Sunday
CATHOLIC
Santa Rita Catholic Church
648-2853. Father Dave Bergs, Pastor. Saturday Mass: 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mass: 11 a.m.; Tuesday Adult Bible Study: 6 p.m.
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Perry Zumwalt, minister, Ave. C at 12th, Carrizozo, NM. Sunday School 10:00 pm; Worship Service 11:00 am; Evening Worship 1:15 pm; Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm.
EPISCOPAL
St. Matthias Episcopal Chapel
Carrizozo, 6th & E Street. Sunday: Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
METHODIST
United Methodist Church Parish
Trinity - 1000 D. Ave. 648-2893/648-2846, Carrizozo. Johanna Anderson, pastor. Sunday school 10:00 a.m.; Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice (Tues), 6:30 pm; United Methodist Women Every 3rd Wed. 1:00 pm; Fellowship Dinner 4th Sun. of month 12:30 pm.
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Carrizozo Community Church (A/G)
Johnnie L. Johnson, pastor. Corner of C Ave. & Thirteenth, 648-2186. Children's Church 10:30 am; Worship Service 10:30 am; Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 pm.
Carrizo Christian Fellowship Leonard Kanegawah III, Pastor. 56 White Mt. Dr., 3 mi. W. of Inn of the Mountain Gods Mesclero. Sundays 10:30 & 6:30, Wed. 6:30 378-1789

RELIGION

Domestic violence rampant

Our police chief, Lanny Maddox, brought an interesting report to the Rotary Club a week ago, Feb. 25. Ten years ago, the most frequent crime in Ruidoso was the burglary of vacation homes.

Then he asked the Rotarians what they thought the most frequent crime is today. Several answers were suggested and then Chief Maddox revealed the correct answer — domestic violence. Domestic violence basically takes three forms: mental, verbal, and physical abuse. And only about 20 to 30 percent of the incidents are reported to local authorities. With 70 to 80 percent unreported, the crime numbers are staggering.

More than 50 percent of the crimes of domestic violence occur with the involvement of alcohol and/or drugs. Ninety-nine percent of the time, a woman is abused by her husband, live-in boyfriend, or male companion. Only one out of a 100 involves the abuse of a male by a female. None of these figures include child abuse.

What are the circumstances that lead to domestic violence? A major contributor is that many females today are raised in homes where domestic violence is a common way of life. So they see domestic violence as a natural occurrence in a male-female relationship. They really do not know there is a better way of life. Women sometimes "ask for it" to fulfill what they see as "normal."

Another major factor is the inherent anger and rage that exists in many men today. Many men are angry because life isn't fair, expectations are not realized, and the frustration develops into anger. Combine the anger with a lack of coping skills and a lack of emotional discipline and the rage of domestic violence is unleashed.



Clary-fications
BY CHARLES CLARY
RUIDOSO PASTOR

There is not enough space in this column to further develop the issues that bring domestic violence into being. The question is, "What can be done to prevent domestic violence?" Many abused women call the police, but they will not press charges because they love the abuser, are trapped by the abuser, or can't get along without the abuser. And, of course, many more abused women do not call the police and accept abuse as a way of life.

To answer the question of prevention, we first must educate couples that there is a better way than domestic violence. Then, we must provide training in coping with conflicts that arise in every relationship. And, somehow, we must convince folks that physical harm, verbal put-downs, and mental torture are not acceptable solutions.

We must provide couples with help for today and hope for tomorrow on a village, county, and state level to overcome domestic violence. And remember, Jesus is our help for today and our hope for tomorrow.

More 'tough love' guides for helping a relationship

QUESTION: Previously, you explained the first nine principles of your "Love Must Be Tough" philosophy. What are the remaining eight?

DR. DOBSON: These eight "Love Must Be Tough" principles will help you avoid the common pitfalls of those who are trying to win the heart of another during the courtship phase:

10. Beware of blindness to obvious warning signs that tell you that your potential husband or wife is basically disloyal, hateful, spiritually uncommitted, hooked on drugs or alcohol, given to selfishness, etc. Believe me, a bad marriage is far worse than the most lonely instance of singleness.

11. Beginning early in the dating relationship, treat the other person with respect and expect the same in return. A man should open doors for a woman on formal evenings; a woman should speak respectfully of her escort when in public, etc. If you don't preserve this respectful attitude when the foundations of marriage are being laid, it will be virtually impossible to construct them later.

12. Do not equate human worth with flawless beauty or handsomeness! If you require physical perfection in your mate, he or she may make the same demands of you. Neither of you will retain it for long. Don't let love escape you because of the false values of

your culture.

13. If genuine love has escaped you thus far, don't begin believing "no one would ever want me." That is a deadly trap that can destroy you emotionally! Millions of people are looking for someone to love. The problem is finding one another!

14. Regardless of how brilliant the love affair has been, take time to "check your assumptions" with your partner before committing yourself to marriage. It is surprising how often men and women plunge toward matrimony without ever becoming aware of major differences in expectation between them.

15. Sexual familiarity can be deadly to a relationship. In addition to the many moral, spiritual and physical reasons for remaining virgins until marriage, there are numerous psychological and interpersonal advantages as well. Though it's an old-fashioned notion, perhaps, it is still true that men do not respect "easy" women and often become bored with those who have held nothing in reserve. Likewise, women often disrespect men who have only one thing on their minds. Both sexes need to remember how to use a very ancient word. It's pronounced "NO!"

16. Country singer Tom T. Hall wrote a song in which he revealed an understanding of the concept we have been describing. His lyric read, "If

you hold love too loosely then it flies away; if you hold love too tightly, it'll die. It's one of the mysteries of life." Hall's observation is accurate. If the commitment between a man and a woman is given insufficient importance in their lives, it will wither like a plant without water. The whole world knows that much. But fewer lovers seem to realize that extreme dependency can be just as deadly to a love affair. It has been said that the person who needs the other least will normally be in control of the relationship. I believe that to be true.

17. There is nothing about marriage that eliminates the basic need for freedom and respect in romantic interactions. Keep the mystery and the dignity in your relationship. If the other partner begins to feel trapped and withdraws for a time, grant him or her some space and pull back yourself. Do not build a cage around that person. Instead, release your grip with confidence while never appealing immorality or destructive behavior.

These are the basics of the "Love Must Be Tough" concept. I could list another 100 suggestions, but you get the idea.

Dr. Dobson is president of the nonprofit organization *Focus on the Family*, P.O. Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO. 80903; or www.family.org. Questions and answers are excerpted from "The Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide," published by Tyndale House.

Sponsored locally by Pastor Charles Clary.

Help from on high is really there

QUESTION: I know from reading your column that you sometimes get letters from people who blame God for all their problems. But I don't believe God cares what happens to us (if He even exists). We're on our own, and life is what we make of it. You probably don't agree, but what proof do you have? - C.U.



Billy Graham
MY ANSWER
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

ANSWER: Have you ever honestly faced what your view would mean, if it were true? It would mean there is no hope of life after death... no hope of ever seeing our loved ones again... no hope of divine assistance when we are sick or in despair... no hope

of any meaning or purpose in life. As the ancient writer of Ecclesiastes said before he met God, "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless!" (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

But I have good news: You don't have to live that way! The reason is because God not only exists but He loves you and wants you to come to know Him in a personal way. He wants to bring meaning and purpose into your life, and He wants to give you hope for the future.

Is this merely wishful thinking on my part? No, not at all — and the reason is because God has shown Himself to us. Do you want to

know what God is like? Look at Christ — for He was God in human flesh. As the Bible says, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3).

I know you may not believe this right now — but I challenge you to look honestly at Christ as He is presented in the pages of the Gospels. If you look at Him with an open heart and mind, you will never be the same.

Send your questions to: "My Answer," c/o Billy Graham, P.O. Box 779, Minneapolis, Minn. 55440, call 1-(877) 2-GRAHAM, or visit the BGEA Web site at www.billygraham.org.

Sponsored locally by Pastor Charles Clary.

RELIGIOUS BRIEFS

Bible study

The First Baptist Church of Ruidoso is sponsoring a community-wide men's Bible study starting Monday, March 10, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The first eight-week study will be "Secrets of the Vine" by

author Bruce Wilkinson. This study focuses on John 15:1-17. For more information, please call the church office, 257-2081.

Prayer day

First Christian Church will

celebrate World Day of Prayer today with a prayer vigil from sunrise to sunset. The sanctuary will be open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This international event is aimed at uniting all Christian men and women. To learn more, call 258-4250.

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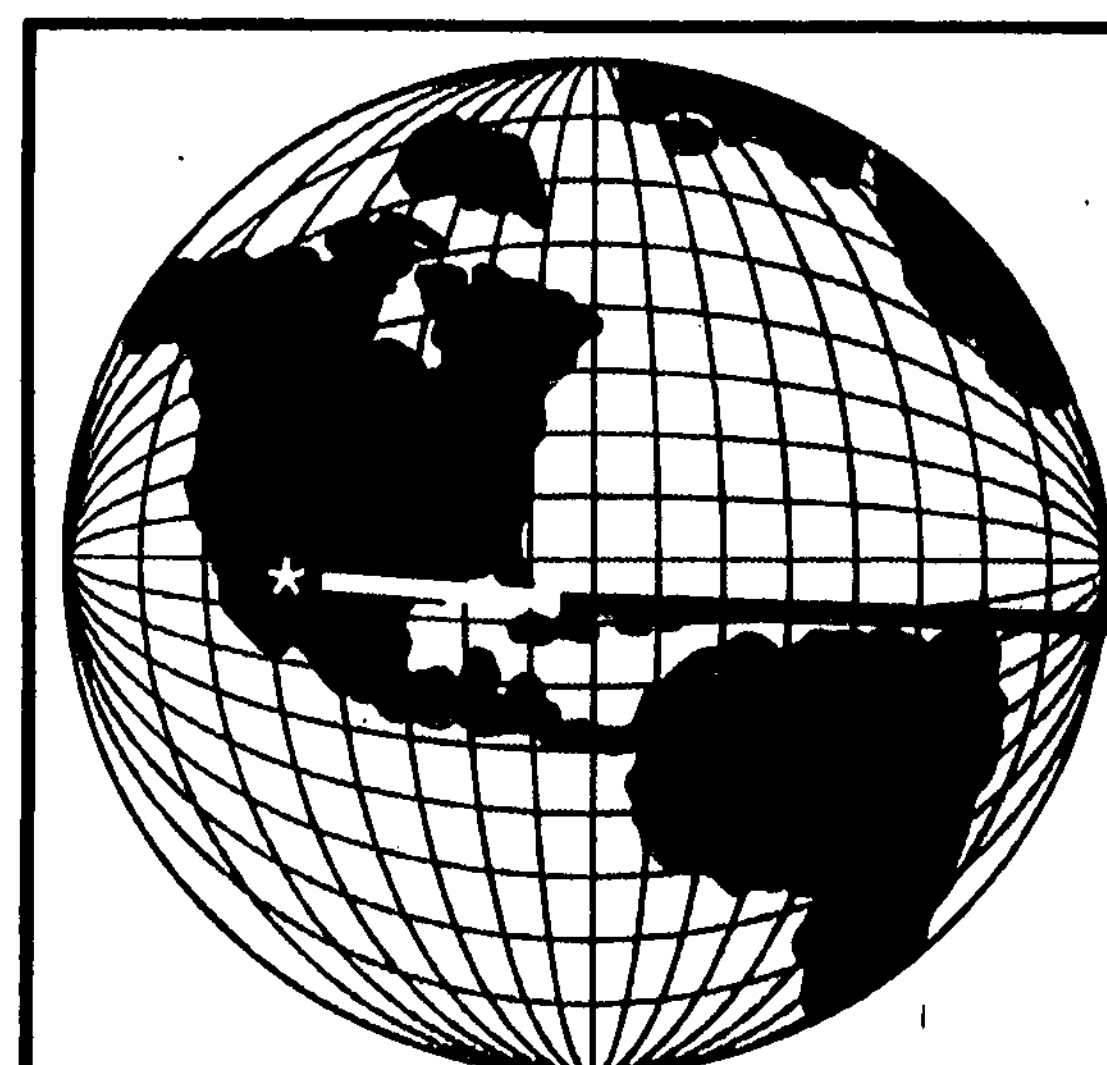
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'Pasha' Boyle and Chisum's 'Rustler War,' part 2 of 2

Andy Boyle, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, by the time he was in his '30s; had seen and done much in the post-Civil War West. Having lived in Missouri and worked as a cowboy in Texas and New Mexico, Andy, at the age of 39, found himself in the middle of a range war. Had he known that this war was just a small taste of the Lincoln County War that was to follow, he may well have relocated. It was known alternately as "Chisum's War," the "Pecos War," and the "Rustler War," and, unlike the upcoming Lincoln County War, this really was a range war. It was between cattle baron John Chisum and many of the small ranchers along the Pecos. Both factions, essentially, claimed the same grazing land as their own.

By this point in time, Andy had been appointed a Doña Ana County deputy sheriff. In December of 1876, there had been a shooting at Loving's Bend that left a Chisum associate named Yopp dead at the hands of small rancher Buck Powell, who was defending himself, and no charges were filed.

John Chisum had not gotten to where he was by letting anyone walk over him. In March of 1877, he sent an employee named Jim Highsaw down to the same cow camp where Yopp had died, with the intention of confronting small rancher Dick Smith with evidence that he had been stealing Chisum's "jinglebob" cattle and selling them in Texas.

Smith, guilty or not, took offense at the accusation and went for his gun, which turned out to be a terrible, terrible mistake. Jim Highsaw was no one to fool with, which was the reason Chisum sent him in the first place. In a situation that, Hollywood notwithstanding, almost never happened, both men, in a standup confrontation, went for their holstered pistols simultaneously.

Hightower was faster. Charges were filed against him for the death of Smith by Andy Boyle at Mesilla, where he was a deputy sheriff of Doña Ana County. The charges listed Jake Owen and Charles Perry, both small ranchers and friends of the deceased, as witnesses. They

testified that Smith died as a result of pistol shots fired by Highsaw, which struck Smith in the head, back and breast. Obviously, Highsaw was taking no chances and continued firing even as his opponent went down. He was never prosecuted because even Owen and Perry had to admit that it was a fair fight.

However, prior to Owen and Perry giving their testimony, Deputy Andy Boyle gathered a "posse" of 20 men, all of whom were small ranchers along the Pecos, and headed for Chisum's headquarters. Obviously, Andy favored the "little guys." He carried warrants for the arrest of Chisum, Highsaw, and Chisum associate Robert Wiley, a man who had been in the employ the late Mr. Yopp.

Surrounding the Chisum place, Andy and his posse exchanged shots with the inhabitants all day long with no effect. When night fell, they withdrew. On the 20th of April, 1877, Chisum, Wiley and 30 men headed for the Beckwith ranch after having discovered a cache of ears removed from Chisum cattle.

Chisum's "brand" was a long rail along the side of the steer, with the ear of the animal being mutilated in a particular fashion so as to make it unmistakably Chisum's. It was called the "jinglebob." There was no way to disguise it, so rustlers were forced to cut it entirely off. The long rail, of course, could be changed.

When Chisum and his men reached the Beckwith place, they surrounded it and began a three-day siege. Boyle sent Buck Powell and Charles Woltz on the long trip to Mesilla to procure warrants for the arrest of Chisum and the others. Before the pair's return, however, the siege took what might be called a comical turn when Chisum ordered his cowboys to rush the buildings. The cowboys immediately took a quick "time out" and conferred amongst themselves for a few moments. They then informed Chisum that he was paying them \$30 a month to be cowboys, not gunmen. Chisum, tightwad that he was, refused to pay them more and the

siege ended on the spot when the cowboys simply left. By the time Andy and his posse caught up with Chisum, "Uncle" John had come down with smallpox, and Boyle decided to let the matter drop. The "Pecos War," or whatever you want to call it, was over.

Lincoln County

The small ranchers along the Pecos were to become known as the "Seven Rivers Warriors" during the Lincoln County War. Primarily, their enemy was Chisum and when they found that Chisum was the silent partner of Tunstall and McSween up in Lincoln, the two merchants became their enemies as well. Andy had had dealings with Murphy and Dolan that were positive and he was a close friend of Murphy/Dolan silent partner Johnny Riley, so it is safe to say that he was solidly in Jimmy Dolan's camp.

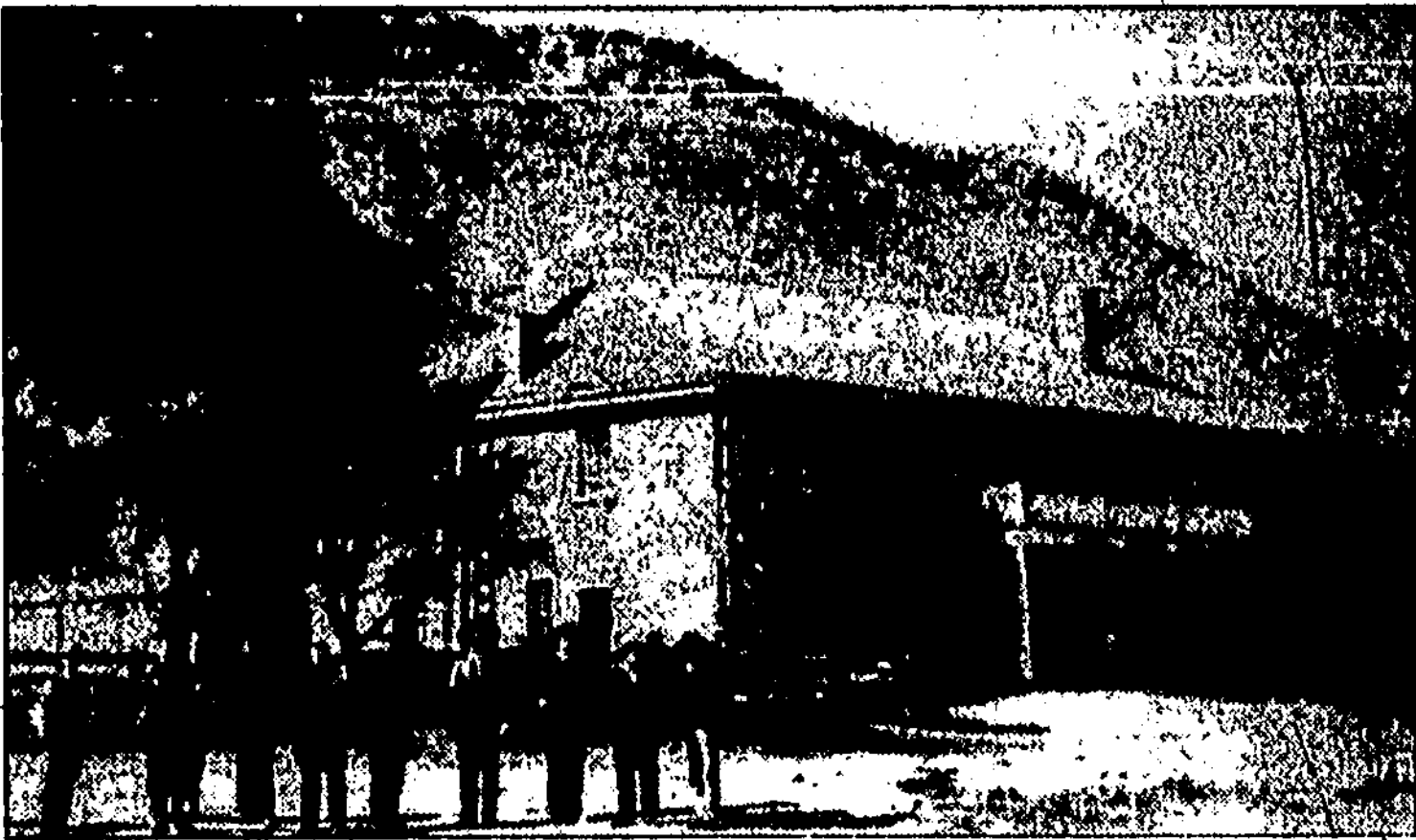
He was prominently mentioned by Alexander McSween in a letter to the Mesilla Independent, dated Dec. 3, 1877. By that time, the Lincoln County War was building to flashpoint, which would come at a lonely place in the mountains on Feb. 18, 1878, a little more than two months later.

In McSween's letter, he starts out speaking of all the thievery that has been going on recently and of the escape of the outlaw group known as "The Boys": "Since that Saturday morning that shrouded us in disgrace we have maintained the silence of the dead in these matters. Among the rescuers of 'the boys' was their ally and champion, the famous Pasha Boyle, the distinguished historian of the 'Pecos War,' having by that history gained a clear right to be called the champion falsifier of 1877."

There was no love lost between McSween and Boyle. Andy would later testify that McSween had offered to buy cattle from him (and others) without questioning their origin, as long as they weren't Chisum's.

The War

Throughout the Lincoln County War, Andy Boyle served as a loyal soldier to Jimmy Dolan, just as he had years before for Queen Victoria. On Sunday, July 14, 1878, the Regulators thundered into Lincoln with McSween at their head. The



The Lincoln County Courthouse was, and still is, one of the most recognizable buildings in Lincoln.

Murphy/Dolan forces were woefully unprepared, with most of them being in San Patricio looking for the Regulators. When the Regulators arrived in Lincoln, they took position up and down the street, with men in the Ellis Store and house, the Montano Store, the Tunstall Store (the three men in it would later move out back into an outbuilding, possibly to spare the Ealy family, who inhabited it. Too bad. The place is a fortress), and the McSween house, just west of the Tunstall Store.

The Regulators had driven a wedge between the small contingent of Dolan's force that had been present. Seven of Jimmy's men had fortified up in the Torreon, an adobe tower built by the original settlers (which still stands), and the few others in town, including Andy Boyle and Jimmy Dolan himself, had barricaded themselves in the Wortley Hotel.

Buck Powell, who had been commanding the Dolan force at San Patricio, was sent for and he and the rest of the Dolan faction came howling into town around six in the evening. Despite much gunfire, the only casualty was a horse.

It was during this Five Day Battle that Andy was one of the few soldiers of either side to distinguish himself. By the fifth day, Dolan's forces had surrounded the McSween house, which had become the last bastion of the Regulators.

A bullet fired from Tunstall's grain shed out back of his store had nicked Andy in the neck, so he had been bloodied already when he performed one of the few brave acts of that bloody week.

Boyle and others had posted themselves on top of a small stable with a lumber pile on its roof at the rear western side of the McSween

house. In that position, they were closer than anyone else to the McSween place. And so, despite his wound, Andy and someone known as "The Dummy" made their way, as best they could, with bullets whistling around them, to the rear corner of the house. ("The Dummy" is one of the great mystery men of the Lincoln County War. Apparently he was neither deaf nor dumb, but preferred that everyone think he was both. The 21st century certainly has no corner on the weirdo market.)

When Boyle and the Dummy reached the house, they piled kindling and wood shavings at the northwest corner, at a lean-to known as the summer kitchen and poured coal oil on it. Then, they lit it. This was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

(Note: According to Susan McSween, there were no heroics involved. She claimed that both Andy and the Dummy did what they did at the point of a gun in the hands of Milo Pierce, who felt they weren't carrying their weight.)

The "Big Killing"

By the time darkness fell, the flames from the McSween house were illuminating the surrounding hills, the women had been permitted to leave, and the men were gathered in the last room. The situation was desperate. Billy the Kid took command. For the first time – and devised a strategy. The Kid's plan was simple. He would lead a decoy party, who would "run fast and shoot fast" while the other inhabitants attempted to make their escape.

First, Billy and his men tried to get as far as they could away from the house in the shadows. When they were seen, they bolted – running fast and shooting fast – for the Tunstall Store to the east. One

of them, Harvey Morris – who had come west for his health – took one in the head and dropped in his tracks near the gate on the fence at the eastern edge of the McSween property. The others, forced by the gunfire to race down the hill and across the Rio Bonito to the north, splashed across the river and lost themselves in the trees on the other side.

At this point, Andy Boyle himself provides a pretty good description of what happened next: "When the first party escaped McSween and two Mexicans got as far as the back house (a chicken coop), and Harvey Morris fell as he was going out the gate. McSween and the two men was back in the corner and stayed about five minutes. They then tried to run out the gate a second time, we shot at them and they again ran back, stayed there about 10 minutes more. McSween called out I shall surrender." Robert Beckwith replied I have got a warrant for you. He went then at the back door to Serve the Warrant. McSween replied I shall never surrender, then the fire became Promiscuous and that was the time the Big Killing was made... Robert Beckwith fell... with McSween on top of him and two Mexicans right beside them. Two more Mexicans went into the Chicken House, and two fell between the door and the back of the house."

Later, Boyle and noted badman John Kinney would rather ungallantly threaten Susan McSween's life, only to find themselves being shamed into withdrawing by her great courage and pride.

The Lincoln County War was over, as was Andy Boyle's contribution to history, it would seem, at least at this point. After the war, Andy seems to just fade away. Even the date on his tombstone at Seven Rivers is illegible – it is May 14, but whether it is 1882 or 1887 is anyone's guess. And that is pretty much the way it goes when you try to follow the dim historical trails that many of these people left. And it is that sort of detective work that also makes it fascinating.

Sources: Andrew Boyle by T. Dudley Cramer and A Documentary History of the Lincoln County War by Frederick Nolan.

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CHIROPRACTIC OUTLOOK

by Dr. Jack V. Waters
Chiropractic Physician

SHOULDERING THE PAIN

The shoulder is a complex and highly functional body part. Its make-up allows us to reach in different directions and to use our hands and arms in numerous ways. Although the shoulder joint has great range of motion, however, it is highly vulnerable to strain and overwork.

As a person ages the tissue connecting the upper arm to the shoulder blade will degenerate, especially when the same types of shoulder motions are repeated. This can happen, for example, when baseball pitchers continually throw overhand. With time the rotator cuff which allows the rotation of the arm may become inflamed, tear, and cause a great deal of pain.

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Mexico trip a memorable one

My first trip out of the United States was as a youngster. Our family would visit relatives in El Paso, Texas, and we would take a rare one-day trip to neighboring Juarez to see the sights and sounds. I recall a border sign: "Illegal to cross arms." My siblings and I would cross our arms and giggle.

I am not a world traveler. I stick close to Lincoln County. I was thrilled when the opportunity arose to be a participant of the "Ag in the Classroom" project. The trip offered a once-in-a-lifetime chance to go "way, way into Mexico" in the state of Chihuahua. After obtaining the necessary paperwork, like a birth certificate, I packed my suitcases. (By the way, the details I gained at the vital records office in Alamogordo proved "revealing," enough information for future columns.)

I arrived at the NMSU campus, where a chartered bus

waited. My fellow travel classmates had itty-bitty purses and a single suitcase each. Right then and there I reduced my travel clothes and other items to one small suitcase. I put some of the items from my large shoulder bag into a "fanny pack." Relatives who took me to the campus saved my excess belongings until I returned from Mexico.

Armed with a tablet, pens, and three disposable cameras, I boarded the bus and claimed a seat right behind the bus driver and across from the NMSU trip director. From there I peppered them with questions about the sights flashing by as we headed into Mexico. (I chose not to take my bulky 35mm camera and I had not as yet purchased my feather-light digital camera.)

Recently I reviewed my Mexican trip notes and photographs. With spring and summer coming up perhaps column readers will be inspired to visit

Mexico when I tell of the fascinating Mexican sights and sounds I saw as a grown up. The three-day "Ag in the Classroom" adventure was educational and eye opening. One stop that caught my attention was Paquimé. Within the large zone of influence of the Paquimé culture is Madera, an agricultural cattle-raising town.

The archaeological ruins are silent evidence of this pre-Hispanic culture. The original city covered an area of approximately 2,000 acres, of which 40 acres have been excavated. The ancient Paquimé culture developed more than 1,500 years ago, when Mogollón groups occupied the northeast region of Mexico.

When the Spanish arrived, Paquimé already was an abandoned city. Its architecture amazed the conqueror Francisco de Ibarra. He described the enormous buildings of six and seven floors, the towers, the city walls, magnificent patios and plazas. He was inspired to call it Casas Grandes. Among the art of the Paquimés, the most important are the works of pottery. At the nearby town of Juan Mata Ortiz, the pottery workers keep this ancient tradition.



Art, Craft and Such
PRACTICAL, CREATIVE WAYS
TO INCLUDE FUN IN
EVERYDAY LIVING
BY POLLY E. CHAVEZ

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

Tears of the Sun

Thriller and Action/Adventure
Rated R for strong war violence, some brutality and language.
In director Antoine Fuqua's (Training Day) new action-adventure film, Bruce Willis stars as Lt. A.K. Waters, the loyal veteran officer of a Navy SEAL unit. When he's sent into the heart of Africa, the usually hard-bitten Waters finds himself deeply conflicted at having to choose between following orders and the dictates of his own conscience. Though a fictionalization, Tears of the Sun deals with the gritty realism of human conflict as Lt. Waters travels to war-torn central Africa to rescue Dr. Lena Kendricks (Monica Bellucci), a U.S. citizen who runs a mission in the countryside. But when Lt. Waters arrives Dr. Kendricks refuses to abandon the refugees under her care. She implores Waters to escort them on a dangerous trek through the dense jungle to the nearby border. During the journey the S.E.A.L.s find themselves the unwitting guardians of a man sought by the rebel militia. This further endangers their already hazardous mission, but all the while strengthening Waters' resolve to protect Lena and the refugees, and to deliver them safely across the border.
Starring: Bruce Willis, Monica Bellucci, Cole Hauser, Fionnula Flanagan, Tom Skerritt
Directed by: Antoine Fuqua
Produced by: Mike Lobell, Arnold Rifkin, Bruce Willis
Written by: Patrick Cirillo, Alex Lasker
Showtimes: 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
*Friday and Saturday only

1 hr. 40 min.

Rated PG-13 for sexual content and dialogue, violence and thematic elements.
It's the long-awaited film version of the Broadway hit. Set in the roaring '20s, this is the story of Chicago chorus girl Roxie Hart (Zellweger), who shoots her unfaithful lover (West). Landing in jail, she meets Velma Kelly (Zeta-Jones), another chorus girl and murderess, currently enjoying media attention and legal manipulation, care of her attorney, Billy Flynn (Gere), king of the old "Razzle Dazzle." Soon enough, however, Flynn takes Roxie's case as well, and Velma finds herself old news as Roxie is now the most famous murderess in town, on her way to getting out of jail and becoming a star. The two go through a series of attempts at getting what they both want (often conflicting): freedom and fame.
Starring: Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Gere, Christine Baranski, Queen Latifah
Directed by: Rob Marshall
Produced by: Marty Richards, Harvey Weinstein
Written by: Bill Condon, Fred Ebb
Showtimes: 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
*Friday and Saturday only



Bruce Willis and Monica Bellucci in Columbia's Tears of the Sun

Bringing Down the House

Crime/Gangster, Comedy and Romance, 1 hr. 45 min.
Rated PG-13 for language, sexual humor and drug material.
When a lonely guy (Martin) meets a woman (Latifah) on the Internet who happens to be in prison, she breaks out to be with him, and proceeds to wreak havoc on his middle-class life.
Starring: Queen Latifah, Steve Martin, Eugene Levy, Joan Plowright, Missi Pyle
Directed by: Adam Shankman
Produced by: Ashok Amritraj, David Hoberman, Todd Lieberman
Written by: Jason Filardi
Showtimes: 1 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m.
*Friday and Saturday only

Chicago
Crime/Gangster, Musical/Performing Arts, Drama and Comedy

Visitors, locals on a bear hunt during first arts event of spring

BY MARY LEA LANE
RUIDOSO ARTS COORDINATOR

Winter is over and spring is upon us. Soon the skiers will exit our beautiful village, and the arts will again take center stage.

The first arts event of the season for the Ruidoso Arts Commission is a big street party, a free party, planned for everyone to see, "the Great Unveiling" of the Great Bear Hunt! On Saturday of Easter weekend - April 19 - from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. in School House Park on Sudderth, there will be music, food and soft drinks available. Beginning about 12:30, each of the 23 bears of The Great Bear Hunt will be put on public display for the first time!

Following the unveiling party, the bears will be installed throughout Ruidoso and Ruidoso Downs at locations selected by the sponsor of each bear. Throughout the summer, the whole family can enjoy The Great Bear Hunt together. Using maps with contest entry forms that will be available at the Chamber of Commerce and other rack locations throughout town, hunters will locate each bear and record its special nickname. Completed entry forms can be entered into a drawing to win special weekend getaway prizes.

The Great Bear Hunt collectibles and memorabilia will be available at specified

"Bear Markets" throughout the village and at various other outlets.

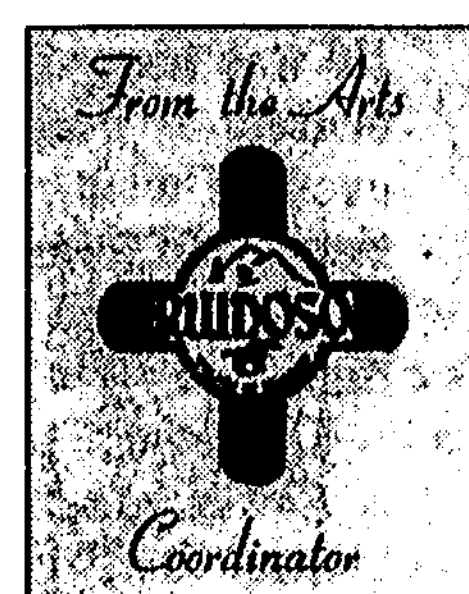
These large bears, designed and painted by area artists, will remain in place until early October when they will be placed on the auction block. All proceeds from this major public art project of the Arts Commission will be used to develop a cultural arts center to serve area kids, adults, and tourists.

A call has been issued for artists to submit entries in the second Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit. Exhibition pieces will be selected from existing works that are appropriate for outdoor exhibit.

The sculptures will be installed on public lands and will be seen primarily from passing cars.

The exhibit will run from May 18 through October of 2003, although selected works may remain in place until May 1 of the following year. For more information call Pat Huckins, chair of the Outdoor Sculpture Committee, at 257-9281, or the Arts Coordinator at 378-4302.

Street performers of all kinds are needed to help create a very special atmosphere in Midtown, on Saturdays throughout the summer. If your art form can be adapted to performing on the street, please call 378-4302 very soon so that you can be included in our scheduling.



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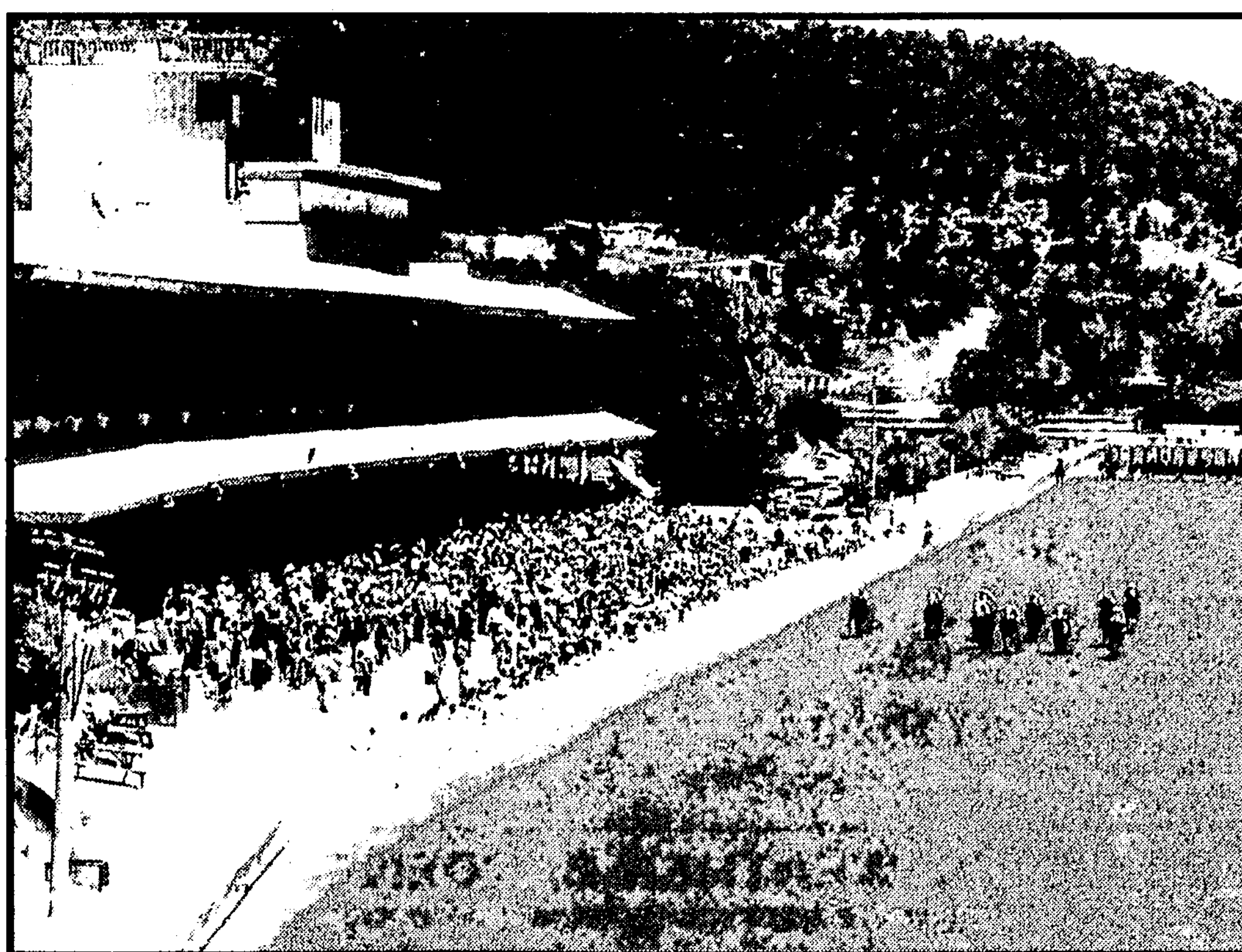
in Santa Fe is the oldest government building in the U.S. The Spanish built it as part of a fortress during the winter of 1609-1610. In 1909, it was converted to the Palace of the Governors History Museum. It now houses exhibits on Spanish, Mexican, and American colonization dating back to the late 1500s.

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A grand opening

The Ruidoso Schools Performing Arts Center celebrated its grand opening March 2 with student art work from the middle and high schools, musical ensembles and vocalists, a one-act play by high school drama students and middle and high school band and choir performances.

The theater was approved by voters in a bond issue in 1997, and the Fine Arts Committee, consisting of school arts staff and community members collaborated with the architectural firm of Greer Stafford of Albuquerque on the design. The total cost of the performing arts center was about \$2.6 million.



SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF



Suzanna Lester, above at left, was one of several soloists who performed in the foyer at the grand opening of the new performing arts center at Ruidoso High School. Above left: The Ruidoso High School drama students were the first performers to use the brand new stage, with their one-act play, "Help Wanted." Far left: Young and old tried out the new seats in the auditorium at the theater's opening. Left: A vocal quintet performed in the foyer while visitors toured the new theater. They are, from left, Raymond Dobbs, Cody Hoffman, Dillon Hoffman, Shane Hoffman and Greg Urschel.

Canada offers plenty of reasons to go north, young man (or woman)

We've all heard the infamous words of newspaperman Horace Greeley, "Go West, young man, go West." But for those of us wise enough to call the West home, why not "Go North" this summer?

Mountains don't recognize borders — and neither should you. If you're on the lookout for an ideal summer vacation, look no further than a visit to the Canadian Rockies. Canada is familiar, safe, accessible, an adventure and — don't forget — a good value (\$1 US = \$1.48 CAD).

The Canadian Rockies form an awe-inspiring landscape of snowcapped peaks, glaciers and icefields, multi-hued lakes, and rushing rivers, plunging valleys and a who's-who of wildlife: black and grizzly bear, caribou, bighorn sheep, elk, deer, coyote, wolf, cougar and eagle. The western provinces of British Columbia and Alberta offer the scenic natural wonders of Banff and Jasper national parks, the lively cosmopolitan cities of Vancouver and Calgary, and the Old-English charm of Victoria, British Columbia's capital city.

Last August, we joined Collette Vacations' 11-day tour of the Canadian Rockies. Flying into Vancouver, British Columbia, we began a tour rich with opportunities to explore the great outdoors and visit a number of Canada's modern cities. The tour also included

the crown jewels of a treasure trove of national parks, Banff and Jasper national parks, and picturesque Lake Louise — one of the Rockies' most famous beauty spots.

Our first day was spent touring Vancouver. Situated between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains, this green and vibrant city combines a diverse heritage with a thriving arts, cultural and outdoor scene. Led by an informative local guide, the tour included some of the city's most popular sights: Stanley Park; Bloedel Conservatory; Chinatown; and Gastown, Vancouver's turn-of-the-century pedestrian mall and home of the world-famous steam-powered clock.

The next morning, a ferry ride across the Straits of Georgia took us to Vancouver Island and the famed Butchart Gardens, a veritable explosion of color and fragrance. Then it was off to Victoria, a charming Old-English town and the provincial capital of British Columbia. The delightful island city bursts with flowers, pedestrian-friendly shopping streets, outdoor cafes, strolling musicians, street performers and interesting museums.

After spending the morning exploring on our own, we joined a whale-watching cruise that provided exciting up-close encounters with Orca whales and interesting information about

whale behavior and habitats.

From Victoria a ferry took us back to the mainland where we traveled south into the heartland of British Columbia to the Okanagan Valley, Canada's best-known fruit and wine growing region, and the friendly city of Kelowna, ideally situated on the scenic shore of Okanagan Lake.

Our fourth day was one of sightseeing and touring, turning the windows of our bus into an endless succession of picture postcards. The day began with a drive along the picturesque lake and continued into the mountains of Revelstoke National Park. Then it was on to Glacier and Yoho national parks and across the Continental Divide to Emerald Lake, a true jewel among towering peaks. The day concluded with a stay at one of Canada's premier resorts, the luxurious Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise which overlooks the turquoise waters of Lake Louise and Victoria Glacier.

The following morning, we visited Lake Moraine and the Valley of Ten Peaks, a staggering landscape dominated by snow-capped, 10,675-foot Mount Fay. The remainder of the day was spent on our own back at Lake Louise canoeing and hiking.

Departing Lake Louise the next morning we began the amazing journey along the Icefields Parkway to Jasper National Park. This stretch of highway



COURTESY THE BARONES

Lake Moraine in western Canada provides a rather dramatic backdrop.

is considered by many to be the most spectacular in the Canadian National Parks system, offering a panoramic view of majestic mountains, glacier waterfalls, icefalls, and snowfields.

Using the town of Jasper as our home base, we spent the following day on a boat exploring one of the prettiest bodies of water in the Canadian Rockies, Maligne Lake.

Next, we headed for Banff National Park, retracing our route along the beautiful Icefields Parkway. This time the trip was highlighted with a stop at Athabasca Glacier — one of many "rivers of ice" flowing from the Columbia Icefield — where we enjoyed a memorable ride in a "Snocoach," a gigantic glacier vehicle that travels along the surface of the 1,000-foot-deep glacier.

We continued on to Banff, the garden spot of Alberta. Banff is Canada's first national park, as well as one of the largest. The village of Banff lies in a sto-

rybook setting, surrounded by icefields, snow-capped mountains, blue glaciers, deep evergreen forests and rugged alpine meadows. After a gondola trip up Sulphur Mountain, we had the rest of the day to explore. Lodged in the historic, castle-like Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, the resort offers plenty to do including an outstanding golf course, a world-class spa, and spectacular views of the valley and surrounding mountains.

The tour's final day started with a morning visit to Banff's lovely Bow Falls and the Hoodoos (free-standing pillars eroded by wind and rain) followed by a visit to Calgary for an overnight in one of Canada's most modern and exciting cities.

We certainly found Canada an exciting and awe-inspiring destination. For those of you who follow our lead to "Go North" this summer, you won't be disappointed.

For more information contact Collette Vacations (1-800-340-5158 or <http://www.collettevacations.com>.) For years Collette Vacations has featured a last-minute, cancel-for-any-reason plan. This year, it has bundled that waiver with a trip-interruption plan that includes medical coverage and offers a cash refund.

The Barones are full-time freelance travel writers and photographers operating out of their home in Alto. To learn more, visit their Web site at <http://www.intlmediagroup.com> or contact them by E-mail at barones@intlmediagroup.com.

Friday lecture

The First Friday Adult Lecture at Capitan Library at 7 p.m. today will be by Nina Ross, who will share her experiences of traveling with her family in a covered wagon from Southwestern Oklahoma to New Mexico in 1923: "Moving to the West in a Covered Wagon." Admission is free.

Healing class

"The Heart of Healing Mind, Body and Spirit," taught by Rahul Patel will be offered at High Mesa Healing Center 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 8, with a 90-minute lunch break. Cost of the workshop is \$75. For more information, call Barbara Mader at 336-4808 or 336-7777.

School art show

The Hubbard Museum of the American West opens the Seventh Annual Henriette Wyeth Memorial School Art Show 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, with the high school exhibition, displaying two and three-dimensional works in a variety of mediums. Student works from Capitan, Carrizozo, Cloudcroft, Mesalero Apache School and Ruidoso High will be represented. The show closes at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 23. For more information, contact The Hubbard Museum at (505) 378-4142.

REDTT meeting

The Lincoln County Rural Economic Development Through Tourism (REDTT) council will meet at 10 a.m.

Monday, March 10, at Smokey Bear Restaurant, Highway 380 in Capitan. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

Singles to meet

Lincoln County Adult Singles Group will meet at Casa Blanca Restaurant at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 13. All adult singles are welcome.

Young actors needed

Auditions for two children to perform in "South Pacific" with the Ruidoso High School Drama Club are scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 9, in the choir room or the theater at the Fine Arts Building of Ruidoso High School, 125 Warrior Drive. The parts are for an 8-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl, said drama

teacher Cathi McIntosh.

The children will need to sing a French song and speak a few lines in French, so auditioners need to be able to learn or speak and sing in French.

Call for artists

The Rio Grande Art Association of Albuquerque invites artists to participate in its first statewide spring show May 2-11 in the Fine Arts Building of New Mexico State Fair Grounds.

Entries by slides are due March 15 and notification will be given by April 4. Deadline for shipped work to arrive at mail bank is April 29. For more information, contact Freida Thorsen at (505) 293-3811 or Nancy Singleton at (505) 286-4694.

Hubbard art classes

The Hubbard Museum of the American West is offering family art classes. Art instructor, Franci Bergener from Capitan High School will kick off the classes with the fun, colorful art of scratchboard. Her class takes place on from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 22, and is open to families with children ages 9 and above.

On Saturday, March 29, Ole George Tippin, an artist who creates with natural products, will instruct the class in pine needle basketry. This class is limited to students age 14 and above and their parents. The basketry class runs from 9 a.m. to noon. Please contact Elizabeth Becker at (505) 378-4142 for information on registration and fees.

Zia Festival

The Third Annual Zia Festival, to be held July 12 and 13 at Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino, invites vendors of arts, crafts and products produced in New Mexico to contact Kristian Lovelace at 505-378-4431 or e-mail at rdri@zianet.com.

Last year, more than 10,000 people attended the Zia Festival, with live entertainment and activities during the day, as well as first-class racing. On Sunday, July 13, the race track will highlight New Mexico-bred horses by running 11 stakes races for horses born in New Mexico. Cost for the weekend for vendors is \$100, due by April 31, with late registration \$150; due by May 1. Set up for both days is by 10 a.m.

HOME & FAMILY

One extended family is formed by these two therapeutic foster parents, Patricia Seymour, left, and her daughter, Lisa Daniel, with her 3-year-old son Jayden on her lap. Seymour and Daniel are able to give each other respite, so the young people are kept entirely in the family. The figures hanging on the wall behind them is a family composite made by some of the foster children. From left are a dog or cat, a little girl, a therapist, a mom, a baby and a dad.



SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

teaching home parents

They commit months to teach troubled youngsters how to live normal lives

BY SANDY SUGGITT

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lisa Daniel is a professional parent. She is a therapeutic foster parent, or a teaching home parent, and mothers her own two children as well as a child with a behavioral or emotional problem.

Since she got her teaching home parent license in 1996, she's had six children between the ages of 6 and 17 placed in her home (one at a time) for six months to a year to learn how to live in a family.

The first time took some adjustment. Her own son was about 6 years old then, and a 16-year-old boy was placed in her home for a year and a half.

"It was so new, dealing with a teenager and the emotional stuff with regular teenagers. You learn in time to deal with the problems. The kids get shocked when they come into the home and don't get yelled at and screamed or hit. They come to develop a sense of safety and they really enjoy the structure."

Daniel and 19 others in the area are teaching home parents with Raindancer Youth Services Inc., a state-licensed, nonprofit corporation that designs and implements programs for youth. Many of the young clients are referred by the Juvenile Probation Office and come with a diagnosis, said Terry Fritz, another teaching home parent and the secretary for the Ruidoso office.

Connie Thornton is one of three treatment coordinators working out of the Ruidoso office. She supervises the parents licensed as therapeutic foster care parents. These parents receive 40 hours of training before working toward their license, and 24 hours of ongoing training each year.

Thornton maintains contact with the families by home visits twice a month and a minimum of two phone calls a week. "They have knowledge in the field, and we get together and decide the best route for kids based on whatever behavior is presented," Thornton said.

"There's always something going on with the kids, so you're always trying different rewards and consequences," Fritz said.

The young people understand that the purpose of the program is to teach them family skills, progressing "from discipline to self-discipline, dependency to independence, irresponsibility to responsibility, gradually experiencing personal and social maturation processes

and accountability for the freedoms and accompanying responsibilities of a democratic society." That is the Raindancer program description.

A treatment team, consisting of the treatment coordinator, a therapist, the natural parents or guardians, a caseworker and someone from the school, assesses the child, and then develops an individualized treatment plan. Youth advance in eight areas, receiving more privileges and freedoms as they advance in behavioral skills, cultural enrichment, education, health, life skills, personal development, social skills and therapy.

The treatment team meets once a month to discuss the child's progress, Thornton said. Court-appointed special advocates are also on the treatment team if the child is involved in a custody dispute, and sometimes a juvenile probation and parole officer.

Fritz said the team decides what the problems and issues are and sets goals and methods to achieve those goals as a treatment plan.

Teaching home parents tend to be very structured and goal oriented, offering motivations for appropriate behavior.

"When they first come into the home, they can't believe the structure and don't want it," Daniel said. "After a period of time, they do. It takes an average of four months to get broken in; then they're ready to work the program."

Teaching home parents are not allowed to "hit, scold or shame," when the youth break the rules, though. "It's all positive motivations," Fritz said. "Rewards, allowances, privileges such as watching television, getting a new pair of blue jeans, a haircut or their nails done."

The youth voluntarily come to the program and sign a packet of rules of behavior that includes not using alcohol or drugs, not engaging in sexual activity or breaking the law, not fighting, swearing or talking negatively, and being responsible for their own actions.

The coming together of a child and a carefully selected teaching home parent is gradual, and begins with a one-day visit to the child's current facility, taking him or her to lunch and "going on feeling," Daniel said. "If they're feeling confident with you and vice versa, then you have a 48-hour visit together at the parent's home."

"First you show them around your home and get a feeling for how your children are interacting with them. Then we go over the things we do on a daily basis and get their reactions," Daniel said.

After that is a 72-hour visit, and by then the child and the therapeutic foster parent have a pretty good idea about whether the relationship will work.

The steps involved in this are necessary because both parties are committing to about a year of their lives, Fritz pointed out.

"The ultimate goal is to try to reunite them for family or independent living," Daniel said. "The main goal is to help them learn how to function in a normal home atmosphere. This program is an awesome thing — a 24-hour-a-day commitment to guide a child in new behaviors and a new way to function."

"Sometimes it means teaching them how to do laundry or how to go to the fridge and get juice," Fritz said. "Even though they're 14 or 15, if they've lived at Allsup's all their lives on Twinkies and soda pop, they don't know how to do that. Food is always an issue. They'll often hoard their food and you'll find a bowl of oatmeal in their rooms that's three years old because they didn't know there's another meal coming."

The young people learn to cook, clean their room, wash their clothes — and to go to school everyday, which is novel for some of them.

"These kids come from an environment where school was not important, and all of us consider education the way for them to move into a better life," Fritz said.

The teaching home parents meet monthly to exchange ideas and share thoughts, and other people are trained and licensed to fill in for the parents when they need some time off.

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HOME & FAMILY

One extended family is formed by these two therapeutic foster parents, Patricia Seymour, left, and her daughter, Lisa Daniel, with her 3-year-old son Jayden on her lap. Seymour and Daniel are able to give each other respite, so the young people are kept entirely in the family. The figures hanging on the wall behind them is a family composite made by some of the foster children. From left are a dog or cat, a little girl, a therapist, a mom, a baby and a dad.



SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

teaching home parents

They commit months to teach troubled youngsters how to live normal lives

BY SANDY SUGGITT
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lisa Daniel is a professional parent. She is a therapeutic foster parent, or a teaching home parent, and mothers her own two children as well as a child with a behavioral or emotional problem.

Since she got her teaching home parent license in 1996, she's had six children between the ages of 6 and 17 placed in her home (one at a time) for six months to a year to learn how to live in a family.

The first time took some adjustment. Her own son was about 6 years old then, and a 16-year-old boy was placed in her home for a year and a half.

"It was so new, dealing with a teenager and the emotional stuff with regular teenagers. You learn in time to deal with the problems. The kids get shocked when they come into the home and don't get yelled at and screamed or hit. They come to develop a sense of safety and they really enjoy the structure."

Daniel and 19 others in the area are teaching home parents with Raindancer Youth Services Inc., a state-licensed, nonprofit corporation that designs and implements programs for youth. Many of the young clients are referred by the Juvenile Probation Office and come with a diagnosis, said Terry Fritz, another teaching home parent and the secretary for the Ruidoso office.

Connie Thornton is one of three treatment coordinators working out of the Ruidoso office. She supervises the parents licensed as therapeutic foster care parents. These parents receive 40 hours of training before working toward their license, and 24 hours of ongoing training each year.

Thornton maintains contact with the families by home visits twice a month and a minimum of two phone calls a week. "They have knowledge in the field, and we get together and decide the best route for kids based on whatever behavior is presented," Thornton said.

"There's always something going on with the kids, so you're always trying different rewards and consequences," Fritz said.

The young people understand that the purpose of the program is to teach them family skills, progressing "from discipline to self-discipline, dependency to independence, irresponsibility to responsibility, gradually experiencing personal and social maturation processes

and accountability for the freedoms and accompanying responsibilities of a democratic society." That is the Raindancer program description.

A treatment team, consisting of the treatment coordinator, a therapist, the natural parents or guardians, a caseworker and someone from the school, assesses the child, and then develops an individualized treatment plan. Youth advance in eight areas, receiving more privileges and freedoms as they advance in behavioral skills, cultural enrichment, education, health, life skills, personal development, social skills and therapy.

The treatment team meets once a month to discuss the child's progress, Thornton said. Court-appointed special advocates are also on the treatment team if the child is involved in a custody dispute, and sometimes a juvenile probation and parole officer.

Fritz said the team decides what the problems and issues are and sets goals and methods to achieve those goals as a treatment plan.

Teaching home parents tend to be very structured and goal oriented, offering motivations for appropriate behavior.

"When they first come into the home, they can't believe the structure and don't want it," Daniel said. "After a period of time, they do. It takes an average of four months to get broken in; then they're ready to work the program."

Teaching home parents are not allowed to "hit, scold or shame," when the youth break the rules, though. "It's all positive motivations," Fritz said. "Rewards, allowances, privileges such as watching television, getting a new pair of blue jeans, a haircut or their nails done."

The youth voluntarily come to the program and sign a packet of rules of behavior that includes not using alcohol or drugs, not engaging in sexual activity or breaking the law, not fighting, swearing or talking negatively, and being responsible for their own actions.

The coming together of a child and a carefully selected teaching home parent is gradual, and begins with a one-day visit to the child's current facility, taking him or her to lunch and "going on feeling," Daniel said. "If they're feeling confident with you and vice versa, then you have a 48-hour visit together at the parent's home."

"First you show them around your home and get a feeling for how your children are interacting with them. Then we go over the things we do on a daily basis and get their reactions," Daniel said.

After that is a 72-hour visit, and by then the child and the therapeutic foster parent have a pretty good idea about whether the relationship will work.

The steps involved in this are necessary because both parties are committing to about a year of their lives, Fritz pointed out.

"The ultimate goal is to try to reunite them for family or independent living," Daniel said. "The main goal is to help them learn how to function in a normal home atmosphere. This program is an awesome thing — a 24-hour-a-day commitment to guide a child in new behaviors and a new way to function."

"Sometimes it means teaching them how to do laundry or how to go to the fridge and get juice," Fritz said. "Even though they're 14 or 15, if they've lived at Allsup's all their lives on Twinkies and soda pop, they don't know how to do that. Food is always an issue. They'll often hoard their food and you'll find a bowl of oatmeal in their rooms that's three years old because they didn't know there's another meal coming."

The young people learn to cook, clean their room, wash their clothes — and to go to school everyday, which is novel for some of them.

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