

RUIDOSO NEWS

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO • FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2003 • OUR 57TH YEAR, NO. 58 • 50 CENTS

INSIDE



1B SPORTS

'A' FOR EFFORT

Lady Warriors mount gigantic comeback, but still fall to Carlsbad

4A OPINION

MOUNTAIN ASIDES

Keeping an eye on the Dems in '04

6A BUSINESS

Community center proponents have a site in mind

5B LINCOLN COUNTY

State approves 4-way stop for deadly intersection

CHRISTMAS WONDER



Lea Zoller, a second grader, enjoys the lights and sparkling ornaments on a tree at Nob Hill Early Childhood Center before the start of a holiday program

DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Affordable housing a step closer

Rezoning is key, official says

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

By next March, Ruidoso village officials could be reviewing plans for a new affordable housing project above Grindstone Reservoir.

Cleatus Richards, deputy village manager and special projects director, said Wednesday that requesting the rezoning of 26 acres from single-family residential to residential planned unit development allows more flexibility in design, clustering of units and providing green space.

The last time village officials dealt with a developer on an affordable housing project in

2002, the numbers didn't work and rezoning wasn't requested until the design was nearly completed. Richards is optimistic this time, obstacles can be overcome and he's not waiting to rezone.

He received approval Tuesday from the Village Council to schedule a public hearing for Jan. 13.

"We have a potential developer and they're interested in this particular area, from 22 acres to 26 acres by Grindstone," he said Wednesday.

If rezoning is granted, details on the project also must be reviewed and approved by

See HOUSING page 3A

Catch voids vote on church curfew

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A Ruidoso Village Council vote to rescind a time limit on the use of a church's outdoor pavilion was voided Thursday by the village attorney.

Although village planners contended during a council meeting Tuesday that placing a time limit on activities in the pavilion is a land use issue and has nothing to do with religion, councilors split on a motion to rescind the condition placed by the village Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mayor Leon Eggleston broke the tie by voting to negate the 9 p.m. "curfew" on pavilion activities at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

Councilors Deborah Marcum-

Byars, L. Ray Nunley and Ron Hardeman said the restriction teetered on inhibiting religious freedom. Councilors Ron Anderson, Frank Cummins and Bob Sterchi countered that nothing would prevent Shepherd members from moving inside the church building on Hull Road to continue any religious services or other activities.

Thursday, attorney H. John Underwood said village planning director Charles Rennick double-checked the rules on overturning planning board decisions. He discovered that a two-thirds majority is required. He called Underwood, who was in Santa Fe Wednesday. When the attorney returned to his office Thursday, he issued a let-

See CURFEW page 2A

Multi-use project gets support

■ Rezoning was approved, but controversial issues, such as water use, will be discussed later.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Rezoning for a \$50 million mixed use development containing condominiums, restaurants, shops, offices, a multi-level free parking lot and "green" space for a park and riverwalk was approved Tuesday to applause from the

audience.

Some of the strongest support came from owners of other business in mid-town and a member of the village's planning and zoning commission.

But many of the objections to the project, including water use, weren't discussed during the Ruidoso Village Council meeting. Councilor Ron Hardeman said issues other than rezoning should wait until a site plan is presented.

The issue Tuesday was should the community commercial zoning on the south side of the

See PROJECT page 2A

Golf course not using excess water, village says

Residents ask council for water 'emergency'

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Although yearly totals for water production on wells used by The Links Public Golf Course exceed the amount guaranteed by the village, course owners have purchased additional rights to cover the irrigation.

In Ruidoso's contract with Jim Colbert Golf Inc., struck more than a decade ago, village officials agreed to provide 200 acre feet of water credit rights each year for the course's use at no cost.

The water rights are owned by the village, though used by Colbert, which also was respon-

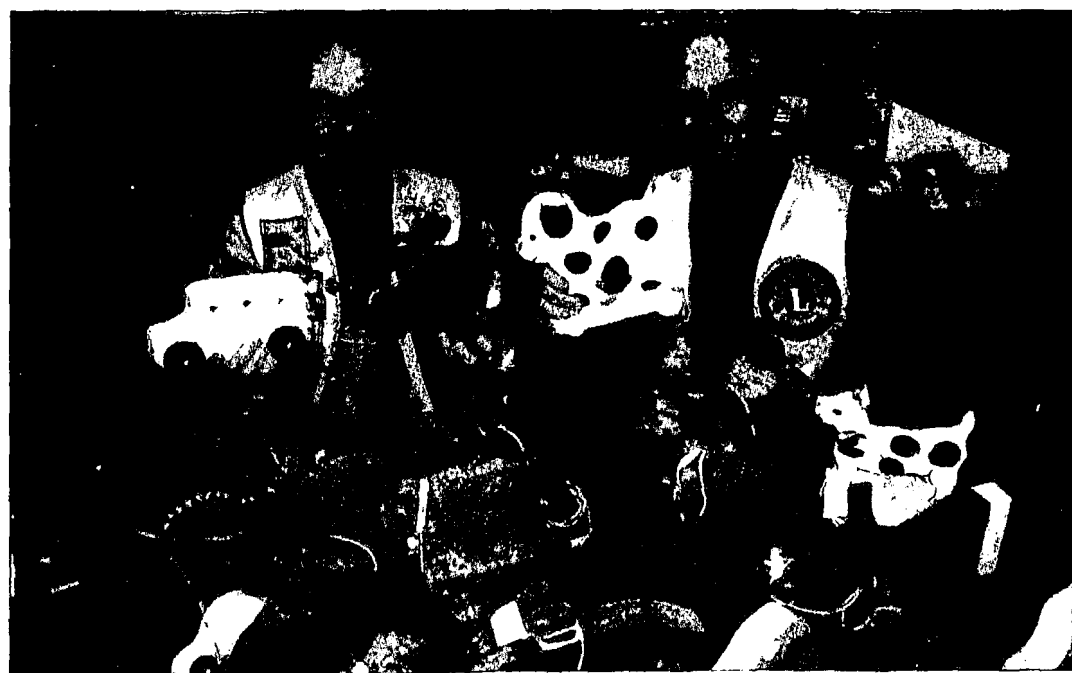
sible for the cost of drilling, equipping and pumping one water well.

The contract also specifies that should a shortage of water available for municipal purposes occur and the village council declares an emergency, that municipal uses would have priority over all other water uses, including rights granted by the village.

Two Ruidoso residents, John C. Schuller and Conrad Keyes, obtained the pumpage records of the golf course wells from 1991 and discovered that the annual totals from two wells consistently exceeded 200 acre feet.

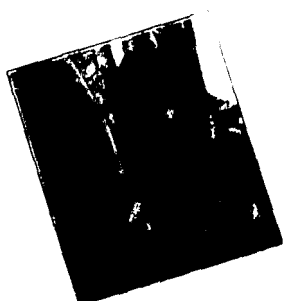
See GOLF page 3A

SECRET SANTAS



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Green dragons, seals balancing red balls on their noses and Dalmatians are part of a wooden menagerie created by Gary Henry, right, for the Ruidoso Noon Lions as a donation to the Santa's Helpers program. Henry stepped in for the late Bob Bohannon, who created the toys for the local group the previous six years. Here, Henry and Lions president Tom Pugh show off some of the 320 pull-toys created as gifts for children at Christmas.



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Working with artists a dream job for gallery operator

INDEX

Business 6A
Classifieds 1-12C
Crossword Vamonos
Letters 4A
Opinion 4A
Obituaries 10A
County News 5B
Sports 1B
Comics Vamonos



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CHURCH: District court is next option for congregation

FROM PAGE 1A

ter to church representatives and council members.

"Their recourse now is to go to district court," Underwood said.

During the Tuesday meeting, Rennick explained that churches are conditional uses in residential zoning districts and as such, village rules require that the opinion of neighbors receive heavy weight in a decision.

The neighbors at the meeting, some represented by former village planning commission member Linda Flack, wanted the 9 p.m. time limit to remain.

Flack said although neighbors had asked for a general meeting with church officials to discuss issues, no sessions were called. Church representative D.C. Yount said members wanted to resolve the curfew issue first. After the meeting, he stopped Flack to promise cooperation and better communication.

"The church characterizes it as an issue of free exercise of a First

Amendment right to worship," Rennick said. "The staff's position is that it is a conditional land use issue."

When a use may affect the health, safety and welfare of neighbors, the planning commission can impose conditions and safeguards, he said.

Eggleston said if someone was noisy and bothering him, he would call the police.

That call would transform the offense into a criminal matter, Rennick said. It also leaves the decision of whether a nuisance has occurred to a police officer, instead of being tied to land use. Rennick also distinguished between conditions of land use and a general village juvenile curfew of 10 p.m.

"The condition is tied to the land, not to any particular group," he explained. If some other entity purchased the land

later, the time limit for using the outdoor pavilion would stay in place.

Underwood supported Rennick's interpretation saying reasonable conditions can be tied to approval of a conditional use. Similar limits were placed on Casa Blanca restaurant because it sits in a residential zone and were imposed on an automobile body shop, he said.

Tim Collins, agent for the church pointed out that the pavilion is 70 feet from the property line and that the church owned the land before the area started to develop residentially. He and a church member

asked for clarification about what would be allowed after 9 p.m.

Rennick said use of the pavilion would cease then.

Yount, chairman of the long-range planning committee for the church, said the pavilion application met all county

regulations and would be used primarily for outdoor worship and picnics.

"Our goal is to peacefully coexist with our neighbors and the village," he said. "This sets an unnecessary precedence that violates our right to religious expression and the right to worship."

An effort by Sterchi to strike a compromise at 10 p.m., or by personally asking neighbors for extensions for special events was rejected. Yount said once a restriction is accepted, it could be extended to other hours if objections arose.

After hearing that the appeal was overturned Thursday, Sterchi said he hopes church officials and neighbors follow through on pledges to meet and hash out differences.

Anderson said Tuesday the council must deal with the ordinance as written.

"This is not a church and state issue," he said. "You can practice religion any way you want. You can go inside the church 24 hours a day."

But Nunley countered that the vil-

lage doesn't need more laws.

"I'm afraid a restriction on one church will spill over to others," he said. "We've talked about expanding our church and we're in a residential neighborhood also."

Real estate agent Joe Zagone spoke in favor of rescinding. Rennick reminded him that he signed a petition opposing a church camp at Eagle Creek, which neighbors with large rural lots contended was too intense a use of the land.

"You're right. I did sign it, but with great reservations," Zagone said, noting that the intended use included hotels. "I probably shouldn't have signed. I think I was wrong."

Hardeman said with churches considered conditional uses, they are "an endangered species" in Ruidoso because of the dwindling inventory of available land.

Byars said enforcement is one of her problems.

"In my heart I feel it is a freedom of religion issue," she said.

PROJECT: Tougher steps likely waiting ahead for River Crossing developers

FROM PAGE 1A

river and the single-family residential zoning on the north side, he changed to include all 14 acres under a mixed-use planned unit development designation. The tract starts at the Tall Pines RV Campground and extends across the river to the Skyland Addition area.

The north side, recently annexed into the village, is a sparsely settled pocket of land. Five letters opposing the rezoning sought by Ink Chip LLC were received, primarily because the project will change the character of the neighborhood in Skyland.

In a summary, village planner Darrell Bremner pointed out that a PUD aims to locate housing, recreation, shops, offices and industrial uses conveniently next to each other for the benefit of the entire community; result in more aesthetic development that can best use and protect special features of the geography, topography, size and shape of a particular piece of property; and provide a "compatible and stable environment in harmony with the surrounding area."

Tentative plans for River Crossing at Ruidoso call for 160 parking spaces, four condominium buildings with 102 units, and five retail office buildings.

Charles Rennick, village

planning director, said all the same uses would be allowed in the commercial district, even residential as a conditional use, but overall planning would be hampered by setback restrictions.

"A PUD is designed to be more flexible in the placement of buildings to allow more open space," he said. "It promotes infill and harmonious development of mixed uses."

The only building proposed for the north side of the river will be residential and fits in with the village's existing comprehensive plan, he said.

"The north side is not currently suitable for individual development," he added because of lack of utilities or dedicated roads.

"If they put in a PUD, we get all of those things from the developer," Rennick said. "Otherwise, it will be left up to each lot owner to bring them in."

Mark Clark, Ink Chip managing partner, told councilors the process of developing the land turned out to be much more complicated than he anticipated.

"Our goal is to be a good neighbor and citizen of Ruidoso," he said. He and his wife wanted to see a long-talked about riverwalk move forward, and they have enough property to "get it going," he said.

"The river is our most beau-

tiful asset and our most unused," Clark said.

"We had to make this work financially, but we wanted a whole lot of green space—a place that would attract people to sit or walk around."

The cost of the parking building is estimate at \$2.25 million, he said. It will contain an elevator and handicap access.

"It will be done in a very Southwestern style, not a sterile parking building," Clark said. "We also have pledged \$500 for every condominium that sells, which potentially could raise \$50,000 for the village. That combined with the riverwalk and parking will be their legacy to the village," Clark said.

He contended that annual water use of the new development because of low-flow appliances and other accommodations should be lower than the amount used at the existing RV park, ski shop and rental units. Condominium occupancy is anticipated at a 20 percent average.

Councilor Deborah Marcum-Byars said if community commercial zoning is left in place, a 200-room hotel could be built on the south side of the river.

Jack McGrann, a member of the Sacramento Mountains Watershed Restoration Corp., suggested that action be post-

poned until the village finishes its new comprehensive plan.

"As vague as it may be, the Comprehensive Plan has some vision for the area and the public should have an opportunity to comment," he

said. A big part of the plan's vision for the village must be tied to the water supply, he said.

Councilor Ron Anderson asked McGrann if other rezonings also should be put on

hold. McGrann said they don't have as far-reaching effect as a development this size.

Rennick said attention was focused on mixed use developments during hearings on the plan and this project would fit.

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GOLF: Course has been cutting back on usage, Rimbo says

FROM PAGE 1A

An acre foot equates to 325,800 gallons of water.

Larry Grasmick, who heads the village water department, said the course is not limited to 200 acre feet. That figure refers only to the amount of water rights they receive without charge from the village. The rest of the usage is covered by rights purchased by the golf course, he said.

"I just saw the settlement statement from Atkins Engineering that goes to the State Engineer's Office, and they didn't use all of the rights they could have," Grasmick said. "The golf course has moved in some rights that increased their yearly maximum."

According to the reports Grasmick reviewed, the golf course, which operates on the same type of five-year reporting system as the village, has carried forward several acre feet of water nearly every year.

"They may have exceeded their rights one year, but they made up for it the next year," Grasmick said.

The usage chart shows the two golf course wells producing a low of 131.17 acre feet in 1997 to a high of 277.85 acre feet in 2002.

"One of the two wells existed at the old airport that was there previously and then the golf company drilled one well and paid for it," Grasmick said.

Schuller and Keyes questioned what the village council considers an emergency.

"It was agreed that should an emergency water condition arise within the village, that this 'give away' would be suspended," they said. Although the golf course doesn't use water produced

for village consumption, the village and the course probably are pumping from the same underground reserve,

Schuller contends.

"For those of us who are used to measuring water by the gallon, 200 acre feet of water is more than 65 million gallons," Schuller said. For the average use of 4,000 gallons of water each month per household, this amount could supply 1,357 homes each and every year, the two men

pointed out.

With North Fork wells on Eagle Creek impaired and Grindstone Reservoir low, Schuller and Keyes said the time is right for the village to declare an emergency and stop allocating water rights to the golf course.

Bruce Rimbo, president of Ruidoso Downs Race Track and Casino and a

spokesman for many of R.D. Hubbard's operations, said the golf course took steps to reduce water consumption last year.

"We're very conscious of what's going on in Ruidoso with water," he said. "We changed the technology and practices at the golf course to work within parameters" similar to restrictions placed on residents.

A program aimed at aerating grass roots to allow more water to penetrate the soil deeper was instituted to reduce the amount of water needed, he said.

"We also started watering fairways less than in the past," Rimbo said. "We're down 34 percent this year in our use of water. That's a dramatic cut and we continue to work on it. This is a problem which needs everyone to work together."

The course tries to balance being a good corporate citizen and maintaining a business that draws tourists, seasonal residents and other visitors to

the area, Rimbo said.

Schuller said a temporary halt to any development that uses water would give officials time to "collect (their) wits."

"This is easier said than done, since the building industry in Ruidoso has become a major activity with the ingress of people, motels, condominiums, apartments and hotels," Schuller and Keyes said. "They are the very ones (who) have created the water problem along with the indifference to instigate planned growth by the village."

Village councilors point out that they are in the process of drafting a new comprehensive plan for growth. They also are waiting on a report about current water conditions and water conservation measures from a special task force appointed earlier this year. Some of the information may be reviewed at a special 5:30 p.m. meeting Wednesday at village hall.

HOUSING: Village hopes it's learned from past failures

FROM PAGE 1A

the village planning and zoning commission and the village council, he said.

Changes in state statutes give villages more flexibility in dealing with affordable housing-type developers, Richards said. Requests for proposals may not be required. A RPUD gives the council a chance to look at a project as a whole and to have more say about improvements, he said.

"It can be a mix of dwelling types, single and multiple family, or all multiple, but the density will be basically the same (as single-family residential) because of the green space requirement under the PUD," Richards said.

The developer probably will buy the land, he said, although other options are possible.

If the rezoning is approved in January, Richards said specific plans may be ready for review in February or March.

"With that size (of property), you could put in 200 units, but normally under a tax credit set up, it's done in increments of 60 units at a time," he said. "Probably construction will be in phases."

Under federal programs, affordable housing developers are offered tax credits in exchange for including a certain percentage of lower rent units in a development.

In 2002, Dan Stanger, who heads Bridge Partners Inc. based in Utah, a successor corporation to CDS Investments, which is building Rainmakers subdivision north of Ruidoso, attempted to put together an

affordable project on 12 acres of the Grindstone land.

The company bought the land for \$325,000 with the caveat that if the project fell through, the deal was void. The deal died when Stanger couldn't build the type of units he wanted, make a profit and still provide an acceptable percentage of affordable apartments.

At that time, Stanger said he anticipated a tax credit of more than \$1 million for the project. He claimed Bridge already had invested about \$70,000 for preliminary geo-technical and architectural work, appraisal and bond-related activity.

While the site is excellent, overlooking a lake and close to town, part of the cost not initially contemplated by Stanger was that utilities already underground were not useable. The high cost of land, preparation and construction drove up development costs and necessitated the developer going for more market-value units and fewer affordable. The final proposal was for 40 percent affordable, which limited the tax credits to be taken over a 10-year period.

After that project tanked, councilors met with Lynn Wehrli, director of housing development with the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority, to gain a better insight into the process and more ideas.

During the council meeting Tuesday, builder Bill Hodges suggested that a committee of contractors be formed to suggest ways of creating more interest in affordable apartments for local workers.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sudderth closure

Sudderth Drive in Midtown will be closed to traffic between noon and 7 p.m. Saturday, between Center Street and

Country Club Drive, leaving the area open for the Festival of Lights' Holiday Happening. Traffic will be diverted to Rio Street. See *Vamonos* for more about the Holiday Happening.

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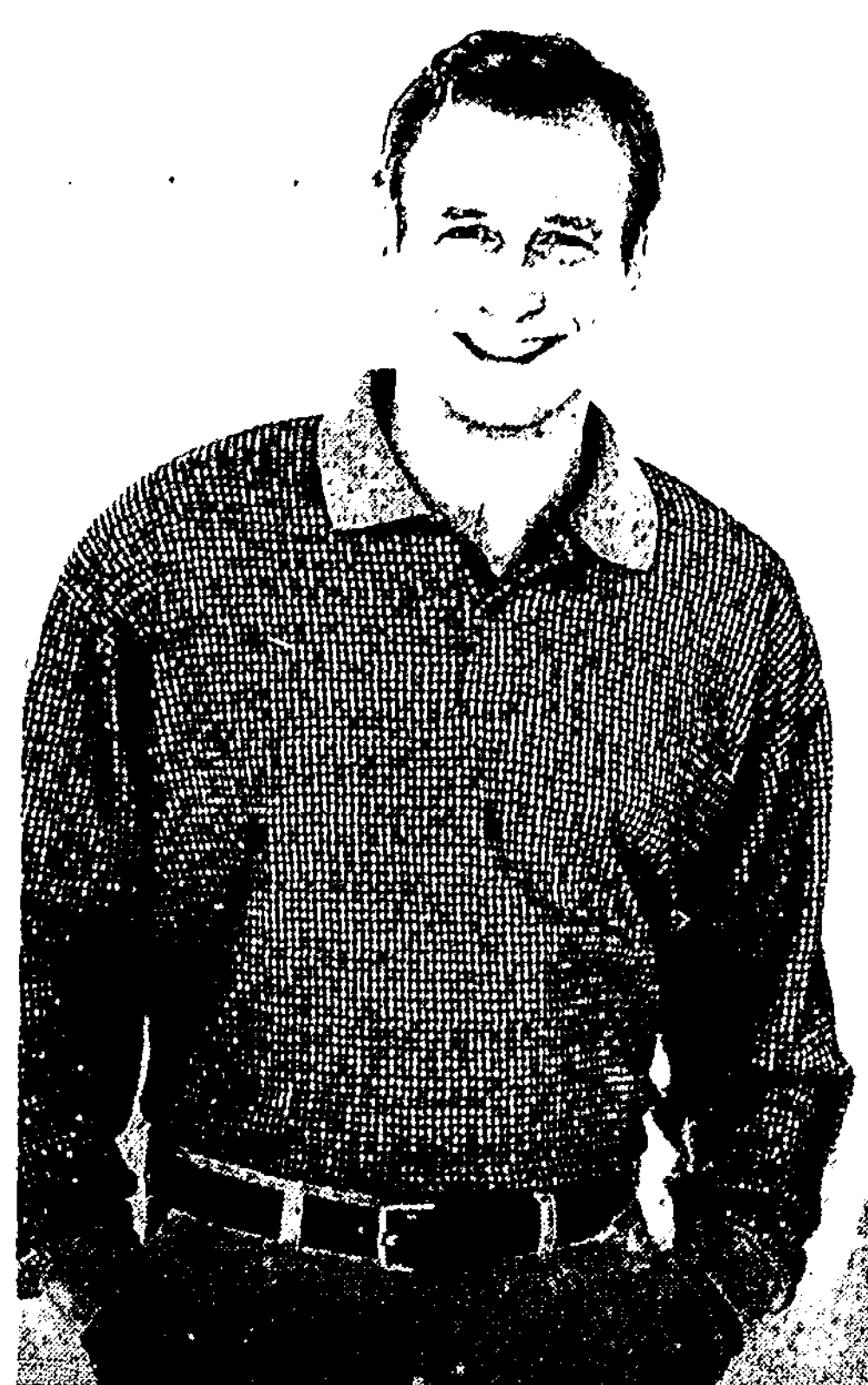
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RUIDOSO NEWS OPINION

PAGE 4A

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FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2003

RUIDOSO NEWS

Dave Price, general manager

Wes Schwengels, editor

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OUR OPINION

Correction needed on indigent care law

Who slipped in the ER provision at the last minute?

The issue here isn't whether or not private physicians should be reimbursed for the medical care of indigents. They should.

It's whether the Legislature knew what it was doing when new language got into a bill that unequivocally allows reimbursement only for care received in a hospital emergency room.

An assistant attorney general let the county know last week that the language is clear and the intent obvious: "We conclude that Lincoln County may not reimburse licensed physicians for services provided in outpatient settings." No ER, no pay.

But the county contends that ER treatment costs are much

higher than in a doctor's office. Specifically, it wants to see language removed requiring that any payment comes from other than the gross receipts tax-supported indigent fund.

Sen. Timothy Jennings, D-Roswell, who soon will represent Lincoln County, says it wasn't his intent to restrict payments; that it got put in and passed at the last minute.

So the question arises: Who perpetrated that change, and to what intent?

Surely hospital lobbyists wouldn't do such a thing to inflate hospital revenue around the state, would they?

We hope Gov. Bill Richardson includes corrective legislation in his call for the Jan. 20 short session, and that Senator Jennings helps.

We bravely look at the big political picture

So Al Gore, who couldn't get it quite right in his own run for the Presidency (according to me and the Supreme Court), has endorsed a small-state ex-governor,

MOUNTAIN
ASIDES
KEITH GREEN

Vermont's Howard Dean, with no federal experience, for the job.

He may have something going there; after all, Gore was Veep to another relatively small-state governor with no federal

experience, named Bill Clinton. But Bill had Hillary close to hand, to keep him on the straight and narrow — well, almost. He also came from a southern state, which wasn't exactly a slouch of a consideration, when he ran the first time.

Hillary was very smart, but not then quite smart enough, during the eight Clinton years.

She now insists loudly and unequivocally that she is not a candidate — no way — for the Presidency, but keeps popping up on those Sunday talk shows. She's not a candidate now, she says, because she's committed to finishing her Senate term in 2006. She's a bit evasive about the next Presidential sweepstakes, in 2008. Still, Hillary ran off to Iraq a few days ago, no doubt at taxpayers' expense since that's one of the perks of being a Senator, then came back and got all those Sunday invitations from the main-line broadcast channels.

Pardon me if I think there may be something in the conservative (read that radio talk show hosts) pitch that the big media, especially the east coast media, would just love to have liberal Hillary in the running in 2004. The Big Brass in media perhaps have the idea that Howard Dean, even with Gore's blessing, isn't exactly electable.

Dean so far in the campaign has exhibited such northeast liberal bias and such a lack of knowledge of most of the rest of the country that it's unlikely, even with Al's help, that he can win a gener-

al election. But Al's nod did give him some considerable cachet among the left-wing party faithful who still claim they were robbed in Florida, even with the Supremes singing in harmony.

Retired Gen. Wesley Clark said, at about the same time Gore was announcing support for Dean, that he would consider Hillary as a running mate — with a big IF: If he wins the Democratic party's nomination.

That seems just about as likely as the Atlanta Falcons (3 wins, 10 losses) winning the Super Bowl this year, even if ex-Albuquerque Mayor Jim Baca has signed on in support of the general, stating categorically that Clark "knows the true cost of waging wars."

He may be right; most of the Vietnam-era generation Democrats now seeking the Presidency managed to duck military service — a true measure of the mid-Baby Boomer generation.

I have to wonder — were our Gov. Bill Richardson not running the Democrat convention — if he might be the best shot for the party's presidential nomination after all.

Naah...but maybe in 2008, with Hillary as his running mate.

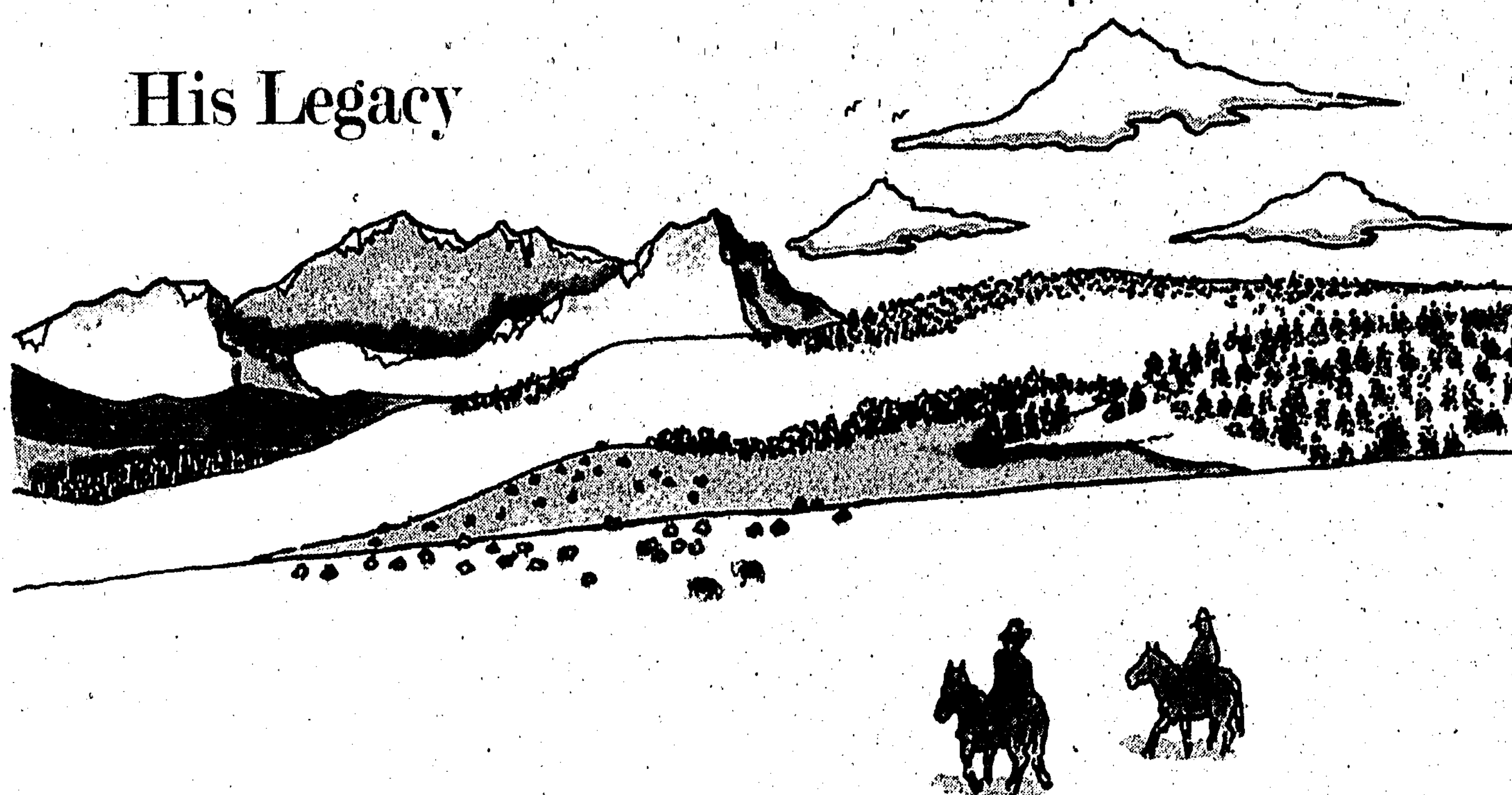
LETTERS POLICY

The Ruidoso News encourages letters to the editor, especially about local topics and issues. Each letter must be signed and must include the writer's daytime telephone number and mail address. The phone number and mailing address will not be printed; the hometown will be. The telephone number will be used to verify authorship. No letter will be printed without the writer's name.

Letters should be no more than 300 words in length, of public interest, and free of libel; editing will be for length, grammar or spelling. Shorter letters are preferred and generally receive greater readership. The Ruidoso News reserves the right to reject any letter. Longer by-lined "Guest Commentary" articles will be considered; call the editor at (505) 257-4001.

Letters may be delivered to the Ruidoso News office at 104 Park Avenue, mailed to P.O. Box 128, Ruidoso, NM 88355; faxed to 257-7053; or sent by e-mail to letters@ruidosonews.com.

His Legacy

© Doug McLeod '03
Ruidoso News

Joe Skeen 1927-2003

YOUR OPINION

Teachers do need more training time

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the proposal of Paul Wirth published in yours of Nov. 28. Wirth has many good ideas about education and Ruidoso. His idea of providing more teacher time for planning and study by building in days to the school calendar is a very good one that other school systems employ.

Florida is one example. Teachers have 196 work days, 180 of which are "student contact days." The others are for planning and teacher education updating, via in-service and education conferences. During the "in-service" days, the district or state hires national or state leaders in education, or particular studies, to come to the district and hold seminars and training sessions for teachers.

Sometimes these sessions are conducted by local leaders, or local teachers that have experienced special training on a topic, and now will share that information with their peers. Through these sessions, teachers are updated or trained in topics such as ESOL, using technology in the classroom, READS, sexual harassment sensitivity, drug education, newer techniques of classroom management, particular applications to their subject matter, and other relevant topics.

Some of the dates for these planning/in-service days coincide with national or state education conventions. This facilitates attendance. Those not going to a convention may attend local in-services, or plan at their building site.

Political rhetoric of the governors and president aside, the most important factor in the education of students, besides themselves, is the teacher that is on the front line of the "war on ignorance." We must take measures to provide teacher with up-to-date and relevant information, and motivation to impart knowledge. Paul Wirth's plan provides a way to do just that.

Jim Capper
Ruidoso

kissing a young woman, well, that might be seen as OK. Finally, I can think of one good reason why a community could be proud of its high school for celebrating the differences and having a "coming out day": Matthew Shepard.

Mr. Cantwell's writing is humorous and impressive; if only it would err more often on the side of center.

Sheela Wolford
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Preserve the past

To the editor:

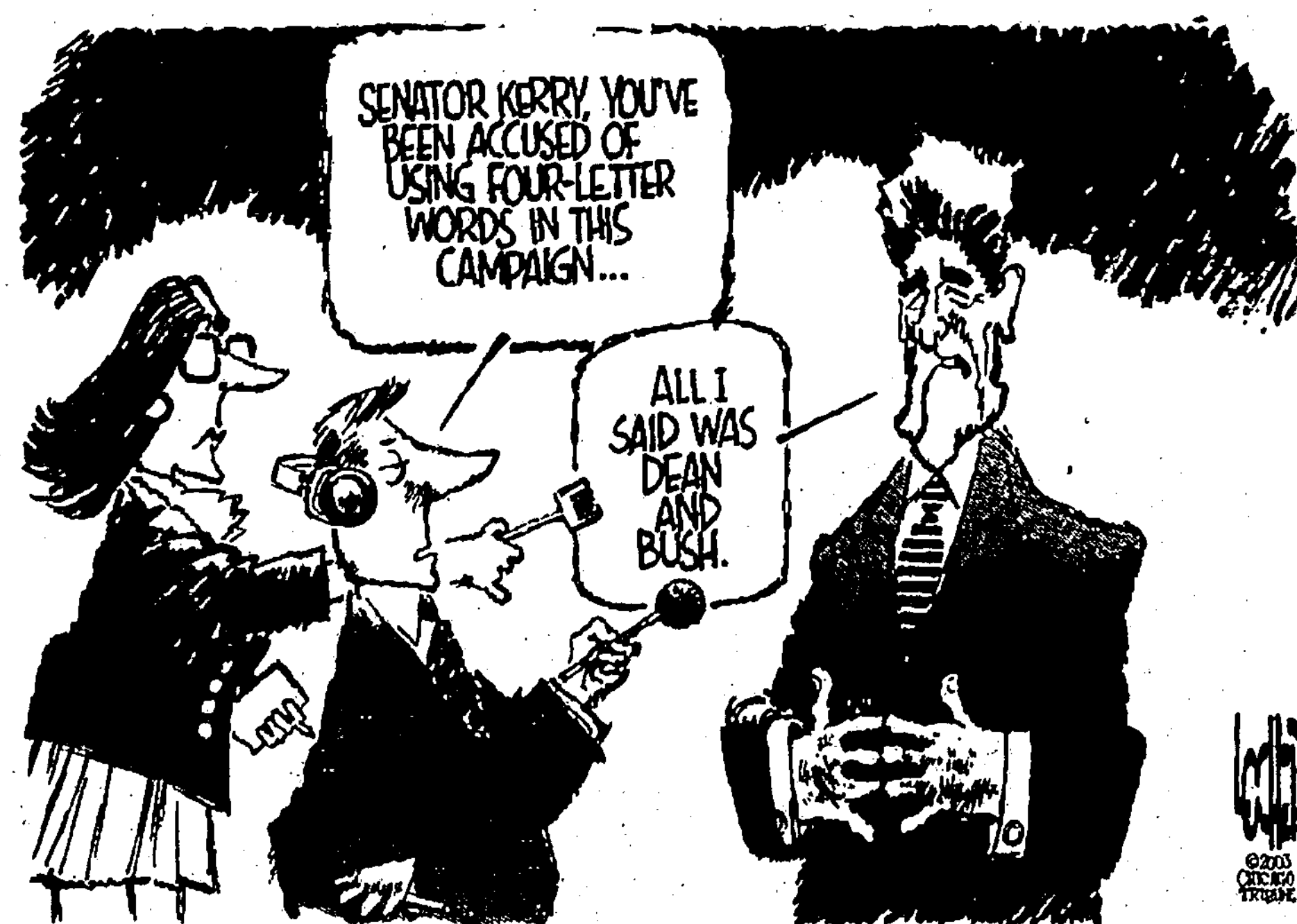
I am writing this letter in regard to the comments that were made by Commissioner Leo Martinez in the Friday, Dec. 5, issue of the *Ruidoso News*. Mr. Martinez's statement led me to believe that he feels the Lincoln Historical Preservation Board (members) want things done only if it is agreeable to them.

Mr. Martinez needs to understand

these are honest citizens volunteering their time and energy because they believe in the preservation of the history of our great county. Lincoln is a Historic District.

People ... choose to move to the Lincoln area, and Lincoln County Commissioners need to understand that is to be preserved for future generations. Commissioners can overturn decisions made by the board, but at what cost to historical preservation? Do the present commissioners really want to be remembered as the ones that overturned a decision that was detrimental to historical preservation 20, 40 or 100 years from now?

My ancestors moved to the beautiful Lincoln valley over 100 years ago. They worked hard to help make it what is today. My grandfather helped supply the adobes for St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Please help preserve what my ancestors started.

Alfred Sanchez
Lincoln

STREET TALK

QUESTION: Village regulations require 6 percent of the interior of a parking lot to be landscaped and a tree planted per 10 parking spaces. Is that a worthwhile goal to pursue to beautify the village?



"No. I think the money could be better spent in other places than a tree in a parking lot because we have a lot of trees."

Ruth Walker
Ruidoso

"I think it is, but I'm concerned about our water."

Hazel Stulce
Ruidoso

"I think it's a little excessive given the water situation; Xeriscaping instead of trees."

Vikkee Johnson
Alto

SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

The stuff of history

To the editor:

Regarding Ned Cantwell's article, 'Consider it a fun year in the news business,' I have been following the Billy the Kid story and find it to be the stuff of adventure and history is about. It made *The New York Times* as well as other regional, national, and international media outlets, and that is not an easy feat.

About Mr. Cantwell's agist remark about Madonna, if it were an aging man

OUR RIGHT TO KNOW

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

DONATE TODAY



DAVE PRICE/STAFF

By 3 p.m. Thursday, 27 donors had given blood at the Gateway Church on Sudderth. Above and left, Dixie Brown of Ruidoso makes a donation while Shane Smith, a United Blood Services staffer from Roswell, helps out. Brown received her 4-gallon pin for lifetime donations on Thursday. Ruidoso area residents are urged to donate Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gateway Church.

Simpson trial rescheduled to Feb. 23

■ The county commissioner is charged with violating the state Per Diem and Mileage Act.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

The trial date for Lincoln County Commissioner Rick Simpson, who is charged with violations of the state Per Diem and Mileage Act, is rescheduled for Feb. 23 in Lincoln County District Court.

Simpson is on the court docket for a plea conference Dec. 19 in the 12th Judicial District Court in Carrizozo.

Plea conferences create a chance for prosecutor, defense attorney and defendant to get together in an informal setting to discuss the possibility of a plea agreement and other court issues before trial.

A pre-trial conference is set for Jan. 23.

Simpson, 55, hired local attorney Gary Mitchell to represent him. The case is connected to reimbursements collected in 2000 by Simpson while he was manager of the Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority, an independent garbage collection coalition of the county and its municipalities.

The lack of documentation

for about \$3,800 was pinpointed in an annual audit with the recommendation that Simpson repay the money or supply the necessary paper trail. Although he submitted repayment checks to the authority, the governing board decided to hold the checks pending the outcome of Key's investigation.

The auditor also pointed out three situations that violated the state procurement code, but no charges were brought by Key in those instances.

Per diem offenses are not misdemeanors or felonies. They are assessment penalty charges, according to a court official.

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\$8.95 Children

The buffet includes all your favorite holiday dishes: Butter Basted Turkey Breast with Black Walnut Citrus Stuffing and Curried Honey Apple Pit Ham with Pineapple Mango Raisin Chutney. In addition to a complete assortment of entrée prepared meats, potatoes, salad bar, pasta, and Special Christmas desserts.

Smokey B's Christmas Special
From 11:00 am
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BUSINESS

Incubate your business

The Small Business Development Center, with ENMU-Roswell, considers it part of its mission to create jobs and raise the overall standard of living for citizens in this area. With that in mind, they created a mixed-use incubator program that will house start-up and fledgling businesses. A unique feature of this program will be a youth entrepreneurship component which will give young people an opportunity to start and operate their own businesses.



Chamber Chatter
BY BRAD TREPTOW
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RUIDOSO VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A business incubator's main goal is to produce successful graduate businesses. Research illustrates that incubator graduates have much higher success rates than other start-up businesses. The concept is simple; the business dwells on campus while the business person is taught how to be successful until it is capable of facing the many professional obstacles on its own.

They do this by providing employment, educational assistance, facilitating technology and professional assistance as well as research facilities. Participating businesses will have access to meeting rooms, business space, utilities, bulk mailing, receptionist services, telephone system, use of office equipment, janitorial services and use of a business resource library.

Business incubators address the most common causes for failure, including overestimating strengths and underestimating weaknesses; lack of adequate market knowledge the owner intends to reach; not understanding the level of capital required. And the business owner often underestimates the importance of sales.

The youth program feature of the incubator system focuses on today's teenagers as tomorrow's leaders. It is designed to provide young students the opportunity to learn how to run a small business by having access to the same resources as those participating businesses in the incubator system.

Next week's column: "Leadership and motivation - part 1 of 2."

Brad Treptow can be reached via e-mail at brad@ruidoso.net.

Economy and the Markets

Festive holiday cheer

BY SUNG WON SOHN
CHIEF ECONOMIST, WELLS FARGO & COMPANY

On the heels of a poor year in 2002, this could be the best season since 1999. We predict a 5 to 7 percent gain in non-auto retail sales in dollar terms and a 6 to 8 percent jump in unit volume as retail prices are lower than a year ago.

Consumers have money to burn from the tax cuts, low inflation and the improving labor market. Even though refinancing activities are down from the nosebleed level of this spring, consumers can tap their home equity line of credit averaging about \$70,000.

The Federal Reserve is in no hurry to hike the interest rate, keeping consumer loan rates low. Responding to more job opportunities, consumer confidence is on an upswing. Thanks in part to the surge in stock prices, luxury goods including jewelry, expensive cars, etc. are selling well.

However, big retailers including Wal-Mart, are not as jolly as we are on holiday sales. They point out that consumers are extremely price conscious and flock to retailers offering the lowest prices. A recent survey by the Conference Board showed consumers spending \$455 per household this season compared to \$483 last year, but it is likely that consumers will end up spending more than they planned.

Subdued gains in wages due in part to the soaring cost of health care could be a reason for the caution. Also, consumers are traveling again, leaving less money for other discretionary purchases.

Interest rates: The clues

At this Tuesday's FOMC meeting, the central bank was expected to stand pat. Nevertheless, participants in the financial markets are speculating about the next tightening move. The futures market for the federal funds has 100 percent probability of a rate hike by mid-2004. Before Chairman Greenspan pulls the trigger, a couple of steps need to be taken. The sentence, "the risk of infla-

tion becoming undesirably low remains the predominant concern for the foreseeable future," will go first from their statement. Then, the words, "policy accommodation can be maintained for a considerable period," will be dropped from the press releases. Our prediction is that the Federal Reserve won't raise the interest rate until late 2004 or early 2005 when inflation, not deflation, becomes an issue again.

Once the central bank starts dropping the words "predominant" and "considerable period," bond traders will assume imminent tightening moves by the Federal Reserve and bid up yields.

Higher interest rates and heightened inflation expectations are not good for bonds. However, Mortgage-backed Securities with high coupons and TIPS should be safer havens in the bond market.

Stocks: Riskier

Liquidity and earnings have been strong tail winds for stocks. With stable monetary policy, the party can go on. As soon as the central bank starts removing the words cited above, stocks will suffer. Once chairman Greenspan hikes the interest rate, some sort of market correction is not out of the question.

An issue for stocks is the slowdown in earnings gains. In 2004 and 2005, both economic growth and profit gains will decelerate and year-over-year comparisons will be more difficult. Less robust earnings increases in the face of tighter monetary policy could be a tough environment for stocks. Then, low beta (less cyclical) stocks tend to outperform high beta (more cyclical) ones. In addition, higher quality, large-cap stocks fare better than lower quality, smaller caps.

Information in this report is the personal view of the writer, not necessarily reflecting Wells Fargo & Co. It is for your personal use. The writer does not represent that it is accurate or complete. Nothing is guaranteed.

'Ideal' Community Center site proposed

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A tract of land near the White Mountain School complex and Ruidoso village tennis courts was described as an ideal site for a new Lincoln County community center.

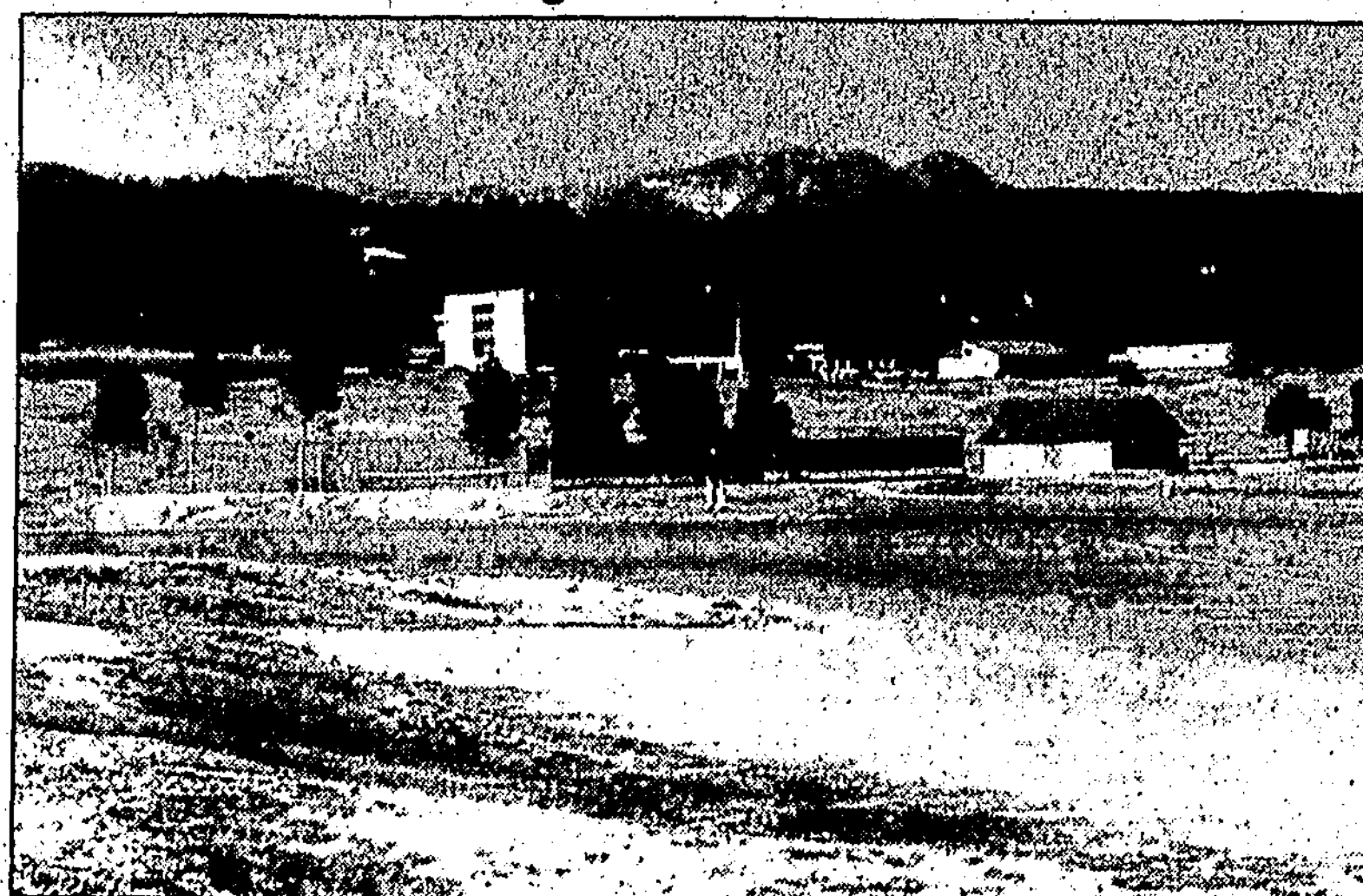
Susan Lutterman, who serves on a committee trying to work out the details and come up with a plan on how to build, pay for and operate a center, said the facility will be designed for all ages and for people from all over the county.

While members of the group still are looking at other sites in the county, the consensus is that the White Mountain land would be a good choice. Being government-owned, the possibility of a \$1 a year lease also is appealing and would reduce the cost of the project, Lutterman told Ruidoso village councilors Tuesday night.

She said the task force met on Dec. 1 with a healthy turnout of area residents to hear reports from subcommittees previously formed.

"They wanted me to ask you to take a month and look at (the possible use of the White Mountain land)," said Lutterman, a member of the Ruidoso school board. "The property was going to be used several years ago for a community center. We are looking at other areas in the county, but this one is so accessible for everyone."

Realistically, the majority of the people



KEITH GREEN/STAFF

Community Center of Lincoln County supporters like this schools-owned site near White Mountain schools as the most accessible location for the project.

live in or near Ruidoso, she said. The center could be reached by Hull Road, Gavilan Canyon and White Mountain from State Highway 48 (Mechem Drive), she pointed out. Although the center would include facilities and activities for all ages, the proposed tract would be especially accessible for 700 students at the high school on Warrior Drive and for children from the elementary and intermediate school complex, she said.

"James Paxton (a real estate agent and school board member) is looking at other places and getting prices, but this still is the best place, where it would be a success. We don't want to build it if it's not going to be a success," Lutterman said.

Councilor Bob Sterchi asked village attorney H. John Underwood if the village would have less liability exposure if

it conveyed ownership of the land to an organization charged with running the center.

Underwood said the village is restricted in what it can do because of the state's rule against donations to private entities, even if they are non-profit.

"We would need a service agreement," he said, referring to a contract spelling out what the village would receive in return for the land, such as entertainment, recreation and educational opportunities for residents.

A joint powers agreement would work if another government entity is the operational agent or if it becomes a joint venture of several government entities, he said.

A "hold harmless" agreement could be required, mandating that the renter carry insurance to cover any losses, Underwood said.

Councilor Ron Hardeman, who serves on the task force, said the group is considering a shared project between the village and the school district, possibly involving Ruidoso Downs and the county. A similar situation worked in Aztec and Farmington, he said.

Former Ruidoso mayor Jerry Shaw, a task force member, said the White Mountain tract is centrally located and that the involvement of multiple government entities is preferred. But the site issue must be settled before the task force can tackle financing, she said.

Pearce to address chamber members

Congressman Steve Pearce will address Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce members at a small business seminar Tuesday morning at the Ruidoso Convention Center. Registration for the chamber-sponsored seminar will begin at 8 a.m. The seminar starts at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 11 a.m.

The seminar is open for any Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce member and will address services available to small business owners and managers through the Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Center and educational and training opportunities through Eastern New Mexico University Ruidoso Campus.

There will also be an opportunity to voice any issues facing small business owners and managers to any of the three participating entities.

Also addressing the chamber membership will be Eugene Simmons, Director of the Small Business Development Center in Roswell.

The third presenter will be Dr. Jim Miller, Dean of the Eastern New Mexico University Ruidoso Campus.

Cost for the seminar is \$5 per person and RSVPs can be made to Lillie Erives-Mattson, special projects/membership coordinator for the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce either by phone at 257-7395 or by email at lillie@ruidoso.net.

CHAMPION OF SERVICE



COURTESY RUIDOSO VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Ruidoso Valley Greeters in conjunction with the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Ruidoso News awarded the December Champion of Service certificate last week to Sierra Glass's owner Sharon Lackey.

Focus on Agriculture

Failed energy policy effort also fails farmers

BY STEWART TRULSEN
AMERICAN FARM BUREAU

The nation's first overhaul of energy policy in a decade stalled in the Senate in November and now faces an uncertain future. Almost no one will argue with that, but there were plenty of arguments over the bill itself. Some said it was too timid in stimulating domestic oil and gas production; it favored certain regions of the country; it granted too much tax relief; it didn't rely enough on conservation, and so on.

In the end, the three-year exercise in trying to chart an energy future for the country failed to pass. The Bush administration and congressional leaders say they will try again in 2004. The American Farm Bureau Federation hopes the setback is temporary and vows to continue working for the measure's key provisions that apply to renewable fuels, improved energy

supplies and more reliable distribution systems.

One thing is certain. The nation's energy problems will not go away. Winter heating costs are expected to rise by 6 percent this season for the 50 million homes heated with natural gas. Natural gas demand has been rising in recent years, putting a squeeze on supplies. Industry sources say natural gas now accounts for 20 percent of total energy demand and will go to 25 percent in another two decades.

One provision removed from the energy bill was a loan guarantee for a \$20 billion natural gas pipeline from Alaska. Critics dismissed the pipeline by saying it would take too long to complete. True, it probably should have been built earlier. Farmers would agree with that assertion. Natural gas price spikes have a serious effect on them because it's used in the production of nitrogen fertilizer.

Commentary

The lack of an energy plan also keeps the United States on course to become more and more dependent on imported oil. Even if it eventually passes, the pending energy bill may not change that. A plan to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration was dropped from the bill, as was a proposal for an inventory of offshore energy prospects.

Shortly after the bill was tabled, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on China's thirst for imported oil. After passing Japan, it is now the No. 2 petroleum user in the world behind the United States. In the next decade, the number of automobiles on China's roads is expected to grow five-fold to 100 million, according to the article.

Competition for Middle East oil is growing — to the delight of OPEC.

There also could be more

trouble ahead for the nation's electricity grid. *The Washington Post* reported that the bill's defeat leaves the grid "as it was on the day of the huge Northeast blackout, Aug. 14, with no enforceable operating rules aimed at preventing cascading power failures."

Renewable fuels (ethanol, biodiesel, wind, solar power and others) will make progress despite the lack of a master plan, but not as much without some of the tax breaks and incentives that would have hastened development and use.

An energy policy stuck in neutral is a little like driving a car with the fuel gauge hovering on empty.

Maybe you can pass one more gas station and safely reach the next, but maybe you can't.

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

Man falls asleep, hits wall with car

■ No charges were filed in the Wednesday evening incident.

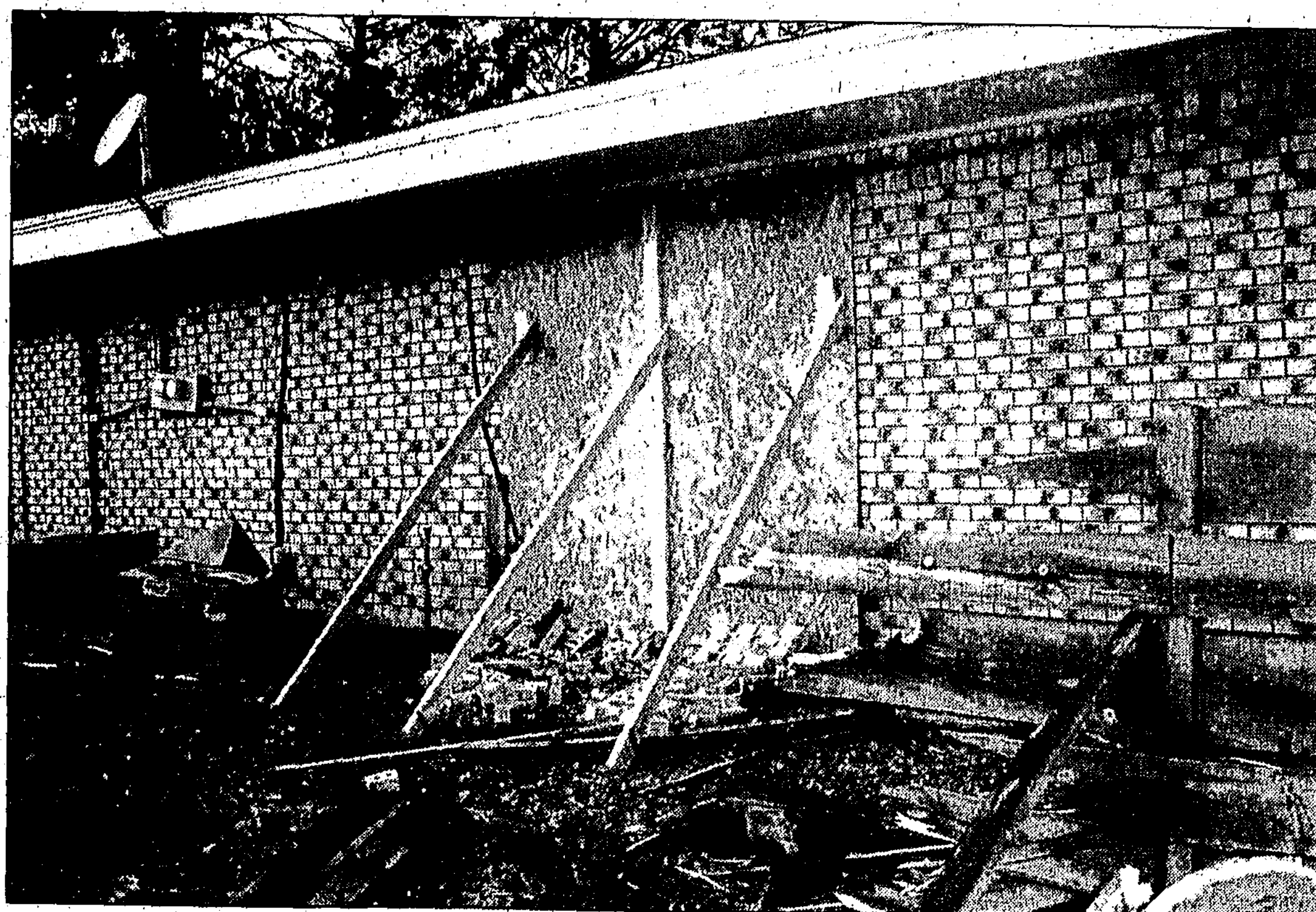
BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

A car crashed through a fence and into the side of a building on White Mountain Drive and George McCarty Road Wednesday.

"The police and fire department were here so quickly," said Jay Chase, Palisades Condominium Association manager. "The reason they had to close the road is that the gas meter was broken off and there was a leak."

The car careened off White Mountain Drive, across a shallow drainage ditch and through the fence, smashed into the wall and landed in the master bedroom of a couple who were not home at the time, he said.

Officer Wade Proctor said David Kaplan, 56, of Ruidoso, apparently fell asleep at the wheel of his Isuzu Rodeo SUV, because of a medical condition. He was not charged in the incident, but was taken to the



Portions of a demolished fence point to a makeshift plywood wall installed to close off the master bedroom of a condominium where a car landed.

Lincoln County Medical Center after complaining of back pain.

Capt. Wolfgang Born said dispatch records show a call received for the fire department

and the emergency medical services at 6:35 p.m. Three police units also were sent to the site. White Mountain Drive was closed while the car was

removed and a gas line was cut off. The police officers indicated the scene was essentially cleared by 6:51 p.m. and left by 7:09 p.m.

Council candidate sign-up next month

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Three seats on the Ruidoso Village Council are up for election March 2.

To qualify as a candidate for the nonpartisan election, residents must sign up between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Jan. 6, with municipal clerk Irma Nava at village hall on Cree Meadows Drive.

To declare as a candidate, a person is required to have a declaration of candidacy and a copy of the person's current affidavit of voter registration on file with the county clerk certified by that office on a date not earlier than the adoption of the election resolution by the village council, which occurred Tuesday.

The candidates' affidavits of voter registration must show their addresses or street addresses or rural route numbers, not as post office boxes.

To vote in the election, residents must be registered by 5

p.m., Feb. 3, with the Lincoln County Clerk in Carrizozo as a county voter living in Ruidoso.

The seats up for election are now filled by Ron Anderson, Frank Cummins, and Bob Sterchi. The councilors are elected at large and serve four-year terms.

All voting occurs at the Ruidoso Convention Center. County precincts that fall under Ruidoso are 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Absentee voting ballots can be obtained from the municipal clerk. Applications for absentee ballots must be completed and accepted by the municipal clerk before 5 p.m., Feb. 27.

Absentee ballots will be accepted by the clerk by mail or in person by the voter casting the ballot until 7 p.m., March 2, in the office of the village clerk.

Absentee voting by machine will be conducted in the clerk's office during regular business hours beginning Feb. 11, and closing at 5 p.m., Feb. 27.

Monjeau Lookout road closed

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

The road to Monjeau Lookout and Skyline Campground on the Lincoln National Forest is closed for the winter.

The gate is about a quarter of a mile above the settlement of Villa Madonna. Although little snow fell in Ruidoso during a recent storm, some accumulation occurred at higher elevations.

Monjeau offers a view of the Sacramento and Capitan mountain ranges.

Because the road to the fire tower is steep and rock-strewn, Skyline is not as heavily used as some lower elevation camping areas, but it provides access to Crest Trail, the 25-mile long mother link that rides the ridges of the White Mountain Wilderness and from which many other trails spring off in different directions.

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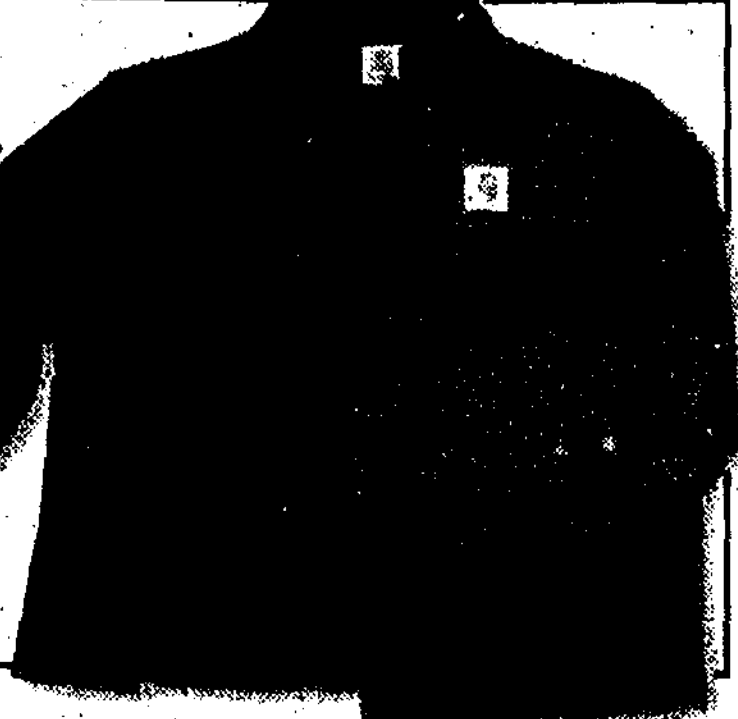
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UNWANTED SKYLIGHTS



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Old grain silos at Fort Stanton, the 1855 former fort and tuberculosis hospital northeast of Ruidoso, are endangered because of holes in the roofs. Efforts to stabilize the historic structures at the fort are the focus of several groups and a development commission's request to the state Legislature.

Scholarship cutoff for ENMU-R nears

The deadline for scholarship applications for spring classes at Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso is 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15.

Considerable amounts of local scholarship assistance, tribal funding and other types of state/federal financial aid are available to finance a significant parts of a college education.

In addition to scholarships, special assistance is available for veterans, single mothers with families, and for GED

graduates. Registration can take place by phone, fax, or in person at 709 Mechem Drive between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Convenient Web registration is also available 24 hours a day for continuing ENMU students. Spring classes will begin on Tuesday Jan. 20, 2004.

For more information or to register, contact the ENMU office at 257-2120, toll free at (800) 934.3668 or online at www.ruidoso.enmu.edu.

Legislators on hand Dec. 30

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Lincoln County residents, government entities and organizations with special requests, projects and problems can meet the members of their legislative delegation at 10 a.m. Dec. 30.

The Southeast Council of Governments will bring many

of the delegates to the county courthouse in Carrizozo for a two-hour session. Invited to attend the meeting are State Sen. Pete Campos (D-Las Vegas), State Sen. Rod Adair (R-Roswell), State Rep. Dub Williams (R-Glencoe), State Rep. Dan Foley (R-Roswell) and State Rep. Avon Wilson (R-Roswell).

Residents get preview of village's water plan

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Ruidoso residents who worry about village water resources and conservation will have a chance Wednesday to question consultants and to take a peep at portions of the village's water plan.

Village manager Lorri McKnight at a Village Council meeting Tuesday announced the special workshop of the board for 5:30 p.m. at village hall.

Dennis Brand, a consultant with Wilson & Co., will present a power point program on improvements to the village's water system to increase efficiency and conservation. Consultant Roger Perry will speak about the village's 40-year water plan.

By that time, village attorney H. John

Underwood and a consultant will have met with the State Engineer in Santa Fe to talk about several water issues facing the village, McKnight said.

"...We're looking at a continuing prolonged and severe drought. I hope the consultants have the answers."

Jack McGrann
conservation proponent

Mayor Leon Eggleston emphasized that the water plan won't be finished, but the workshop will give a chance for public input.

Jack McGrann, a water conservation proponent, thanked the council or responding to requests that the public be given a chance to look at some of the data and conclusions.

"I've looked at the national oceanic and atmospheric data and we're looking at a continuing prolonged and severe drought," he told village councilors. "I hope the consultants have the answers."

Nature is the ultimate authority in the issue of weather and water, he said.

Builder Bill Hodges said he agrees that water depends on climatic conditions, but "I never met a weatherman whose predictions I trust."

He feels confident based on the information about the water report given last month that a range of options have been identified.

"Whatever the climatic conditions, we can work on them," he said. He prefers to concentrate on solving a problem, instead of blaming someone or something, he said.

"The last thing I want to do is make it a political issue," Hodges said.

McKnight received council concurrence to delay a discussion of water conservation phases until the board's regular meeting Jan. 13. The council won't conduct a second regular meeting this month.

McKnight also reminded councilors about a 9 a.m. special meeting today at village hall dealing with financing for the purchase of 9 acres of land in midtown for a special events square.

Commissioners to consider flood plain ordinance

■ The board will review the plan Tuesday.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS

RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Venturing to use a few more words than a 3x5-inch

card can accommodate, Lincoln County attorney Alan Morel will submit a proposed flood plain ordinance for County Commission review Tuesday.

County Commissioners have told the attorney to keep it simple and to reflect their

reluctance to impose more rules or to handle inspections.

The commission meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. in the commission chambers of the county courthouse in Carrizozo.

Other items on the agenda include a 9 a.m. public hear-

ing for a beer and wine license at a new restaurant called Bonito Falls Cafe on Bonito Lake Road; a mid-year budget preparation progress report and a discussion of rural medical clinic management agreements and construction issues.

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Employees claim forestry contractor didn't pay them

Contractor now off village's referral list

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

After receiving several complaints from employees that they weren't paid by a contractor for clearing out underbrush and removing trees from lots in Ruidoso, Village Forestry Department director Rick Delaco knew he needed to take action.

The cost-sharing projects monitored by the department constitute contracts between the village and private property owners, who then hire someone to work on their land. After the jobs are accomplished and inspected, the owners apply for partial reimbursement from the village. The reimbursement money comes from state and federal fire hazard reduction programs.

"It's not our business what goes on between the contractor and his employees," Delaco said Monday. But it is his business when problems cloud his department's ability to approve a

contractor for a referral list.

The case that caused Delaco to review the procedure involved a local contractor and several employees who complained to Delaco, the Lincoln County thinning project administrator Greg Shaver and officials with the state Forestry Division that they were not paid.

Contacted Monday, the contractor said that after a complaint was filed with the state Labor Department, he paid all the money he owed.

"That was months ago," he said, contending the problem was connected to the lag in reimbursement after a project is finished. He denied that any more money is owed.

But two people said they still haven't been paid a combined \$590 in back wages, and that several others also ran into financial problems waiting for a pay check that didn't arrive. However, they did not have an employment contract or payment agreement in writing.

Delaco said he's not in any position

to make a judgment, but after receiving the fourth complaint, the contractor was removed in last August from the village's referral list.

"That list represents the cream of the crop," Delaco said. "It's really free advertising so they better do a good job and handle all aspects of the business well."

Lincoln County manager Tom Stewart said the same contractor also is being removed from the referral list used for projects in the unincorporated sections of the county monitored by the State Forestry Division.

But the situation pointed out some steps that property owners and employees need to take to ensure they are protected in the future.

Before paying a contractor, a land owner may want a signed statement that all employees or subcontractors have been paid, similar to releases required when someone is building a house.

Employees also may want a written statement spelling out employment conditions and wages. If a dis-

pute occurs, they then have something to present the Labor Department.

Delaco said several contractors have been removed from the referral list over the last year. Some have worked their way back on, but had to start from zero to prove their reliability, he said.

Requirements to be listed include buying a \$35 village business license, providing references from satisfied property owners and addresses of jobs that Delaco or his assistant, Justice Jones, can inspect, and attending some of the periodic meetings Delaco conducts with contractors.

The meetings are aimed at ensuring contractors understand what the village's ordinance on landscaping and tree thinning says.

"Especially regarding larger trees, we want to be sure they can't say they didn't realize those shouldn't be cut," Delaco said. "If they cut those larger trees (without a valid reason and specific approval from the department), they're off the list."

"We want to provide a pool of reliable contractors."

A good businessman must anticipate that reimbursement on the cost-

sharing program may lag and either set aside enough money to pay his people when due or take out a temporary loan until the money arrives from state or federal sources, the forestry director said.

Because the "contract" for work is between the land owner and the contractor, the village also doesn't control pricing for jobs or insurance such as liability or workman's compensation, Delaco said. Information sheets from the village contain that disclaimer, he said.

On a larger job or one involving trees that could be a hazard to a neighboring house or the land owner's home, a property owner should see proof that the contractor is covered for liability and workman's compensation, and check their own liability coverage.

For a smaller job involving 5-inch diameter trees and contractors with only two or three employees, workman's compensation is not required, Delaco said.

"When I subcontracted (before being hired by the village), both sides agreed to hold harmless the property owner for workman's compensation," he said.

Underwood to continue as lobbyist

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Ruidoso village attorney H. John Underwood will continue to lobby for local issues in Santa Fe.

A former state representative, Underwood has provided lobbying services to the village for several years. His contract was renewed

Tuesday for \$10,000, covering a period from Jan. 1 to March 15, 2004, which include the 30-day session of the state Legislature.

His efforts primarily are aimed at obtaining funding for capital improvements. Underwood said the fee was increased slightly this year because of the complexity of issues he handles on behalf of the village, including water and water rights, and municipal gross receipt taxes.

Comp plan display in Midtown Saturday

DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

While residents and visitors will be drawn to Midtown Saturday to enjoy the holiday lights and entertainment, a more serious purpose may pique the interest of those who want input into the village's

future.

From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. as part of the Festival of Lights celebration, Sudderth Drive will be closed to traffic from Center Street to Country Club Drive.

A display by Design Workshop on the village's Comprehensive Plan will be set up either in front of

Brunell's Department Store, or if it rains, on the bottom floor of the Four Seasons Mall.

Information will be distributed, exhibits will be set up and the public will have a chance to view the possible future of the village, said village manager Lorri McKnight.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Downs annexation

The next hearing on the proposed annexation of land east of the existing boundaries of Ruidoso Downs is set for Dec. 18.

The New Mexico Municipal Borders Commission will con-

duct the hearing at 10 a.m. at Ruidoso Downs City Hall to hear testimony concerning the annexation.

Three of more Lincoln County commissioners will attend the public meeting, but no official county business will be conducted.

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Group names winner in RHS band raffle



Liz Hofacket holds the \$15,000 raffle prize from the recent Friends of the Musical Arts fundraiser for the Ruidoso High School 24 Karat Gold Band. Shown above, from left, are Eddie Saenz, member, and Andy Hayton, president, of Friends of the Musical Arts; on the right is Robbie Stephens, band director; kneeling are Jessica Francis, color guard, and Tristan Bates, both seniors.

■ Liz Hofacket was awarded \$15,000 by the Friends of the Musical Arts.

BY SANDY SUGGITT
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Liz Hofacket was the lucky winner of the Friends of the Musical Arts' \$15,000 raffle prize to raise money for the Ruidoso High School 24 Karat Gold Band's planned trip to Washington, D.C.

The band will represent New Mexico in the World War II Memorial Dedication Parade on Memorial Day Weekend 2004 and has a lot of money to raise for trip expenses.

Hofacket said her husband bought two of the raffle tickets at \$50 each because he wanted to support the band. She chose the cash instead of the truck because "the money is more useful to help a lot of different

people," she said.

Robbie Stephens, band director, said another fundraiser is planned for sometime toward the end of January. Students will be making the rounds with brochures and taking orders from individuals and businesses for gourmet coffee and cookies. For information about this fundraiser, call the high school band room at 258-4910.

Eddie Saenz, also a member of the booster club Friends of the Musical Arts, said the band earned \$1,500 in its fall fundraiser, "A Mile of Dollars."

About 60 students and 15 parents stood on Sudderth Drive in Midtown for two hours asking for donations for the Washington, D.C., band trip.

That fundraiser was so successful they'll probably do another like it in the spring, he said.

RUIDOSO POLICE

Drug arrest

Ruidoso police cited Larry Gonzales, 38, of Ruidoso, Dec. 8, charging him with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. While looking for a person wanted by Roswell police, the officer was given consent to search an apartment at 115 S. Evergreen Drive. Seeing a marijuana cigarette, he then got consent to search for narcotics and found a baggy with marijuana and various items of drug paraphernalia.

Marijuana found

During a traffic stop behind 2811 Sudderth Drive, on Dec. 7, officers smelled burnt marijuana coming from one of the cabins at 29 Pines. Given permission to search, they found a baggy with marijuana and a burnt marijuana cigarette on a coffee table.

FUNERALS DEATHS

Dorothy Burgess

A memorial service for Dorothy Grace Burgess, 75, of Green Valley, Ariz., will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 16 at the Desert Hills Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Burgess died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2003, at her home in Green Valley, after a battle with cancer.

She was born in Chester, Nova Scotia, Canada, the daughter of the late Cecil and Mabel Chandler.

A well-known businesswoman in Saint John, New Brunswick, for many years, she operated two beauty salons as well as a consignment clothing store. She was an avid golfer in Green Valley and at Alto Lakes Country Club. She was dedicated to her church and the local Elks. She traveled extensively, enjoyed people and lived life to the fullest.

Survivors include her husband, William; a sister, Edna Nauss, and a twin sister, Doris Meadow; a brother, Walter; children James and his wife, Patricia Hebb, John and his wife, Gayle Hebb, Paul and his wife, Terri Horton, and Linda and her husband, John Snow, all of Canada, and a daughter, Gaye and her husband, Sid Miller, of Alto; 12 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; stepchildren Jeff and his wife, Leigh Ann Burgess, of Orlando, Fla., and Tom Burgess and Deborah and her husband, Steve Sessions, of Denver,

Colo.; eight step-grandchildren; and five step-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Lawrence; and husbands Donald Hebb and Frederic Horton.

The family suggests memorial donations to local and national cancer societies.

Arrangements are under the care of Green Valley Mortuary.

Stephanie Telles-Belin

A funeral Mass for Stephanie Rochelle Telles-Belin, 30, of Mescalero will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, with burial to follow at the Mescalero Cemetery.

Ms. Telles-Belin died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2003, at her home.

She was born July 15, 1973, in Mescalero.

She lived there all her life. She was a member of St. Joseph's Mission and a homemaker.

Survivors include a daughter, Sophia Isabel Grace Telles; her mother, Grace Palmer; her father, David Belin; brothers Farron Palmer and Jeffrey Palmer; sisters Nancy Palmer and Althea Palmer; grandparents Isabel and Steven Martinez, Lucy Evelyn Smith and Delphine Yahnahki.

Arrangements are under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

Melanie Ann Davis

A funeral service for Melanie Ann Davis, 35, of Mescalero was Wednesday at St. Joseph's Mission, with burial following at the Mescalero Cemetery.

Ms. Davis died Saturday,

Dec. 6, 2003, in Mescalero.

She was born Feb. 27, 1968, in Mescalero.

She had lived there all her life. She was a teacher's aide at the Mescalero Apache School and a member of St. Joseph's Mission.

Survivors include her mother and step-father Henrietta and Curtis Johnson; her father, Clyde Davis Sr.; brothers Douglas Davis, Clyde Davis Jr. and Timothy Johnson; sisters Jerilyn Morgan, Maelena Johnson and Myrtle Johnson; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Arrangements are under the direction of LaGrone Funeral Chapel of Ruidoso.

Eva 'Lee' Powell Dollahon

Private services for Eva "Lee" Powell Dollahon, 80.

Mrs. Dollahon died Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003, with her family by her side.

She was born March 3, 1923.

Survivors include stepchildren Linda Ross and her husband, Steve, of Albuquerque, Cynthia Langford and her husband, James, and Gregory Dollahon and his wife, Annie, all of Texas; eight grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and one step-great-grandchild; close friends in Ruidoso, including her fellow docents at the Hubbard Museum and Martha Smith.

The family suggests memorial donations be sent to her favorite charities, Animal Humane Society and American Diabetes Association.

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Aesthetic group wins award

■ Congratulations were given to the Keep Ruidoso Beautiful Committee and a few individuals for the effort.

BY DIANNE STALLINGS
RUIDOSO NEWS STAFF WRITER

Compliments were passed out all around for members of the Keep Ruidoso Beautiful committee Tuesday.

For the second consecutive year, the group won the Governor's Community Achievement Award, which will be presented on Dec. 18 in Santa Fe.

Chairman Susan Lutterman told village councilors, "We feel very proud for our little community to receive first place two times. It's an outstanding accomplishment."

Only with the support of Ellen "Buzz" Blaney, who sends the state photographs and news clips on every project and accomplishment, could the group pull off such a coup, she said.

"She keeps us motivated," Lutterman said of Blaney. "But the real secret to our success is the people, who come out year after year to pick up trash."

In a surprise move, Rafael Salas, director of

village Parks and Recreation Department, where Blaney works, presented his employees with a plaque of recognition for her dedication to the program.

Blaney said she's honored to be part of the Keep Ruidoso Beautiful program and added up some of the volunteers hours put in by members, then translated those hours into dollars donated to the community.

Lutterman also mentioned the dedication of members Jackie Craig, Bart Young, Carolyn Felder and Keith Thomas. She reviewed some of the group's accomplishments since its formation in October 1997.

Annual projects include mulching Christmas trees, a bank challenge cleanup event and the statewide Trek for Trash. Liberty Park also was created at the Kidz Konnection playground at White Mountain Elementary.

The fourth quarter Keep Ruidoso Beautiful Award then was presented to Neal Jones, who Lutterman said not only champions the cause, but comes out to pick up trash himself. A certificate was given to KIDX, where Jones is an announcer, for all of the publicity the radio station gives to the clean-up program.

Councilor Bob Sterchi ended the little love fest by adding his appreciation for Lutterman's leadership.

Foundation seeks to aid medical costs

BY JENNIFER CHADWICK
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization formed for the purpose of providing financial assistance to residents of Lincoln County for medications, medical equipment, and medical supplies not covered by insurance programs, the Lincoln County Indigent Fund Program and/or Medicare and Medicaid.

The foundation also accepts donations of durable medical equipment for use by individuals who meet eligibility guidelines.

Financial eligibility guidelines are the same as for the Lincoln County Indigent Fund, which are designed for the "working poor." Lincoln County has a high percentage of uninsured population, with approximately 23 percent of the total population living at or below poverty level. Families without minor children (under 18) rarely qualify for Medicaid.

The financial guidelines allow for a monthly income of \$1,711 for a single-person household, \$1,956 for a two-person household, with approximately \$2,000 additional monthly income allowed for each additional person living in the same household.

Completion of an application

is required to request financial assistance, with verification of income and 90-day residency in Lincoln County accompanying the application.

An individual and/or family must have less than \$10,000 liquid assets. This means that the person needing assistance can own their own home and an automobile and still be qualified.

The foundation funds can be accessed for people who have a need for medical equipment that will not be covered under Medicare. Medicare and Medicaid both have rules excluding the coverage of some medical equipment. If the individual needs medical equipment, call the foundation and request an application. We also have volunteers available to help complete the application process.

Many seniors are living on a limited income that makes it very difficult to pay for their medications. Imagine trying to pay for medications that cost \$400-600 a month, rents for \$300-500 a month, groceries, utilities, etc. on an income of \$1,200 a month. The cost of medications continues to skyrocket. When seniors are faced with the choice of paying for medications or paying the electric or gas bills, the choice is usually made to stay warm. For qualified individuals, the Foundation will help pay for medications, while also assisting the individual to complete applications for medication assistance programs.

The Foundation also provides community and health care provider education related to home health care and hospice services such as Medicare/Medicaid benefits, qualifications, assistance from the Foundation, accessing community resources, end-of-life and palliative care. If your community organization needs a speaker on any of these topics, please call and schedule a date with us.

If you are considering donating to a charity organization this year, remember that the Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice Foundation ensures that funds remain in Lincoln County. The number of applicants requesting financial assistance is increasing as the cost of medications continues to climb.

Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice Foundation is governed by a local board, and all funds are for use by residents of Lincoln County who meet the financial and resident eligibility guidelines. The Board of Directors includes Tom Rigsby, Linda Flack, Jennie Dorgan, Bruce Chapman, Theresa Wood, and Kitty Jelsovsky Callendar.

For more information, to request an application, or to make a donation, contact the Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice Foundation at (505) 258-0028, P.O. Box 2019, Ruidoso, NM 88355.

Jennifer Chadwick is the owner of Ruidoso Home Care and Hospice.

FIGHTING JACK FROST



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

A group warms by the fire at the village's Christmas tree-lighting ceremony last week. There was plenty else to do though, including visits with Santa and rides on a horse-drawn sleigh.

2003
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Closing of Medical Practice
Vickie S. Williams, D.O., F.A.C.O.G.

To my patients, my friends
The years I have spent in Ruidoso have given me the most wonderful experiences in my life. To have the pleasure of taking care of, caring for, and knowing so many as patients and friends, is an immeasurable treasure I will forever hold. My office will be closing December 19th. I hope to see you in the community, enjoying our beautiful village.
For records, prior to December 19th, call 257-5611. After December 20th, call 258-5297. Please establish care with a Gyn. Doc. before December 19th.

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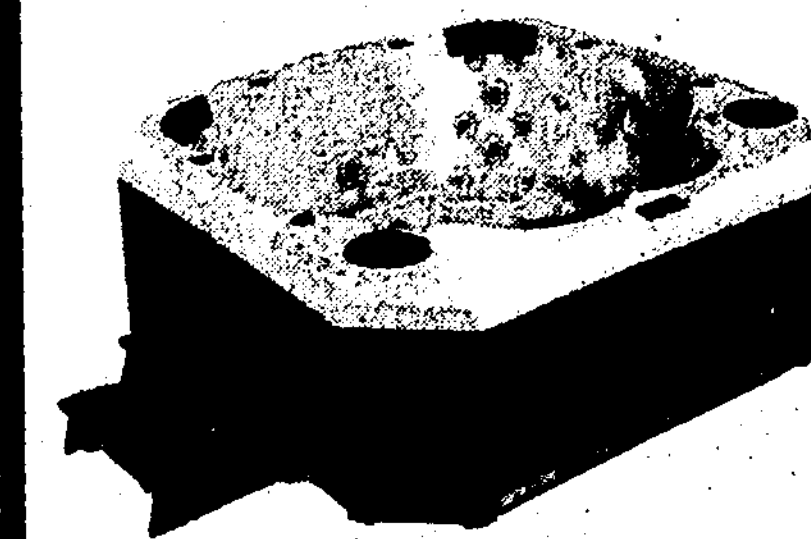
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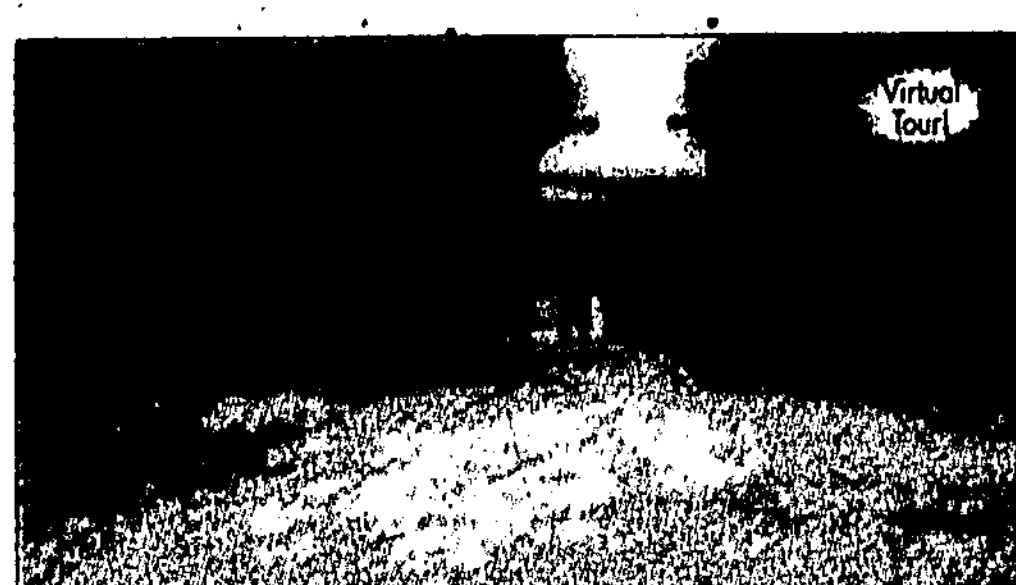


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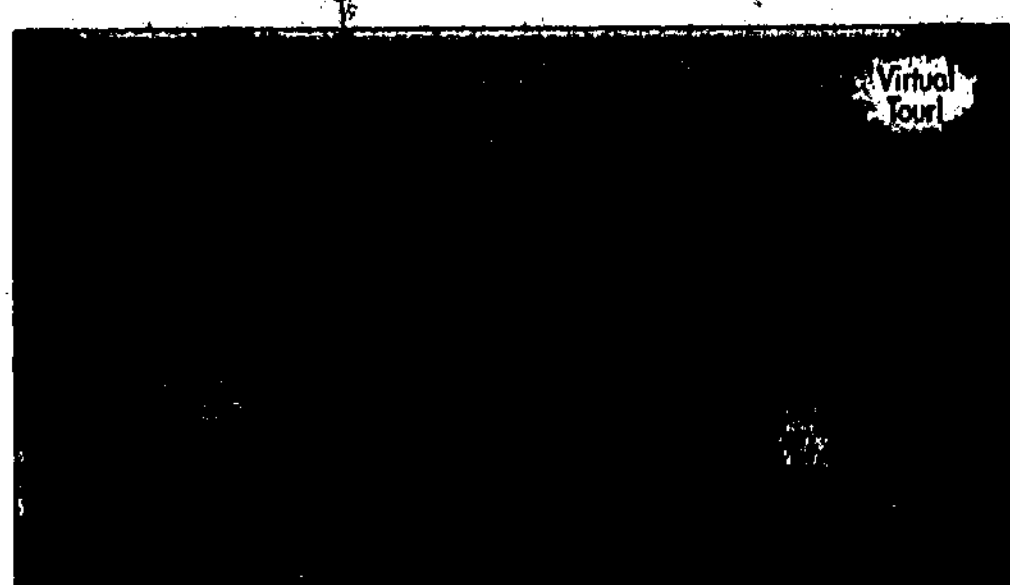
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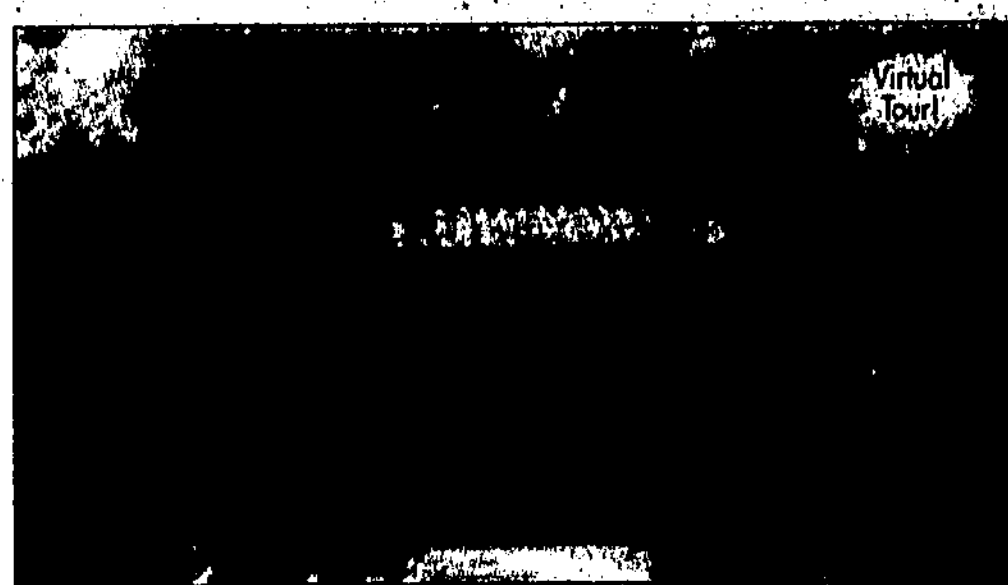
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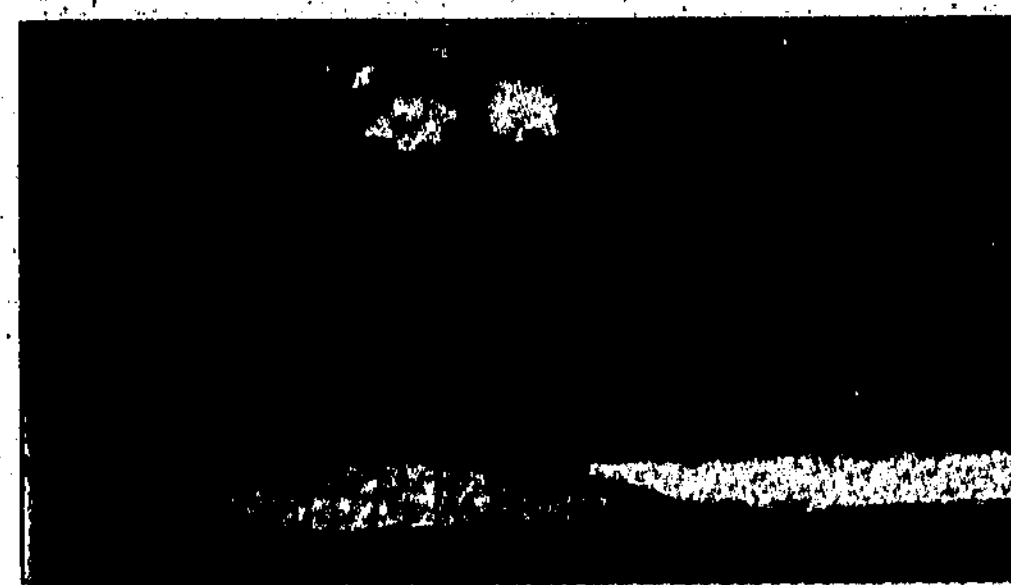
HUGE PRICE REDUCTION! Super home with fantastic views! Approximately 200 acres, already in 4 parcels. Own the whole mountain!!! Secluded class. room to build more fantastic-view homes. \$1,495,000. #94722



ELEGANT & SOPHISTICATED Custom home with social membership. Perfect for entertaining in park-like setting. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4 fireplaces, double garage with golf cart area. \$769,000. #99246.



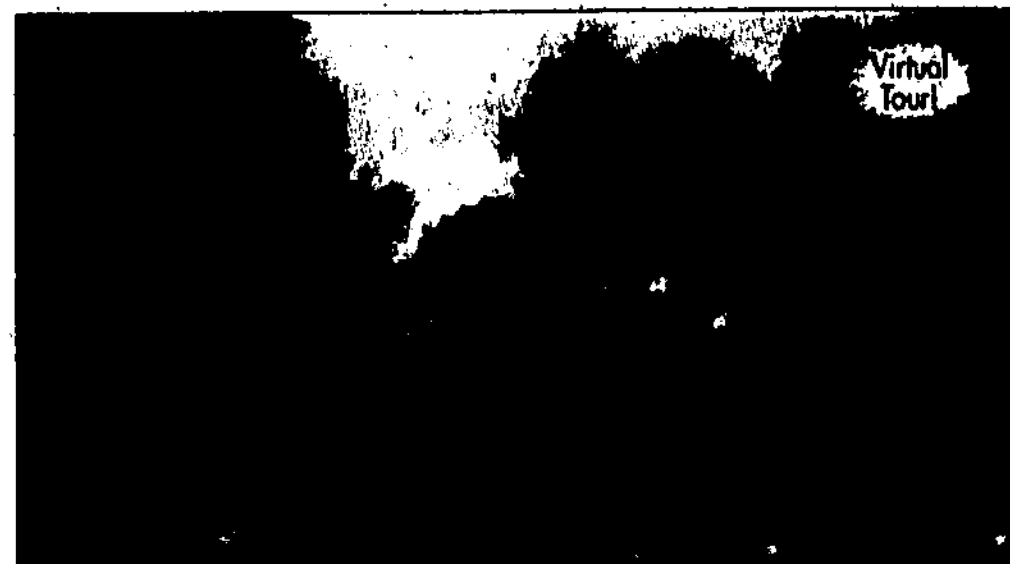
PREMIER ALTO HOME • Located on 14th Fairway. Wonderful territorial home, Sierra Blanca view, glorious master suite, 2 offices, spacious kitchen & dining, landscaped. \$698,000. #99623.



MAGNIFICENT ALTO VILLAGE HACIENDA Spacious arched windows & handsome shutters throughout. The tiled entry leads to a magnificent great room with soaring ceilings & copper fireplace. \$554,000. #99911.



SUPERB CUSTOM BUILT HOME Golf membership in Alto Village. Beautifully landscaped, easy access w/wooded view. One level. Vaulted ceilings, light open floor plan w/4 Br & 3 Ba Triple garage. \$475,000. #94861



ELEGANCE! One-level home, stucco, tile roof, large master, 2 living areas, wood floors, air conditioning, central vacuum and alarm. Golf membership. Paved drive and nice landscaping. \$449,000. #96920.



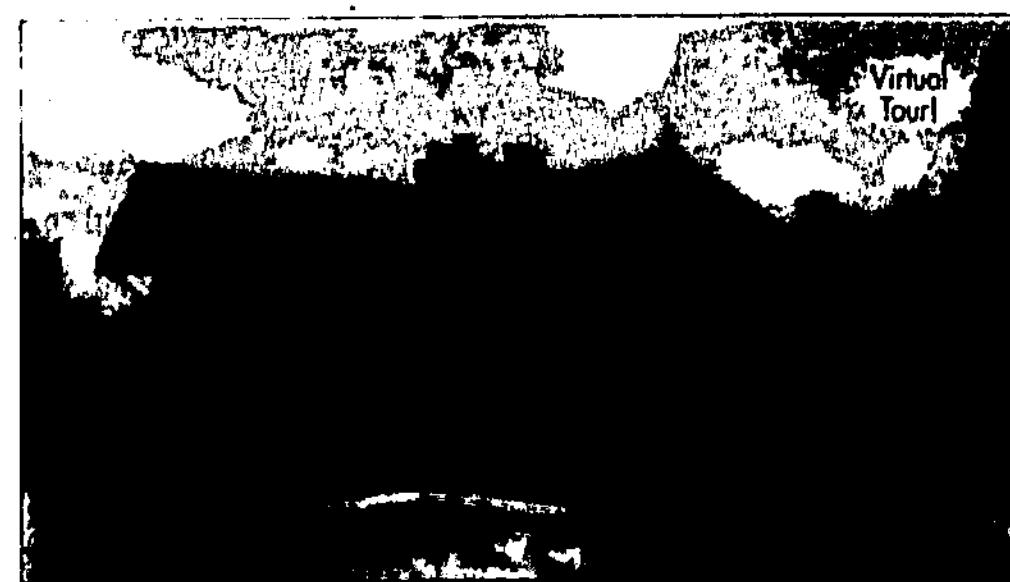
GRACIOUS LIVING IN CUSTOM BUILT Traditional territorial design. High ceilings with medallions. Library, tiled fireplaces, butler's pantry, adobe-walled patio. An exceptional and unique home. \$429,000. #97153.



PRICE REDUCED ON GORGEOUS HOME On top of the ridge of Willie Horton. Oak doors, tile floors and roof, Trex decks, big Jacuzzi. Lots of open space for entertaining. Lot has been thinned. \$410,000. #99023.



EXTRAORDINARY VIEWS OF SIERRA BLANCA Golf membership, the entire living area is on 1 level & the south side is all glass. Paved drive & parking, metal roof & lots of covered decks. \$365,000. #97896



PAVED CORNER LOT DRIVEWAY New paint, new roof, on Deer Park Dr in Alto Village. Two fireplaces and fully furnished. Even a 4x4 Chevrolet Blazer. \$359,000. #99755.



MAGNIFICENT VIEW OF SIERRA BLANCA • Prestigious location, 3 bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths, large living area, 2 car garage and tons of storage. Pella windows w/built-in blinds. Dated, but has potential. \$333,500. #10027.



REMODELED... Stucco exterior, paved drive, great view of Sierra Blanca. Large master on ground floor. 2 fireplaces with one in the master suite. 3900 Sq ft. ADA access & stair lifts. RV pad. \$329,500. #97500 88345.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION • The builder stops here! Selling "as is," ready for buyer to have finished out by builder or self. Custom Oak craftsmanship. Double garage. Stucco with metal roof. \$416,000. #97243



GREAT HOME W/GOLF MEMBERSHIP Pretty lot with trees, paved driveway, easy access. Some furnishings. Great room or guest quarters with huge TV. New rooms to be tiled and carpeted. \$295,000. #99151.



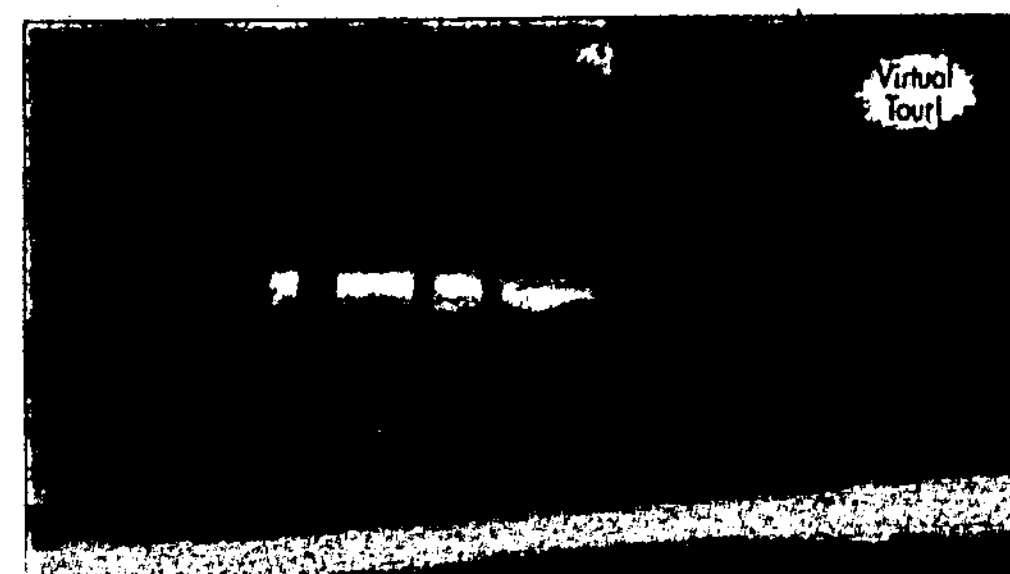
NEED SPACE? THIS IS THE ONE!!! Courtyard entry, 4000+ Sq Ft home, 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, master boasts his and her baths and closets, guest quarters, super large kitchen, tile, wood & pellet stoves. \$269,900. #97697.



UPDATED, GOLF MEMBERSHIP HOME Replaced carpet, water heater, roof, window treatments & tile. 3 bedrooms, 2-3/4 baths, 2 living areas, 2 fireplaces. Huge master, oversized double garage. \$249,900. #10425.



SIERRA BLANCA VIEW • From this open floor plan home with split bedrooms. Heated over-sized garage with its own workshop. RV parking, sewer dump, fenced yard. Custom cabinets. \$230,000. #10274



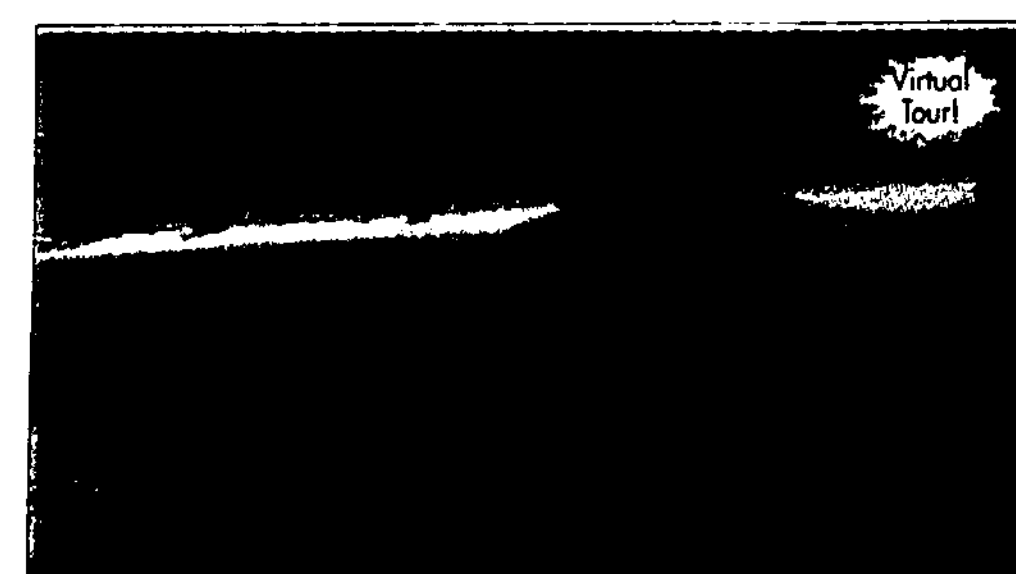
ABSOLUTELY LOVELY HOME nestled in the pines. Fireplace insert, open floor plan, fully landscaped, double garage, heated studio, metal roof, covered front & back decks. \$230,000. #98028.



REMODELED ONE LEVEL HOME Large master, new kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. More than 1/2 acre, beautiful lot. Fruit trees & lawn. Private well plus village water. Great access. \$199,500. #99634.



CUTE CHALET TUCKED IN THE TREES Vaulted ceilings in living and master bedroom, cedar fenced, dog run & huge decks. Oak cabinets, water softener, \$2,000. Carpet allowance. \$5K less without furniture. \$187,500. #10403.



BEAUTIFUL HOME ON 4 ACRES Fantastic views, 30x40 metal building with electric door opener, 12x20 workshop. RV hookups, handicap ramp, 2 covered decks & landscaping. \$174,900. #10038.



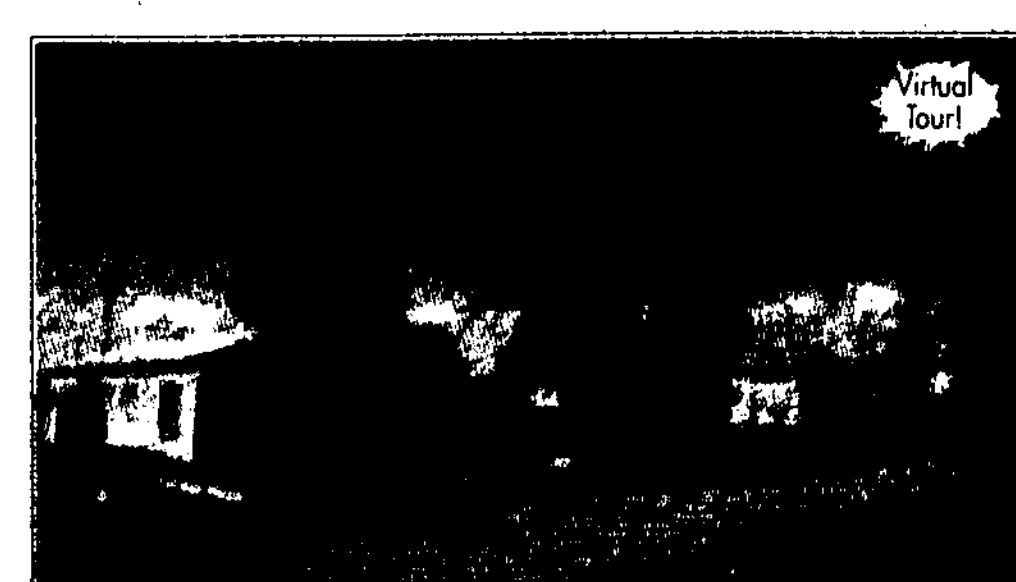
CHARMING COUNTRY CABIN Nestled in the tall pines. 2 bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths, beautiful covered deck, large lot, garage & carpet. Property is in excellent condition. Lots of wildlife to view. \$145,000. #10332.



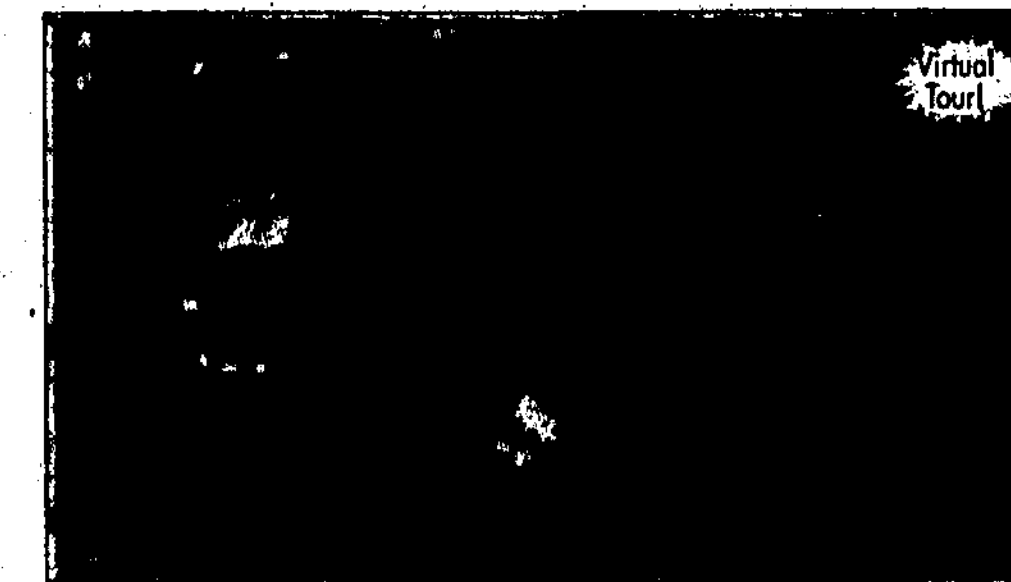
FAMILY HOME 2000+ Sq Ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, wet bar, island range, huge laundry room, 2-car garage. Extra clean! \$140,000. #10426.



NICE 3 BR, 2 BA HOME One half acre, recently painted & carpeted. Split floor plan, vaulted ceiling in living room. \$119,500. #98672.



TWO HOMES! Main house approx. 1450 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Rental house approx. 708 sq ft, 2 bedrooms, 3/4 bath. Many out buildings, set up for horses or livestock. Nice mountain views. \$105,000. #95872.



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SPORTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2003

CALL US: TODD FUQUA, SPORTS EDITOR • 257-4001 • TODDF@RUIDOSONNEWS.COM

PAGE 1B

Warrior octet named to District 4-3A first teams

The Ruidoso football team may have been unable to successfully defend its Class 3A title, but the Warriors did get some validation when eight different members were named to the first team offense and defense on this year's All-District 4-3A team.

Case Forrest, Jake Tetrault, Jess Shendo, Troy Saenz and Elisha Hedin were named to the first-team defense, while Jordan Torres, Casey Mirau and Chance Hooper got the nod on offense.

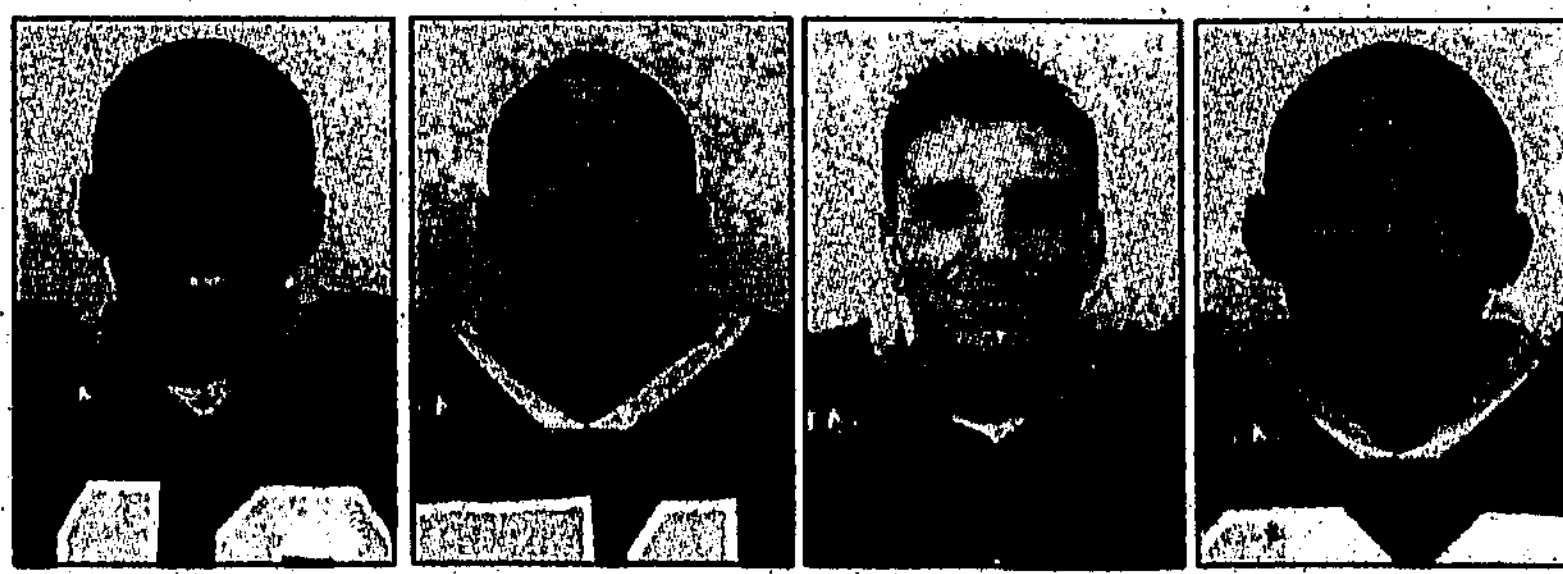
Mirau was also named as a second-team defense mention in the secondary, joined by teammate Rene Villareal. Other Warriors named to the second-team defense were Brian Chavez and Julian Serna on the defensive line, and Jaime Urban and Jasper

Riddle as linebackers.

On second-team offense, Forrest, Daniel Montes and Brian Leadingham were named to the offensive line, while Troy Saenz was tabbed

at quarterback.

Shendo was named as a back and Daniel Austin was named in the wide receiver slot. Mirau was honored as the second-team punter.



Saenz Forrest Tetrault Shendo



Hedin Torres Mirau Hooper

2003 District 4-3A All-District Team

First Team Defense

Defensive Line: Case Forrest-Rui, Jake Tetrault-Rui, David Munoz-Lov, Chase Bridgeforth-Lov, Eric Hudson-NMMI, Josh Teague-Por.

Linebackers: Jess Shendo-Rui, Tommy Woods-Lov, Phillip Martinez-Lov, Russell Knudson-Por, Joe Mangram-NMMI.

Secondary: Troy Saenz-Rui, Elisha Hedin-Rui, Daniel Stokes-NMMI, Ryan Rogers-Lov, Chris Anderson-Lov, Chris Hatcher-Lov.

Second Team Defense

Defensive Line: Brian Chavez-Rui, Julian Serna-Rui, Andrew McCraw-Lov, Taylor Ford NMMI, Jeremy Delnis-NMMI, Todd Mosier-Por, Corey Tucker-Por, Ricky Rivas-Por, Dustin Bare-Por, Tyler Johnson-Por.

Linebackers: Jamie Urban-Rui, Jasper Riddle-Rui, Alonzo Navarro-Lov, Jordan Harrison-Por.

Secondary: Casey Mirau-Rui, Rene Villareal-Rui, Reid Marley-NMMI, Nick Sabellico-NMMI, Tyler Rutherford-Por, Matt Lujan-Por, Xavier Polite-Lov, Alex Mendoza-Lov.

First Team Offense

Offensive Line: Jordan Torres-Rui, Eric Ballard-Lov, Brent Perea-Lov, Ryan Madrid-Lov, Daniel Castro-NMMI, Dominic Thyraut-NMMI, Cody Machen-Por, TC Nusser-Por.

Quarterback: Matt Palmer-Lov, Seth Clabaugh-Por.

Backs: Casey Mirau-Rui, Matt Sydnor-Lov, Jonathan Hernandez-Lov, Jason Thomas-NMMI, Cole Parrish-Por.

Wide Receivers: Chance Hooper-Rui, Jarred McMahon-Lovington, Austin Pullen-Por, Reid Marley-NMMI.

Tight Ends: Tommy Woods-Lov, Kicker: Kevin Welch-Por.

Punter: Bryson Carl-NMMI.

Second Team Offense

Offensive Line: Case Forrest-Rui, Daniel Montes-Rui, Brian Leadingham-Rui, Chris Bottomly-NMMI, Brian Berry-Por, Abe Amor-NMMI, Eric Hudson-NMMI.

Quarterback: Troy Saenz-Rui.

Backs: Jess Shendo-Rui, Bryson Carl-NMMI, Chris Carter-Por.

Wide Receivers: Daniel Austin-Rui, Brett Stokes-NMMI, Bryant Bannister-Por, Reggie Hargrove-Lov.

Tight Ends: Nate Post-NMMI.

Punter: Casey Mirau-Ruidoso.

side line

Ski Report

Ski Apache

Snowmaking continues each night. Road at report time: Clear. Midway depth: 12-20 inches on open trails.

Surface conditions: All trails machine groomed.

Trails open: Capitan (both sides), Deep Freeze, Top Knotch, Smokey Bear, Snow Park, Easy Street, Chair 5 Beginning Slope and Kiddie Korral. Lifts open: Chairs 3-5 and two surface lifts. The Gondola is open for sightseers on Saturdays and Sundays.

New snow past week: Seven inches. Snowmaking past 24 hours: Yes. Forecast: Chance of snow Friday.

The \$200 weekday season pass is back. New this season: Snow sports package. Learn to ski one day and snowboard the next, so you can get the experience for yourself which equipment is best for you.

Ski school, ski rental shop, snowboard rental shop, sport shop, bar and restaurant are all open for the season. Lift tickets are reduced to \$37 for adults and \$25 for children.

Prep Results

Tuesday, Dec. 9

Boys Basketball

Carrizozo 54, Hondo 39

Girls Basketball

Ruidoso 48, Tularosa 41

Carrizozo 52, Hondo 27

Wrestling

Ruidoso d. New Mexico Military Institute, 75-6

Thursday, Dec. 11

Boys Basketball

To'hajiilee Tournament

Sandia Prep 55, Mesalero 51

Girls Basketball

Artesia City of Champions

Tournament

Carlsbad 48, Ruidoso 35

To'hajiilee Tournament

Mescalero 73, Laguna JV 46

Preps on Tap

Friday, Dec. 19

Boys Basketball

Mescalero vs. To'hajiilee/Desert

Academy in To'hajiilee Tournament,

4:30 p.m. Ruidoso vs. Deming, 7:30

p.m.

Corona at Mountainair Tournament,

TBA

Hondo/Carrizozo at Vaughn Eagle

Classic, TBA

Girls Basketball

Ruidoso vs. Lovington in Artesia City

of Champions Tournament, 8:30

a.m.

Mescalero vs. To'hajiilee/Sandia Prep

JV in To'hajiilee Tournament, 3 p.m.

Wrestling

Ruidoso at Las Cruces Tourney, 2

p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Boys Basketball

Ruidoso junior varsity at Capitan, 4

p.m.

Mescalero in To'hajiilee Tournament,

TBA

Corona at Mountainair Tournament,

TBA

Hondo/Carrizozo at Vaughn Eagle

Classic, TBA

Girls Basketball

Mescalero in To'hajiilee Tournament,

TBA

Ruidoso in Artesia City of Champions

Tournament, 9:30 a.m.

Wrestling

Ruidoso at Las Cruces Tourney, TBA

On Deck

Christmas basketball camp

The Ruidoso Lady Warriors will

host a Christmas basketball camp

for girls in grades 7-12. The camp,

to be held Dec. 27 at the Ruidoso

Middle School, will be run by

Johnna Pointer, head coach at

Wayland Baptist University in

Plainview, Texas.

Deadline to sign up is Dec. 19, and

enrollment is limited. Those inter-

ested must submit a \$50 payment

and the participant's name and

grade to the Lady Warrior Booster

Club, P.O. Box 7971, Ruidoso, NM,

88365.

Ruidoso girls show grit at Artesia

BY TODD FUQUA

RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

ARTESIA — When the Ruidoso Lady Warrior basketball team last faced Carlsbad, back in December of 2002, the Cavegirls embarrassed RHS with a 74-30 thrashing.

Through the first quarter of the teams' game Thursday in the first round of the Artesia City of Champions Classic, it looked as though it might be a repeat.

Carlsbad had a 16-1 lead after the first period, but the Lady Warriors remained patient, ran their offense and eventually tied it at 29-all in the third quarter.

Unfortunately, the comeback fizzled out at that point, and the Cavegirls cruised to a 48-35 win.

The biggest problem for Ruidoso (2-5) was its inability to score inside early. The Lady Warriors had several wide-open looks at the basket early in the game, but the shots just wouldn't fall.

The Lady Warriors didn't score until Christine Brown hit a free throw with 2:10 left in the first quarter.

The Cavegirls (6-2) came into the game riding a big 53-13 win over Las Cruces on Tuesday, and got plenty of inside scoring after offensive rebounds by Anne Hellebust, who led her team with 26 points.

Despite the big deficit, Ruidoso battled back in the second half, and clawed its way to within seven points at the break.

They did it when Clarissa Silva began hitting the three-point shot. She finished the game with a trio of treys in the game for nine points, but the real comeback started when the transition game got going.

"We were getting conversions with baskets when we needed conversions," said Ruidoso coach Greg Marez. "We waited to get the right conversion, and that's



TODD FUQUA/STAFF

Ruidoso forward Dusti Franklin, right, takes a shot while Carlsbad's Anne Hellebust attempts to block during the Lady Warriors' 48-35 loss to the Cavegirls Thursday in the opening round of the Artesia City of Champions Tournament.

what we wanted."

Ruidoso went on a 9-3 run to start the third quarter, keyed by a three-pointer by Vicki Celusniak and three-point play by Jessica Gibson.

The Lady Warriors tied it at 29-all with 4:12 left on a layup by

Dusti Franklin.

But then turnovers got the best of the Lady Warriors, and Carlsbad went on a 14-0 run to put the game out of reach.

"Turnovers killed us again,"

See GRIT, page 2B

Carrizozo hoopsters sweep Hondo

BY TODD FUQUA

RUIDOSO NEWS SPORTS EDITOR

Whatever hopes Hondo boys coach Eddie Chavez had for his team in its rematch with Carrizozo on Tuesday, it's a safe bet a 54-39 loss wasn't on his wish list.

"It was a disaster," Chavez said. "We just didn't come out to play in the second half."

Hondo had a nine-point lead at the break, but the Grizzlies took advantage of several Eagle turnovers to complete a sweep for Carrizozo. The Lady Grizzlies defeated the Hondo girls in the opener, 52-27.

It was the first win in six games for the Carrizozo boys, and coach Steve Barron is hoping the offense is finally starting to work for his team.

"We were trying to get all the kinks out last time," Barron said of the last game between the two teams, a 48-46 victory for the Eagles on Nov. 25. "It looks like we're putting it together now."

Joseph Samora had 24 points for the Grizzlies to lead the game, while Josh Calvert had 16 points.

Derek McTigue had 12 points for the Eagles (3-3), who were struggling with difficulties

away from the court.

Eddi Valenzuela, usually the team leader both in points and attitude, sat out most of the fourth quarter and wasn't with the team in its game against Roy in the Vaughn Eagle Classic on Thursday.

Personnel problems aside, Chavez is just hoping his team can play defense. They didn't have much on Tuesday, allowing 19 points for the Grizzlies in the fourth quarter.

"I don't know if we were overconfident or what," Chavez said.

"We just didn't play any defense.

"We also need to take care of the ball," he added. "When you have 35 turnovers, you have trouble beating a junior high team."

Carrizozo was also at the Vaughn Eagle Classic Thursday, opening with host Vaughn in the

See SWEEP, page 2B



PHOTO BY MARTY RAGINE

Carrizozo's Robert Dutchover, right, dribbles against Capitan's Brendon Osborne during a game Dec. 2. Dutchover and the Grizzlies were able to avenge a loss to Hondo with a 54-39 victory over the Eagles on Tuesday.

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TIP OF THE WEEK

When attempting to sell your home for top dollar, effective pricing, effective pricing, effective pricing, should be the mantra. By effectively pricing your home, the purchaser immediately sees value and is less likely to quibble over the price. The result — less time on the market and a higher final sales price!

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See some of CENTURY 21 Aspen Real Estate's listings on the back page of section A, TODAY!

UNM Defeats Sacramento State 77-63

ALBUQUERQUE — David Chiotti scored a career-high 24 points and New Mexico got its first win this season over a Division I opponent by beating Sacramento State 77-63 Monday night.

Chiotti fashioned a double-double by also grabbing 10 rebounds. He had four 3-point plays and along with Javin Tindall carried New Mexico's sputtering offense in the second half.

Tindall added 22 points, including a 10-for-11 effort at the foul line. New Mexico (3-3) hit 30 of 39 free throws and took 22 more foul shots than the Hornets (3-3).

Joel Jones hit five 3-pointers and scored 25 points for Sacramento State.

The Hornets hit just one of their first 15 shots and trailed 15-4 with 9:56 left in the first half. But once Jones got hot, the Hornets made one run after another. Sacramento State had only one field goal in the first 10 minutes, then hit nine of its next 17 shots in the first half.

New Mexico led 37-26 at halftime, but Sacramento State scored seven straight points to cut the New Mexico lead to 45-44 with 12:00 left. A 3-pointer moments later by Jones tied it at 47. That rally was helped

along by New Mexico turnovers and missed free throws.

Tindall put New Mexico in front for good with a 3-point-play and a 3-pointer from the top of the key, but the Hornets had it back to within three (60-57) after another 3-pointer by Jones and a free throw by Joseth Dawson with 3:18 left in the game.

Chiotti got his final 3-point play of the game with a layup and free throw and Tindall added six free throws and a layup in the last two minutes.

New Mexico hit 14 straight free throws over the game's final five minutes.

Gary Tripp named new NMAA executive director

ALBUQUERQUE — The NMAA Board of Directors officially named Gary Tripp the new executive director of the New Mexico Activities Association Thursday morning. Tripp has been the principal at Rio Rancho High School since the 1999-2000 school year.

Prior to becoming Rio Rancho's principal, Tripp served as the assistant principal at Rio Rancho during the 1998-1999 school year. His teaching and coaching career began in 1984 in Moriarty, where he filled the position of athletic director and elementary school principal.

The Board of Directors announced that Gary Tripp will officially start as the new executive director June 1. His contract, to last for two years, will pay \$95,000 a year.

Tripp addressed the board of directors after the announcement. He thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the students of New Mexico and vowed to work hard for the students, stressing the importance of asking the member schools for their input and suggestions.

Tripp graduated from West Las Vegas High School and attended New Mexico Highlands University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. He is currently working towards his doctorate at the University of New Mexico.

Tripp's naming as executive director comes just two months after former director Dan Salzwedel decided to start an earned vacation. Salzwedel spent 23 years at the NMAA and 18 as executive director.

Tripp is only the fifth executive director in NMAA history. Karen Honeycutt, former NMAA assistant director, will continue to serve as interim executive director until Tripp takes over in June.

SWEEP: Carrizozo wins a pair against struggling Eagles

FROM PAGE 1B

first round.

Barron said he really likes his team's chances in this tournament, one which also features Reserve, Gateway Christian and the Dexter and Santa Rosa junior varsity teams.

"This tournament looks pretty good for us, with the competition that's coming up," Barron said. "If we play well, we can pull off a win or two."

'Sloppy' play for 'Zozo

Despite the big score, Carrizozo girls coach Mel Holland was still not satisfied with the way his team played in the opener on Tuesday.

"We just didn't play very well in the first half," Holland said. "It was a one-point difference at the half. We just play sloppy in the

beginning."

The Lady Grizzlies (3-4) used their press to fluster the Hondo offense, and took advantage of turnovers committed by the Lady Eagles.

Both Carrizozo and Hondo take a week off before heading to the Mescalero Tournament next weekend. Holland hopes the week off from competition will do his team some good.

"We really ought to be playing harder and sharper than what we are right now," Holland said. "We're still just going too fast for our skills right now. It will take some maturing."

Hondo teams inconsistent

The Eagle teams entered Tuesday's game having lost a pair of games to Hagerman, then turning around and easily

Fishing report for Ruidoso area, Dec. 12, 2003

Rio Ruidoso: Decent fishing for stockers, from Chamber of Commerce to Gavilan Canyon bridge with pheasant tails and copper jolins.

Grindstone: No recent fly reports. Good reports on power bait.

Upper Canyon: Fair for browns on small beadheads.

Best fly for week: Best place is Rio Ruidoso with Beadhead Nymphs.

Reservation waters are closed.

Fly's Etc.

Time Square

2501 Sudderth Drive, Suite F

Ruidoso, NM 88345

505-257-4968

Bonito Lake: Fly fishing has slowed late evenings at Rio Bonito inlet. Best with small midges. Closes Dec. 1.



Ruidoso guard Clarissa Silva, right, dribbles against Carlsbad's Tyrie Graham during the Lady Warriors' opening loss in the Artesia City of Champions Tournament Thursday. Silva had nine points to lead Ruidoso.

GRIT: Ruidoso girls earn win the hard way

FROM PAGE 1B

Marez said. "After we tied it, we had to slow the offense down to get our shot, and that's when we made stupid turnovers."

With the loss, Ruidoso is relegated to an 8:30 a.m. start today and will play Lovington, which lost to Santa Fe in the other bracket. Win or lose today, Ruidoso will play Saturday at 9:30 a.m.

Rough game at Tuly

The Lady Warriors battled a determined Tularosa team Tuesday, and won a 48-41 decision despite losing Silva and Beth Robinson to fouls.

Silva — who led Ruidoso with 14 points — was called for a technical in the second half after getting involved in a rough play.

It was one of several plays that Marez said weren't called for fouls on the night — some-

thing which contributed to the generally ugly nature of the contest.

"I don't understand what it is between us and Tularosa," Marez said. "But the whole team played well."

Inside scoring worked for the Lady Warriors on Tuesday, as Franklin and Brown combined for 22 points in the paint.

All that activity inside, plus the added guard play of Allison Rigsby, gave Silva more opportunities to get free outside and put the ball through the hoop.

"She got a lot more opportunities to shoot, and that helped us a lot," Marez said. "She can visualize the floor a lot more if she doesn't have to handle the ball all the time."

Tularosa did make a run at the Lady Warriors, tying the game at 34-all after three quarters. But Ruidoso shut the door

Lady Warriors 48, Lady Wildcats 41 Ruidoso (48)

Allison Rigsby 2 1-4 6, Lynette Woodard 0 0-0 0, Samantha Serna 0 0-0 0, Clarissa Silva 5 4-6 14, Jessica Gibson 2 2-3 6, Katie Coronado 0 0-0 0, Sarah Breecher 0 0-0 0, Vicki Celusniak 0 0-0 0, Christine Brown 3 6-9 12, Dusti Franklin 5 0-0 10, Elisa Vigil 0 0-0 0, Beth Robinson 0 0-0 0. Totals: 17 13-22 48.

Tularosa (41)

Christian Syling 4 5-7 13, Megan Baca 0 0-0 0, Trica Walter 0 0-0 0, Rachel Chino 0 0-0 0, Aleisha Allen 0 0-0 0, Corona Gonzalez 0 1-2 1, Casey Blazer 3 1-2 7, Kyndra Hooper 3 0-0 6, Tasha Romero 3 1-3 7, Sara Khega 0 0-0 0, Christa Wohlgemuth 0 0-0 0, Ellen Chavez 0 0-0 0, Sarah Vigil 0 0-2 0, Julie Rocha 3 0-3 7. Totals: 16 8-19 41.

Ruidoso 14 12 8 14 — 48

Tularosa 16 8 10 7 — 41

3-point goals — Ruidoso 1 (Rigsby), Tularosa 1 (Rocha). Fouled out — Ruidoso (Silva, Robinson), Tularosa (Syling). Technical foul — Ruidoso (Silva). Total fouls — Ruidoso 19, Tularosa 20.

on their opponents in the fourth period.

"We worked on our focus so much in practice, and then ran it to perfection in this game," Marez said.

Mescalero girls cruise to win

The Mescalero Lady Chiefs continued their basketball dominance Thursday with a 73-46 victory over the Laguna junior varsity in the To'hajilee Tournament.

Augusta Lang led all scorers with 23 points, followed by Sherienne Davis with 12 and Yvette Martinez with 10.

PARKS AND REC BASKETBALL

Ruidoso Parks and Recreation Final Basketball Standings

	W	L	Pct.
Mescalero Echols	7	2	.778
X-Press	7	2	.778
Whatever	6	3	.667
Wolverines	6	3	.667
High Altitude	4	5	.444
Tequila Slammers	4	5	.444
Flushers	4	5	.444
Ugly Ballers	4	5	.444
Oso	3	6	.333
Big O	0	9	.000

Week 7, Nov. 25-27

High Altitude d. Big O, forfeit

X-Press 82, Tequila Slammers 57

Ugly Ballers 53, Whatever 45

Week 8, Dec. 2-4

Flushers d. Big O, forfeit

High Altitude 78, Mescalero Echols 32

Wolverines 88, Tequila Slammers 79

Week 9, Dec. 9

High Altitude 74, Tequila Slammers 41

High Altitude 48, Flushers 30

Whatever 55, Oso 49

Mescalero Echols d. Big O, forfeit

Escalero Echols 84, X-Press 79

Wolverines 76, Ugly Ballers 59

Men's Tournament Thursday, Dec. 11

Ugly Ballers vs. Oso

Mescalero Echols vs. High Altitude

Whatever vs. Flushers

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Tequila Slammers vs. X-Press, 6:30 p.m.

Wolverines vs. Ugly Ballers/Oso winner, 7:30 p.m.

Ever wonder how I always know what's up, doc?

It's simple. I read the newspaper.

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The redefining of today's world

We live in a day when ideas and concepts are in a state of flux and change. For example, the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States guarantees freedom of speech; well, almost.

The redefinition of "freedom of speech" has progressed from you can't scream "fire!" in a crowded hall or talk about "bombs" in an airport or on an airliner, to the Supreme Court ruling that you can't speak badly about an opponent who is running for office during a certain period of time. So much for freedom of speech.

"Redefining" has become the art form of society, where, if there is a concept or law that you don't agree with, just redefine it to suit your thinking and go on with things as you want them. Sell your idea to the public, sway the crowd so that they accept your idea and you are successful in leading the populace.

There is the redefinition of history. Revisionists are doing their best to make history say what they want. Even in religion, redefiners disregard the Bible and "What would Jesus do?" is their motto. They feel they can state what Jesus would do apart from the biblical evidence.

There is now the redefinition of marriage. Marriage used to be a man and woman, in love, committing themselves in holy matrimony, before God and man, to have children,

raise them and live together in devotion and harmony all their days. Then came the redefinition...lust, have sex, have babies, and, if you do marry, it is just a temporary state and

can be ended at either partner's whim. Now, we have gone farther with redefinition ... two men or two women who homosexually "love" each other can "marry," and their relationship must be sanctioned by every aspect of society.

I mention all these things to say that they all have to do with money and power, with disregard and disdain for the truth. In today's culture, "Money makes the world go 'round" and "Power makes the money." The homosexual marriage thing has more to do with money and benefits and a small minority telling the majority what is right and what the majority has to put up with. Power to control what you can or cannot say politically, gives the thought police one more thing to keep free thinkers in check.

By the way, it is not money that makes the world go 'round, it is God. And everything is His anyway. He has given mankind the responsibility for stewardship, and have we ever screwed it up. I don't think it will be long before He decides to take that responsibility back. Doing it His way is the only right way. And remember, Jesus is our help for today and our hope for tomorrow.



Clarifications
By CHARLES CLARY
RUIDOSO PASTOR

FANCY FOOTWORK



ELLIS NEEL/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS
Sarah White, a dancer with the Academy of Ballet, works on her routine for an upcoming performance Wednesday, Dec. 3, in Alamogordo.

Oops! We Goofed!

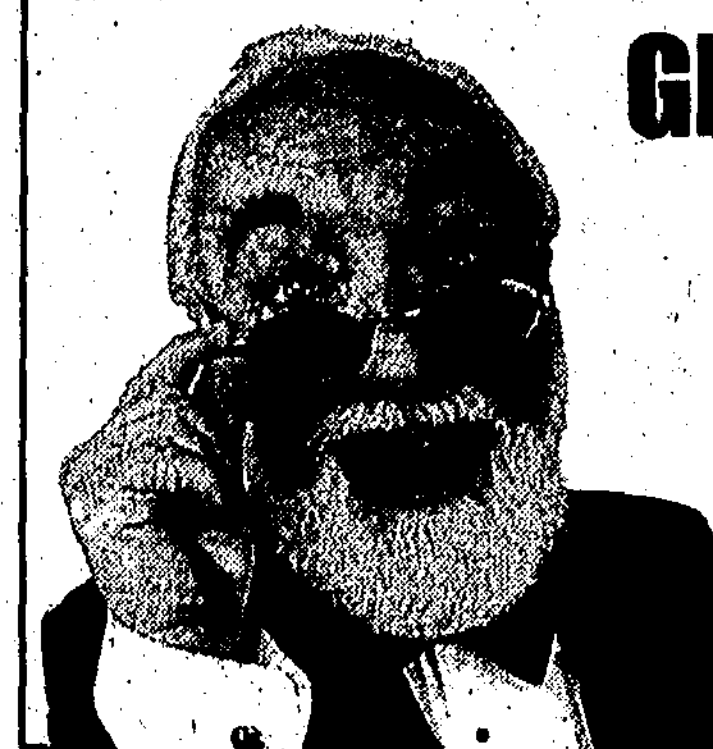
In the Lowe's circular, "Home Improvement For The Holidays: Lining Up Your Holiday Gifts" page 1 items, #372;195844;

212615;212633 - Glueless Laminate Flooring is priced incorrectly. The price shown is \$1.12 per square foot, but should be \$1.97 per square foot.

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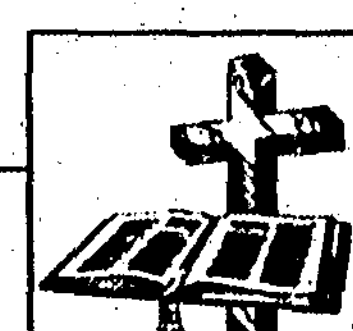
"Mommy, the sun is so bright!"
"It seems like it should be hot but it is so cold outside!"

Little Sarah has good reason to be confused. It does seem that sometimes when the weather is coldest, the sun is brighter than in the summer. Of course, adults know there is a scientific explanation for this, but maybe Mommy should just tell Sarah for now that "It's God's way of brightening the cold winter."

It can be that way in our spiritual lives. When we trust God's love and His wisdom in our lives, it seems to work out that way. The more misfortune befalls us, the more the brightness of God's love is evident, giving us encouragement amid the cold realities of life. We read in Isaiah 66:13, as God says, "As one whom his mother comforteth, so I will comfort you."

Enter the peace of God's House as you worship this week.

The Colder the Weather...



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Isaiah 66:1-13	Isaiah 66:1-13	Isaiah 66:1-13	Isaiah 66:1-13	Isaiah 66:1-13	Isaiah 66:1-13	Isaiah 66:1-13
6:11-11	6:11-11	6:11-11	6:11-11	6:11-11	6:11-11	6:11-11

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Mescalero, 671-4747 Donald Pettie, pastor Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday worship, 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m., Wednesday services 7 p.m.
First Assembly of God
El Paso Road, Ruidoso Rev. Stacy & Alicia Brankel, Pastor Sunday morning worship 10:45 a.m., Children's Church in the New Castle-During Sunday services 10:00 a.m.-Sunday evening praise 6 p.m., Undercover Youth Night-Mondays 6:00-8:30 p.m. Music - Fellowship - FunAges 12-20 Everyone is welcomed! Ladies Bible Study-Tuesday Nights @ 7:00pm every 1st and 3rd week Wed. family night 7 p.m.

BAPTIST
Alto Baptist Church 1212 Mechem Sunday, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesday 6 p.m. 336-1979
First Baptist Church
270 Country Club Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345 (505) 257-2081 Tim Gilliland, Pastor. Contemporary Services, Saturday 7:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m., Traditional Service Sunday 8:30 a.m.; Sunday School all ages 9:45 a.m., Sunday Evening Service 5:00 p.m., Wednesday Activities for all ages, 6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Ruidoso Downs Randy Widener, Pastor Sunday: Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Worship hour 8 & 11 a.m.; Eve. worship 6:00 p.m.; Wed. Prayer meeting 6:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church
Tinnie, Bill Jones, Pastor Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.
Mescalero Baptist Mission
Mescalero, Sunday Sunday school 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m., 7:15 p.m., Training union 6:30 p.m. Wednesday services 6:30 p.m.
Ruidoso Baptist Church 126 Church Drive, Palmer Gateway, Wayne Joyce, Pastor Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.;

Wednesday Bible study: 7 p.m.
Mountain Baptist Church- Location Park behind the Smokey Bear Monument on the northeast side. Times of Service: Sunday school - 10:00am, Sunday Morning - 11:00am, Sunday evening - 6:00pm, Wednesday evening - 6:30pm
The Fellowship of Help and Hope, SBC 127 Rio St. 505-257-6899 Pastor, Charles W. Clary, Worship, 6:30 pm Tuesday, Bible Study, KRIV 7:30 AM, Sunday e-mail HELP AND HOPE @ ZIANET.COM
BAHA'I FAITH
Baha'i Faith Meeting in members' homes, 257-2987 or 258-5595
CATHOLIC
St. Eleanor Catholic Church Ruidoso, 257-2330, Reverend Al Galvan, Sacrament of Penance: Sat. 5:00 p.m. or by appointment; Sat. Mass. 6 p.m. (Bilingual); Sun. Mass. 10 a.m. (English), 11:30 a.m. (English); Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat. 5 to 5:30 p.m.; Sunday Mass, St. Jude Thaddeus, San Patricio: 8 a.m.
St. Theresa Catholic Church Corona, Sunday Mass: 6 p.m.
St. Joseph's Apache Mission Mescalero, Father Larry Gosselin, OFM, Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Bent, Father Larry Gosselin, Saturday Mass: 6 p.m.; Sunday Mass: 8 a.m.
CHRISTIAN
Christian Community Church 127 Rio Corner W/Eagle, Mid-town, 9-11 Sunday Service/Praise & Worship, For more information call: 378-7076
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Hull and Gavilan Canyon Road, Rev. James M. Smith, Pastor, Sunday School, K-12/Adult: 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m.;

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gateway Church of Christ 415 Sudderth, Ruidoso, 257-4381, Jimmy Sportsman, Minister, Sunday Morning worship: 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Bible Class: 11:00 a.m.; Mid-Week Service: Wed. 6:30 p.m.
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LDS
Church of Jesus Christ LDS Ruidoso Branch, North on Hwy. 48, between Ruidoso and Capitan, Sunday President Les Nielson, 336-4359, Sunday schedule: Sacrament starts at 10 a.m.; Sunday School: Priesthood and Relief Society.
Church of Jesus Christ LDS Mescalero Branch, 671-4630, Wayne King, President, 505-434-0622, Sunday, Sacrament meeting 10 a.m.; Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m.; Priesthood Relief Soc. & Young Women, 12:10 a.m.
EPISCOPAL
Episcopal Church of the Holy Mount 121 Mescalero Trail, Ruidoso, Fr Ron Thomson, Team Leader, Sunday Eucharist Rite I: 8:00 a.m.; Rite II - 10:30 a.m., nursery available for the 10:30 service; Sunday School: 10:30; Youth Group (JDOK, CIA) 1:30-3:30; Wednesday: Daughters of King at noon, Eucharist & healing: 5:30 p.m.; Choir practice: 7:00 p.m.
Episcopal Chapel of San Juan Lincoln, Sunday: Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.
St. Anne's Episcopal Chapel in Glencoe, Sunday: Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
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Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship Int'l, K-Boh's Hwy. 70 in Ruidoso, Dinner at six Mondays, Special Priced Menu, Women Welcome! Ron Rice, 354-0255, e-mail fghmfi@ruidoso-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
Ruidoso - Kingdom Hall 106 Alpine Village Road, 258-3659, 257-3871, Sunday: Public Talk 1:30 p.m.; Watchtower Study: 2:20 p.m.; Monday: Book Study 7:30 p.m.; Thursday: Theoc. Ministry School 7:30 p.m.; Service Meeting 8:20 p.m.
Congregacion Hispana de los Testigos de Jehova 106 Alpine Village Road, 258-3659, 336-7076, Dom., Reunion Publica 10:00 a.m.; Estudio de la Alayala 10:50 p.m.; Mart: Escuela del Ministerio Teocratico 7 p.m.; Reunion de servicio 7:50 p.m.; Mier Estudio de libro 7:00 p.m.
LUTHERAN
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 1120 Hull Road, 258-4191, 257-5296, Kevin L. Krohn, Pastor, Sunday: Worship 8:30 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., 10:55 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.DoctrinesOfChrist.com
The Apostolices of Lincoln County, UPC Remax Center, 1009 Mechem Dr., Unit #1, Pastor, Art Dunn, Sunday afternoon, 4:30 PM, Adult, childrens & youth classes, Wednesday evening, 7:00 PM, Bible Study.
PRESBYTERIAN
First Presbyterian Church 101 Sutton Drive (Nob Hill), Ruidoso, 257-2220, Rev. Cathy Caule Anderson, Sunday 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, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Nogal Presbyterian Church Reverend Bill Sebring, Adult Sunday School: 10 a.m.; worship 11 a.m.
REFORMED CHURCH
Mescalero Reformed Mescalero, 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.; Thurs.: Kids Club (grades 1-5) 3:30.
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
Ruidoso Seventh Day Adventist 207 Parkway, Agua Fria, Ruidoso Downs, 378-4161, Pastor Earl Robertson 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.comsmnucc
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.
American Missionary Fellowship Rick Smith, 682-2999, Monday: Women's Bible study 6:30 p.m. at Schlotsky's Deli, Tuesday: Ruidoso men's Bible study noon at Pizza Hut, Mechem Drive, Wednesday: (Sept. through May) Captain Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Groups 6:30 p.m. at Christ Community Fellowship, E-mail: RickS@americanmissionary.org
Calvary Chapel 127 Vision, next to Cable Co., 257-5915, Pastor John Marshall, Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday: Mid-week bible study 7:00 p.m.
Cassa de Oracion Comunidad Cristiana, Ruidoso 304 Sudderth Dr., Ruidoso, NM 88345 (505) 257-6075, Pastor: Carlos & Gabby Carreon, Martes -

Oracion 6:00 pm; Jueves - Servicio General 6:00 pm; Sabado - Kid-in-Revival 11:00 am; Domingo Servicio General 11:00 am. *All Services are Bilingual* - Translators Available -
Christ Church in the Downs Ruidoso Downs, 378-8464, 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 p.m. with Children's Church, Sun, Eve. Handicap Services 11 a.m. Wed. Leadership Class 6 p.m. & Prayer 7 pm, Wed. Bible Study Adult 7 p.m. Thurs. and Youth, Thurs. 7 p.m.
Cowboy Church Noon Sundays at the Glencoe Rural Events Center. Everyone welcome. Preacher Buster Reed of Amarillo. Call 378-4840 for more info.
Grace Harvest Church Gavilan Canyon Rd, 336-4213, Sun. morning prayer 8:30 a.m.; Sunday school 9 a.m.; service 10 a.m.
Iglesia Bautista "Vida Eterna" Pastor Rev. Ramon Robledo, 207 East Circle, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346, 361 E. Hwy. 70, (505) 378-8108, Email: revrobledo@lycos.com
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, 336-7075, Jeannie Price, Pastor, Morning chapel: 6:50 a.m. (Sept. - June); Sun. Service: 11 a.m.
Racetrack Chapel
Horseman's Entrance, Hwy 70, 505-378-7264, Chaplain Darrell Winter, Services 10:30 am to 11:15 am. Enjoy the music & old hymns with friendly people.
NON-SECTARIAN
Spiritual Awareness Study Group, Minister: George N. Brown, Ph.D. U.L.C. Sundays 1 p.m. - 257-1569

CAPITAN & LINCOLN 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 4-6 p.m.
Mountain Baptist Church
Independent-Fundamental, Pastor - W.G. Carter, Sunday School-10 AM, Sunday Worship - 11 AM & 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: 6 p.m.
EPISCOPAL
Episcopal Chapel of San Juan in Lincoln - Sunday: Holy Eucharist - 10:30 a.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
Mountain 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.
NAZARENE
Angus Church of the Nazarene Angus, 12 miles north of Ruidoso on Hwy. 48, 336-8032, Rick Hutchison Pastor, Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Youth Worship, 6:00 p.m.
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.
QUAKER WORSHIP GROUP - Lincoln, Religious Society of Friends, silent meeting, Old Lincoln Church, Lincoln, 10 am. 505*653*4951

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 p.m. Sunday
CATHOLIC
Santa Rita Catholic Church
648-2853, Father Dave Bergs, Pastor, Saturday Mass: 6:30 p.m.; Sunday Mass: 10:30 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 am; 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/C)
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 Kancsewah III, Pastor, 56 White Mt. Dr., 3 mi. W. of Inn of the Mountain Gods Mescalero, Sundays 10:30 & 6:30, Wed. 6:30 378-1789

LINCOLN COUNTY

FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2003

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PAGE 5B

4-way stop near for Carrizozo

■ The state also plans to reduce the speed limit on U.S. 54 and 380 by 5 mph near town.

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

The highlight of the regular monthly Carrizozo Council meeting Tuesday was the announcement of a long-awaited solution to the dangerous and deadly intersection at U.S. 380 and U.S. 54.

Bob Kurtz, of the Roswell division of State Highway Department, advised the Carrizozo Police Department that he has been instructed to decrease the approaching speed limits by 5 mph less than currently posted on both the highways, including the portion of U.S. 54 that runs through town.

A four-way stop will also be added at the intersection of U.S. 380 and 54. Kurtz said there will be the rumble strips built to warn approaching traffic of the stop and the flashing light will be red in all four directions. The flashing caution lights that warn of the upcoming intersection will remain on all four approaches. Completion dates of all the changes have not yet been announced, but officials feel the holidays will slow the planning process that began this week in Santa Fe.

Police Chief Angelo Vega reported the new animal shelter is nearing completion with electricity, water and sewer complet-

ed. Waiting on fence material and completion of the outside concrete slabs will allow the shelter to open. To date 100 percent of the animals brought to the shelter have been returned to owners or adoptive homes were found.

In his department activity report for November, Vega reported 120 citations, 94 of those for speeding, with the balance being seat belt, intersection and no insurance/driver's license violations. The total penalty assessment was \$4,916, with 28 cases logged and 21 closed.

Vega asked for a small compensation, budget allowing, for the volunteer that helps at the shelter on an ongoing basis. He also said the shelter needs donations of blankets and other items for bedding for the animals.

Ray Dean was present to give a report on the Carrizozo Heritage Museum. The open house on Dec. 6 resulted in more than \$500 in sales from the gift shop, which affords the museum to make its lease payment.

Sand is being placed in the back room of the museum to prepare it for a new concrete floor. Upon completion, the room will give the museum an added 1,400 square feet and will be used to house the model train display that has been donated.

The new trash transfer site in Carrizozo has been approved by the LCSWA and licensed by Santa Fe. Bids are being taken for the fencing and upon

the completion of that, the site will be open for business complete with an attendant building.

The council approved a number of ordinances to update and bring in compliance the town laws for CDBG grant application. Updated and approved were the Local Relocation Policy, Residential Antidisplacement and Relocation Assistance Plan and Certification, Citizen Participation Plan and the Fair Housing Ordinance.

Also approved were:

- A hangar lease agreement for the airport.
- The purchase of a water truck for the Maintenance Department
- A budget adjustment approval giving raises to city employees using funds recovered by a 100 percent state-paid salary to the municipal court clerk by the State Court Automation Fund.
- Resolutions for CDBG applications for water storage/improvements and for a planning grant.
- Ordinance 2003-09, an amendment to the Drinking-in-Public ordinance.

The proposed Web page to list and offer photographs of animals for adoption at the local shelter is on hold until funding for a site to host the information can be found. Barbara Culler has volunteered to coordinate the efforts for this project.

The next regular council meeting will be Jan. 13 at 6 p.m.

CLASS OF THE CLASSROOM



PHOTO BY JULIE CARTER

Carrizozo Schools Bravo Awards for the month of November in grades K-2 are, front row, Cheyanne Apodaca, Emily Cornstock, Lindsay Chaves, Veronica Ochoa, Desirae Zamora, Micah Hamilton, Alexis Zamora, Dominique Zamora; second row, Patience Anaya, Cirsten Barela, Jerry Davis, Kadee Sedillo, Caleb Ventura, Alex Randolph, Jose Romero, Dillon Walema; third row Jaclynn Ortiz, Shayne Ventura, Shayna Gallacher, Gene Gore, Clay Hogwood, Erick Culley, Jeremiah Sedillo, Zhane' Vega, Zeb Maldonado, Jace Hill; back row, Joshua Ventura, Mason Huston, Sarah Ferguson, Erica Vega, Tiffany Vega, Branson Vega, Zachary Zamora, Johnathan Smith. Not pictured are Samantha Vermilion, Christian Najara and Rylah Zamora.



PHOTO BY JULIE CARTER

Carrizozo Schools Bravo Awards for the month of November in grades 3-5 are, front row, Joshua Vallejos, Brittany Simmons, Patrick Ryan, Jade Roper, Sierra Anaya, Timara Roper, Jenna Schartz; second row, Shayna Zamora, Andrea Vigil, Tavi Nash, Erik Lueras, Analicia Beltran, Katina Maldonado, Justin Vega, Sara McNatt; third row Stephanie Zamora, Joel Ferguson, Chelsea LaMay, Brianna Ochoa, Mariah Ventura, Roper Webb, Cori Gore; back row, Jordan Hill, Marshal Wilson, Troy Niederstadt, Fernando Najera, Mark Vigil, Josh Burd, Lauren Smith, Destiny Dutchover, Lane Carter. Not pictured are Sergio Ramirez and Amanda Gallegos.

Capitan shops ready for open house Saturday

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

Capitan merchants will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. More than 20 Capitan businesses will be open and many will be serving warm drinks and snacks to welcome shoppers.

Each merchant is donating a prize that will be drawn for at 6 p.m. during the Christmas in

the Park event at the Smokey Bear Park. The more merchants a shopper visits, the better his chances for a prize are. Shoppers should sign in with the participating merchants they visit and those names will go in the box for the prize drawing to be conducted by Capitan Chamber volunteers.

Merchants participating in the open house are:

Brewer's Shell Station, Campbell's Country Classic, Carol Donaldson, N.D., D & D Traders, Danielle's Hairworks, Downtown Deli, Farmer's Country Market, Guthrie's Cutting Corral, Greenhouse Café, JMT Leather, Jake Wolfhart Leather, Lavender & Lace/Capitan Coffee Company, Lincoln County Mercantile, Ole George Two Feathers, Rodney's Copa Cabana, Rustic Roots, Smokey Bear Museum, Smokey

Bear Restaurant, The BBQ Place, The Menagerie and White Dove Treasures.

Christmas in the Park kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with the arrival of Santa Claus. Refresments will be served during the park event.

For more information contact the Capitan Chamber of Commerce at 354-2273.

Christmas letters worth the effort

I think if I would start my annual Christmas letter in August when they first start putting Christmas decorations in the stores, perhaps the decorations and the letter would be as equally "seasoned" by Dec. 25.

One year not long ago my Christmas letter came as a New Year's letter arriving in mailboxes early in January. It seemed just one of those years it was fitting to include the actual news from the holidays in the holiday missive. That excuse sounded as good as any.

For years I secretly hated Christmas letters. For every one of those that came with the long list of wonderful places, people and events the writer described, I mentally wrote what I believed to be the true story.

When those lucky people described their trip to Cancun, I was certain it was really a quick stop along the banks of the Rio Grande and lunch in Juarez. It probably had something to do with the fact most of my "trips" involved Wal-Mart and lunch-to-go from the Texaco.

Then there were those kids I read about that year after year who excelled at scholastics, music and athletics, and were destined to be Rhodes Scholars and Juilliard graduates. I imagined them to be, in all honesty, just average kids leaving their underwear in the bathroom every time they showered, never flushing the toilet, and eating their family out of house and home. Why don't mothers confess to that in Christmas letters?

A decade ago I joined the Christmas letter-writing crowd. I dignified it by calling it a newsletter and putting it in Weekly Reader form. With the progression of the computer age, I was able to dress it up with brightly colored Christmas graphics and include family

photographs.

Every year since then, I have sworn that was my last year of Christmas "newsletter" creation. The job loomed before me every December in a season like a huge black cloud of expectations. It was a worse obligation than feeling I needed to follow in my mother's footsteps and make those bazillion dozen holiday cookies of family tradition.

Continually, I caved to "popular demand" to "do it again," which amounted to two or three people telling me they looked forward to it. If memory serves me I was related to most of those who liked it most, so it wasn't even unbiased flattery. I repeatedly wrote about the drought at the ranch, recited the usual stories of our growing son, and tried to find interesting

things to share with people. I filled the pages with photos of family and events at the ranch from January to December. Sometimes I wrote a cutesy poem to entertain front-page readers and cowboy poets at heart.

I have saved all those Christmas letters and now realize what I had done was not just send friends and family good holiday wishes, but I had sent them a gift. I had "torn off" pieces of our life and mailed it to them to share. Most often this gift went to people we rarely, if ever, see, and it meant something special.

This year I'll remember that it's a gift not ever intended to magnify the parts of life we all face that aren't so great. The joy comes with the smile that a photo, a story or a memory evokes. 'Tis the season for joy. Now excuse me, with Christmas almost here, I still need to write my Christmas "newsletter."

Julie can be reached for comment at jcarter@ularosa.net.



County Views
BY JULIE CARTER

Annual lumnaria project needs help

■ Volunteers are sought to help both in preparation and cleanup.

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

It is time to fill the sacks in Carrizozo. Organizers are calling for those who can and will volunteer to help with the luminaria preparation. Volunteers will gather this Saturday at 9 a.m. to make the luminarias.

Five thousand sacks will be folded, filled with sand, and have candles placed inside them. Volunteers will meet at the Carrizozo Fire Station. Coffee, donuts and cinnamon rolls will be served to workers.

The luminarias will be placed on flat-bed trailers for storage until the Dec. 24. The

Chamber is in need of a couple more trailers. Anyone with one to lend is urged to contact Ray Dean at the Carrizozo Heritage Museum.

This is the first of four volunteer times necessary for the annual Carrizozo luminaria lighting on Christmas Eve. Subsequent dates and times are as follows:

Dec. 24 - 9 a.m.: Volunteers meet again at the Fire Station to place the luminarias along the streets.

Dec. 24 - 4 p.m.: Volunteers gather to light the candles. Strikers are provided by the Chamber for the lighting.

Dec. 25 - 7-9 a.m.: Meet in the vacant lot at 5th and Central next to Shoe String Enterprises to pick up luminarias. More volunteers are needed for this, as it is hard to get enough people to help on Christmas morning.

'Zozo choir to perform in annual cantata

■ The event, now in its eighth year, is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 21.

BY JULIE CARTER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

In what has become a Carrizozo Christmas tradition, the Carrizozo Community Choir will present a musical cantata, Sunday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. The cantata will be held at Trinity Methodist Church, 1000 D Ave., in Carrizozo.

This is the eighth year for the event described as "a coming together of all churches and people who want to participate. It is a gift to the community for the glory of God."

Kala Scarafioti is the direc-

tor of the children's portion, referred to as "Kala's Community Kids." The children's program, is titled "The Grumpy Shepherd."

Jesse Scarafioti plays Joram, the Grumpy Shepherd. Micah Hamilton will give the introduction and other players are: Jared Stumpf, Lauren and Jonathan Smith, Shayna and Kristie Gallacher and Sara Ferguson. Accompanist is Cheryl Smith.

Director Veda Stephenson with accompanists Jane Shafer and Cindy Fogelson and the choir will present the music of Robert C. Lau. The program is titled "Let Us Adore Him." Dean Lollar is the narrator.

The Community Choir is made up of talented people who volunteered their time and gifts to the program for the community. Volunteers who make up the choir are:

Sopranos: Virginia Burd, Palla, Duncan, Eva Zumwalt, Mary Crenshaw, Rosemary Shafer and Carrie Spencer

Altos: Martha Bond, Nancy Lollar, Kala Scarafioti, Cherri Goad, Marcia Mixon and Carol Blodgett

Tenors: Suzi Wolfe, Scott Shafer, Pat Payne, Mary Lu Nickels and Bob Reyniersen

Bass: Jim Mack Jr., Jake Riddle and Douglas Jarrard.

The event is free and open to everyone. A reception will follow in the fellowship hall.

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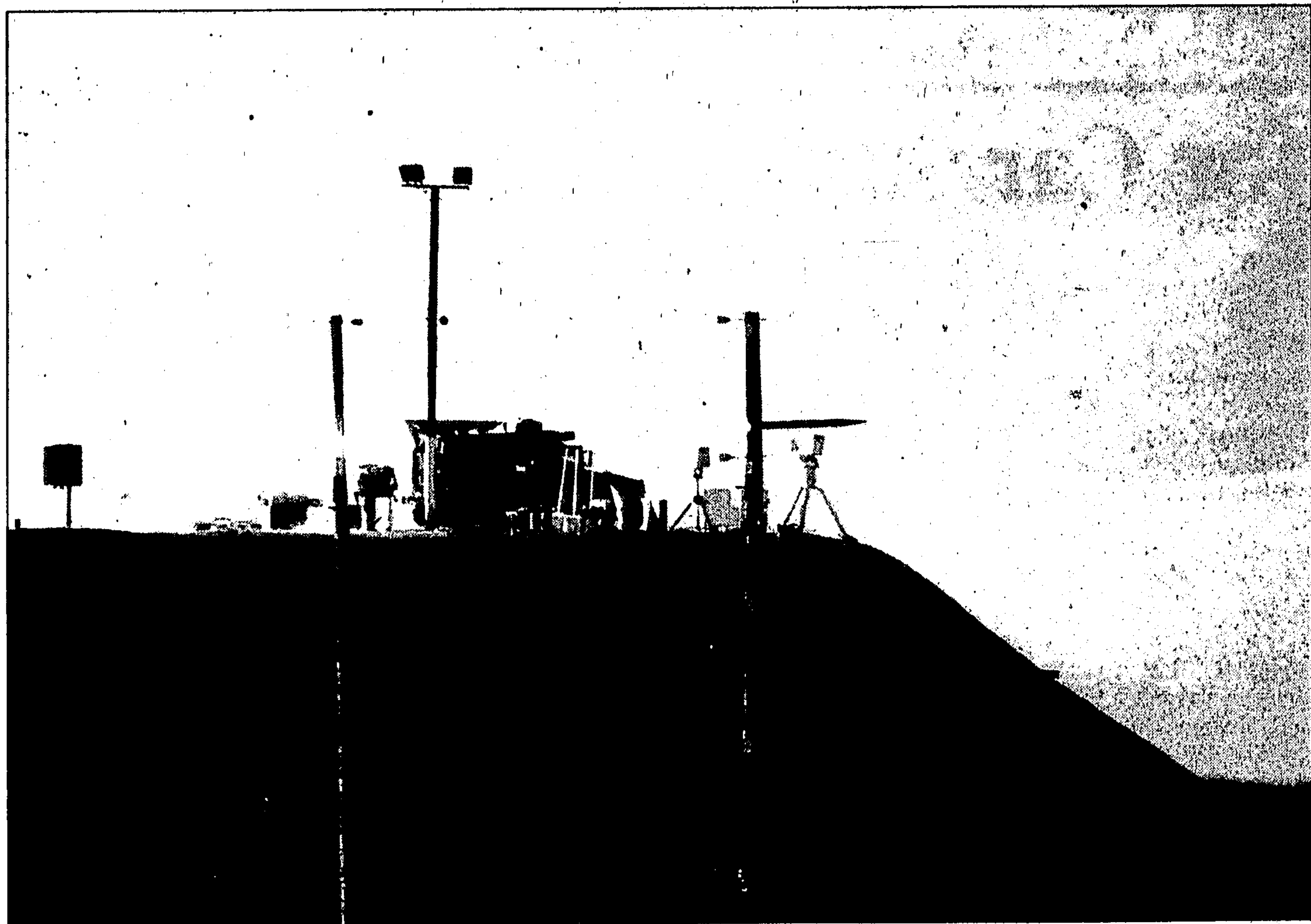
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FIRE AWAY



ELLIS NEEL/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

A LOSAT (Line-of-Sight-Anti-Tank) missile jumps from its launch tube at nearly 5,000 feet per second during a cold environment weapons test from Launch Complex 50 Thursday, Dec. 4, 2003, at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The missile was cooled to minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit and launched at an M-60 tank 4,300 meters down range.

Navajos, government settle on water deal

BY JIM SNYDER
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

FARMINGTON — The Navajo Nation, the state of New Mexico and the federal government have reached a proposed settlement over water claims.

The complex 120-page settlement, announced here Friday, is the closest the parties have gotten to a resolution in their 30-year battle over water in northwestern New Mexico.

It must be officially approved by the state, Congress and the Navajo tribal government.

Under the settlement, the tribe agreed to a 322,000 acre-foot annual share of San Juan River water and pledged not to claim more water in the future. The tribe, in exchange, would get nearly \$900 million in public works projects.

"The proposed settlement has been a long-time coming," Navajo Vice President Frank Dayish Jr. said Friday. "I think we have the opportunity to lay the groundwork for future generations."

The Navajo Nation and the state of New Mexico are seek-

ing public comments on the proposed settlement. Public meetings will be held from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 15 at the Farmington Civic Center and 6-8 p.m. Jan. 5 at the Shiprock Chapter House.

The proposed settlement has not yet been submitted to the Navajo Nation, the state or the federal government for approval. It will be reviewed in the coming months, said Navajo Nation Water Management Branch spokesman Michael Benson and State Engineer spokeswoman Karin Stangl in a joint news release Friday.

The parties want to move forward with a bill before Congress this March.

The proposed settlement is intended to adjudicate the Navajo Nation's water rights and provide water development projects for the tribe in exchange for a release of claims to water that could potentially displace existing non-Navajo water users in the basin, according to the news release.

Jim Snyder is a reporter for the Farmington Daily Times, a sister paper of the Ruidoso News.

New Mexico doles out school library money; Ruidoso to receive \$52,411

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — Public school libraries throughout New Mexico will share in a \$7.7 million allocation announced Monday by the state Department of Education.

Ruidoso Schools will see \$52,411 of that amount.

The money is the result of voter approval of an education bond issue in November 2002, and will be split by 682 public school libraries in the state. Each public school with a recognized and established library program, including charter schools, will receive \$5,000, as well as approximately \$13.56 per student.

Earl Phillips, director of the

Education Services Center for the Las Cruces Public Schools, said they have known for some time that the money would be coming. He said the Legislature will consider another such bond when it meets in January.

Schools can use the money to purchase books, library equipment and other resources to support the library. The New Mexico Task Force for School Libraries said the money should be used to acquire books, reference materials and instructional videos, and should not result in funds already earmarked for libraries being diverted to other purposes.

"The funding will provide critical support for public school libraries, which are a vital element of quality instructional

programs in New Mexico's schools," Education Secretary Veronica C. Garcia said in a prepared statement.

Phillips said there are 33 schools in the Las Cruces system who will share in the funding. He said they have developed a report on each library to determine what the greatest needs are.

"They'll see some gaps and weaknesses in the collection. It also shows the age of the books," Phillips said.

He said they also might use some money for improved technology resources.

"We'll follow the guidelines on what we can and can't purchase," he said.

Stephanie Brownfield, an associate superintendent with

the Deming Public Schools, said librarians at all of the schools in that district have been analyzing their materials to determine where their greatest areas of need are.

"We just finished looking at all that data. We're looking at printed material and also software," Brownfield said.

She said that parent groups at each school in the district will also be asked to provide input on how the funds should best be spent.

Allocations include:
Ruidoso Municipal Schools, \$52,411
Alamogordo Public Schools, \$175,750
Aztec Municipal Schools, \$72,364
Bloomfield Schools, \$77,916

Carlsbad Municipal Schools, \$154,558
Cobre Consolidated Schools, \$53,583
Deming Public Schools, \$122,682
Farmington Municipal Schools, \$225,053
Gadsden Independent Schools, \$287,061

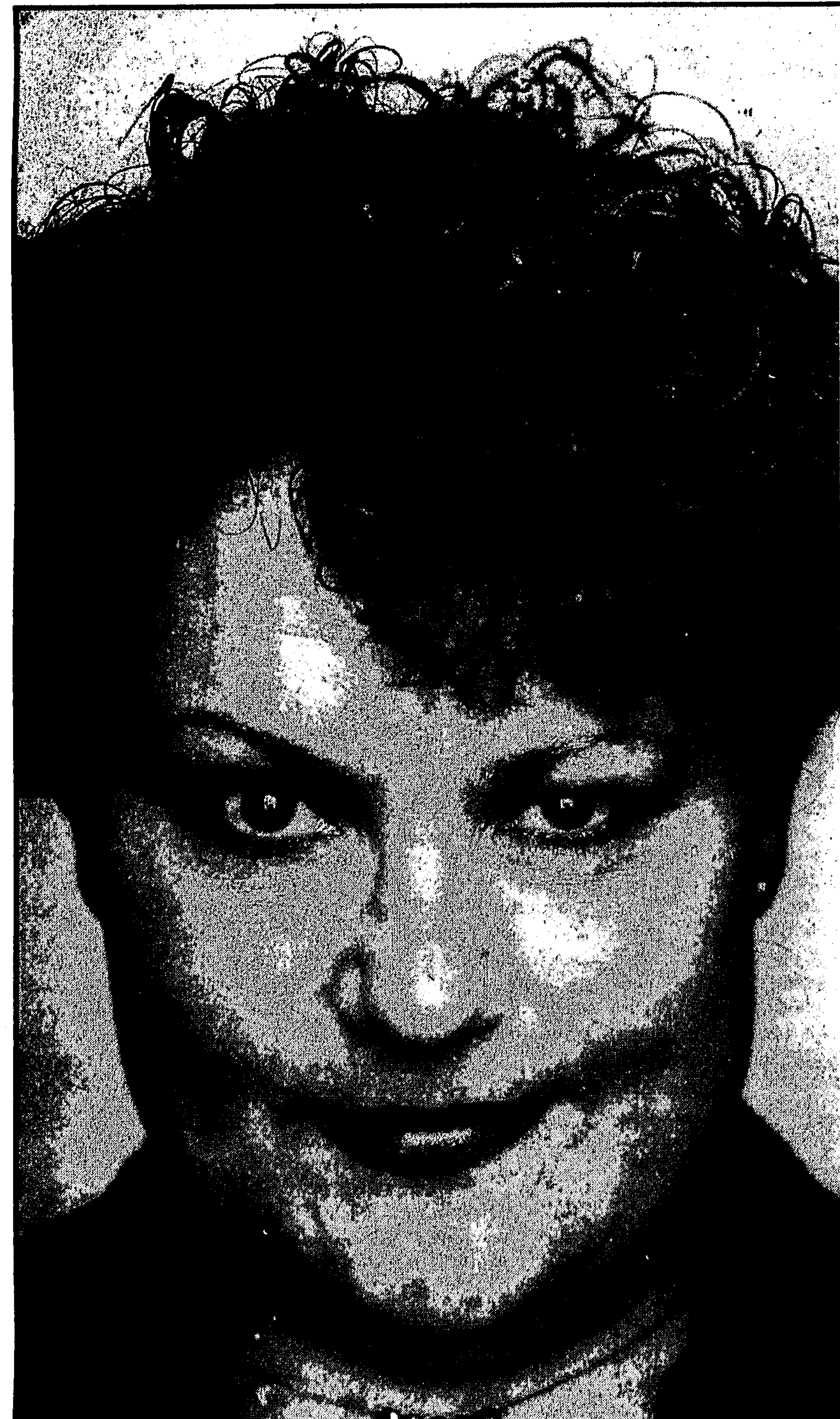
Hatch Valley Public Schools, \$51,549
Las Cruces Public Schools, \$482,510
Lordsburg Municipal Schools, \$36,600
Silver Consolidated Schools, \$78,363
Truth or Consequences Schools, \$47,909

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Dems hope caucus makes candidates aware of state

■ New Mexico is seen as a key state in determining the next president, officials say.

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — Seeds for what would later become the war on poverty were planted during a campaign visit to West Virginia by John F. Kennedy before the presidential primary election, former Sen. Fred Harris told Democrats gathered last week to kick off the campaign season.

By scrapping the traditional primary, which had been held late in the campaign season, for a Feb. 3 caucus, Democratic leaders in New Mexico hope they will be able to make a similar impression.

"That's what's so great about having the early caucus in New Mexico," Harris said. "They've all been here and

are paying us a lot of attention, and I believe that will translate into policy."

Harris, who is working with the New Mexico campaign for Howard Dean, was joined by campaign leaders for other candidates in an event designed to promote awareness for the Feb. 3 caucus. Similar events were held Wednesday afternoon in Albuquerque and Wednesday evening in Las Cruces.

New Mexico will join with North Dakota, Delaware, Mississippi, South Carolina, Oklahoma and Arizona in choosing their Democratic nominees on Feb. 3. New Mexico and Arizona are seen as key battleground states, Gov. Bill Richardson said. Both have large Hispanic populations, and could serve as an indicator as to how Hispanics nationwide will vote in 2004, he said.

"It could be that the next nominee is decided Feb. 3 after all of these primaries," he said.

Richardson, who is in Boston today preparing for his role as moderator of

the Democratic National Convention, said several national media outlets have been in contact with him trying to gauge how the vote will go in New Mexico.

And, he said that moving the date of the caucus up has resulted in 23 visits to the state by presidential candidates so far. Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina is slated to visit Santa Fe on Thursday.

"The candidates will be spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in the state in field operations, staffing and advertising to get their message out. They're employing New Mexicans," Richardson said.

A banner hanging behind the speakers proclaimed "On February 3, 2004, New Mexico will choose the next president of the United States." While that may seem like typical campaign bluster, Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., said that "in 22 of 23 presidential elections, New Mexico has predicted the winner."

The state has predicted the winner of the popular vote in all but one of the last 23 elections. In the last election, New Mexico went to Al Gore by a razor-thin margin, helping him win the popular vote but not giving him enough electoral votes to gain the presidency.

"Even though we're a small state with this marvelous ethnic diversity, we have the ability to predict where the election is going to go," Udall said.

He said most New Mexicans don't appreciate the significant role the federal government has in the state, with two national laboratories and four military bases. For every \$1 sent to the federal government from New Mexico, the state gets \$3 back, he said.

By moving the selection process up, New Mexico has helped ensure that the Democratic candidate will have a better understanding of the state, Udall said.

"The presidential candidates come here to New Mexico, they learn about our bases, they learn about the labs,

they learn about all the other federal activities, they learn about the needs of this state, and as a result of that knowledge, when we finally get a Democratic nominee they know what New Mexico is all about," Udall said.

House Speaker Ben Lujan, D-Santa Fe, said he hoped the candidates would also take notice of the need for highway improvements.

"When we talked about the possibility of planning a February caucus it was met with mixed reactions. We did have a dialogue behind the scenes a little bit, but we thought it was beneficial for New Mexico to have this caucus," Lujan said. "It has certainly given a lot of exposure to New Mexico."

Registered Democrats will be able to vote from noon to 7 p.m. at an of 165 polling sites across the state. Voters can also cast their ballots by mail or e-mail. For more information, contact the state Democratic Party at 1-800-624-2457 or check their Web site at www.dpnm.org.

Development to begin next year on 42 New Mexico highway projects

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — Transportation Secretary Rhonda Fought told members of the Legislative Finance Committee last week that development will begin by next year on all 42 highway projects in the state's highway improvement plan.

Funding for the highway improvement plan was secured in the recently concluded special session, with a tax increase on diesel fuels, a hike in vehicle registration fees and increases in the costs for commercial trucks to travel on state highways.

"Every single project will be under some kind of development," Fought said. "We have every intention, and are comfortable that we will be able to do every one of these projects."

Development does not necessarily mean construction, Fought said. It involves the design and planning steps that must take place before the road-work can begin. Fought said their goal was to have actual construction started on all projects within the next three years.

Projects slated for construction by fiscal year 2005 include U.S. 491 (formerly U.S. 666) from Tohatchi to the Colorado state line, Interstate 10 from Lordsburg to the junction of N.M. 146 between Lordsburg and Deming, N.M. 128 from the junction of N.M. 131 east of Carlsbad to the Texas state line, N.M. 11 from Columbus to Deming, U.S. 380 from Capitan to Hondo, the frontage road along Interstate 10 between Las Cruces and the Texas state line, N.M. 26 between Hatch and Nuff and U.S. 80 from Deming to Bayard.

The increased taxes and fees are expected to raise approximately \$61 million a year, which will be used to finance bonds for the construction projects. Fought said they had to adjust the budget for the upcoming year because they won't start collecting the new revenue until July, and it will then take another 45 to 60 days before it filters down to her department.

Of the \$61 million that will eventually be collected, about \$40 million will go toward paying off the bond debt, and the rest will be used for maintenance, state match money for federal funds and department operations.

Fought said the biggest difficulty in figuring next year's budget is trying to guess how much will be coming in the way of state funds.

"First we thought we were going to get \$60 to \$70 million in federal funds, then it looked like we were going to lose \$20 million, then we were going to gain \$30 million. Until a bill is passed, we don't know what we're going to get," Fought said. "This is a real crystal ball issue. If there's no bill in February, it will stay at the same level. They don't want to get involved in it during an election year."

Fought said New Mexico is a "bridge state" for traffic between

California and Arizona to the west and Texas to the east. The state has 2 percent of the nation's interstate system, but only gets 1 percent of the funding, she said.

Committee Chairman Sen. Ben Altamirano, D-Silver City, offered to have a letter sent to the

state's congressional representatives urging their support for additional federal money.

"We've got to fix all these roads in Iraq first," Altamirano said.

Fought also told committee members that the bonding plan has changed since the bill was

passed. Instead of taking out 30-year bonds, they will take out bonds for more money that must be paid off in 18 years. The change will save the state about \$1 billion, she said.

They still plan to use about \$350 million a year for the highway projects, and keep the pro-

jects small enough that New Mexico contractors will be able to compete for them, Fought said.

Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, who was a member of the Blue Ribbon Tax Committee, said that the road bill passed in the special session was a "short-term term political deal," and not

a long-term solution to the state's highway needs.

Smith called for an indexing of the gasoline tax, which would raise the tax as the price increased. A gas tax hike suggested by the Blue Ribbon commission was shot down by Gov. Bill Richardson.



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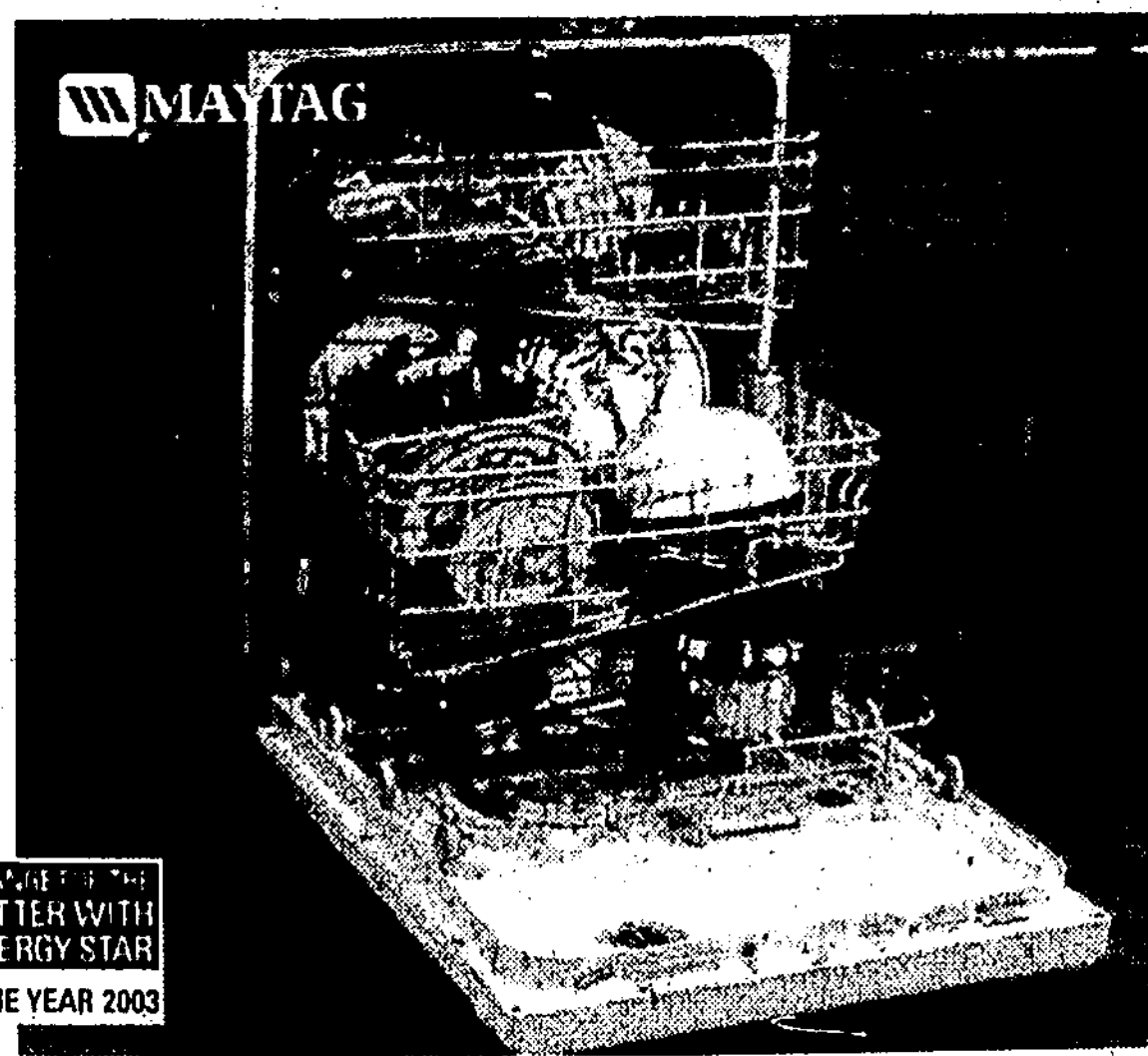
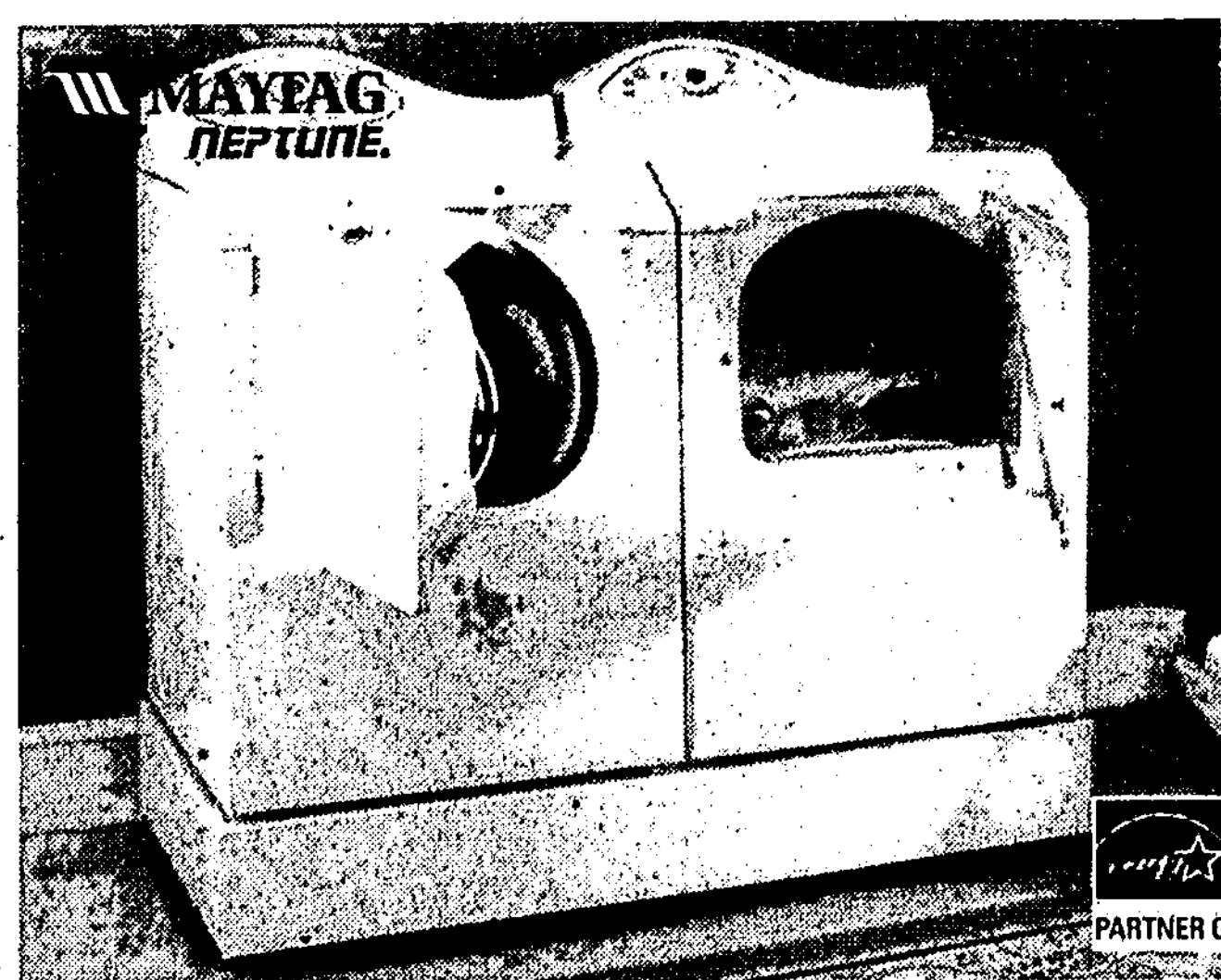
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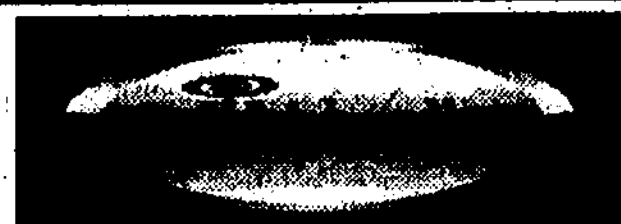
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Governor announces border improvement projects

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — Money to improve the Santa Teresa border crossing and provide hazardous materials response equipment for Sunland Park is part of an \$800,000 package of border improvement projects announced last week by Gov. Bill Richardson.

All of the projects will be paid for by Federal Fiscal Relief Funds, a pool of more than \$100 million appropriated to the state by Congress last spring, most of which has gone to fund water projects.

Most of the projects announced Monday are designed to help improve trade between New Mexico and Mexico. Trade with Mexico has doubled, from \$53 million to \$106 million, during the first six months of Richardson's administration, according to statistics released by the governor's office.

"Deepening our cultural and economic ties to Mexico is a top priority of mine," Richardson said in a prepared statement. "We are paying for important projects that will continue to support our goals of developing the

border area and continuing to grow the economy in southern New Mexico."

Sunland Park Fire Chief Robert Monsivaiz said his department already has a hazardous materials team, but was in need of equipment. He said they will use the \$300,000 award to purchase a specially equipped hazardous materials vehicle and equipment.

"We've been looking everywhere for the funds," Monsivaiz said. "What it's going to do is improve our ability to mitigate incidents."

Monsivaiz said there have been two derailments since the city was incorporated. The opening of the Santa Teresa port of entry has also increased industrial traffic, and the possibility of a spill that could impact Sunland Park's air and water supply, he said.

Other projects to be funded include:

- \$100,000 for strategic planning for the border region;
- \$80,000 for the Maquiladora Supplier Program;
- \$100,000 for facilities and transportation planning at Santa Teresa port of entry;
- \$70,000 to promote New Mexico's ports;
- \$50,000 for the Paisano Assistance Program, which will encourage legal Mexican citizens living in the United States to travel to and from Mexico through New Mexico ports;
- and \$100,000 to conduct a financial feasibility study for moving the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez rail yard from downtown El Paso to Santa Teresa.

Economic Development Secretary Rick Homans said the rail yard relocation study will be a follow-up and

supplement to a study recently completed by El Paso that estimated the cost to move the rail yard at approximately \$300 million. El Paso officials have supported the move because it would free up valuable land and remove congestion in their downtown area.

Homans said this study would attempt to take the next step and determine how the project might be funded. He said El Paso and Juarez, southern New Mexico and the railroad companies would all benefit from the move.

"Our job is to identify that increased value and figure out how everybody can contribute a little of that increased value back to the project and make it happen," Homans said.

The \$100,000 for the Santa Teresa port of entry will be used to identify alternatives to improve highway access to the port and help determine the best location for state offices, including the New Mexico Border Authority.

The Department of Public Safety Motor Transportation Division recently announced a \$5.7 million

project to construct a new commercial vehicle safety inspection facility at Santa Teresa. Money awarded Monday will help in the planning of that facility.

The Maquiladora Supplier Program is designed to establish a network of New Mexico suppliers to the maquiladora industry. Homans said he was recently in contact with a large manufacturer who now is getting supplies from the Midwest and Canada.

"There needs to be some suppliers close enough to the plant for just in time delivery," Homans said. "It opens up a huge market."

The border region strategic plan will be drafted in collaboration with the Mexican government, and is intended to provide a comprehensive analysis of the strengths of the border economy and its relationship with the maquiladora industry.

"We've already doubled the volume of trade between New Mexico and Mexico, and with all of these things, with the rail yard, marketing and maquiladora program, we're looking to continue increasing trade," Homans said.

Medicaid cuts unavoidable in order to balance budget, official says

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — A string of advocates, representing the poor, the disabled and a variety of health-care providers, urged members of the Legislative Finance Committee last week not to cut funds for the Medicaid program.

But Human Services Secretary Pamela Hyde told committee members that some cuts would be necessary to balance the state's budget.

"There are going to be some tough policy questions," Hyde said. "We know that with where we are, we can't balance the budget."

Hyde told committee members that steps taken in other states to contain Medicaid costs

have included reducing or freezing payments to providers, controlling drug costs, reducing or restricting eligibility, reducing benefits and increasing co-payments.

"We're going to have to do all of these things," Hyde said.

A health care task force appointed by Gov. Bill Richardson recommended in October that Medicaid cuts be avoided if at all possible. If cuts were necessary, the task force recommended that benefits be reduced before eligibility.

But Richardson indicated at the time the report was issued that he disagreed with the recommendation not to seek cuts in Medicaid.

"I will review these suggestions, but I don't necessarily endorse them," he said. "I have

said there are no sacred cows, and that includes Medicaid."

Ruth Hoffman, representing the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry, said if the state decides to raise the co-pay required of those seeking services, it should exempt those in the most dire poverty.

"A lot of people don't have that money, and they're going to end up in the emergency room," she said.

Hyde said federal guidelines would prevent the state from seeking payment from "the poorest of the poor."

Others warned that if co-payments are increased it would be a disincentive for people to access preventative medical services, and would ultimately lead to more dire and expensive problems in the long run.

Noting that the state receives \$3 in federal money for every \$1 of state funds spent on Medicaid, Rep. Max Coll, D-Santa Fe, said it was "terminaly stupid" to cut the program, and warned that it would result in a cost shift in the form of larger health insurance premiums.

Linda Siegle, a nurse/midwife, said reducing payments to health-care providers would force many of them to simply stop taking Medicaid patients.

"They're already losing money on Medicaid and making it up with their other patients," Siegle said. "This is not just about greedy providers making more money, because nobody makes money on Medicaid."

Siegle recommended raising taxes on alcohol — a proposi-

tion that was soundly defeated in the recently completed special session — and tobacco to meet budget needs.

Hyde assured committee members that all advocate groups were given a say on the health task force, and those positions will be taken into consideration when Richardson makes his proposal.

"In the long run, there's no way to do this without some pain," Hyde said. "There's no way to do this without some cuts that some folks won't like."

And, she said that the Medicare bill passed last month by Congress won't be much help because only a small percentage of those now receiving state benefits would qualify for the federal assistance. And she said it would result in greater

administrative costs for her department.

Sen. John Arthur Smith, D-Deming, said border communities face the increased burden of caring for those coming up from Mexico. He said that issue has been ignored in discussions state leaders have had with their Mexican counterparts.

"We're talking about economic development all day long, but we've always been a safety valve, and there's no incentive for them to change that," Smith said. "This needs to be communicated to them."

Committee Chairman Sen. Ben Altamirano, D-Silver City, said the committee would meet again a week before the session started and urged Hyde, as well as other secretaries dealing with social services, to attend.

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Land grant heirs may get help soon

BY WALTER RUBEK
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — Members of a new legislative committee proposed legislation Wednesday intended to address what they said were decades of injustices committed against land grant heirs and communities.

"Some rulings have been imposed against you, and that's why we've proposed legislation. We don't want to see that happen in the future,"

Land Grant Committee Chairman Rep. Miguel Garcia, D-Albuquerque, told land grant representatives who filled the committee room. "We've seen where the Legislature has worked with the courts to swindle land grant holders from their property. They do it legally, but not morally."

"We've been part of the problem," Garcia said. "Now we're trying to be part of the solution."

One of the proposals to be introduced in the Legislative session in January would direct the Office of Cultural Affairs and the state Attorney General's Office to work together to determine if there is any land owned by the state that was "obtained through dishonest, unjust or illegal means" from land grant holders.

The joint memorial originally called for that land to be turned back to the heirs of the land grant, but House Speaker Ben Lujan told committee members that wouldn't be possible.

"I think we have to be realistic," Lujan said. "We, in a memorial, cannot order this to be done. If we're really sincere, we need to create an approach by which to do it."

The committee also agreed to introduce a proposal to transfer lands now controlled by the Department of Game and Fish back to the Juan Tafoya Land Grant, even though Garcia told those representing the land grant that the bill had no hope of ever reaching the House or Senate floor.

Alfred Creecy of the legislative staff said there were no provisions in the law to transfer state land to a private entity, and said it would be a violation of the state's antidonation clause.

"I need to be frank with the members of the audience. This bill is going to die when it hits the Judiciary Committee," Garcia said. "I'm a member of that committee and I'll try to move it through, but they have lawyers serving on those committees. They'll shoot it down based on legal issues only."

The dispute involves 14,000

acres in the Marquez Wildlife Area, north of Grants, as well as some plots of land in the village of Marquez. Creecy said the Department of Game and Fish has offered the plots in Marquez in exchange for access to the wildlife area.

"The problem is the land grant has been paying taxes on that land and never relinquished rights to it. So why would they trade for something that they think they already own," Creecy said.

"We've seen where the Legislature has worked with the courts to swindle land grant holders from their property."

Miguel Garcia
State Rep., D-Albuquerque

Land grant member James Martinez said an agreement that allows the Department of Game and Fish access to the wildlife area through land grant property in exchange for grazing rights in the wildlife area is scheduled to expire Dec. 31.

"When that happens the heirs are no longer going to maintain their fences and the

cattle will run on state land. Then the state will try to pass through our land to get to the cattle, and the range wars will start all over again," Martinez said.

He said the land grant has made two proposals to the Game and Fish Department. One would split the area in half, and the other would allow access for \$1.5 million. He said both proposals were turned down by the department, which offered as a counterproposal plots in the village that they weren't using.

Assistant Attorney General Alvin Garcia told committee members that he had formerly represented the Game and Fish Department, and was familiar with the issue. He said the federal government had paid money for the wildlife area that would have to be repaid if it were returned to the land grant.

"You should have a balanced approach, because that area does provide a benefit to sportsmen," Garcia said. "I think you would have a lot of opposition if you tried to take that away from hunters."

Committee members said it was necessary to act now, and decided that the bill should be introduced even though they didn't expect it to pass.

"Until we bring something that really stirs the pot, we're not going to get anywhere," Rep. Don Tripp, R-Socorro, said.

Land grants were given by the governments of Spain and Mexico to a community, town, colony or person prior to 1907. Many date back to the beginning of Spanish settlements in the early sixteenth century. The rights of land grant owners were confirmed in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and preserved by the New Mexico constitution.

SAX AND VIOLINS



Members of the Alamogordo High School Symphonic Orchestra perform "Carol of the Bells" during the annual Alamogordo Public Schools orchestra's Winter Concert in the Alamogordo High School cafeteria Saturday. Members of the AHS Chamber and Symphonic orchestras played on a bill with the Chaparral Middle School sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade orchestras to a capacity crowd.

ELLIS NEEL/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

New helicopter will save lives, governor says

BY WALTER RUBEK
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — The state's new \$3.8 million helicopter came flying in low and fast from the south, made a sharp bank to the left and settled down in front of Gov. Bill Richardson and others gathered at the Department of Public Safety headquarters Friday for its unveiling.

Moments later it was whisking Richardson off to a metro mayors meeting near Albuquerque.

The Agusta Westland A109E helicopter is faster, more powerful and can operate at higher altitudes and carry more passengers than the old State Police helicopter, DPS Secretary John Denko said.

"It's going to get us to places

in the state a lot faster," Denko said. "If we get a call to Las Cruces or Carlsbad or up north, in the past it has taken us two or 2 1/2 hours. Now we'll be able to react much more quickly."

Denko said the new helicopter can reach speeds of 168 knots per hour (approximately 180 mph) at altitude, about 25 to 30 knots per hour faster than the 19-year-old Eurocopter Twinstar, which the state traded in.

"It's quick. It's sleek. The

bottom line is, it's here to save lives," Richardson said.

Richardson said the old helicopter logged more than 6,000 hours on search and rescue missions, tactical and surveillance and traffic control.

"In a state as big as New Mexico, area-wise, it's imperative that the State Police have a helicopter with this kind of capability," Richardson

said. The new helicopter features a forward-looking infrared system, a night-vision spotlight and retractable landing gear,

Denko said. He said its improved power-to-weight ratio will allow the helicopter to maneuver better at higher altitudes.

"There's no telling how many lost hunters will be found, how many criminals will be tracked down and captured or how many lives will be saved with this helicopter," Richardson said. "If we save one life, this helicopter will have more than paid for itself."

The new helicopter cost the state \$3.8 million with the trade-in of the old Twinstar.

"This is something that is well needed. It will be well used," Denko said. "The only drawback is it's the only one (the state owns), and we may address that situation in the near future."

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Bloomfield seeks to boost finances

BY CAROL COHEA
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

BLOOMFIELD — The Bloomfield City Council on Monday amended its earlier election resolution to ask voters a second question which would promote economic development.

Voters will be asked in March if the city should sell acquired Bureau of Land Management property in an area of a proposed industrial park to private companies to enhance economic development, create jobs and improve the city's financial position.

Voters will also be asked if restaurant licenses for the sale of beer and wine should be approved within the city limits.

In November, Councilor Travis Olbert's was the dissenting vote against the resolution in terms of the beer and

wine sales.

"It was to keep the city from assuming the liability of the sales of liquor. I think the state is doing a good job of regulating it," he said on Monday.

Also on the ballot will be the election of two city councilors and a municipal judge. All for four-year terms.

The council also gave its final approval to the ordinance adopting city retiree health care.

The ordinance would enable retired city employees to contract with the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority for health care coverage.

Monday's action moved the city's application to participate on to Santa Fe. The state must now approve the city's request to join. The city has asked to be on the state's December meeting agenda. If the state approves the city's request, partici-

pation would begin in January.

The council also approved connecting the city to the Blanco Water System and negotiating a long-term water sales agreement.

Project engineers for the Blanco Water Users Association have determined that in addition to the piping system being inadequate, Blanco also needs to secure a reliable water source and the best option is to connect to Bloomfield's water system.

City Manager Bob Campbell said the Blanco Water Users Association consumption is about 100,000 gallons per day and said although the city's water treatment plant operates at capacity, the plant can handle Blanco's need.

Carol Cohea is a reporter for the Farmington Daily Times, a sister paper of the Ruidoso News.

Pearce talks with Deming kids about Iraq

BY DESMA MONTELLANO
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

DEMING — Discussion of the war on Iraq and terrorism, and a two-day visit in the country was the reason for Congressman Steve Pearce's visit to see Deming High School's government students last week.

Pearce spoke to a group of 44 individuals in history teacher Claudia Rossman's

class, also explaining his short visit to Iraq Oct. 30-Nov. 1.

Pearce also showed a video of his trip to Iraq called, "The Lay of the Land," so students could visualize one of the most talked about countries today.

"I love it, and the interaction with the students is exactly the reason why I come here," Pearce said. "The high school students are the ones that need to think about all this. They're the ones who will even-

tually be dealing with it," he said.

Pearce said Monday's discussion on current events was helpful to both himself and the students, and he enjoys hearing questions they ask.

"That's why I'm here, and they all listened well," he said.

"He came when he was campaigning, but made a promise to the students that he would come back," Rossman said.

Pearce broke his talk into categories for students, including problems in Iraq, troop morale, civilian reaction, weapons of mass destruction and infrastructure. He talked in detail about each topic, explaining what he felt the high schoolers needed to know.

Desma Montellano is a reporter for the Deming Headlight, a sister paper of the Ruidoso News.

PERFECT FORM



ELLIS NEEL/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

Christina Nishimuta, center, a dancer with the Academy of Ballet, performs during a rehearsal for the Academy's Christmas show at the Flickinger Center for Performing Arts Tuesday in Alamogordo. The show, "The Grinch," is a benefit for the Flickinger Center and will be performed Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13, at 7 p.m.

Efforts to reduce poverty impacts cost New Mexico big bucks, official reports

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — Poverty is big business in New Mexico.

State efforts to reduce the impacts of poverty result in a \$2.6 billion-per-year enterprise, Human Services Secretary Pam Hyde told members of the Legislative Finance Committee last week. Those efforts include a staff of nearly 1,600 employees and a total payroll of \$66 million, and are on a par with some of the largest companies in the state, including PNM, Presbyterian Hospital and Sandia Labs, she said.

But the state Human Services

Department administering those programs in greatly understaffed, Hyde said.

"Almost every facet of HSD's books, policies, procedures and infrastructure has been inadequately staffed and managed, resulting in significant weakness," she told committee members.

Hyde said her staff is overly reliant upon temporary employees as a result of getting funding from grants and other short-term revenue sources instead of permanent funding.

New Mexico has a greater percentage of children living in poverty than any other state in the nation, with 11

percent classified as living in a condition of "extreme poverty," she said. The state ranks second in overall poverty and is also among the national leaders in rates for the uninsured, homicides, suicides, drunk-driving deaths, child abuse and low graduation rates, Hyde added.

"Child poverty, health insurance and graduation rates are principal indicators in success or failure of a state's economy," she said. "When a state is poor, it is less likely to attract and retain living-wage jobs, therefore is unable to sustain its infrastructure and its citizens' needs."

Most of the funds to battle poverty in the state are sent by the federal

government, Hyde said. She said the food stamps program alone results in \$200 million annually for the state's economy.

On Tuesday, it was announced that 22 counties in New Mexico would receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The funding includes \$93,945 for Doña Ana County, \$27,701 for Eddy County, \$30,902 for Grant County, \$5,736 for Lincoln County, \$41,967 for Luna County and \$70,186 for San Juan County.

The funds are intended to go to shelters, soup kitchens and food banks and for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance programs.

"While FEMA's mission is most closely associated with disaster relief, this funding helps those with nondisaster, but nonetheless real emergency needs," Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., said. "I am pleased that FEMA has awarded these funds that will provide warm nights in a shelter, keep homes heated in winter, and provide healthy meals for children in need."

Hyde said that more than half of the \$44.1 million budget request her department has made for fiscal year 2005 will come from federal funds. But she warned that without proper administration it could result in sanctions and a loss of federal money.

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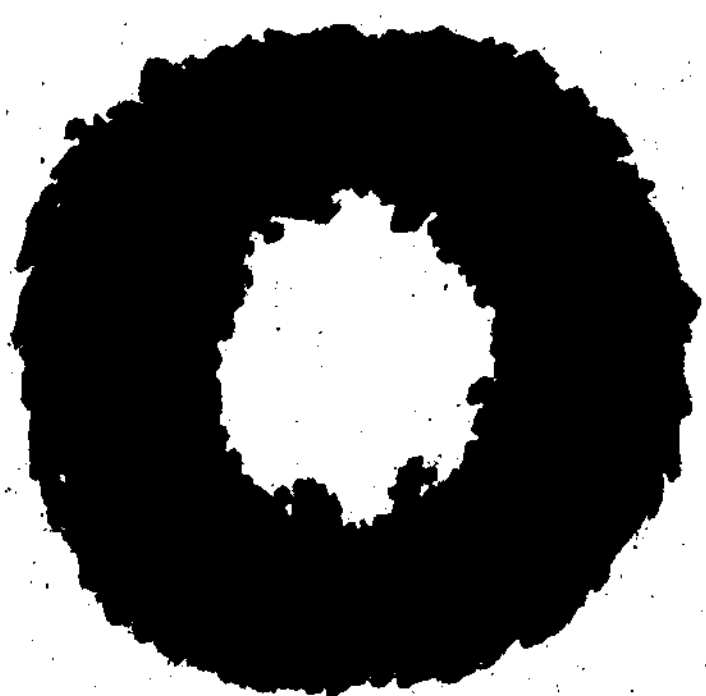
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RUIDOSO NEWS

Security head now secretary in emergency services office

BY WALTER RUBEL
SANTA FE BUREAU CHIEF

SANTA FE — The state's director for homeland security, Brig. Gen. Annette Sobel, was named deputy secretary of emergency services Friday in a move that Gov. Bill Richardson said will help streamline the process of homeland defense.



Sobel

The move brings Sobel into the Department of Public Safety, where she will be responsible for oversight of the Office of Emergency Management and other homeland security activities.

"The terror threat is real. The threat against the homeland is real. It requires a coordinated effort to ensure that New Mexico is prepared for the worst," Richardson said.

The state has received \$22 million in federal grants for homeland security during his administration, Richardson said. Sobel explained that in the past, the money was administered by the

Department of Public Safety but authorized by her office.

"In bringing me into Public Safety we've removed a layer of bureaucracy, and this bureaucracy stands between communities and the assistance they need and the people they serve," Sobel said.

Sobel said she would work to ensure that New Mexico continues to get the federal funding it needs for homeland security.

"The governor's actions today in formalizing my role within the Department of Public Safety will contribute to that streamlining of the budget process, but more importantly, the ties of communications that we have between local communities and local governments," she said.

Richardson said the move would simplify the reporting requirements for communities and position the state to be able to respond more efficiently to emergencies.

"I think it's very important that we not forget the rural areas, the small communities and our Indian pueblos," he said. "We have to spend these funds efficiently. The state has to be on the same page with local communities as we equip and train law enforcement and public safety per-

sonnel."

Public Safety Secretary John Denko said his department also has a strong working relationship with the New Mexico National Guard.

"We all are focused in the same direction. We're all working together," Denko said.

In addition to her new duties in homeland security and emergency preparedness, Richardson also appointed Sobel to oversee the work of the Office of Military Base Planning and Support, which is working to protect New Mexico bases from closure in the upcoming Military Base Closures and Realignment process.

She will work with retired Brig. Gen. Hanson Scott and Lt. Gov. Diane Denish in a role that had formerly been held by the state Department of Economic Development.

"The task of this new group that we have formed under Gen. Sobel will be to provide additional reasons why the Department of Defense and the Congress not close the bases," Richardson said. "Gen. Sobel's military and federal government experience is going to add significantly to the lieutenant governor's efforts in this area."

STATE BRIEFS

Road crew saves horse

DEMING — A county road crew built an emergency road — call it a bridle path — to help rescue a trapped horse last week.

"The road department was Johnny-on-the-Spot," said Ron Kilman, the county's risk management officer.

A horse made its way to the bottom of an oil-changing pit, off Country Club Road and was trapped, unable to turn around or retreat on steps it descended.

Luna County Sheriff's deputies and the horse's owner, George Winona, had been looking for the horse, one of six which wandered from property

CUTTING CREW



ELLIS NEEL/ALAMOGORDO DAILY NEWS

Michael Shinabery, center, and Phil Runnels, right, lead the KRSY Radio Trim Team in militaristic cadence marches during the annual Christmas Parade along 10th Street Saturday, Dec. 6, in Alamogordo. The KRSY Radio Trim Team was formed to vocalize support for forest thinning.

Suspects allegedly try to run down cops

BY KEVIN BUEY
FOR THE RUIDOSO NEWS

DEMING — A police officer and a sheriff's deputy found their respective lives endangered last weekend. In separate incidents, two arrests were made, one by each agency.

Two Deming Police Officers fired at a 1999 Cadillac DeVille after the vehicle was driven toward them.

Joel Pastran, 18, of South Diamond Avenue, was charged with aggravated assault on a peace officer, unlawful taking of a motor vehicle, aggravated fleeing from a peace officer and three charges of abuse or abandonment of a child.

Police Chief Michael Carillo said the Cadillac was reported stolen and was noticed when the driver ran a stop sign early Sunday morning.

Officer Angel Luna pursued the vehicle, which eventually came to a stop in a cul de sac. As Luna approached the car on foot, Carillo said, the engine was started and the car driven toward Luna, who fired and struck the car several times.

The vehicle passed Luna and a second officer, Nick Perez, who also fired at the car. Officers pursued the vehicle back to Deming, joined by a third

patrol unit.

The car was found stopped at an intersection and two 17-year-old girls and a 14-year-old boy were passengers in the car, leading to the abuse/abandonment charges against Pastran.

Carillo said, as is standard practice, an internal investigation is underway regarding officers' use of deadly force. The officers are not on leave.

Sunday also presented a close call for Luna County Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Bolduc, a former Deming Police Officer.

Bolduc began a vehicle pursuit at 8:59 p.m., chasing a black, two-door Ford.

Driver Patricio Renteria, 24, refused to yield for a traffic stop. Instead, after leading Bolduc along several streets on the city's west side, Renteria reversed direction and drove at Bolduc, the deputy reported. Bolduc took evasive action.

Bolduc said Renteria nearly hit a pick-up truck, then reversed direction and drove toward Bolduc.

Renteria was charged with aggravated fleeing from a peace officer, aggravated assault and cited for unlawful use of a license.

Kevin Buey is a reporter for the Deming Headlight, a sister paper of the Ruidoso News.

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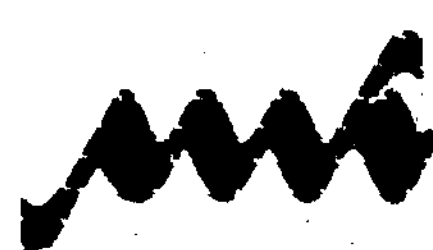
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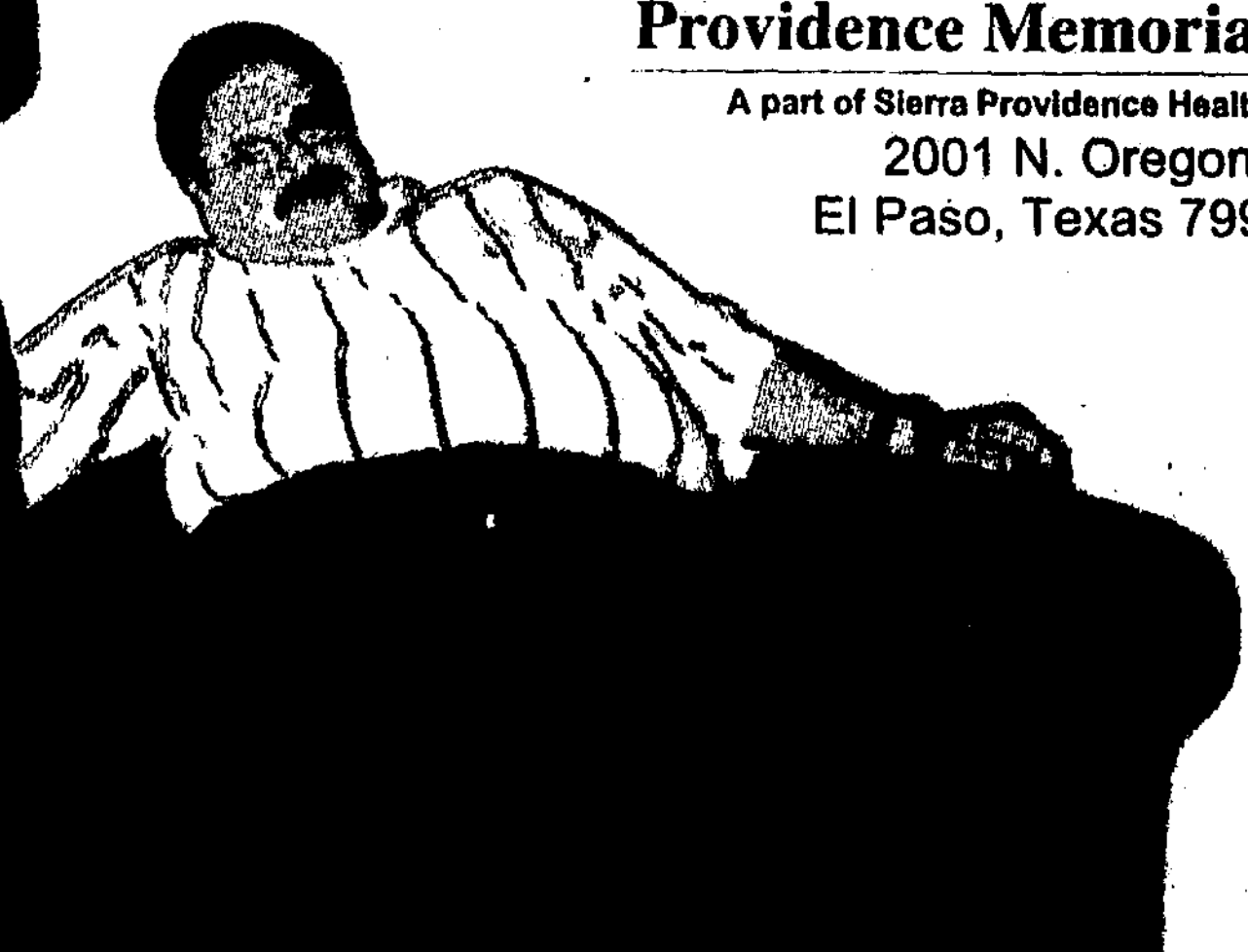
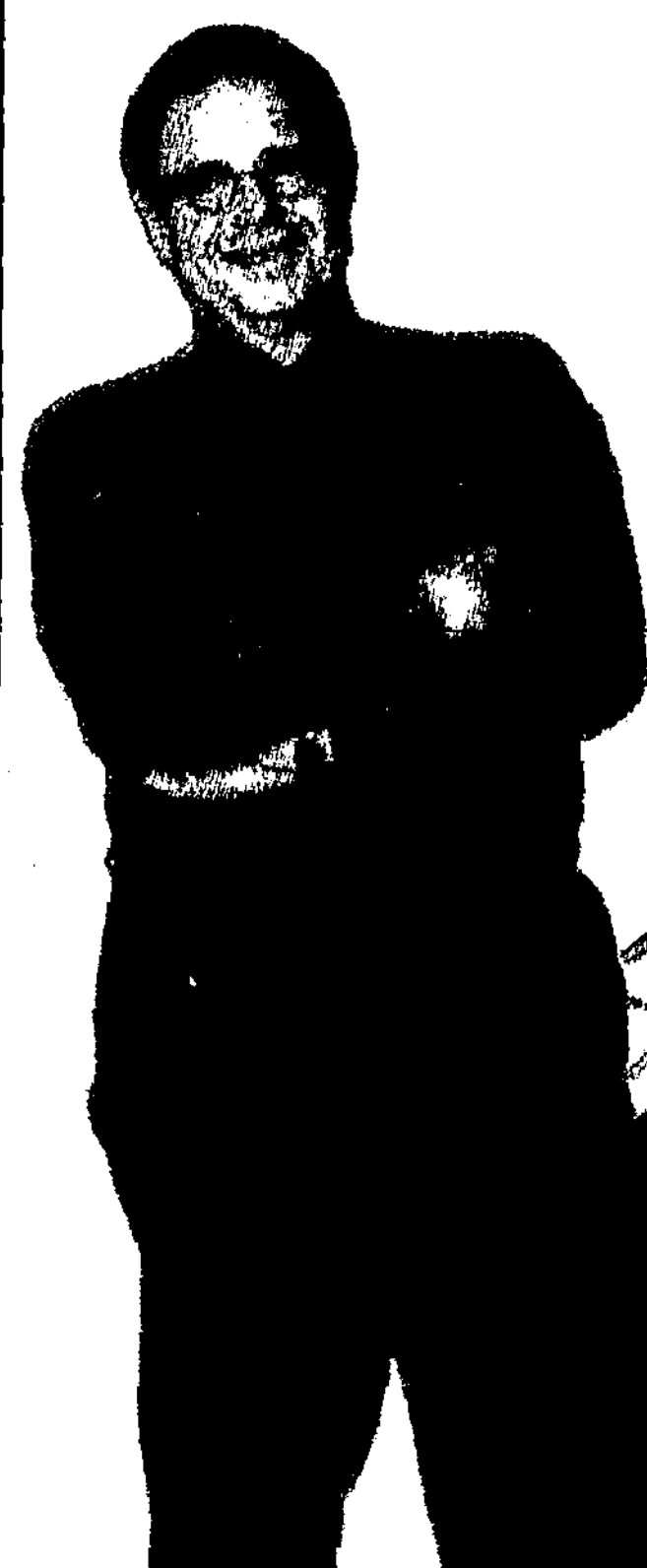
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the same time, the authors also found that the effect of the intervention was significantly greater in the group of patients who had been hospitalized at least once during the previous year.

The authors conclude that the implementation of the intervention can reduce the risk of hospitalization in patients with heart failure.

Keywords: Heart failure; Hospitalization; Home care; Patient education

Introduction The prevalence of heart failure has increased worldwide.

In the United States, there are approximately 5 million people living with heart failure,

Received March 10, 2009; accepted May 11, 2009.

Address correspondence to Dr. Patricia A. McAlister, University of Melbourne, 246 Clayton Rd., Clayton, VIC 3168, Australia; e-mail: p.mcalister@unimelb.edu.au

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Hospitalization rates have increased over the past decade, and the cost of treating heart failure has risen substantially.^{1–3}

Patients with heart failure often experience multiple hospitalizations, which may be preventable if they were better managed in the community.^{4–6}

Home-based interventions have been shown to improve outcomes in patients with heart failure,^{7–10} and several studies have demonstrated that such interventions can reduce the risk of hospitalization in patients with heart failure.^{11–14}

This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of a home-based intervention designed to reduce the risk of hospitalization in patients with heart failure.

(Continued from page 60)

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1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 10A-UV spectrophotometer. The concentration of chlorophyll was expressed in $\mu\text{g mL}^{-1}$ of the sample.

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BEAUTIFUL WOODED LOT. Mostly level with lots of wildlife, over acre to build that perfect mountain cabin. Just outside village limits, horses allowed. \$16,000.00

REMODELED. 1821 sq.ft., 3/2 manufactured doublewide, great floor plan with office and lots of storage. Located on 1.064 acres with a place for horses, chickens, fruit trees and gardens. \$99,999

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CREE MEADOWS GOLF COURSE. One of the few available, beautiful building lot with city utilities available and easy year round access. \$35,000

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DEVELOP YOUR DREAMS. Multiple use, commercially zoned, recently annexed with city utilities available. 2.76 acres, older, well maintained 3/1 home with separate hobby/workshop and large metal building to accommodate 2 RV's. \$298,000 Additional creek lot with well available with package.

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LPCL/PCC/LPAT/LMFT
CSB is looking for a highly motivated, dedicated, career-minded individual to join our team. Position requires ability to perform Group, Individual, Family and Experiential Counseling with resistant adolescents. Substance abuse counseling experience & knowledge of psychotropic drug abuse is a PLUS!! CSB is a juvenile, residential facility serving young men ages 14-18. In addition, we are an accredited high school offering diplomas, GED's as well as college courses. Other program highlights include: ranching, auto repair shop, woodworking shop, ropes challenge course, wilderness class, and canine assistant training program. Please apply if you meet the necessary state licensing requirements. In addition, you must be able to pass a drug screen test and criminal background check. Apply if you are looking for a rewarding career, not just a paycheck. We provide training, a full benefits package, career advancement, and competitive wages. Please apply in person at the facility located at Ft. Stanton, or call 354-3219. EOE.

CHIEF FINANCIAL Officer/CPA or comparable CPA Skills required for regional restaurant chain, oil & gas investments & commercial real estate, & financial responsibilities. Experience, integrity, organization are key components. Email resume to erikbobs@aol.com

200 HELP WANTED

DENTAL ASSISTANT
Full Time, experience required. Please bring or mail resume to: Robert E. White DDS, 2808 Indian Wells Rd., Alamogordo, NM 88310. 505-437-4903

GRILL & fry cook needed, restaurant near Ruidoso. Housing available. 1-866-441-4899

HELP WANTED - Full time Cashier, Great Benefits. Apply in Person at 418 Sudderth.

HELP WANTED at Duds & Suds Laundry. Call 378-5280. Ask for Rosie.

HELP WANTED, El Camino Nueva Restaurant. Busers, Waitstaff, & cooks. Apply in Person. 2PM-5PM. 1025 Mechem.

LICENSED MESSAGE Therapist needed. Call Saint Barnard, 257-7777

Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority is accepting applications for a temporary full-time position of Financial Assistant. Valid New Mexico Driver's License required. **Position will be filled as needed.** You may pick up application at 222 Second Street, Ruidoso Downs, NM or call (505) 378-4697. Application deadline will be December 19, 2003, 3:00 p.m.

200 HELP WANTED

Lincoln County Solid Waste Authority is accepting applications for a temporary full-time position of Receptionist/ Billing Clerk Assistant. Valid New Mexico Driver's License required. **Position will be filled as needed.** You may pick up application at 222 Second Street, Ruidoso Downs, NM or call (505) 378-4697. Application deadline will be December 19, 2003, 3:00 p.m.

MICHELENA'S NOW accepting applications for servers, hosts, & bussers. Apply in person 2703 Sudderth Dr.

NEEDED - One maintenance person and housekeeper. Apply at either Best Western Ruidoso or Pine Springs Best Western (Across from the race-track.)

PART TIME Housekeepers. Only Thursday and Friday's at Crown Point Condominiums. Apply in person no phone calls. 220 Crown Dr.

READY TO get ahead? Ready to change careers? Prudential Lynch Realty is looking for that special go-getter. License required. Training available. Call 257-4011. Gary Lynch.

RHIT Medical Records Consultant
needed for contract work at Ruidoso Care Center. Contact Human Resources at 257-9071 for more information or submit resume at 200 Resort Drive.

Part-time LPN or RN position at Ruidoso Care Center.

Contact Human Resources by calling 257-9071 to find out more about hours, pay and \$2000 sign-on bonus.

200 HELP WANTED

The Ruidoso Care Center has the following openings:
P.R.N. positions for CNA's, RN's and LPN's
Ask about sign-on bonus
Contact Human Resources at 257-9071 for more information on the above positions, or complete application at 200 Resort Dr.
EEO M/F/D/V

The Ruidoso News has an immediate opening in the newspaper's front office. This full-time, 8 am to 5 p.m. M-F (occasional evening work required) position demands an absolute commitment to the highest levels of customer service. The successful candidate will be a quick study in learning new Mac and PC-based systems and proprietary computer applications. Cash handling experience a plus, as are basic accounting skills. Responsibilities will include reception, telephones, management of placement and billing for public notice advertising, classified order entry and bookkeeping duties, tear-sheet management for display advertising customers, inside sales and much more. This is an entry level position ideal for introducing the successful candidate to the world of newspapers by working across multiple departments in the energetic and busy office of a twice-weekly publication that is part of one of the premiere newspaper companies in the United States. Compensation package includes paid vacation, 401(k), health plan and more. Submit cover letter, resume and references to: jobs@ruidosonews.com. Or, apply in person at 104 Park Avenue, Ruidoso. EOE

RUIDOSO READY LABOR
Daily Work / Daily Pay
Construction, framers, general labor, food service, housekeepers, clerical. All Skill Levels!
Apply Today! 257-7876
449 Sudderth Drive in Gateway Center

SKI APACHE SKI AND SNOWBOARD SCHOOL
Instructor Positions Available
Full or Part Time
Join the Best Snowsports School in the Southwest!
Call 336-4356 x220 for more information

200 HELP WANTED

THE HUMANE Society of Lincoln County is now hiring a full-time kennel hand. Apply in person between 11-5, Tuesday thru Saturday.

231 MANAGEMENT
LET ME manage your long or short term rentals. Full service at good rates. Call Sandy @ All American Realty. 257-8444

270 WORK WANTED
Brillante Construction
Thomas Brillante
Redwood Decks - Remodeling
Painting - New Construction
Lic. #53119-258-5198-Ruidoso, NM

273 PERSONALS
FREE PREGNANCY Test. Caring & Confidential Assistance. 258-1800

274 LOST & FOUND
LOST DEC 4, ladies red handbag at Wal-Mart. Would appreciate return of contents: driver's license, medical records, pictures, keys. If found, please return to Comfort Inn or call 257-2770 with any information.

LOST DOG! Female black Daschund mix "Penney", Lost off Mechem. Please call 257-5278 Marisa

280 SPECIAL NOTICES
Bob's Western Wear COWBOY CHRISTMAS STORE
in White Sand Mall, Alamogordo.
NOW OPEN!!!

LIQUIDATION SALE in progress at Josies Framery Furniture & Gifts. Were moving. Our loss is your gain. 2809 Sudderth Dr.

304 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
LINCOLN COUNTY full dispenser Lic. license. Pkg. retail, bar, off premise sales \$265,000. Owner/Agent. 505-336-4983

NEED AN extra \$36,000 a year? Vending route for sale .50 high traffic location. Cost \$5000. 1-800-568-1392 or www.vendingthatworks.com

400 MISCELLANEOUS
16FT. BOAT and trailer in board motor, needs seats, \$500. Call 808-1246
27" ZENITH Console T.V. \$150. & also used set of Michelin tires, P225/60 R16", \$80. 336-8117
5 AIRTIGHT wood heaters from \$125-\$225. 2 fire-place inserts, \$200 each. 258-2595

ALL TOOLS Triller, 3 cable rigs, signs, selling info, business name, & more. For Rotor Rooter Business. \$2000. 808-1246
AMERICAN MEAT slicer, \$150. Igloo dog house, & 8 in Radial arm saw, \$150. Please call 336-4165
COMMERCIAL SIZE Bear Cat wood chipper Tractor PTO Driven Used less than 4 hours Call Wayne @ (505) 336-2565 days, or (505) 336-8277
MARCY MULTI-STATION weight machine. Will deliver. \$300.OBO 937-0581

412 FIREWOOD FUEL
AFFORDABLE SPLIT seasoned. Various types, lengths, amounts. Delivered/stacked. Also, cut and split your firewood. Chimney Sweep Services. Ruidoso Since 1983. 257-5808
FIREWOOD FOR Sale: Juniper, Pinon, & Pine. Delivered and stacked, single variety, or mix. Seasoned and ready to burn. 257-6763 or 808-0158

KILLER CEDAR from Clauch. Starts easy burns long, (16", 18", 22") lengths. Full cord/half cord \$155 plus tax. Call Bob Eason 378-4069
SPLIT PINE, \$85. cord. Pinon/ Juniper mix \$140 cord. Slabwood \$25 truck load. El Molino Sawmill, Airport Rd. 336-1237

WOOD STOVES, Free-standing, some pipe. \$60 for both. 258-2041.

413 FURNITURE
FUTON COUCH and 2 futon chairs + Ottoman, light wood, missionary style. \$700. 354-3376.

GREAT CHRISTMAS ITEMS. Antique 1949 dime slot machine. Antique 1937 refurbished Texaco gas pump. Large wood desk - like new. Upright freezer. Available for showing. Sat and Sun, Dec. 13 and 14, 9 to 3 only. Call 257-0522.
LIQUIDATION SALE in progress at Josies Framery Furniture & Gifts. Were moving. Our loss is your gain. 2809 Sudderth Dr.
Mansfield Furniture
NEW & USED FURNITURE & MATTRESSES WE BUY SELL & TRADE
1000 Sudderth Drive 257-3109
MATCHING ANTIQUE dark wood chest of drawers and vanity dresser with full length mirror. \$125 each or \$200 both, 257-5065.

304 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
MOTEL - 31 units, nice owner's living quarters with fireplace, attractive Western-style architecture, room furnishings created by renowned Hondo and Alamogordo woodworker Doug McIntyre, extra land for expansion. Profitable business in beautiful mountain resort area. For Sale by Owner, (520) 439-4201.

RESTAURANT - Profitable, high volume, well-established, family-style, year-round restaurant. High quality lifestyle in beautiful mountain resort area. For Sale by Owner, (520) 439-4201.

MOTEL & RESTAURANT MAY BE SOLD SEPARATELY.

400 MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE Wood Burning Stove. Includes all piping. Call 258-2681

FOR SALE: Indian designed throws, placemats, quilts and jewelry. The Byrd's Nest, 721 Mechem, Sierra Mall. 257-4166.

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HAMMOND ORGAN w/bench, maple, \$500, HP XX7993, computer \$600. Misc. pistols and rifles. Call 505-258-4920

MINK FOR SALE. Exquisite Tourmaline Mink tape. Brocade lined w/velvet lined pockets. Like new. \$450. OBO Call 257-3671

MUST SACRIFICE: Brand new Kinetic K60 water softener, paid \$2,400. Asking \$1,900. Call 257-4748

NORDIC TRACK Ski aerobic Exercise, Sequoia model. Finished in Redwood stain with a sturdy black steel frame, \$100. 258-3550

Rustic Southwest furniture. Call 336-4444

SMALL BRICK lined wood stove for sale, \$150. Call 258-3179

402 APPLIANCES
36" WHITE Subzero refrigerator / freezer, like new \$1,250. Call 336-4441

FOR SALE - 30 in. electric stove \$100, old Frigidaire refrigerator, \$75... works great! 257-3759, Ask for Sam.

FOR SALE: New White Kitchen-aid Electric oven with upper microwave oven. Price \$1500.00 Original cost \$1800.00 Call 258-5232.

GE 18 cubic ft. refrigerator with ice maker. White. \$150.00. Call 257-0419.

MOVING MUST SELL New Whirlpool washer, super capacity/top of the line. Only 1 month old. Selling for \$285. Call 430-5510 or 378-4102 evenings.

UNDER-THE-COUNTER KENMORE dishwasher. Like new. \$200 firm. Also, clean electric stove, works \$50. (505) 980-8803.

412 FIREWOOD FUEL
AFFORDABLE SPLIT seasoned. Various types, lengths, amounts. Delivered/stacked. Also, cut and split your firewood. Chimney Sweep Services. Ruidoso Since 1983. 257-5808
FIREWOOD FOR Sale: Juniper, Pinon, & Pine. Delivered and stacked, single variety, or mix. Seasoned and ready to burn. 257-6763 or 808-0158

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411 FURNITURE

MUST SELL solid oak office desk, 4-drawers, 38"x72" with Ell at 17.5"x42" Appraised at \$1200. Will sacrifice for \$500. Call 336-1687

416 MACHINERY TOOLS & EQUIPMENT
WOOD SPLITTER for Sale. Air Cooled 4 cylinder. Wisconsin Motor 20+ Horsepower. Carburetor needs some work. \$500 OBO Call 336-1253.

418 MERCHANDISE
PARADISE AIR PLANTS. Everything must go! 50% off merchandise. Wholesale sale into Welcomed! 2500 Sudderth #7, Four Seasons Mall, 257-1884

PIANO FOR sale. Beautiful Spinnet by Wurliizer. Perfect condition inside and out. Just tuned. Like new. \$995. Firm. 257-5284.

428 STEREO EQUIPMENT
JVC DIGITAL Surround sound auto video receiver, w/remotes, \$145. Please call 257-2543

452 YARD & GARAGE SALES
102 HORTON COURT. Sat. 8 am. Small appliances, pots, baskets, sleeping bags, X-mas decorations, old commode, chair, horn/mirror-hat to restore.

GARAGE SALE: 423 Fourth St. Sunday 14, 8-?

GREAT CHRISTMAS ITEMS. Antique 1949 dime slot machine. Antique 1937 refurbished Texaco gas pump. Large wood desk - like new. Upright freezer. Available for showing. Sat and Sun, Dec. 13 and 14, 9 to 3 only. Call 257-0522.

INDOOR SALE! Winter wear, jeans, misc. kitchen and decorative Christmas items, plus baby clothes, books, etc. 1800 Sudderth, Sat and Sun, 10 to 4.

LIQUIDATION SALE in progress at Josies Framery Furniture & Gifts. Were moving. Our loss is your gain. 2809 Sudderth Dr.

THREE PARTY Inside Yard Sale, 512 East Hwy. 70. Fri 9-4, Sat 9-2. New merchandise below cost. Collectibles, purses, candles, items too numerous to mention. Honda generator \$1,000.

501 SERVICES
A-1 HANDY Man Services. Hauling, moving, decks, painting, drywall, plumbing, misc. repairs. Firewood, chimney cleaning. No job too small 808-1391
ALL COMPLETE Yard Care. Tree removal, thinning, pruning, hauling, raking, mowing, gutters. Free estimates Referrals available. Ruidoso since '83 257-5808
CHERYL'S UNIQUE Services - For professional business home owners & home bound people; Organizing rooms, (unclutter), office/house cleaning, run errands, grocery shopping, part time office work, water plants & house watching. References. 336-1775
CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!! I will put up your Christmas lights and yard ornaments. Home or office. Honest rates. Call Mike at 258-4772
COMPANY COMING? Need Holiday Cleaning? Will Clean For You! Call "Tippis for Cleaning." 937-5131
Green Acres Yard & Tree Services Landscape maintenance, Pine needle removal Brush thinning We Show up, A Job well done! Call Tim for more info. 257-7945 or e-mail bondurant@zianet.com
HANDYMAN SERVICE: maintenance and repair, carpentry, tile, power washing, sealing or painting. Free Estimates. References available. 257-0649. 808-0414
HOME & Deck repairs, also painting, power washing, sealing. References available. Call 258-3703
IN HOME companion mature and dependable lady who loves to nurture, cook, clean, laundry or errands. Available days or 24-hour service. 378-7159, 10am-5pm.
IS YOUR furniture loose call Bruce; Broken or missing parts fixed or fabricated. Tung oil or wax finishes. Bruce Peterson Const. 257-2802
PIANO LESSONS. Experienced teacher will come to your home. Beginners welcome. 257-5284. Weekends available.

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FRIDAY, DEC. 12, 2003

CLASSIFIEDS

RUIDOSO NEWS • PAGE 5C

LEGAL NOTICE

#5883 1T (12)12

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE is hereby given that competitive sealed proposals will be received by the Lincoln County Purchasing Agent at the Lincoln County Courthouse, 300 Central Ave. (P.O. Box 711), Carrizozo, NM 88301 until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2004, at which time and place the proposals will be opened. Proposals not received by the time and date indicated above will not be accepted for consideration and will be returned unopened.

PROPOSAL 03-04-009: LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN

Proposal requirements are available at the Office of the Purchasing Agent, Lincoln County Courthouse, Carrizozo, or by calling Jane Williams at (505) 648-2385 ext. 105.

All proposals must be clearly marked on the outside of a sealed envelope with the Proposal Title and Number, Date and Time of Opening.

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners will review the proposals and make their final determination during a regular County Commission meeting on January 22, 2004.

Lincoln County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any proposal, waive minor technicalities and award the proposal to best serve the interests of Lincoln County.

/S/ Jane Williams
Purchasing Agent

#5883 1T (12)12

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico until 4:00 p.m. on January 7, 2004. Bids will be opened in the CAA-SNM-Roswell office 9:00 a.m. on January 8, 2004 and publicly read aloud for HOME Rehabilitation Program for work at the following locations(s):

110 D Avenue, Carrizozo, NM

Scope of Work: Painting under Home Rehabilitation

Instructions to bidders, specifications, and other documents are available from Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, 2006 S Main St, Roswell, New Mexico.

Bids will only receive consideration when submitted on the Bid Forms supplied by Community Action Agency and with no changes or qualifications and no alternates will be considered which are not specifically called for. Every item on the Bid Forms shall be filled out and all information called for therein shall be supplied.

The Bid Form and the Work Write-Up must be submitted in a sealed envelope which will state "Sealed Bid Enclosed, Bid # 3924" and mailed to the following address:

Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico
PO Drawer 2227
Roswell NM 88202-2227
Attn: Art Opheim
Phone: (505) 624-1660

Bids received after specified time will be returned, unopened to the bidder. All proposals within the appropriate time frame will be retained by Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico. An award is anticipated within ten (10) calendar days after the bid opening, and work is expected to start as soon as the contract is executed.

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITIES OR TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 11:00 a.m. on December 22, 2003 to appraise the work proposed at the following address: 1100 D Avenue, Carrizozo, NM. All General Contractors are invited. CAA-SNM rehab staff will be on hand to answer any questions you might have at that time.

#5846 4T
(11)21,28(12)5,12

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

No. CV-02-222

CSFB 2000-FL1 - KITTERY, LLC, a Maine limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

LEGAL NOTICE

HEMMINGSWAY HOTEL, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and NEW MEXICO LAST CALL, INC., a New Mexico corporation,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above-entitled Court entered a Partial Final Declaratory Judgment and Foreclosure Judgment ("Foreclosure Judgment") in favor of CSFB 2000-FL1 Kittery, LLC, ("Plaintiff") on September 30, 2003, appointed the undersigned as Special Master in this matter with the power to sell, and ordered the sale of certain property in the County of Lincoln, State of New Mexico. Plaintiff intends to transfer its ownership of the Foreclosure Judgment and underlying claims, interests and documents (except certain collateral foreclosed upon in Maine and related to that Maine collateral) to CSFB 2000-FL1 Mechem, LLC, a New Mexico limited liability company ("NM LLC"). Plaintiff and NM LLC expect to move the Court to amend the caption of the foreclosure proceeding and substitute CSFB 2000-FL1 Mechem, LLC

LEGAL NOTICE

as Plaintiff therein.

The real property to be sold is described as follows:

BLOCK 15 OF ALTO CREST, UNIT TWO, RUIDOSO, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN BY THE PLAT THEREOF FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK OF LINCOLN COUNTY, MARCH 16, 1982, IN CABINET B, SLIDE 252B, AND AS FURTHER SHOWN BY LAND TITLE SURVEY FILED JUNE 1, 2000, IN CABINET G, SLIDE 670, AND BEING THE SAME LAND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING at the southeast corner of said Block 15 as it adjoins Mechem Drive (NM State Highway 48) and NE corner of Shasta Place; Thence along the north boundary of said Shasta Place as follows:

North 88° 03' 51" West a distance of 47.20 feet; thence along the arc of a curve to the right whose central angle is 30° 07' 47" and whose radius is 67.88 feet an arc distance of 35.70 feet (chord = North 72° 59' 58" West - 35.29 feet);

Thence North 56° 32' 39" West, a distance of 87.10 feet, thence along

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the arc of a curve to the left whose central angle is 20° 47' 01" and whose radius is 161.84 feet an arc distance of 58.71 feet (chord = North 66° 56' 24" West - 58.39 feet); thence North 77° 20' 10" West a distance of 128.71 feet; thence along the arc of a curve to the right whose central angle is 98° 21' 43" and whose radius is 20.90 feet an arc distance of 35.88 feet (chord = North 28° 04' 00" West - 31.63 feet);

Thence leaving said Shasta Place and going along the northeast boundary of Sandia Drive as follows:

North 21° 07' 00" East a distance of 207.48 feet; thence along the arc of a curve to the left whose central angle is 10° 35' 00" and whose radius is 231.14 feet an arc distance of 42.69 feet (chord = North 15° 49' 30" East - 42.63 feet);

Thence North 10° 32' 00" East a distance of 152.58 feet; thence along the arc of a curve to the right whose central angle is 37° 57' 58" and whose radius is 144.78 feet an arc distance of 95.89 feet (chord = North 29° 30' 30" East - 94.15 feet); thence North 48° 29' 00" East a distance of 310.17 feet; thence along the arc of a curve to the right whose

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central angle is 50° 01' 00" and whose radius is 82.17 feet an arc distance of 71.73 feet (chord = North 73° 27' 07" East - 69.52 feet); thence South 81° 30' 00" East a distance of 43.64 feet;

Thence leaving said Sandia Drive and going along the west boundary of Mechem Drive (NM State Highway 48) as follows:

Thence along the arc of a curve to the right whose central angle is 14° 46' 30" and whose radius is 1070.92 feet an arc distance of 276.15 feet (chord = South 04° 03' 20" East - 275.40 feet);

Thence South 04° 45' 26" West a distance of 41.38 feet; thence along the arc of a curve to the right whose central angle is 34° 11' 20" and whose radius is 211.48 feet an arc distance of 126.19 feet (chord = South 21° 33' 34" West - 124.33 feet);

Thence South 38° 21' 00" West a distance of 97.49 feet; thence along the arc of a curve to the left whose central angle is 53° 06' 00" and whose radius is 361.48 feet an arc distance of 335.01 feet (chord = South 11° 48' 00" West - 323.15 feet) to the said place of beginning, and containing 5.722 acres more or less and is

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sometimes commonly known as Swiss Chalet Inn, Highway 48, 1451 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico 88345. The property to be sold also includes certain personal property currently located in the building and/or belonging to Hemmingsway Hotel, LLC and included in the collateral descriptions attached to the Foreclosure Judgment. (A complete copy of the Foreclosure Judgment may be obtained from the court records or by calling the office of James L. Rasmussen, Kelleher & McLeod, P.A., (505) 346-4646.) However, the personal property to be sold at foreclosure sale does not include New Mexico Liquor License No. 2503 or (i) Receipts as defined in the Mortgage and Loan Agreement, (ii) bank accounts, (iii) accounts receivable, credit card receivables, escrows and reserve accounts and proceeds thereof, (iv) rights of access to and use of files, books of account and other records with respect to Receipts, bank accounts, accounts receivable, credit card receivables, escrows and reserve accounts, and (v) rights of access to and use of the Real Property and access, use and disposition of the Personal Property and rights of access to and use of files, books of account and other records sufficient to operate the continuing re-

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licensing of the Liquor License. Subsequent disposition of New Mexico Liquor License No. 2503 will be governed by the Uniform Commercial Code as described in Paragraph (h), page 6, of the Foreclosure Judgment. Subsequent disposition of the other collateral excluded from the real estate foreclosure sale is also governed by the Foreclosure Judgment and its directions to the Receiver. The property described above to be sold shall be subject to any unpaid ad valorem property taxes, to any unpaid assessments, and to any easements or other matters of record not excluded by reason of the Notice of Lis Pendens recorded August 26, 2003 in Book 329 Pages 1116-1118 in the records of the

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County Clerk of Lincoln County, New Mexico. The sale is to begin at 9:30 a.m. on December 22, 2003, at the front steps of the Ruidoso Municipal Building, 313 Cree Meadows, Ruidoso, New Mexico. The property is to be sold to the highest bidder for cash in lawful currency of the United States of America (except that the holder of the Partial Final Declaratory and Foreclosure Judgment may bid all or part of that Default Judgment) to pay expenses of sale, and to be applied to satisfy the Foreclosure Judgment.

As of November 5, 2003 the following amounts were outstanding on the Foreclosure Judgment: principal amount of \$5,630,000.00, plus interest in the amount of

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CREDIT UNION SALE

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EL PASO EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION WHITE SANDS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

2003 FORD CLEARANCE SALE



**04 FORD F-150
SUPER CAB**

MSRP \$29,190
Expressway Dis. -\$3,502
Sale Price **\$25,688**

\$363 per month
\$0 down



2004 FORD MUSTANG COUPE

\$500 PER DAY

MSRP \$18,490
Expressway Dis. -\$1,054
Rebate -\$3,000
Sale Price **\$14,436**



03 FORD EXPLORER

\$7,000
OR **0%** down for 72 mos.



**03 Ford Focus
LX 4 DOOR**

MSRP \$15,455
Ford Rebate -\$3,000
Expressway Dis. -\$1,205
Sale Price **\$11,250**

\$194 per month
\$0 down for 60 mos.



**All '03 Ford F150's
Ext. Cabs**

Expressway Dis. -\$3,500
Ford Rebate -\$3,000
Total Savings **\$6,500**

\$0 per month
\$0 down for 60 mos.



**03 Ford Escort
ZX2 COUPE**

MSRP \$14,450
Ford Rebate -\$4,000
Expressway Dis. -\$1,550
Sale Price **\$8,900**

\$168 per month
\$0 down for 60 mos.



**03 Ford Ranger
REG CAB XLT**

\$0 per month
\$0 down for 60 mos.

USED CAR SUPERSTORE

SALES/LEASES

00 Ford Escort ST	\$4,995	00 Chevy S10 Ext. Cab	\$6,495	00 Dodge Ram Van	\$7,995
01 Ford Focus	\$5,995	00 Dodge Ram Ext. Cab	\$8,995	00 Isuzu Rodeo	\$11,995
01 Ford Focus	\$6,995	02 Ford F-150	\$10,995	02 Suzuki Vitara	\$12,995
01 Ford Taurus	\$6,995	02 Ford Ranger Ext. Cab	\$10,995	00 Ford Expedition	\$12,995
00 Pontiac Grand Am	\$6,995	02 Ford F-150	\$10,995	00 Chevy Express	\$12,995
02 Ford Escort	\$6,995	00 Dodge Ram Ext. Cab	\$11,995	01 Dodge Caravan	\$13,995
07 Infiniti I-30	\$6,995	01 Ford Ranger Ext. Cab	\$12,995	00 Jeep Grand Cherokee	\$13,995
03 Ford Focus	\$6,995	01 Ford F-150 Ext. Cab	\$14,995	02 Dodge Caravan	\$13,995
03 Hyundai Elantra	\$10,995	02 Dodge Dakota Crew Cab	\$15,995	00 Jeep Wrangler	\$13,995
03 Buick Century	\$10,995	00 Chevy Silverado Ext. Cab	\$15,995	00 Jeep Wrangler	\$13,995
01 Ford Mustang	\$12,995	03 Ford F-150 Ext. Cab	\$17,995	00 Mitsubishi Montero Sport	\$14,995
02 Ford Taurus	\$12,995	03 Ford F-150 Ext. Cab	\$17,995	03 Hyundai Santa Fe	\$15,995
00 Dodge Stratus	\$12,995	02 Chevy Monte Ext. Cab	\$17,995	01 Jeep Grand Cherokee	\$15,995
00 Honda Civic	\$13,995	02 Ford F-150 Ext. Cab	\$18,995	00 Ford Excursion	\$19,995
00 Pontiac Firebird	\$14,995	02 Dodge Crew Cab	\$18,995	04 Chevy Trail Blazer	\$23,995
00 Honda Accord	\$15,995	03 Chevy Silverado Ext. Cab	\$19,995	02 Toyota Camry	\$21,995
00 Mercedes Aurora	\$16,995				
01 Volk Passat	\$16,995				
02 Ford Mustang	\$16,995				
00 Nissan Altima	\$17,995				
02 Ford Mustang	\$17,995				

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MON. - FRI. 8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

SATURDAY - 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

SUNDAY - 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



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SUZUKI.

MAKE THE SMART MOVE
'04 VERONA EX
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING DOWN!
SALE PRICE \$18,999
\$349 Month

Heated Leather Seats, Moonroof, 6-Cylinder Engine, CD/Cassette W/Steering Wheel Controls, Alloy Wheels, Heated Mirrors, Automatic Climate Control, Italian Design



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SUZUKI.

MAKE THE SMART MOVE
'04 XL-7 LX
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING DOWN!
SALE PRICE \$18,499
\$368 Month

5-Speed Automatic Transmission, In-Dash 6-Disc CD Changer, Steering Wheel Mounted Controls, Alloy Wheels, Jeweled Tail Lamps, Luggage Rack



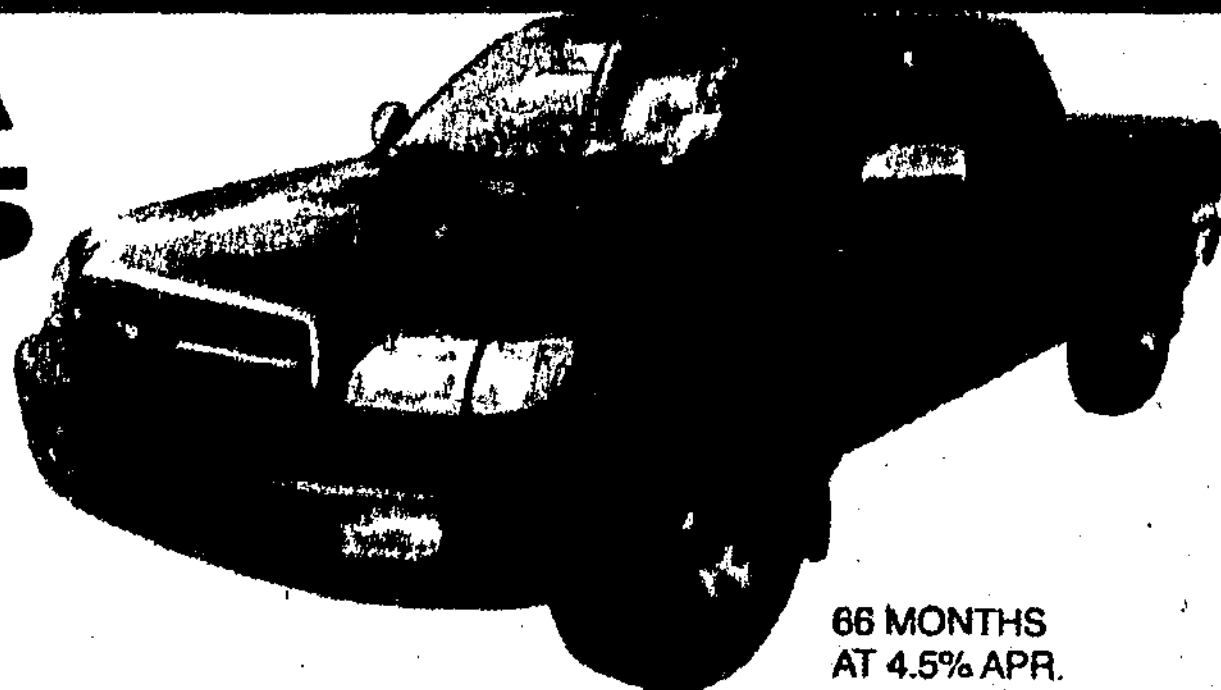
All new Suzuki's come with America's #1 Warranty, a transferable, zero-dollar deductible, 100,000 mile/7-year powertrain limited warranty. All components on the vehicle are covered by a 36,000-mile/3-years limited warranty. A roadside Assistance Program and Courtesy Vehicle Program come free with all new Suzuki's for the 36,000-mile/3-years warranty period.

66 MONTHS, 4.5% APR
 ON ALL SUZUKI'S

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'01 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5 ACCESS CAB



V8, ONLY 19,000 MILES

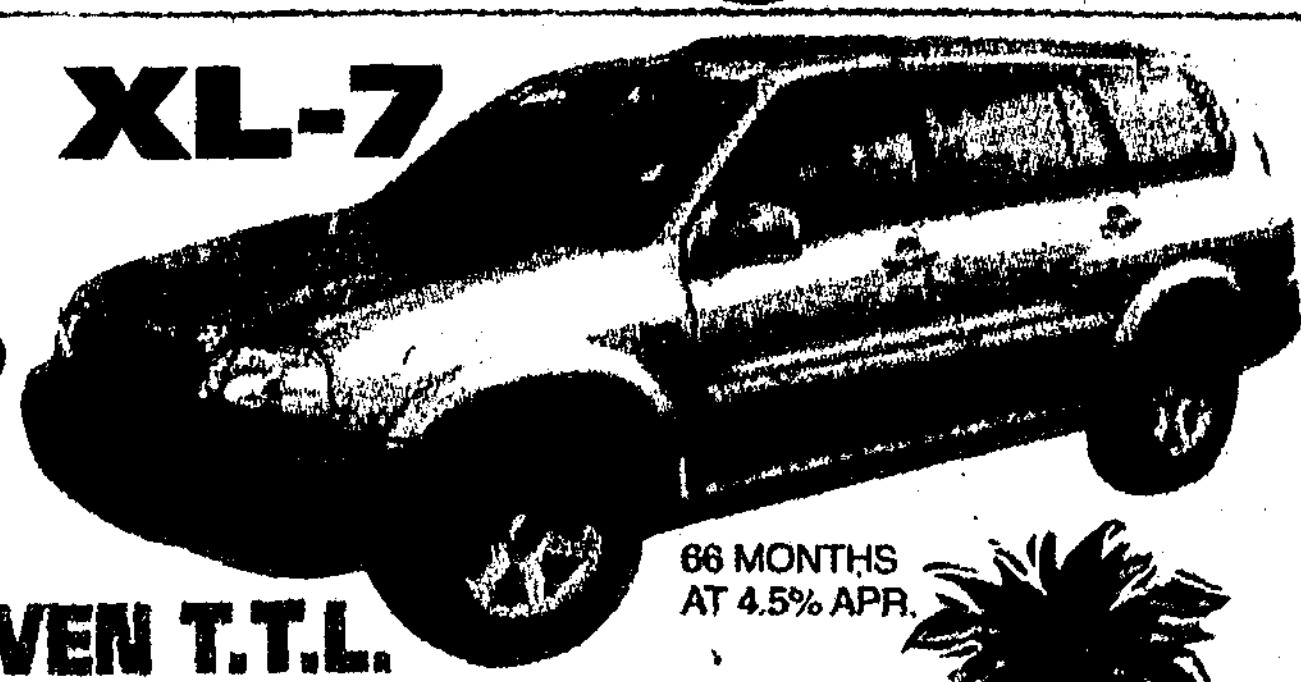
66 MONTHS AT 4.5% APR.

'02 SUZUKI XL-7 TOURING 4X4

ONLY \$16,695

\$253 Mo.

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'97 CROWN VICTORIA LX
 V8, Rear Wheel Drive, Super Low Miles \$5,995

'98 CHEVROLET S10 LS
 Extended Cab, Only 66,000 Miles..... \$5,995

'01 FORD RANGER
 Test Drive To Appreciate, 42,000 Miles \$5,995

'02 HYUNDAI ELANTRA GLS
 Power Equipped..... \$6,995

'01 HONDA CIVIC LX
 2-Door, Many Extras..... \$8,495

'98 SUBARU FORESTER S
 All-Wheel Drive, 66,000 Miles..... \$8,995

'02 TOYOTA TACOMA
 A MUST SEE! 14,000 Miles..... \$9,995

'00 SUBARU OUTBACK
 A MUST SEE! All-Wheel Drive..... \$11,200

'03 DODGE INTREPID
 Still Under Warranty, Power Equipped \$11,495

'02 DODGE RAM
 CD, Alloy Wheels, 23,000 Miles..... \$12,995

'02 DODGE CARAVAN SPORT
 Loaded, 28,000 Miles..... \$14,995

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Vortec V-6 Engine
Power Locks & Windows
Cruise Control
Automatic
Anti-Lock Brakes
Sik #1281139

only 2 available

MSRP: \$21,900
Customer Rebate: \$2,500
Crawfordable Discount: \$1,277
Selling Price: \$14,723

\$167 PER MO.**

2003 GMC Yukon 4x4 or Denali 4x4



only 3 available

*Discount off MSRP: \$6,000 Fact. Rebate
\$5,077 Crawfordable Disc.

\$11,077

2004 GMC Sierra Shortbox



Vortec Engine
Automatic Transmission
Power Locks
Air Conditioning
Chrome Package
Tilt Steering
Sik #1240553

only 2 available

MSRP: \$19,760
Customer Rebate: \$2,500
Crawfordable Discount: \$1,777
Selling Price: \$15,683

\$187 PER MO.**

2004 GMC Sierra Ext. SLE



Includes 2nd & 4x4

Tilt/Cruise
Vortec V-8
Anti-Lock Brakes
Power Windows
Power Locks

20 at this discount

*Discount off MSRP: \$2,500 Fact. Rebate
\$2,777 Crawfordable Disc.

\$5,277

2003 GMC Safari Ext. Van



only 1 at this discount

*Discount off MSRP: \$3,000 Fact. Rebate
\$2,377 Crawfordable Disc.

\$5,377

2003 GMC Envoy 4DR



Fuel Injected Engine
Power Locks
Power Windows
Cruise Control
Anti-Lock Brakes
Sik #1231465 #123009

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Power Windows & Locks
Cruise Control
AM/FM Cass. Stereo
Dual Air Bags
Sik #8240263

only 7 available

*Discount off MSRP: \$4,000 Fact. Rebate
\$2,077 Crawfordable Disc.

\$6,077

2004 Buick Century



4 Cyl. Engine
Power/Tilt Steering
Power Windows & Locks
AM/FM CD Stereo
Air Conditioning
Sik #8240357

only 33 available

MSRP: \$12,500
Customer Rebate: \$1,000
Crawfordable Discount: \$1,077
Selling Price: \$17,453

\$207 PER MO.**

2003 Pontiac Bonneville



ONLY 3 left!

\$5,077 SAVINGS

\$3,000 Fact. Rebate
\$2,077 Discount

2004 Pontiac Sunfire Sport



140 HP Ecotec Engine
Power Steering
Tilt Steering
AM/FM CD Stereo
Air Conditioning
Sik #9241269

MSRP: \$11,427
Crawfordable Discount: \$1,439
Selling Price: \$10,988

\$147 PER MO.**

2004 Pontiac Grand Am



52 at this discount

*Discount off MSRP: \$3,000 Fact. Rebate
\$1,077 Crawfordable Disc.

\$4,077

2004 Pontiac Vibe



Remote Keyless Entry
Power Windows & Locks
Cruise Control
AM/FM Cass. Stereo
Dual Air Bags
Sik #9241254

only 3,916

MSRP: \$17,045
Customer Rebate: \$2,000
Crawfordable Discount: \$1,916
Selling Price: \$13,989

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'02 BUICK LESABRE STK #240105A	\$11,981	'02 PONTIAC AZTEK STK #240743A	\$11,981
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'03 CHEVY MALIBU STK #2400990	\$9,981	'03 NISSAN SENTRA STK #2737	\$11,581
'02 BUICK REGAL STK #232007B	\$9,981	'04 CHEVY S-10 X-CAB STK #230725	\$4,981
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'02 HYUNDAI SANTA FE STK #240140A	\$13,981	'02 CHEVY SILVERADO STK #240176A	\$17,981
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 • AND MORE!
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 APR with 20% down,
 plus TT&L, OAC
 Cash price \$8,981

\$118 PER MO. AND \$8,981

5 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE!

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 • A/C
 • ORIGINAL MFG WARRANTY
 • PWR STEERING
 • PWR BRAKES
 • AND MORE!
 *72 mo. of \$144 at 4.9%
 APR with 20% down,
 plus TT&L, OAC
 Cash price \$10,981

\$144 PER MO. AND \$10,981

5 TO CHOOSE FROM AT THIS PRICE!

OVER 296 QUALITY USED CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs

'02 BUICK REGAL STK.#2320078  \$9,981	'03 CHEVY MALIBU STK.#G0990  \$9,981	'03 NISSAN SENTRA STK.#E757  \$11,581	'01 HONDA CIVIC STK.#2320701  \$7,981	'97 BUICK RIVIERA STK.#2407208  \$8,481	'00 NISSAN MAXIMA STK.#2400978  \$8,981
'03 FORD MUSTANG STK.#240722A  \$12,781	'01 MERCURY MARQUIS STK.#240609A  \$12,981	'03 BUICK LESABRE STK.#G0979  \$12,981	'00 PONTIAC FIREBIRD STK.#240428A  \$14,981	'03 NISSAN ALTIMA STK.#E739  \$16,981	'00 CAMARO SS T-TOP STK.#C3164  \$17,981

SALE PRICES! INCLUDING MANY GM CERTIFIED VEHICLES

'99 DODGE CARAVAN STK.#240616A  \$4,981	'94 CHEVY S-10 X-CAB STK.#2307288  \$4,981	'99 PONTIAC MONTANA STK.#230325A  \$5,981	'99 FORD EXPLORER STK.#2402918  \$7,981	'00 SUZUKI MPV STK.#2201199  \$8,981	'01 CHEVY S-10 STK.#232042J  \$8,981
'01 CHEVY VENTURE STK.#2403926  \$10,981	'00 PONTIAC MONTANA STK.#240331A  \$10,981	'99 HONDA CRV STK.#240405A  \$11,981	'02 PONTIAC AZTEC STK.#240743A  \$11,981	'02 GMC SIERRA STK.#231464A  \$11,981	'01 NISSAN XTERRA STK.#240183A  \$12,581
'01 FORD EXPLORER STK.#240364A  \$12,981	'02 CHEVY C1500 STK.#240475A  \$13,481	'00 HONDA CRV STK.#240397B  \$13,881	'02 HYUNDAI SANTA FE STK.#240140A  \$13,981	'01 GMC SIERRA STK.#240285A  \$13,981	'03 GMC SIERRA STK.#240207A  \$13,981
'02 BUICK RENDEZVOUS STK.#230956A  \$15,981	'01 CHEVY SILVERADO STK.#230392A  \$16,981	'02 GMC SIERRA X-CAB STK.#240676A  \$16,981	'03 NISSAN FRONTIER CREW STK.#240667A  \$17,981	'02 CHEVY SILVERADO STK.#240176A  \$17,981	'99 DODGE QUAD DIESEL STK.#C3163  \$18,581
'02 MITSUBISHI MONTERO STK.#C3162  \$18,981	'03 CHEVY SILVERADO STK.#240280A  \$19,881	'01 CHEVY TAHOE STK.#240871A  \$21,981	'03 CHEVY AVALANCHE STK.#C3159  \$27,981	'02 F-350 DUALY DIESEL STK.#C3167  \$29,981	'04 GMC ENVY XL STK.#240704A  \$30,981

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 Sale absolutely ends 12/16/03.

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LEGAL NOTICES

#768,810.87 (as of September 30, 2003), plus late fees in the amount of \$182,206.14, plus attorney's fees, costs, expenses in the amount of \$832,275.93, plus additional expenses and advances in protection of the property securing the loan in the amount of \$100,176.03, plus exit fee of \$56,300.00, plus unpaid charges against the collateral in New Mexico of \$13,744.00 and in Maine of \$88,829.29, plus interest on the total partial final judgment at 11.37% per annum (calculated upon the basis of a 360 day year and actual days elapsed pursuant to the loan documents) through November 5, 2003 in the amount of \$87,234.53, totaling \$7,759,576.79 as of November 5. On November 5, the collateral in Maine was sold at foreclosure sale for the amount of \$3,230,000.00 reducing the amount outstanding on the Foreclosure Judgment to \$4,529,576.79. As of the date of the New Mexico foreclosure sale, the amount outstanding with accrued interest is expected to be \$4,596,814.58.

Please contact James L. Rasmussen at Keleher & McLeod, P.A., P.O. Box AA, Albuquerque, NM 87103, telephone (505) 346-4646 for additional information.

Dated:

/s/ Richard Hawthorne,
Special Master
1221 Mechem Drive, #2
Ruidoso, New Mexico
(505) 258-3483

#5856 4T
(11)21,28(12)5,12

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

No. CV-00-168

BANK ONE, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, AS
TRUSTEE,

Plaintiff,

vs.

501 SERVICES

LEGAL NOTICES

TRUDIE JORDAN aka
TRUDIE CREWS and
CHARLES EDWARD
CREWS aka CHARLES
JORDAN

Defendants,
and
MONTGOMERY & ANDREWS, P.A.,

Intervenor,

vs.

TRUDIE JORDAN aka
TRUDIE CREWS,

Defendant-in-Intervention,

Defendants.

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, on December 17, 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 sold is located at 26 St. Moritz Street, Ruidoso, New Mexico, and is situated in Lincoln County, New Mexico, and is particularly described as follows:

LOT 26, INSNBROOK VILLAGE, RUIDOSO, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, AS SHOWN BY THE REPEAT THEREOF FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO RECORDER OF LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, JUNE 30, 1975, IN TUBE NO. 557.

THE FOREGOING SALE will be made to satisfy a judgment rendered by the above Court in the above-entitled and numbered cause on December 17, 2001, being an action to foreclose a mortgage on the above-described property. Subsequent to the entry of the judgment, the Debtor made payments pursuant to a Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Plan and partially satisfied Plaintiff's judgment. The amount now due on the judgment is \$141,371.26, plus interest thereon at the rate of

501 SERVICES

LEGAL NOTICES

11.50% per annum from November 30, 2003, to the date of sale. The amount of such interest to the date of sale will be \$801.72. The Intervenor Montgomery & Andrews, P.A.'s judgment is \$120,129.42, and the same bears interest at one and one-quarter percent (1 1/4%) per annum from April 14, 1994. The Plaintiff and the Intervenor Montgomery & Andrews, P.A. have 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 recorded 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, affixture 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

#5862 4T
(11)28(12)5,12,19

LEGAL NOTICE

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COUNTY OF LIN-

501 SERVICES

LEGAL NOTICES

COLN STATE OF NEW MEXICO

LORETTA McATEE,

Plaintiff,

CV-02-170
Div. II

vs.

MARK ALMOND, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE UNDER FORECLOSURE JUDGMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that under and by virtue of the Judgment And Decree Of Foreclosure entered by the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico, on September 23, 2003, in civil cause number CV-02-170, in the case of Loretta McAtee v. Mark Almond, the undersigned will offer for public sale to the highest bidder for cash at the front entrance of the Ruidoso Municipal Building at 313 Cree Meadows Drive, Ruidoso, Lincoln County, New Mexico on the 29th day of December, 2003 at 9:30 a.m., all rights of the plaintiff, Loretta McAtee to the following described real property located in Lincoln County, New Mexico:

Lot 18, Block 2, THIRD 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 on July 9, 1956 (hereinafter referred to as "the Property").

Notice is further given that the court directed foreclosure of the transcript of judgment recorded in Book 280 at pages 1015 and 1016 of the records of Lincoln County and that the amounts to be realized at said sale from the Property, with interest calculated to date of sale, are as follows:

Amount of Defendant's Transcript of Judgment \$4,193.80

501 SERVICES

LEGAL NOTICES

Interest to December 15, 2003 \$16,174.63

Costs \$893.46

TOTAL: \$59,002.89

In addition, thereto there will be costs of publication of this Notice, and the Special Master's Fee fixed by the Court in the amount of \$200.00. The terms of this sale are that the purchaser must pay cash at the time the Property is struck off to him, except that Mark Almond may bid all or any part of its judgment, plus interest without paying cash.

Witness my hand this 18th day of November, 2003.

/s/Peggie Smothers,
Special Master

LEGAL NOTICES

#5872 4T (12)5,12,19,26

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
COUNTY OF LINCOLN
TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

RONALD T. MacWHORTER, a single man, and
WREN MacWHORTER, a single woman,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CHARLES KUYKENDALL and KIM KUYKENDALL, husband and wife, NEW MEXICO TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPT., and JUDY MARTINEZ,

Defendants

LEGAL NOTICES

No. CV-2003-179

NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF SUIT

TO: Kim and Charles Kuykendall

GREETINGS:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that there has been filed in the District Court of Lincoln County, State of New Mexico, a certain cause of action wherein Ron and Wren Macwhorter are the Plaintiffs and you are the Defendants, the same being Cause No. CV-02-179, Division III.

The object and purpose of the said suit is a complaint to foreclose

LEGAL NOTICES

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that unless you enter your appearance or file pleadings herein on or before January 23, 2004, the Plaintiffs will make application to the Court for a satisfaction of judgment which will be rendered against you as prayed for in the complaint.

The name of the Plaintiff's attorney is CHARLES E. HAWTHORNE and whose address is 900 Sudderth Drive, Ruidoso, New Mexico, 88345.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the District Court of Lincoln County, New Mexico this 29th day of Sept., 2003.

/s/ Jolene Biggs
DISTRICT COURT
LINCOLN COUNTY,
NEW MEXICO



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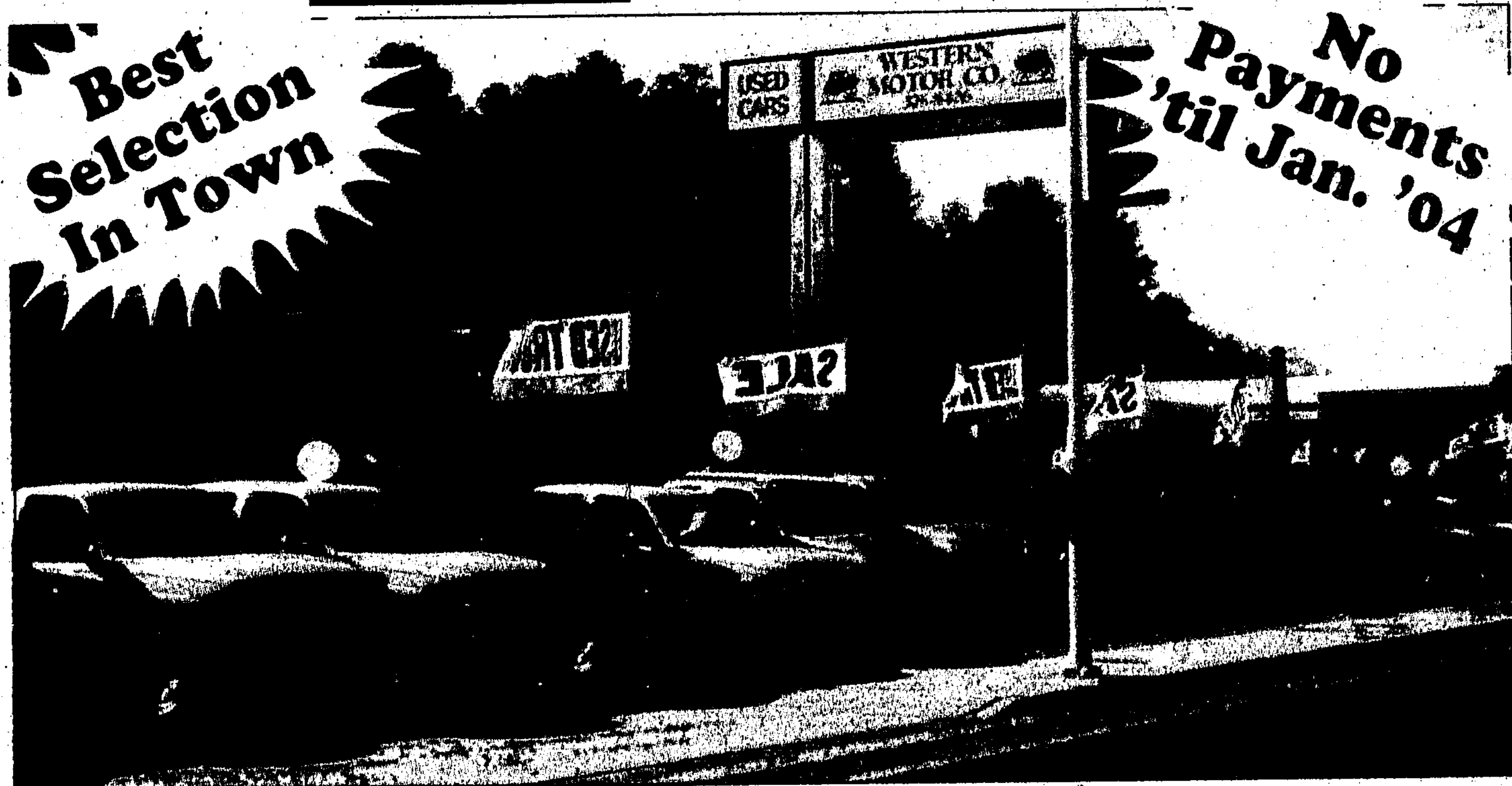
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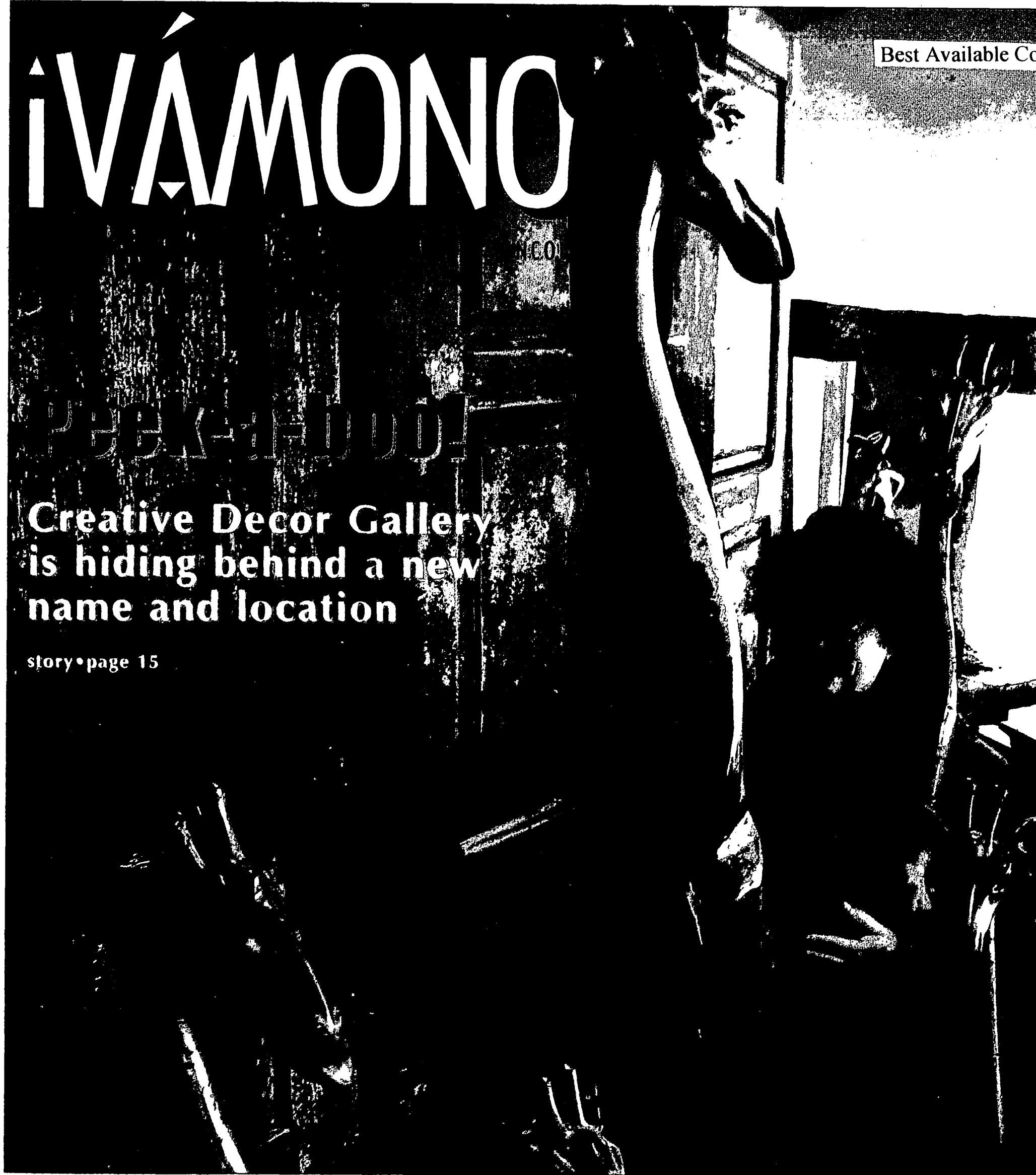
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**Creative Decor Gallery
is hiding behind a new
name and location**

story • page 15



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CONTENTS

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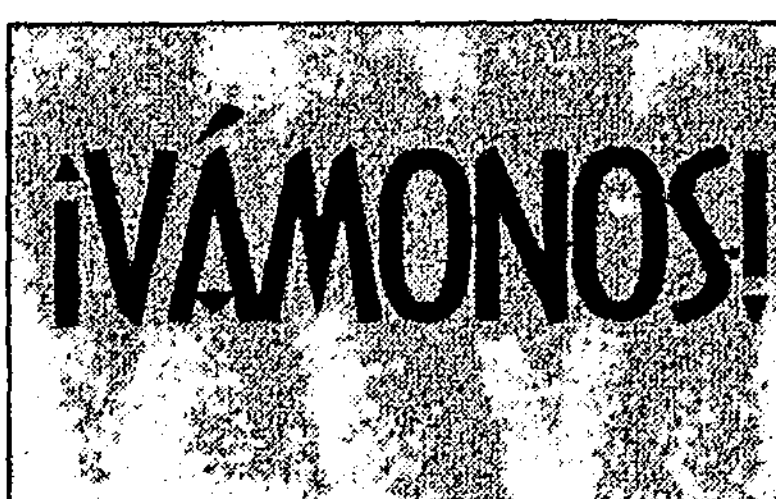
INDEX

Going Out . . .	3
Calendar	4
Art Briefs	4
Movies	5
Past Tense . . .	6
Parade of Lights	8
Dining	10
Travel	11
Comics	12
Puzzles	13
Funny Bone . .	14
Galleries	14
The Arts	15



SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

Gloria Graham peaks out from a herd of giraffes at the new Sonya Smith Galleries at 1803 Sudderth Drive — a gallery that carries such well-known artists as Ed Copley, Rico Lopez, Ron Stewart, and our own Roy Brown. Called Creative Decor at its Midtown spot, the new location across from State National Bank boasts plenty of parking as well as fine art. To learn more about Sonya Smith Galleries and its artists, turn to page 15.



Arts & Entertainment in Lincoln County
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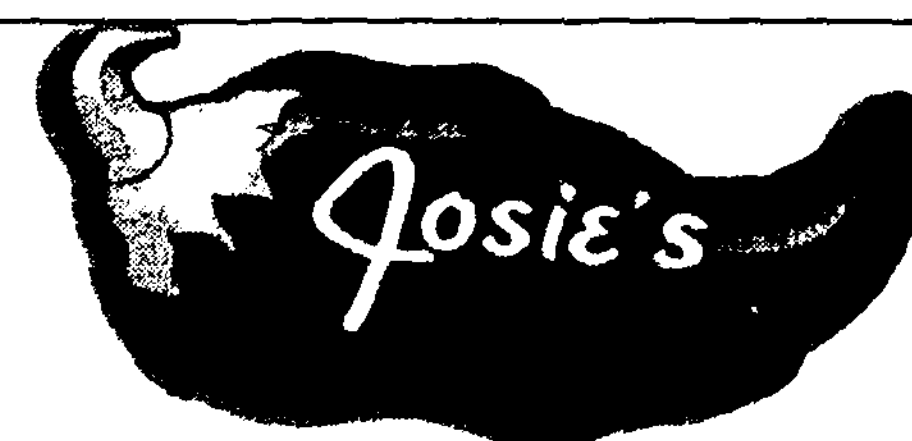
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Music to take Midtown

■ Entertainers, a petting zoo and rides for the kids are all part of Saturday's fun.

BY SANDY SUGGITT
VAMONOS EDITOR

The next big happening of the Festival of Lights is the Holiday Happening in Midtown Saturday afternoon, with Sudderth Drive closed to automobile traffic from noon to 7 p.m. and pedestrians, musicians and entertainers taking over the street. Enclosed fire pits will be available to warm fingers and Midtown merchants will have sale items outside their stores for Christmas shoppers.

Traffic will be closed on Sudderth from Center Street to Country Club. Drivers will be diverted to Rio Street and Country Club.

Festival of Lights Chairman Jules



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

Plenty of events for kids will be part of the Holiday Happening Saturday.

Videau said the Upper Midtown merchants — shops between Center Street and Mechem Drive — will have carolers, live music and a treasure hunt with several drawings at 5:30 p.m.

From 12:45 p.m. to 4 p.m., more than 18 musical groups and individuals will perform in six locations in Midtown, with the Flying J Wranglers performing two shows at about 4 and 5 p.m.

In the Kids Zone will be a free petting zoo, carnival-type games and rides for children, including a trackless train that appeared at the Tree Lighting Ceremony in School House Park a few weeks ago. (The charge for the games and rides is \$1.)

"Merchants are encouraged to do business in the street — a first for us, all approved by the city," said Bruce Timson, a member of the Festival of Lights organizing committee. "Restaurants are encouraged to have outdoor concessions. We want to bring indoors outdoors, with a lot of activity going on."

The Village of Ruidoso will set up a booth with information about the status of the Comprehensive Master Plan project, and Leadership Lincoln will pass out information and answer questions about its program.

Videau said that the Festival of Lights committee is asking visitors to the Holiday Happening to bring a non-perishable item — canned goods, a small unwrapped toy or gently-used winter coat — to donate to the Christian Services Christmas Drive. A trailer near the stage area at the corner of Sudderth and Eagle drives will be used for these donations, he said.

Comedy, romance at Spencer

Hilarity is the driving force of "It Had To Be You!", a Christmas miracle comedy starring the popular Broadway husband and wife acting team, Renée Taylor and Joe Bologna.

The couple, which co-wrote the romantic comedy as well as a dozen other hit Broadway plays and screenplays, are loved for their performance delivery — the impeccable timing with nonsequiturs and deadpan repartee.

But there's more to enjoy with this two-act holiday play: there's the complexity of characters yearning for love, pathos and desperation, a swirling mix that forces change and resolution for the better. The characters develop fully on stage, provoking tearful laughter and bona fide fun.

Set in a snow-blanketed New York Christmas Eve, "It Had To Be You!" headlines at the Spencer Theater Saturday, December 13, at 2 p.m. and

8 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$36 to \$45 and are available for both performances. Gift certificates are also available. Call the theater at 336-4800

for ticket information or go on-line at www.spencertheater.com.

"It Had To Be You!" is about a "B" movie actress and wannabe playwright who meets a successful TV commercial producer in New York City. Being desperate for what she sees is her last chance at both love and success, Taylor's character lures Bologna to her apartment on Christmas Eve and then, through much determined shenanigans, she shows him that she is the one and only for his heart

and future. How that action unfurls is packed with hilarity and romance.

"I won't tell you how," Bologna said, "but she changes him — this guy who looks like he's perfect but who See SPENCER, page 10

If you go

what: "It Had to be You"

when: Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

where: Spencer Theater, Airport Highway 220, Alto

cost: Tickets are \$36 to \$45 and can be bought by calling 336-4800

Entertainment schedule

Budweiser donated a stage to be set up at the corner of Sudderth and Eagle drives (although no beer will be sold, Videau said). Besides the Bud stage, musicians and entertainers will perform at Timbers Mall, Michele's, Mountain Arts, Village Plaza and 4 Seasons Mall.

Bud stage
12:45-1:45 p.m. RHS Jazz Band
1:45-2:45 p.m. Quarters Band
2:45-3:45 p.m. ENMU Chorale
4-6 p.m. Flying J Wranglers

Timbers Mall
1-2 p.m. St. Eleanor's Church
2-3 p.m. Church of Christ
3-4 p.m. Clary Group

Michelle's
1-4 p.m. Youth groups directed by Waynta Wirth

Mountain Arts
1-2 p.m. Lanny Maddox
2-3 p.m. RHS Jazz Band
3-4 p.m. Tomás Vigil

Village Plaza
1-2 p.m. First Baptist Church
2-3 p.m. RHS Treble Choir
3-4 p.m. RHS Mixed Chorus

4 Seasons Mall
1-2 p.m. Tomás Vigil
2-3 p.m. Fred Kinnan Group
3-4 p.m. Lanny Maddox

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EVENTS CALENDAR

ARTS BRIEFS

Friday, Dec. 12

Books and Breakfast

Books and Breakfast at Sierra Vista Primary School Library, 7:30-9 a.m., a family reading event. Bring a gently-used book for the book exchange. For more information, contact Linda Proctor at 258-4943.

Hospital auxiliary bake sale

Lincoln County Medical Center Auxiliary Customer Appreciation Day and Bake Sale in the Gift Shop, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. All gift items 40 percent off.

Blood drive

Last blood drive of the year in Ruidoso, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Gateway Church of Christ, to benefit the Lincoln County Medical Center and 41 other hospitals in New Mexico at this critical time of the year. To schedule an appointment, call (888) 676-5433 or just walk in.

Music at the library

Chamuco will perform soft rock and salsa music at the Ruidoso Public Library, 3-5 p.m. as part of its Christmas Open House, with refreshments by Friends of the Library and the Woman's Club of Ruidoso. A display of student art, "Peace," will be in the Children's Department and a collection of wise men arranged by Nadine Johnson from around the world in the main area of the library.

Saturday, Dec. 13

Capitan open house

Capitan merchants' open house 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Carriage rides and drawings for prizes.

Library art workshop

Capitan Public Library free art workshop at Beverly's studio in Lincoln, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Register with George W. or Pearl Tippin at 354-7021, e-mail to pgtips@zianet.com or mail to P.O. Box 1324, Capitan NM 88316.

Midtown entertainment

Festival of Lights Holiday Happening, 1-6 p.m. Midtown: music, kids zone with tree petting zoo, games and rides, shopping. Midtown will be closed to traffic between Center Street and

Country Club Drive (and diverted to Rio Street), and a variety of musical groups will perform throughout the afternoon, with a finale by the Flying J Wranglers, 4-6 p.m. See story, page 3.

Christmas in Capitan

Christmas at the Park at Smokey Bear Historical Park in Capitan, 5:30-7 p.m. Dec. 13. Refreshments and a visit from Santa.

Holiday performance

Angus Church of the Nazarene, Bonita Park on Highway 48, will have "Twinkle," the little star on his special adventure as he meets the characters of Christmas, at 6 p.m.

Spencer play

"It Had To Be You," Spencer Theater for the Performing Arts, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Call the Spencer Box Office at 336-4800 for ticket information.

Sunday, Dec. 14

Choir performance

The adult choir will present a Christmas musical of traditional and contemporary music at Angus Church of the Nazarene, Bonita Park on Highway 48, 10:30 a.m.

Flying J Wranglers play

The Flying J Wranglers of Ruidoso will perform a free Christmas concert from the people of Christ's Church to the Roswell Community, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Christ's Church, 2200 N. Sycamore Avenue, Roswell. Child care available for children age 3 and under. For details, call (505) 623-4110.

Holiday performance

Angus Church of the Nazarene, Bonita Park on Highway 48, will have "Twinkle," the little star on his special adventure as he meets the characters of Christmas, at 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 15

Carrizozo blood drive

The first blood drive in Carrizozo in almost 10 years will be 1-6 p.m. at the Carrizozo community Recreation Center. Candidates must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds

and be in good health. To make an appointment, contact Jim Mack Jr. at 648-4220. Walk-ins are welcome.

Red Cross silent auction

Red Cross Roswell Rio Hondo Branch fundraising silent auction, 6-8 p.m. at The Colony House, 1410 South Main, Roswell. Michael Hurd, Aria Finch, Kim Wiggins and other artists. For more information, contact the Red Cross office at (505) 622-4370.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Social workers luncheon

Social Workers Luncheon at The Counseling Center, 127 Horton Circle, noon-1 p.m. Mark Ovrick, LISW will present "Substance Abuse and Dependence — A Guide for Social Workers." One Continuing Education Unit has been applied for in Social Work. Lunch is provided. Please R.S.V.P. by Dec. 15.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

Senior Center potluck

Ruidoso Senior Center and the Golden Age Club Christmas potluck is at noon. Baked ham, special yams, hot rolls and pecan pie with whipped cream will be provided. Bring your favorite entree to go with the holiday luncheon. Games will follow.

Coming soon

Christmas parade

Capitan Public Library sponsored Cowboy Horse Drawn Christmas Parade (all parade entries people or animal drawn, no motorized vehicles). Parade begins at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 20 and ends with a gathering at the library with refreshments and gifts for the small children.

THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

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.

Art reception rescheduled

A reception to feature the works of nationally acclaimed Ruidoso artist Ann Templeton has been rescheduled, due to an illness in the artist's family, to 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21.

Sheriff's Posse poster contest

The ninth annual art contest sponsored by the Lincoln County Sheriff's Posse is underway, with Western art sought for the posse's 2004 Pony Express Trail Ride poster. A prize of \$150 will be awarded to the New Mexico artist whose work is selected and the winning artwork will be used to create the poster.

Subject matter should be Western, preferably reflecting the Pony Express or Lincoln County history.

The submission deadline is March 1, 2004.

For contest details and an information packet about the posse, the Pony Express Trail Ride and the annual poster contest, please contact the LCSP Poster Contest Committee: LCSP Art Poster Contest Committee, P.O. Box 192, Lincoln, NM 88338; or rlarue@pvt.net; or (505) 653-4116.

Nurse in New Mexico Magazine

(CONTRIBUTED BY LYN KIDDER)

Ann Alfano, artist and surgical nurse at Lincoln County Medical Center, is featured in the November issue of *New Mexico Magazine*.

Alfano, who has worked at LCMC for 10 years, began painting murals when the operating room staff got a new break room.

"It was a small, windowless room filled with sinks and equipment," Alfano remembered. "But it was the first time that we had a space of our own. Right away, we thought about how to decorate it."

They started with a leaf wallpaper

border, but the room needed a lot more. Alfano hadn't done any art work since high school, but she wasn't afraid to give it a try.

"We always say that it's a jungle back here," she said, "so I painted a palm tree, a monkey, a chimpanzee and a toucan."

Then the radiology department asked her to do something to brighten up their mammography room. She obliged with a romantic garden, complete with a peacock. When a hospital renovation blocked one of the laboratory department's windows, Alfano painted a new window with a view of Sierra Blanca's Peak and an owl perched on the windowsill.

Thanks to Alfano, a blank wall outside a door behind the hospital now has a tropical beach scene with palm trees, flamingos and a hammock. Employees can relax on three-dimensional patio furniture for a quick mini-vacation.

But the biggest and most popular of her works is the hospital cafeteria, where Alfano created a French cafe, working the room's two windows into the design. She included a portrait of her little black dog, Brewster, who sits at the waiter's feet.

"I've had lots of positive feedback from employees and visitors," Alfano said. "When they first walk in, they can hardly believe what they're seeing."

Alfano has also livened up examination rooms at the offices of Dr. Deborah Hewitt and Dr. Dennis Worthington.

And after the first few murals were completed, other hospital employees got into the act by painting patient rooms and other spaces.

"Everybody got creative all of a sudden," Alfano said. "And that's great. When you think about all the hours we spend here, we might as well be enjoying ourselves."



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ART, CRAFT & SUCH

Dreaming of a white Christmas and music

Art, Craft and Such

Practical, creative ways to include fun in everyday living

by Polly E. Chavez

Monday night commuters in Lincoln



County reported that the white stuff on the roads restricted driving. This reminded me of the song, "White Christmas" and the annual school music programs. This song composed by Irving

Berlin was among those performed on Thursday, Dec. 11, by the Carrizozo Schools Girls Glee Club under the direction of Jamie Gieb with school patron Barbara Culbertson at the piano.

When you hear "White Christmas" in the coming weeks, remember that it has been said that it is probably the most valuable music copyright in the world. White Christmas was written by Berlin for a 1942 movie, "Holiday Inn," starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. Bing Crosby's recording of the song has been said to have the greatest sales of any recording of a single song. The success of the song led to a movie based on the song. The movie "White Christmas" was released in 1954.

Members of the Girls Glee Club are Victoria Ventura, Brittany Simmons, Sierra Anaya, Andrea Vega, Sara McNutt, Jenna Schartz, Jade Roper, Carmen Tate, Mariah Ventura, Tamara Burd, Amanda Gallegos and Patricia Greenlaw. The group also sang at a Memorial Day event. Their song, "God Bless

America," caught my attention enough to cause me to dig in books to learn about Berlin. Some of his most memorable tunes are his rousing songs like "God Bless America." In 1954 he received the Congressional Medal for his patriotic songs, particularly "God Bless America," composed in 1918, revived in 1938 and made famous during and after World War II.

In 1926, Berlin, a Jew, married Ellin Mackay, daughter of Clarence H. Mackay, a leading Roman Catholic laymen and president of Postal Telegraph. Mackay at first opposed the marriage on both social and religious grounds, and the wedding was one of the most publicized events of the 1920s.

I have begun to take guitar-playing lessons, starting from scratch. I have learned what the sound hole is and that the strings are E-A-D-G-B-E, but the frets part in the guitar's neck intimidates me. If I concentrate, I can do the strumming part of "Three Blind Mice" in the C chord. My recent interest in music and attempt to learn to play a guitar makes me admire the creative efforts of Berlin, especially after I learned that he had no formal musical education, but his inexhaustible melodic inventiveness produced successful songs for over half a century.

Irving Berlin (real name Isidore Balin) was born in Temun, Russia, on May 11, 1888. He came to the U.S. when he was 5 and lived in a poor neighborhood in New York City. While in his teens, Berlin sang for small change in saloons and worked as a singing waiter in cafes. In 1909 he was a lyricist for a music company, the next year he appeared in vaudeville and musicals. The most successful song hit of Berlin's early career was Alexander's Ragtime Band (1911), which popularized ragtime throughout the U.S.

THIS WEEK'S MOVIES



COURTESY

Penelope Cruz and Halle Berry in Warner Bros. *Gothika*.

Gothika

Suspense/Horror and Thriller, 1 hr. 35 min.

Rated R for violence, brief language and nudity.

A criminal psychologist (Berry) awakens to find herself a patient in the very same mental institution in which she works, with no memory of the murder of her husband (Dutton) that she's accused of committing. As she tries to regain her memory and convince her coworkers of her innocence, a vengeful spirit uses her as an earthly pawn... which only further convinces all involved of both her guilt and her increasingly steady descent into madness and delusion.

Starring: Halle Berry, Penelope Cruz, Robert Downey Jr., Charles S. Dutton, Bernard Hill

Directed by: Mathieu Kassovitz

Produced by: L. Levin, Susan Levin, Joel Silver, Robert Zemeckis

Showtimes (through Tuesday): 12:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:15 p.m., 9:35 p.m.

*Saturday and Sunday only

**Friday through Sunday only

The Missing

Drama and Western, 2 hrs. 10 min.

Rated R for violence.

Set in New Mexico in 1886, a father (Jones) returns home to his daughter Maggie (Blanchett) to try to make peace decades after abandoning her to go live with the Apaches, only to find that she has no forgiveness or affection to give him. When her daughter, Lily (Wood), is kidnapped by a band of outlaw Army deserters (who also murdered Maggie's companion Brake, played by Eckhart) led by a mysterious Apache shaman (Schweig), however, the estranged duo teams up to rescue Lily.

Starring: Tommy Lee Jones, Cate Blanchett, Evan Rachel Wood, Jenna Boyd, Aaron Eckhart

Directed by: Ron Howard

Produced by: Brian Grazer, Daniel Ostroff

Showtimes (through Tuesday): 6:30 p.m., 9:25 p.m.

Love Actually

Comedy and Romance, 2 hrs. 09 min.

Rated R for sexuality, nudity and language.

This ensemble comedy tells ten separate (but intertwining) stories of love in London (with a small portion set in France), leading up to a big climax on

Christmas Eve. One of the threads follows the brand new (unmarried) Prime Minister (Grant) of the United Kingdom, who on his first day in 10 Downing Street falls in love with the girl (McCutcheon) who brings him his tea (Thompson plays his sister; Rickman plays her husband). Another story follows the relationship between a stepfather (Neeson) and his young stepson.

Starring: Hugh Grant, Alan Rickman, Emma Thompson, Laura Linney, Colin Firth

Directed by: Richard Curtis

Produced by: Duncan Kenworthy, Eric Fellner, Tim Bevan

Showtimes (through Tuesday): Noon*, 3 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:25 p.m.

*Saturday and Sunday only

**Friday through Sunday only

Brother Bear

Kids/Family and Animation, 1 hr. 25 min.

Rated G for General Audiences.

Set in the Pacific Northwest before the invasion of the white man, this is the story of the youngest (Phoenix) of three sons whose oldest brother was killed by a bear when he accidentally disturbed a mother bear, who killed him thinking he wanted to harm her cubs. Enraged, the young man sets out to hunt the bear himself when his other older brother refuses to form a hunting party right away. In his hunt for vengeance however, the young man is transformed by the spirits of the forest into the very thing

that he sought to slay... a bear. Seeing the world through a bear's eyes, the young man will learn valuable lessons about the cycle of life.

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Rick Moranis, Jeremy Suarez, Dave Thomas, Joan Copeland

Directed by: Aaron Blaise, Bob Walker

Produced by: Chuck Williams (II)

Showtimes (through Tuesday): 12:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 4:45 p.m.

*Saturday and Sunday only

**Friday through Sunday only

Lord of the Rings:

Return of the King

Action/Adventure, Science Fiction/Fantasy and Drama

Rated PG-13 for intense epic battle sequences and frightening images.

The third of the trilogy. As the shadow of Mordor grows across the land, Aragorn is revealed as the hidden heir to the ancient kings. Gandalf miraculously returns and defeats the evil wizard, Saruman. Sam leaves his master for the dead after a battle with the giant spider, Shelob; but Frodo is still alive—in the hands of the Orcs. And while the armies of the Dark Lord are massing—and the one ring comes ever closer to the Cracks of Doom.

Starring: Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, John Rhys-Davies

Directed by: Peter Jackson

Produced by: Fran Walsh, Barrie M. Osborne, Peter Jackson, Tim Sanders

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Lesson learned: Don't mess with the citizens

Past Tense

by Drew Gomber
Historian, The Hubbard Museum of the American West

The classic western "High Noon," starring Gary Cooper, is a wonderful, tense little film about an Old West lawman who suddenly finds himself abandoned by the very townspeople he has spent years protecting. None of them want to "get involved," and in the end,

Cooper must face a quartet of killers alone and unaided. Of course, he is triumphant, and at the end he drops his lawman's star in the dust, riding off into the sunset with his new wife, leaving the townspeople to contemplate their own cowardice, as well as his contempt.

Like I said, it was a wonderful little movie, but the idea of it happening in the real Old West strains the imagination to its limits. If a gang of outlaws had ridden into any town in the Old West for the purpose of killing its lawman, they would have been shot so many times by the citizens that you could have sold the bodies for scrap metal. Especially if they let their intentions be known in advance!

Two of the more famous outlaw gangs in the Old West – the James/Younger Gang and the Dalton Gang – met their individual Waterloos when they inadvisedly attempted to take on whole towns. The James and Younger boys, as well as their three henchmen, were shot to pieces in Northfield, Minnesota, in 1876 when the alarm went up and the citizens armed themselves and fought back. Only Jesse and Frank James escaped – barely.

In October of 1892, the Daltons met the same fate – even more so – in Coffeyville, Kansas. I must pause here for a word about the Daltons...

Rocket scientists – or whatever the 19th century equivalent of that would be – they were not. These featherheads wanted to rob two banks simultaneously because no one had ever done that before. Well, there was a reason no one had ever done that before... It was insane!!!

Then, just to compound this masterwork of planning, Bob Dalton had his men dress "to the nines," after which they purchased brand, spanking new pistols and

rifles. Keep in mind that Coffeyville was their home town, but Bob figured that was no problem. Believe it or not, Bob actually thought that he had covered the problem of their being recognized by having everyone wear false whiskers. And, as though all this stunning display of intellect – or the lack thereof – were not enough, they then proceeded to march up the street, military style, carrying rifles, three and two abreast.

Heavy sigh... Well, as you might expect, the citizens recognized them right away, and when the gunsmoke cleared, Bob and Grat Dalton, as well as Tom Power and Dick "Texas Jack" Broadwell, were all very dead. Only Emmett Dalton lived, somewhat the worse for wear, to tell the tale.

And that brings us to yet another fatal outlaw mistake that took place four years – almost to the day – later, at a place called Meeker, Colorado.

Jim Shirley

It is possible that career criminal Jim Shirley was trying to emulate a much more efficient – and less vicious – desperado named Butch Cassidy. Shirley, about whom little is known, was between 40 and 50 years old in 1896. He had his own gang, but it was no "Wild Bunch," as the men with whom Cassidy rode were known. Shirley's gang consisted of George Law, aka George Bain, who seems to be remembered principally for his own stupidity, and a young man, perhaps 21, who answered to "Kid." His name might have been Pierce, but, like their leader, Law and the Kid remain shadowy to this day.

Shirley's plan was more appropriate for the 20th century than the 19th, as it worked out. Sure, he had some 19th century techniques in mind – the outlaws stashed three horses at a gulch about three miles from town, and they had also taken the time to cut fences along their escape route. The 20th century part of their plan – and I call it that because of its viciousness, a kind of viciousness that is more appropriate for the 20th century – was to surround themselves with hostages as they left the bank. Human shields were not the style of Butch Cassidy, or even Jesse James.

On the morning of October 13, 1896, the three outlaws rode into Meeker. They reined in and tied their horses in an alley behind a place called the Hugus Store. Inside the confines of the Hugus Store was the Meeker bank.

There were rear, front, and side doors on the Hugus Store, and one of the outlaws entered through each one, effectively preventing anyone inside from leaving. The place happened to be busy. In addition to cashier A.C. Moulton and assistant cashier David Smith, there were at least five citizens conducting business. They were promptly herded into a corner, their hands held high. At the same time, yet another local man blundered onto the scene and was added to their merry group. (One of the citizens later commented that when he looked down the muzzle of one of the outlaws' revolvers, it "looked big enough to sleep in.")

It turned out to be a drunk who saved the day. Sheriff Ed Wilburn recalled that "Uncle Phil Barnhart, the old stage driver, was on a drunk. He came out of Willis' Saloon and in the glass front (of the Hugus Store) he could see what was going on and he began to holler: 'Boys, get your guns. They are robbing the bank!'"

At just that moment, a young lady passed by Barnhart, and assuming that he was just drunk, and therefore to be ignored, did exactly that. Barnhart advised her to continue on into the bank and "get your butt shot off!" That got her attention, as well as that of a lot of other people within earshot. Word of the robbery rocked around town. In no time, there were already fatalities being spoke of, although a shot had yet to be fired.

The ball opens

The citizens began arming themselves and converging on the bank. Inside the bank, the outlaws were methodically following their plan. Law, (the one known for his stupidity) was having a problem with the vault, so Shirley commanded Moulton, the cashier, to open it. When he finally said, "Where is your money?" Moulton instantly replied, "Here it is.

Help yourself."

Which is exactly what the outlaws did. Satisfied that they had all the cash available at that time, Shirley had a group of citizens surround him and his men as they cautiously stepped out the side door into the alley. The street out front appeared to be deserted, and the group slowly moved down the alley to the outlaws' horses. When they got to the animals, they began to untether them, and that was when all hell broke loose.

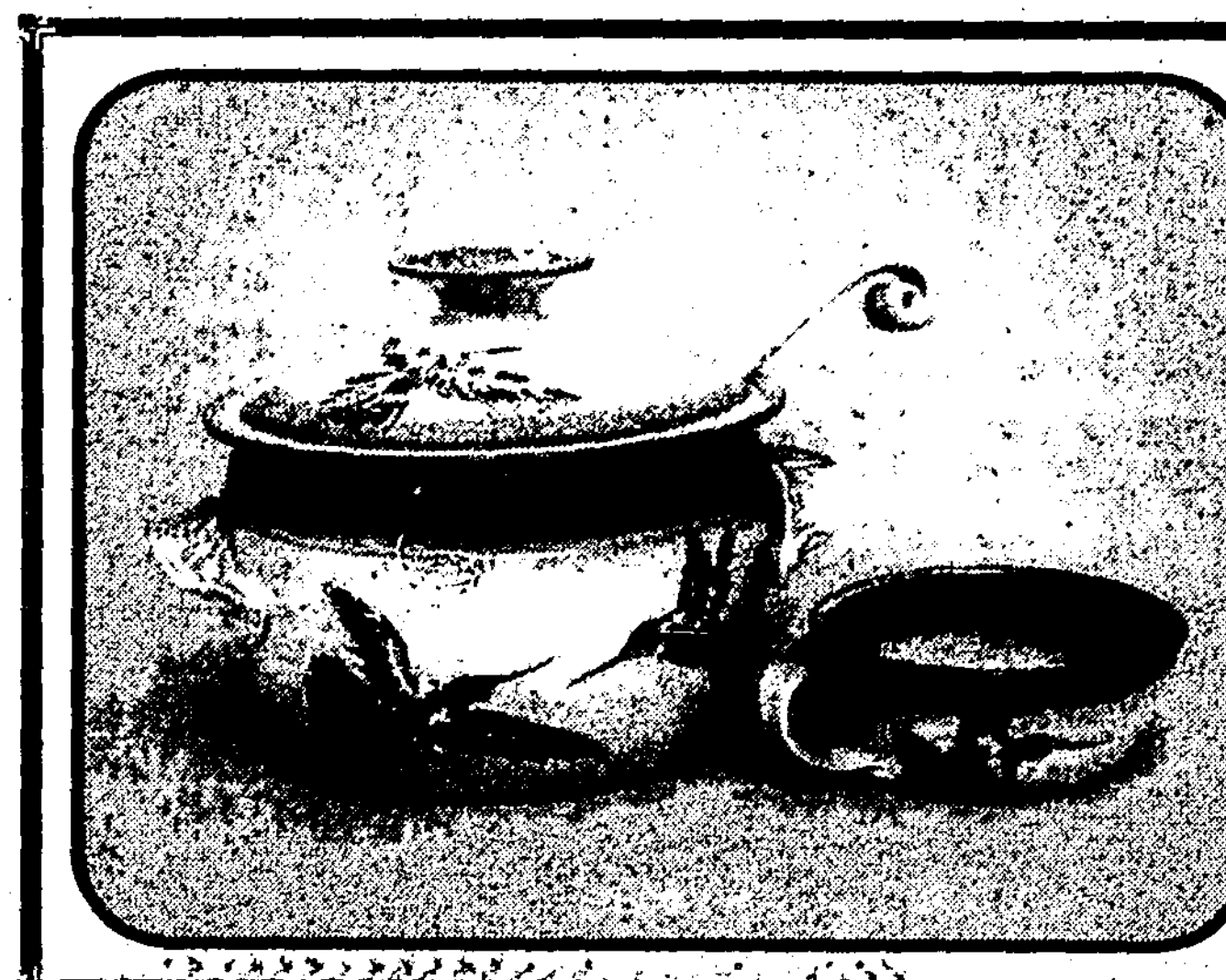
When Shirley saw a citizen eyeing them from behind the grain warehouse next door, he snapped off a shot that caught the unfortunate fellow in the chest. The hostages seemed to consider that a signal to make a break for it and did so. The Kid opened up, hitting several of the unarmed citizens as they attempted to flee. But he didn't drop any of them and in no time at all the three outlaws suddenly found themselves alone – and without shields.

As the trio began to mount, the street exploded with gunfire. The Kid, who had one foot in the stirrup and was in the act of mounting, was hit something like seven times. He crumpled into the dirt next to his horse, dead. Standing right next to him was Jim Shirley. Also hit immediately, Shirley dropped his rifle when he took a lung shot, but, game to the last, returned fire with his revolver as he slowly slumped into the dirt next to the Kid, where he too, breathed his last.

Only Law – the idiot – was still alive. Abandoning his horse, he raced madly for the river. He was almost there when he was dropped with a bullet through his left leg. Another bullet went through his lung, inflicting what would turn out to be a fatal wound.

Law lived for a few hours, during

See GOMBER, page 7



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COURTESY

Local artist Misha Malpica with Hollywood legend Lauren Bacall at the benefit/auction for All Faiths Receiving Home for abused and neglected children in New Mexico at the 2003 Weems International Artfest in Albuquerque in mid-November. Malpica donated a sculpture for the auction. Other local artists juried into this prestigious show included Tim O'Lear of Carrizozo, Karen Pritchett and Todd Shelby of Capitan and Maureen Quemada of Ruidoso.

GOMBER: Locals make a stand

Continued from page 6

which he gave the names of his comrades and himself, many times, and never the same way twice. After listening to his long list of aliases, the citizens of Meeker made a leap of faith and decided that they had eradicated three members of Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch.

They then proceeded to let the liquor flow freely as they pounded each other on the back and congratulated themselves on a job well done. There was some concern for a time that the real Wild Bunch would avenge their fallen comrades, which, of course, would never happen, as there was no such relationship, but after a time, that worry faded, too.

The moral here, if there even is one, is to never, never take on a whole town — especially if you are trying to steal their money. The local newspaper commented that, "Thus was justice meted out to three bold bandits who struck the wrong town in which to ply their villainous trade."

Which pretty much sums it up.

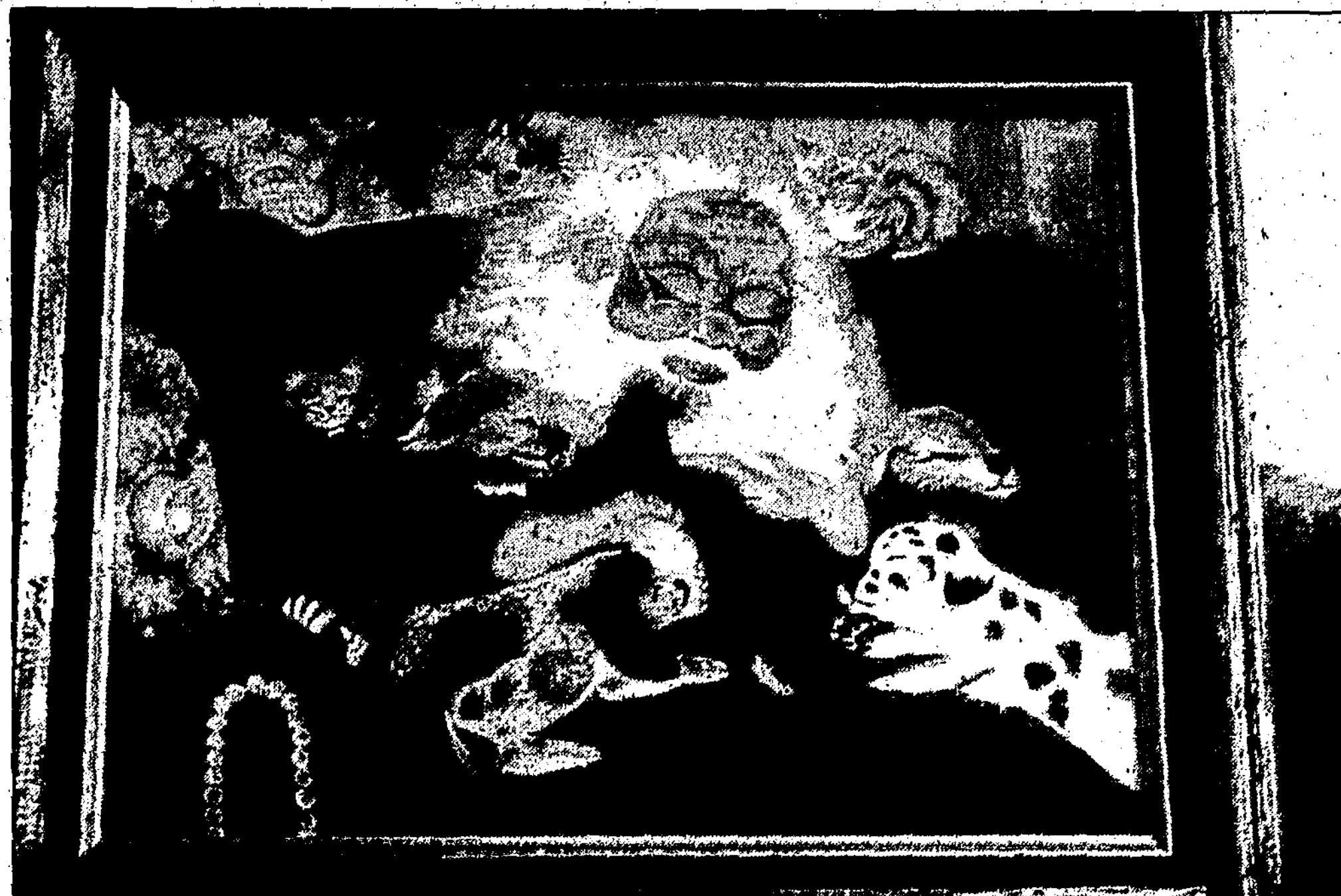
Sources: *Jim Shirley* by Robert Barr Smith; *The Encyclopedia of Western Outlaws and Lawmen* by Leon Metz and *The Encyclopedia of Western Gunfighters* by Bill O'Neal.

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COURTESY

Derralynn McMaster's painting of a sleeping Santa is one of the works on display now.

McMaster named artist of the month at C of C

The paintings of Derralynn McMaster will be on display at the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce through the end of December.

The Texas native now lives in Ruidoso. She started painting with acrylics in 1989 on fabric and taking lessons from Edwyena Woods in Brownwood, Texas. Woods, a meticulous, detailed artist, was always telling McMaster to slow down. As her knowledge for painting grew, so did her passion to paint and she found herself painting at every opportunity in her spare time.

In 1994, she began to paint with well-known Texas artist Ted Shelton, a gifted

wild-flower artist who specializes in blue-bonnets. He told her to paint faster and to relax.

McMaster adopted a little of his style "and the idea that the more hopeless and ugly something looks, then that is what I want to paint on all the more," she said.

Over the last four years McMaster's own style and painting technique have evolved and her painting has moved to the canvas, although she still retains an urge to paint on other surfaces.

She paints with both oil and acrylics. "To sum it up in a nutshell, I feel very compelled to paint," McMaster said. "Painting is my therapy and passion."

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PARADE OF LIGHTS



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF

These kids didn't exactly think outside of the box during the Parade of Lights Saturday. Below is Carl Jackson's "Carousel," which won Chairman's Choice.



COURTESY MARK JONES

Merry in Midtown

49 entries brighten up Parade of Lights, hundreds of spectators

BY SANDY SUGGITT
VAMONOS EDITOR

The Light Parade on Saturday was quite an event: 49 entries this year (compared with seven last year) and hundreds of people waving, calling out "Merry Christmas!" and picking up candy all along Sudderth Drive.

Santas, snowmen and elves beamed off brightly lit floats, the two marching bands were a hit, and Moriarty High School's Pinto Pride Marching Band made a good show with lights on the uniforms and in the grinning mouths of the musicians. Such a good show, in fact, that it won the award for Most Luminous Entry Nonprofit or Individual.

Pine Top Rod and Custom Club's well-lit "Santa's Cruiser" float spotlighting a 1930 Model A pickup truck won two awards: Most Luminous Float (nonprofit or individual) and the Judges' Choice Award for being the one that "most embodies the spirit of the Festival of Lights and the Parade of Lights," said Bruce Timson, co-chair of the parade committee with Bill Brogan.

Print Write Now's "Santa's Digital Xpress" won the award for Most Luminous Entry (nonfloat) and

Hawthorn Suites won the Most Creative award for its "Great T Come in Large Packages" float singer coming out of a package.

Carl Jackson's "Carousel" won Chairman's Choice award.

First National Bank won the Luminous Business Float award. A photograph of that float was in *Ruidoso News* on Wednesday).

To see more photographs of the parade taken by Mark Jones, visit www.www.net/FOL.

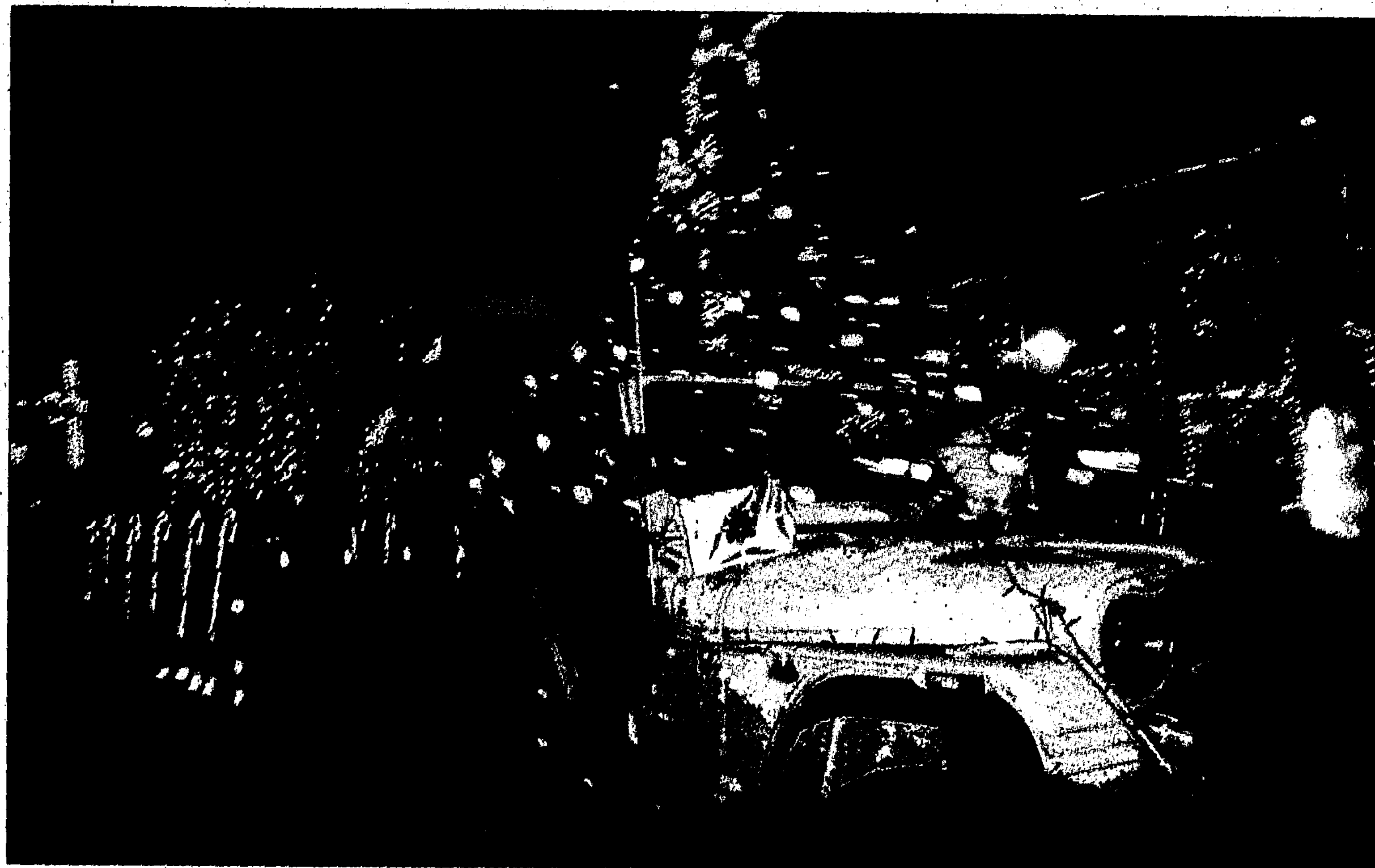
If the parade tripled in size last year to this, what can we expect next year?

Jules Videau, who's been on the Festival of Lights since the beginning, said there's a 3- to 5-year plan "to make the Festival of Lights a memorable event during a slow year of the year in Ruidoso."

He said 38 more lighted poles were added to last year's 35 along Sudderth Drive in Midtown, and next year planners hope to put light poles in Upper Canyon. The committee buys the lights and donates them to the village Parks and Recreation Department.

"One day we want Mechanical Street lit up," Videau said.

PARADE OF LIGHTS



An oversized Santa greets the crowd at left. Below right is Pine Top Rod and Custom Club's 1930 Model A, which won Most Luminous Float and the Judges' Choice awards. Bottom right is Hawthorn Suites' float, which took the Most Creative honor. Below left is First National Bank's entry which was named Most Luminous Business Float.

DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF



DIANNE STALLINGS/STAFF



COURTESY MARK JONES



COURTESY MARK JONES

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SPENCER: Veteran Broadway couple stars in play

Continued from page 3

really has a dark cloud hanging over him – and makes him realize that maybe the one who seems like a nut might actually be the sane one."

Being old stage pros who actually married on the Merv Griffin show in the 1970s, Taylor and Bologna are stars in the stage lights and fall into character with deftness. Just as in their "If You Ever Leave Me...I'm Going With You!" they unleash laughter with their pinpoint delivery, their tangential dialogue and loving familiarity. But, the promise of this particular show – that miracles can and do come true – is what makes "It Had To Be You!" the couple's favorite work to date, they said.

"I love this show," says Taylor, the Emmy-nominated star from the TV series "The Nanny." "I love it because it's about miracles and it's very, very funny and romantic. It's my favorite role to play."

According to Bologna, who is possibly best known from roles in the hit movies "Blame It On Rio" and "My

Favorite Year," he and Renée initially wrote the story to take place over a month's time. But, because the crucial elements of comedy are surprise and inevitability, the delayed action dampened the hilarity of the love story. The story just didn't work. So they restructured it take place in a week, and again found troubles in the action.

"We finally settled on making it one day, one night, making it happen in real time," he said. "And it was right. And you know what night we set it on – Christmas Eve – because it is a night of miracles and anything can happen. Dreams can come true and they do."

First opening on Broadway to rave reviews in 1981, the play has been reproduced for audiences at theaters across the country every year since and has also filled theaters abroad. The show also has developed an even deeper hilarity; the older Bologna and Taylor get, the more personal the theme of last chances and love becomes for the married couple, which has lived and worked together for the past 38 years.



COURTESY SPENCER TH

Joe Bologna and Renée Taylor star in their own tu act holiday play, "It Had to be You," Saturday at th Spencer Theater.

Kenya: Going where the Wild Things are

On the Go with Hank & Ellen

by Ellen Barone
Travel Writer and Photographer



We were startled to see the lioness so close in front of us. She looked as relaxed as any spoiled house-cat basking in

the warm glow of the early morning light as she casually groomed her paws, stretched, then closed her eyes and settled down for a catnap. The only difference was that this tawny-colored, "kitty-cat" weighed nearly 300 pounds, subsisted on a Purina-free diet of wildebeest, zebra and giraffe, and was Queen of the Beasts in the vast African plains of southern Kenya.

We were lucky to have spotted her, the golden coat nature's perfect camouflage in the tall dry grasses of Masai Mara National Reserve, a semi-arid region on the border of Kenya and Tanzania. As we approached in the Land Rover, she barely blinked a sleepy eye in acknowledgement of our arrival. In the distance roamed herds of zebra, wildebeest, gazelle and impala. From the open-topped safari Land Rover we snapped photos and talked excitedly among ourselves: she couldn't care less.

Then, something far off on the horizon caught her attention. Her ears perked up and she altered her position for a better look. "Lions have excellent eyesight with

good hearing and sense of smell," our guide explained. A flash of red in the distance indicated the presence of a traditionally dressed (their traditional costume is a swath of red cloth) Masai warrior, the semi-nomadic tribe who fearlessly wander the Mara on foot tending to their cattle herds armed with little more than a club or a knife. Surprisingly the lioness – the top-of-the-food-chain, great predator of the plains – moved decidedly toward the protection of the bush, giving way to the lone Masai. It wouldn't be the last time during our two-week, Kenyan wildlife safari that we'd observe this happen – a lion giving way to a Masai – and we'd soon learn why.

The Masai Mara is one of the renowned game reserves in Africa, noted as much for the Masai tribe – a proud, brave people who inhabit the Mara living much as they have for centuries – as for its abundant game (hunting is outlawed). We were amazed to see the Masai walking (or even riding a bicycle) across the Mara, seemingly in the middle of no-man's-land. After all, it's no stroll in the park; the landscape is crawling with wild carnivores with killer reputations lurking in the bushes, rivers and trees – lions, leopards, cheetahs, hippos and rhinos.

The Masai have picked a rough patch of land to call home. Sure, the plain's tall grasses provide nourishment for their cattle (the Masai live almost exclusively off their cattle) but the arid savannah doesn't hand over its resources easily. The Mara River twists and turns its way throughout the region, but bathing or collecting water requires dodging crocodiles, elephants and hippos. Never again will I complain about the flight of stairs between our bedroom and the laundry room. One Masai village we visited was 7.5 miles (each way) from the nearest water source. Water collection, in addition to house construction (using



sticks, grass, cow dung and mud) is women's work in Masai tribal tradition.

Life as a Masai male is no piece of cake either. At the age of 15, to pass from boyhood into manhood, Masai boys are sent off, with others of their age, into the wilds to learn survival methods and to kill a lion with only a spear. One 18-year-old warrior we talked to proudly showed us the long, thin knife he'd killed a lion with, a task that earned him great honor among the tribe, and a "free wife" (forgoing the usual dowry of cows), but lost the lives of two of his friends during the struggle.

Our last day in the Mara we spotted a partial pride of two male lions and three lionesses finishing the remains of the previous evening's kill, a male ostrich (identified by the bird's distinctive feathers). The lions, sated and lethargic, licked their chops and catnapped in the sun, undisturbed by our arrival on the scene. For more than an hour we watched from the safety of the Land Rover, awed by the close encounter with the big cats. Then one of the males rose up, sniffed the air and caught sight of the telltale red of a lone Masai warrior in the distance. Within minutes the entire

pride had moved into a thick tangle of bush, giving way to the Masai.

Technically, hunting is illegal in the Mara, or anywhere in Kenya, and I'm told that even among the Masai themselves the tradition of proving bravery through the lion hunt is debated. However, in a land where man and beast must coexist, perhaps it's not a bad thing that lion fears the red cloak of the Masai.

For more information:

Micato Safaris (800-642-2861;

www.micato.com)

South African Airways (800-722-9675;

www.flysaa.com)

Recommended reading:

Insight Guides: Kenya (800-432-6277;

www.insighttravelguides.com)

The Barones are full-time freelance travel writers and photographers operating out of their home in Alto. Their column appears each Friday in the Ruidoso News. To learn more about their travels visit their web site at www.intlmediagroup.com or e-mail them at barones@intlmediagroup.com.



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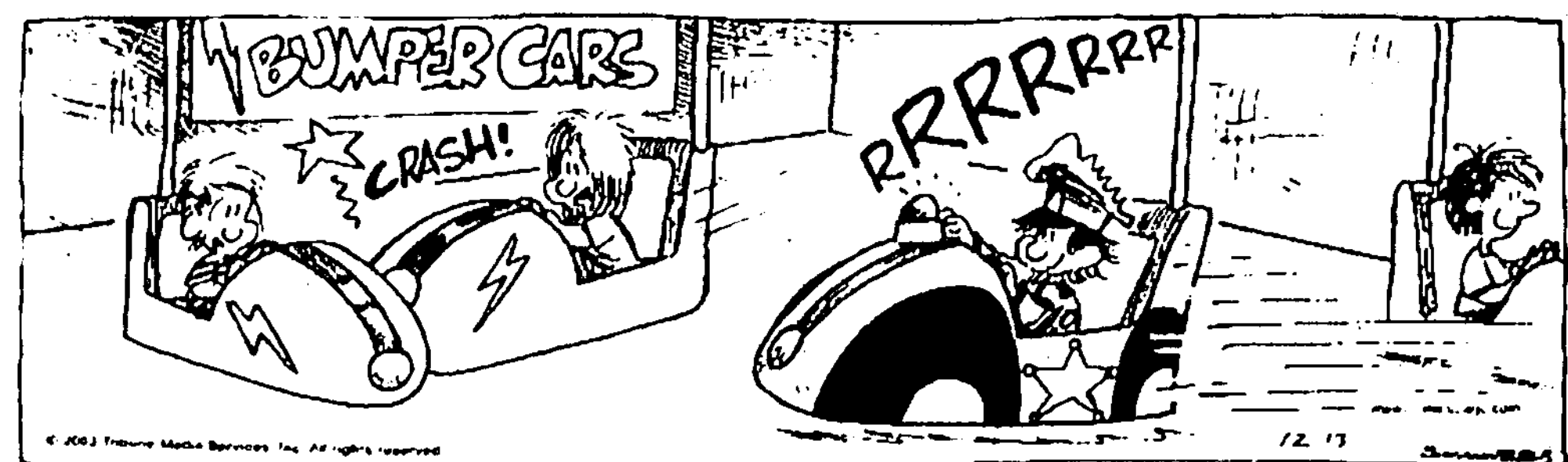
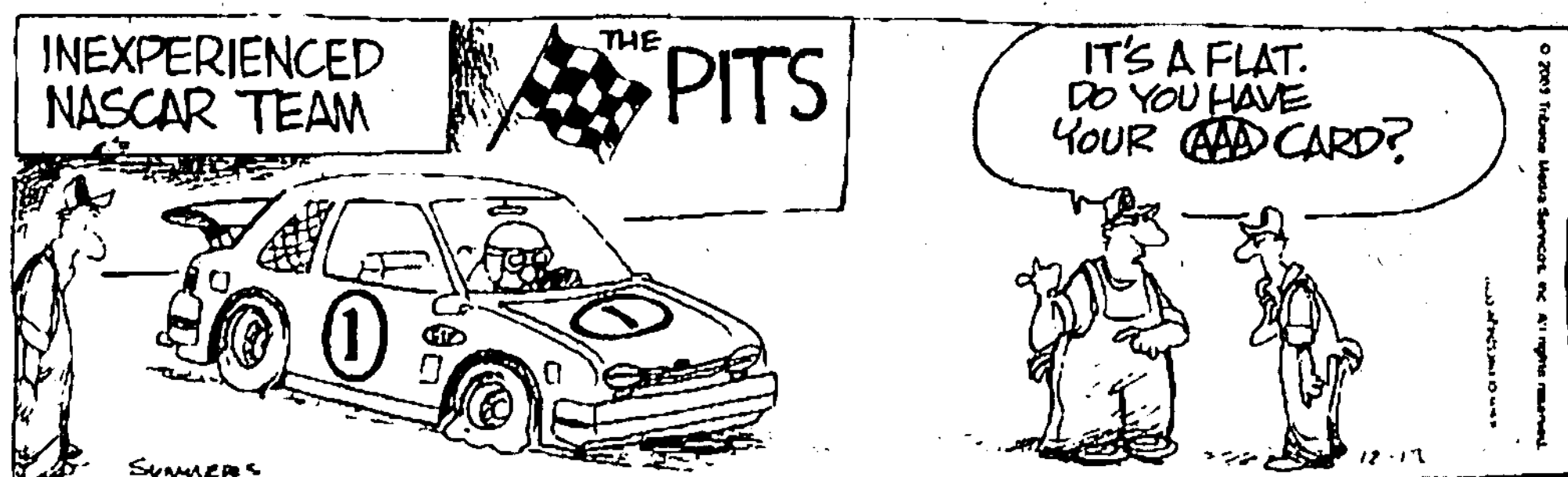
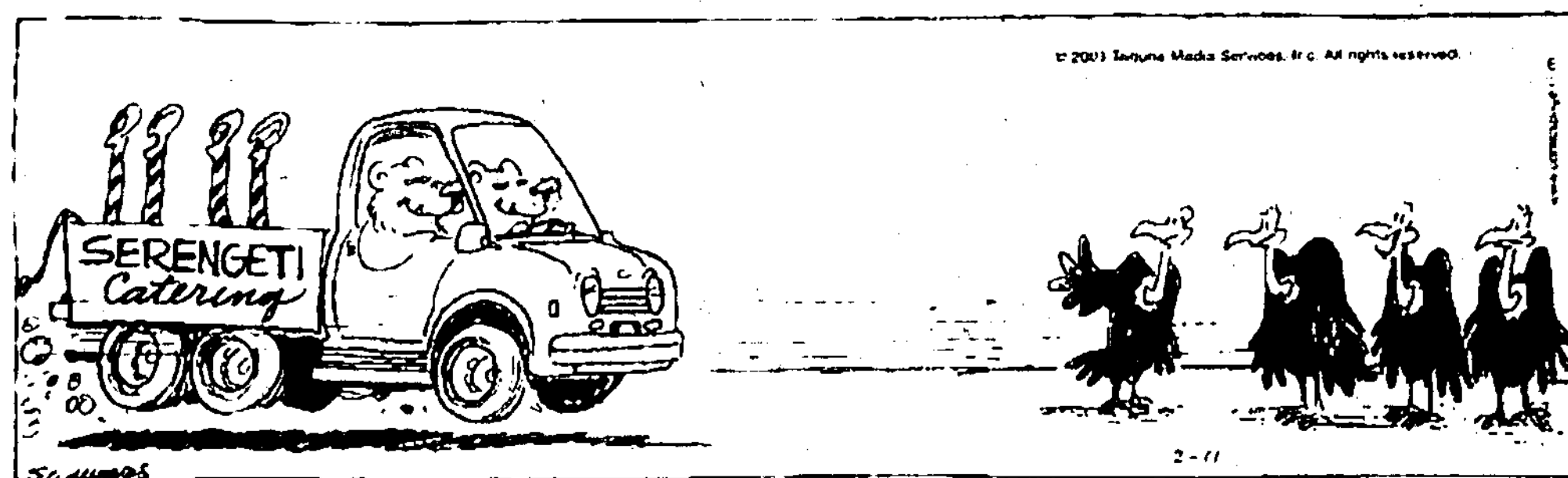
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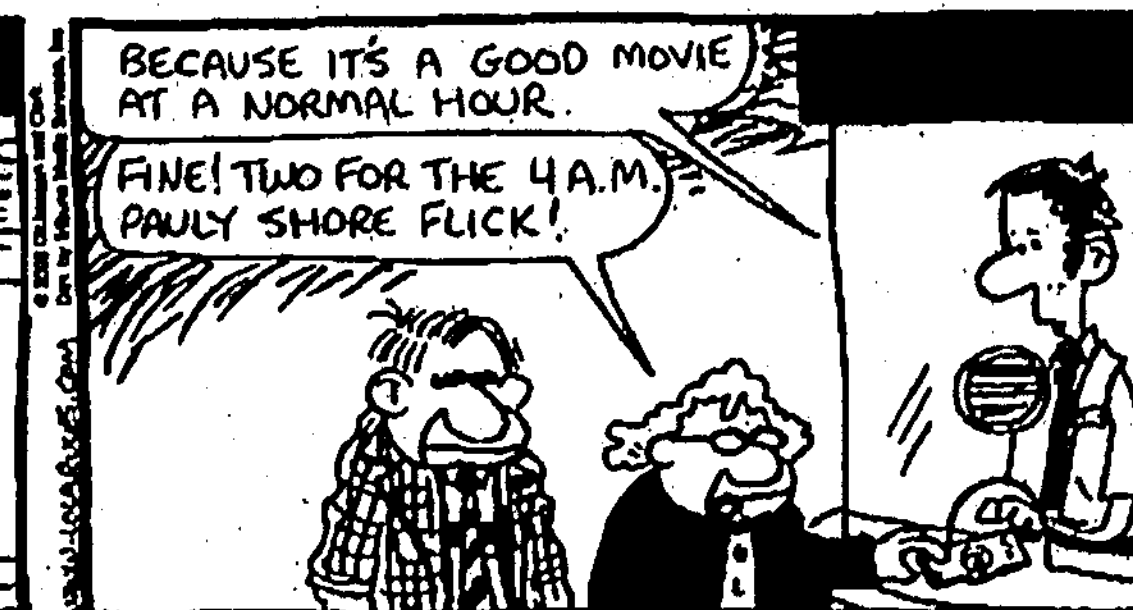
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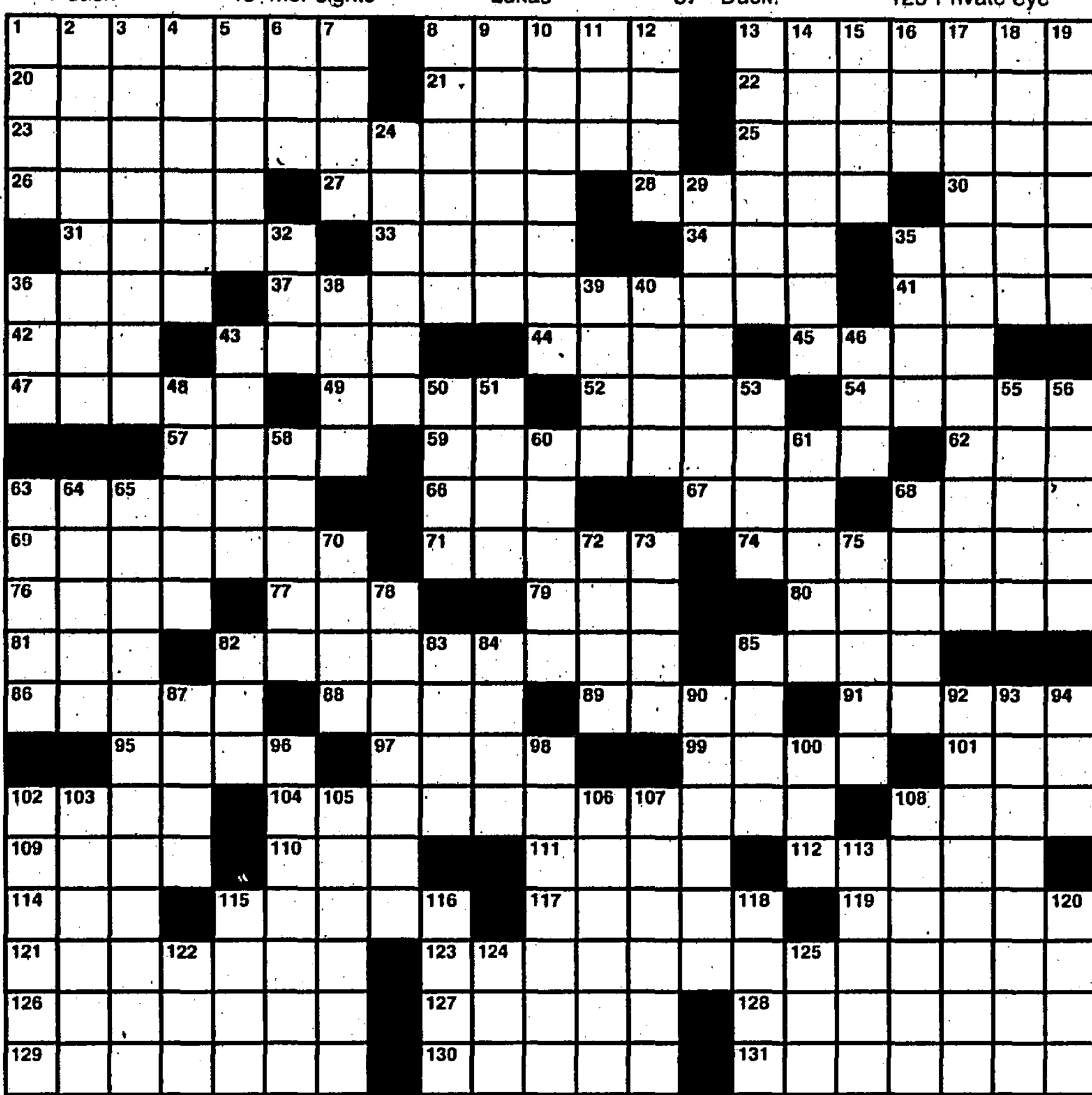
- ACROSS
- 1 Reindeer
 - 8 "It's ___ world"
 - 13 Bought
 - 20 Kitchen gadgets
 - 21 '70s secretary of state
 - 22 Unsurpassed
 - 23 Lords?
 - 25 Braided
 - 26 Russian workers' cooperative
 - 27 "Enough of that!"
 - 28 Ohio Indians
 - 30 "So there!"
 - 31 Be silent, in music
 - 33 Bonneville Flats locale
 - 34 "___ Carousel": Hollies hit
 - 35 Surrealist Joan
 - 36 Common conduit
 - 37 Trainee group?
 - 41 Structural sci.
 - 42 Nest egg component
 - 43 Western native
 - 44 Really beat
 - 45 Positive principle
 - 47 Suspense film staple
 - 49 Jr.'s exam
 - 52 Street urchin
 - 54 Proceeds
 - 57 Male swans
 - 59 "Lad" or "tot"?
 - 62 ___ pro nobis
 - 63 Mohair-bearing goat
 - 66 CPR expert
 - 67 Mind reader's knack
 - 68 Later
 - 69 Blankety-blank type
 - 71 Teacher's request
 - 74 "I've heard enough"
 - 76 Camera shop display
 - 77 Farm female
 - 79 "The Crying Game" actor
 - 80 New Hampshire academy town
 - 81 Bill
 - 82 Sommelier?
 - 85 St. Paul's architect
 - 86 Mix-up
 - 88 Seed cover
 - 89 Prefix with stich
 - 91 ___-dah

- 95 Mongolian desert
- 97 Was sure
- 99 Sci-fi regulars
- 101 Assist
- 102 Litigious type
- 104 Traveling fedora
- 108 Book before Nehemiah
- 109 Suffix with exist
- 110 Gulf of Bothnia land: Abbr.
- 111 Stevedore's gp.
- 112 Long to have
- 114 One-time link
- 115 Muslim sect
- 117 "Here's to you!"
- 119 '60s-'70s TV healer
- 121 Oater omen
- 123 Play at the U.S. Open, say?
- 126 Due to come in
- 127 Prefix with -graphy
- 128 Japanese art figure worn on a sash

- DOWN
- 1 Cook book
 - 2 Camera feature
 - 3 National offering
 - 4 Contaminate
 - 5 His theme song was "Near You"
 - 6 ___ y Plata: Montana motto
 - 7 Gyrene's org.
 - 8 Ahead, to Antonio
 - 9 Fanatic
 - 10 Something different
 - 11 Big name in ATMs
 - 12 Zaire's Mobutu
 - 13 Film on bronze
 - 14 Previously
 - 15 Mer sights

- 16 Hallucinatory state
- 17 Seagoing chamber piece?
- 18 1998 Masters champion
- 19 Quite popular
- 24 Purplish shades
- 29 It's nothing new
- 32 Explosive letters
- 35 Lion's pride
- 36 Hors d'oeuvres serving
- 38 Apologetic comment
- 39 Planted
- 40 Bog, briefly
- 43 "___ my G'd, thou art very great": Psalm 104
- 46 Grass appendage
- 48 Sacred images
- 50 Affirmatives
- 51 Scholar's reading
- 53 Conductor
- 55 Ending for hippo
- 56 Less loco
- 58 Ezio Pinza et al.
- 60 In ___ incubating
- 61 Berth place
- 63 Seconds: Abbr.
- 64 Hall of Famer Ryan
- 65 Law regarding church trash pickups?
- 68 It may be part of a complex
- 70 A Chaplin
- 72 Open-textured weave
- 73 Contentment
- 75 Skating feats
- 78 Crew members
- 82 Tavern
- 83 "Pride's Crossing" playwright
- 84 Ran, as colors
- 85 Bridal party
- 87 "Duck!"

- 90 Shared
- 92 Vanilla alternative
- 93 Off-road vehicle
- 94 Mount in Crete
- 96 MetLife, e.g.
- 98 Act unafraid, perhaps
- 100 Tolkien ogre
- 102 Neptune, for one
- 103 Negatively affect the pitch of
- 105 Proprietors
- 106 Acid neutralizer
- 107 Insignificant
- 108 Nevertheless
- 113 "A debt...we Adam": Twain
- 115 Competing team
- 116 Peru native
- 118 Eye piece
- 120 River to the North Sea
- 122 Calendar col.
- 124 Stable bit?
- 125 Private eye



12/07/03

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12-12

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A forest of lights means Christmas in Miami

Dave's World

by Dave Barry
Tribune Media Services



I love Christmas in Miami.

Oh, sure, it's not like Christmas up north. We don't have Jack Frost nipping at our nose: We have Harvey Heat Rash nipping at our underwear regions. And we never look

outside on Christmas morning to discover that the landscape has been magically transformed by a blanket of white, unless a cocaine plane has crashed on our lawn.

But forget the climate. Christmas is not about weather. It's about the holiday spirit, and there is only one true measure of that: the number of colored light bulbs in residential yards.

By that standard, Miami has holiday spirit out the wazoo. We have many homeowners who cross the fine line, in terms of illumination, between "tasteful holiday yard display" and "municipal airport." You know the houses I mean: The ones with a Frosty the Snowman the size of Godzilla; the ones with so many lights in the trees

that you need an umbrella to avoid being struck by the falling bodies of electrocuted squirrels.

I realize there are homeowners like that in other communities; I'm just saying that Miami has them, too. But we have something else: We have a holiday attraction called "Santa's Enchanted Forest," which is hard to describe, although I will try.

Have you ever been to a county or state fair, the kind where the midway is lined with trailers selling, basically, globs of fried grease? Sometimes there's dough in the grease glob; sometimes there's potato; sometimes there's an old issue of National Geographic. It doesn't matter: You're at a fair, so you eat it.

This creates a digestive emergency that causes all the blood in your body to rush to your stomach, thus depriving your brain of oxygen and rendering you so stupid you decide it would be fun to go on a ride with a name like "The Regurg-a-Tator," wherein you willingly get into an insanely dangerous-looking contraption operated by men whose total educational background consists of reading their own tattoos. Next thing you know, you're being whirled violently around, and the air is filled with a festive mixture of laughter, screams, stomach contents, dentures and the occasional artificial eyeball.

If you've ever experienced this brand of carnival fun, you've probably asked your-

self: Where do these things go in the winter? The answer is: to Santa's Enchanted Forest. This is an attraction that springs up in Miami every November next to an expressway. It bills itself as "The World's Largest Christmas Theme Park and Free Carnival," which is accurate, if you define "free" as "costing money."

Santa's Enchanted Forest is a bizarre mutant cross between a carnival midway and the world's tackiest Christmas yard display. You have the carnival food and rides, but you also have 3 million — yes, MILLION — lights. Interspersed among the carnival attractions and food trailers are displays depicting traditional Christmas themes such as Santa Claus, Rudolph, Blues Clues, the Power Puff Girls, and of course, the Nativity. This can be disorienting: You expect to see the Three Wise Men approaching the baby Jesus bearing gifts of corn dogs.

Santa's Enchanted Forest also has (Why not?) animal acts, including alligators and elephants. Last year, they had an act called "Randall's High-Diving Pigs," which features pigs that dive into water, just as the Bible tells us that pigs did to celebrate the very first Christmas.

(On the Web site for Randall's High-Diving Pigs, they have Frequently Asked Questions, including: "Do the pigs like to dive?" The answer given is: "They love to dive! Pigs have no sweat glands, so they

need water to keep them cool." That would explain why you so often see pigs diving in the wild.)

We go to Santa's Enchanted Forest every year to soak up the traditional holiday atmosphere — the lights, the smell of decades-old grease simmering in the South Florida humidity, the carols blaring from loudspeakers, the screams of the Regurg-a-Tator riders, the pigs soaring through the night air. There's always a festive crowd because Miami celebrates Christmas from Thanksgiving through approximately Groundhog Day.

Miami loves to party. We party to celebrate when something good happens, as winning the World Series, which we do like clockwork, every six years. When something bad happens, we party to cheer ourselves up. When nothing is happening, we party because we are bored. If Fidel ever dies, Miami will not regain consciousness for decades.

But my point is this: Christmas is fun in Miami. Come join us, if you can. And if you can't, wherever you are, have a Merry Christmas. Or, as we say in Miami: *Feliz Navidad!* (This is Spanish for "Caution: falling squirrels.")

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

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Two pieces currently on display are Ed Copley's "Late Supper," at far left, and Ted Bergsgaard's "Ten Gallons of Trouble."

New name and more room for local gallery

BY SANDY SUGGITT
VAMONOS EDITOR

This art gallery recently went through a change of location as well as a change of names, but it carries all the well-known artists it did formerly, with more room to grow.

Sonya Smith Galleries is the new name of Creative Decor, and its new location at 1803 Sudderth Drive offers real parking, a boon for any Midtown business.

Anyone who's stepped into either gallery has met the enthusiasm of Gloria Graham, who operates the gallery for Sonya Smith. Graham is one of those people who loves her job and welcomes any opportunity to talk about the work and the artists represented by the gallery.

One of her favorites, it appears, is Ed Copley, one of the founders of Western Artists of America. (Ed Holmes, another founder, is represented by the Scottsdale, Ariz., Sonya Smith Galleries and some of his work will be coming to the Ruidoso gallery this weekend, Graham said.)

Other favorites include pottery by Glencoe artist Roy Brown, bronzes by Ron Stewart (also a member of Western Artists of America), paintings by Rico Lopez of Spain, furniture by Carlos Islas, clay sculptures by Terry Slonaker, paintings by Wei Tei, fountains by Chas. White.

Well, actually, Graham's favorites are

all the works in the gallery.

"I have always thought it'd be fun and interesting and rewarding to work in a gallery because you're around so many different artists, styles and techniques, and it's been a real inspiration to me to get back into my own art," she said. "I just adore it; it's such a wonderful, beautiful environment."

Graham moved to Ruidoso in 1989 after teaching art in the Isleta School District for 15 years.

"I got really tired of the crowded classes and the big city," she said. "I would come up here every weekend, but I was wearing out my car. Finally I went in and resigned."

Smith spends her summers in Ruidoso to cool off, sometimes coming to town from Scottsdale to bring new art work for the gallery here. She's been in the art business for 28 years, Graham said, and knows what she's doing.

Smith isn't new to Ruidoso. She ran Smith Limited Galleries at 662 Sudderth Drive from 1978 to 1994, when she decided to leave Ruidoso and move to Hawaii. Eventually she opened the gallery in Scottsdale, not thinking of returning to New Mexico.

One day the man constructing the Midtown building where Creative Decor

See GALLERY, page 16

PHOTOS BY SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF



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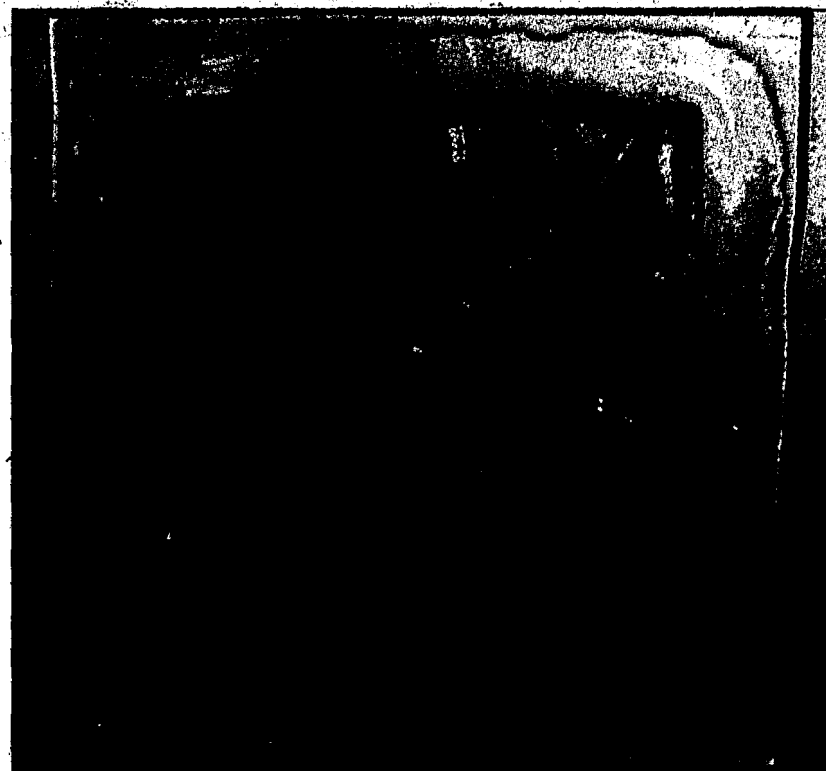
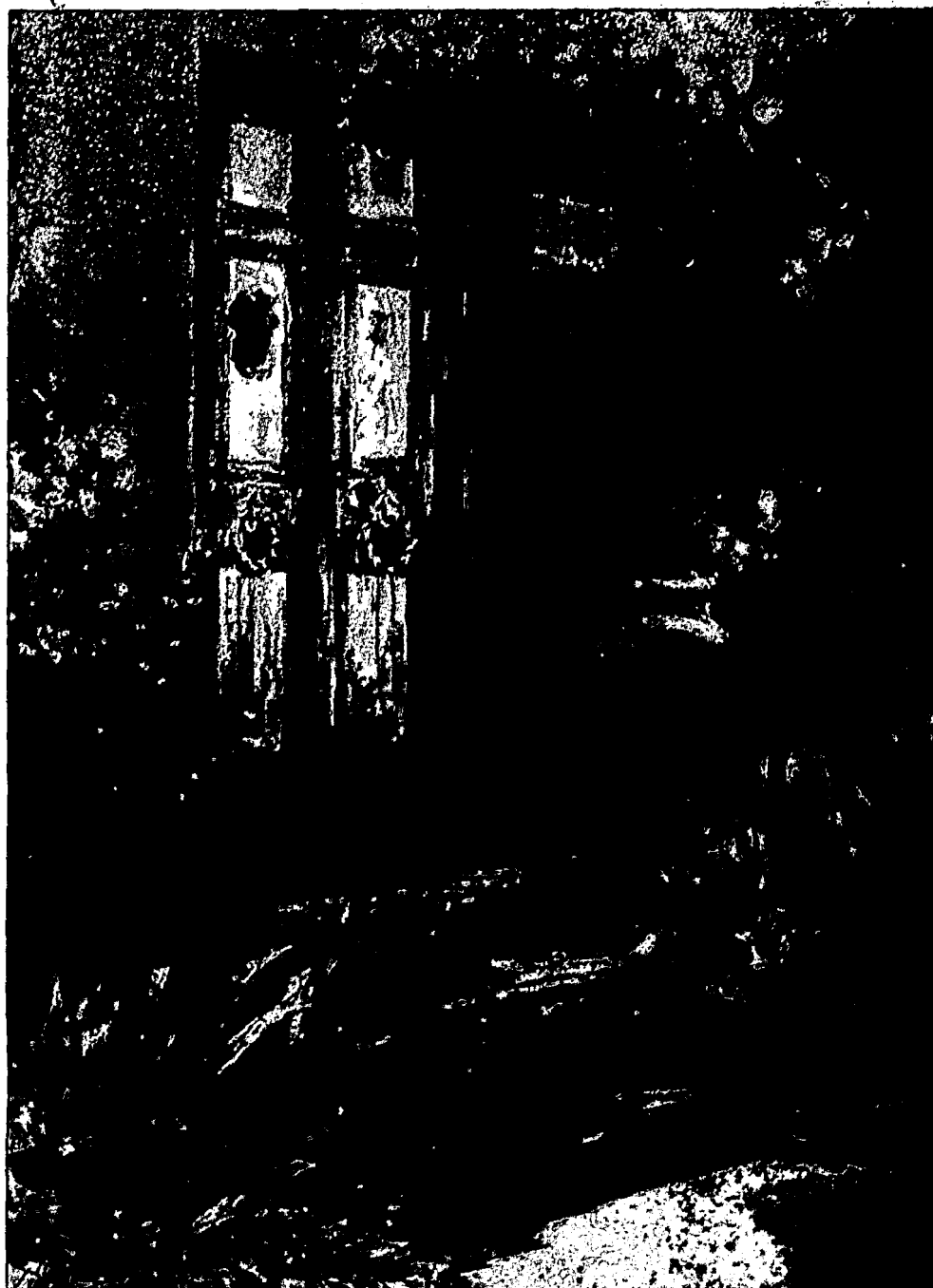
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I	R	A	O	T	O	E	R	O	U	T	Y	A	N	G				
P	E	R	I	L	P	S	A	T	W	A	I	F	W	E	N	D	S	
					C	O	B	S	Y	O	U	N	G	N	O	U	N	O
A	N	G	O	R	A	E	M	T	E	S	P	A	N	O	N			
S	O	A	N	D	S	O	S	E	E	M	E	S	P	A	R	E	M	E
S	L	R	S	S	O	W	R	E	A	E	X	E	T	E	R			
T	A	B	P	I	N	O	T	B	O	S	S	W	R	E	N			
S	N	A	F	U	A	R	I	L	H	E	M	I	L	A	H	D	I	
					G	O	B	I	K	N	E	W	U	F	O	S	A	I
S	U	E	R	N	O	M	A	D	H	A	T	T	E	R	E	Z	R	A
E	N	C	E	S	W	E	I	L	W	C	O	V	E	T				
A	T	A	S	U	N	N	I	S	K	O	A	L	W	E	L	B	Y	
G	U	N	F	I	R	E	N	O	T	A	B	L	E	T	E	N	N	I
O	N	O	R	D	E	R	C	A	L	L	I	N	E	T	S	U	K	E
D	E	N	I	E	R	S	A	T	E	I	T	S	C	O	O	F	E	R

12/07/03

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION

A ₁	B ₃	R ₁	A ₁	D ₂	E ₁	D ₂	RACK 1 =	61
L ₁	E ₁	F ₄	T ₁	I ₁	S ₁	T ₁	RACK 2 =	61
F ₄	A ₁	D ₂	A ₁	B ₃	L ₁	E ₁	RACK 3 =	63
D ₂	O ₁	M ₃	I ₁	N ₁	O ₁		RACK 4 =	27
PAR SCORE 155-165							TOTAL	212

Jumbles: EXILE GIANT DEFILE AERATE
Answer: To a poker player down on his luck, a winning hand means — A GREAT DEAL



PHOTOS BY SANDY SUGGITT/STAFF

Works currently displayed at Sonya Smith Gallery include Wei Tei's "Summer Song" (above), fused glass by Sayed Ahmad (top right), pottery by area artist Roy Brown, furniture by Carlos Islas and a fired clay sculpture called Pueblo Maiden by Terry Slonaker (right) and Rico Lopez's "A Lesson of Life" (far right).

GALLERY: Operator takes pleasure in working with artists

Continued from page 15

was later housed called and asked if she would like to open a gallery there. She wrote down his telephone number and tossed it in the wastebasket.

"Later, all of a sudden, I thought some of the nicest things in life happen when you're not expecting them, but when you allow things to happen, sometimes it opens doors you never dreamed of," Smith said. "So I dug it out of the trash

and thought, 'Why not check it out.'"

"The more I thought about it, the more I thought this could be nice, having a place to come in the summer and get out of the heat, and I have always loved Ruidoso ... I ended up with a gallery in downtown Ruidoso."

Creative Decor opened in 2000 and two months ago moved down a few blocks and became Sonya Smith Galleries.

Some of the same artists are in both

the Scottsdale and Ruidoso galleries, and one thing they have in common is that they are artists with reputations and followings, award-winning artists. Smith said she wanted to bring that to Ruidoso.

"I've been in the business for so long, I'm very fortunate that well-known artists do come to me wanting me to represent them," she said.

Talking about impressionist and expressionist painter Rico Lopez, Smith said he walked into her Scottsdale gallery

one day and fell in love with the gallery. He contacted Smith and asked if she would be interested in carrying his work — and she jumped at it.

Smith is full of praise for the work of Glencoe artist Roy Brown, calling him "an artist, inside and out. He could do whatever he wants to do as far as art, he has the talent, the education, but he chooses to do pottery, and thank goodness, because his pottery is art, not normal pottery."



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Guest house \$650,000 #98629

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MAIN COMPLEX OF THE ENCHANTMENT RANCH

This artistic home and studio are tasteful, secluded, and beautiful. Courtyard, waterfalls, and ponds provide a fantastic ambiance on five acres. Custom antique features throughout. \$480,000 #10301



STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL "ENCHANTMENT RANCH"

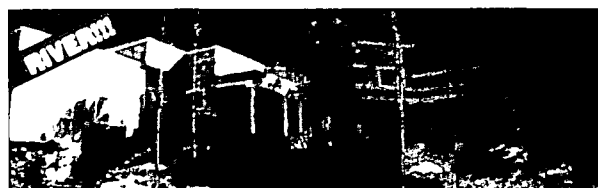
This exquisite complex is perfectly placed on 17.35 acres. Serene setting. Amazing main house, artistic in every way, accented by courtyard w/ water fall & ponds. Charming studio guest house and caretaker's quarters, too. Call for pkg. Qualified buyers only. \$799,500 #97950



218 ACRE SPREAD IN THE HONDO VALLEY

Impressive, well-kept 5 br. home with lovely views. Livestock pens. Large shed and barn. Multi-purpose areas for horses and cattle. As the Cartwrights would say, "BONANZA" \$470,000 #10296

HOMES ON THE RIVER & UPPER CANYON



SPECTACULAR TERRITORIAL HOME ON THE BONITO

This tasteful Southwest home is desirable in every way. The 5 acres w/ river frontage is the perfect setting for this spacious home w/ 4 fireplaces, 18 ft. ceilings and a 3-car garage. Many extras - a must see! \$498,000 #98838



THE "IDYLIC CABIN IN THE WOODS"

Great upper canyon retreat. Compact and cute, cute, cute! - can sleep up to 8! Wood flooring. Wonderful lot and the perfect deck for enjoying the tall pines and fresh air! \$139,500 #10229



GRAND HOME W/ PRIME RIVER FRONTAGE!

1.37 acres on the river in town. This 4 br. home has approx. 8000 sq ft. Prestigious and perfect for entertaining. Possible B&B! 3 fireplaces, 3 garages & domestic well too! Wonderful home \$899,000 #98802

ALTO LAKES GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB HOMES



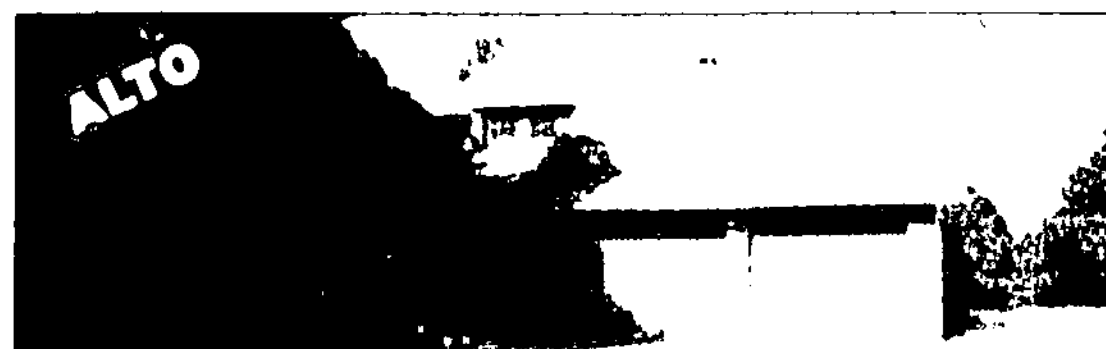
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ELEGANT DEER PARK HOME W/ COURTYARD!
 This full membership 5 br home, built in 1999 has a wonderful plan which is beautifully executed. 12' ceilings. One level, 3 car garage. Fabulous courtyard for enjoying amazing New Mexico days. **\$599,900 #99951**



ELEGANT ADOBE HOME W/ AMAZING PLAN
 that includes an 8'x70' indoor California lap pool & observation tower. Fabulous views! Charming brick floors, boveda ceilings, and Kiva fireplaces. Furnished too! **\$1,450,000 #99254**



DEER PARK BEAUTY ON LEVEL LOT IN TALL PINES
 This full golf home is perfectly placed on a quiet cul-de-sac. You'll love the open kitchen/family area, wet bar, and wonderful windows! Reduced to **\$339,900! #97058**



ALTO BEAUTY ON THE 16TH FAIRWAY!
 This wonderful full golf home is situated on 1.5 lots in the tall pines of Alto. Beautiful rock accents inside & out. Expansive windows, vaulted ceilings, & beautiful wood create an elegant mountain home. Large master with its own cozy fireplace. **\$314,900 #10264**



SPACIOUS 4 BR CEDAR HOME ON 1 ACRE
 You'll appreciate the quality construction in this full golf Alto home. Great master suite w/ whirlpool, custom kitchen, vaulted ceilings and extra large family room. Beautiful redwood decks too! **\$420,000 #98881**

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FABULOUS CUSTOM ALTO HOME ON CORNER LOT
 This Deer Park 3 Br. has a study & a family game room, 3 car garage, wet bar, charming upscaled kitchen. Full golf, beautiful fenced yard adjacent to back deck - perfect for entertaining. One owner. **\$489,000 #10269**



SECLUDED ALTO HOME ON CUL-DE-SAC
 What a beautiful location for this 3 br home! This well-kept home has multiple decks for enjoying the mt. air. Full membership and great hot tub room too! **\$285,000 #99615**



ELEGANT ALTO RESIDENCE ON SECLUDED CUL-DE-SAC
 Exquisite rock work accents this sophisticated mountain home with extraordinary floor plan. Open concept plan with beautiful patios - perfect for entertaining. Spacious master suite and bath. Cheerful sun room for reading or passing a peaceful afternoon deer watching. **\$449,500 #96311**

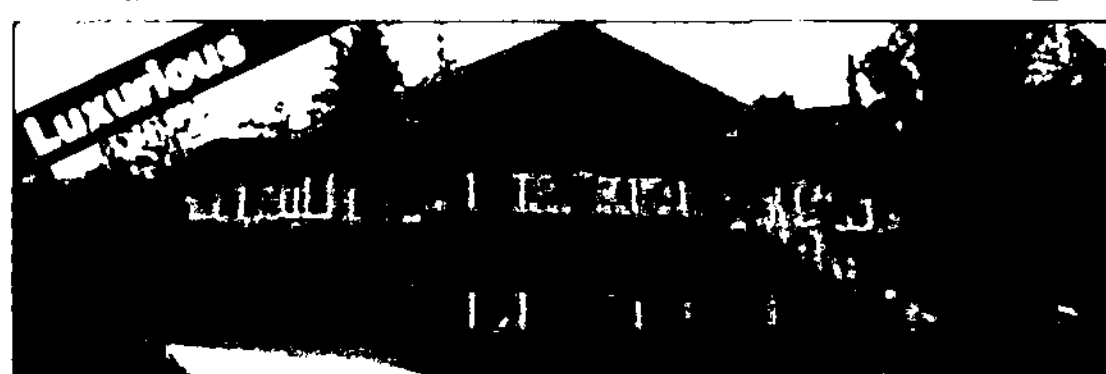


SPACIOUS AND ELEGANT!
 This full golf Alto townhome has two master bedrooms and nice views too. Tasteful furnishings and window treatments. Gerard metal roof. Pamper yourself with this luxurious unit. **\$399,500 #99143**

GREAT VIEW HOMES



LIVE IN ULTIMATE LUXURY ON 6 ACRES
 Dynamic views in every direction are yours from this fabulous 4 br custom home. Gourmet kitchen. Amazing master suite. Exquisite interior will make your every day a pampered experience. **\$789,500 #96520**



AMAZING VIEW HOME WITH ELEGANT INTERIOR
 This luxurious 4 br home is the epitome of Southwest elegance. Beautifully furnished. Gourmet kitchen. Open concept living area. Fabulous decks. Great bar and game room. Upgraded features throughout. **\$599,500 #99886**



AMAZING VIEWS OF SIERRA BLANCA!
 A wonderful home, perfectly placed and accented with exquisite architectural antiques. A virtually maintenance-free exterior. Fabulous plan. Picture perfect deck for enjoying our mountain climate. A must see! **\$469,000 #98538**

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GREAT ONE LEVEL HOME UNDER \$110,000!

Fabulous trees and beautiful French doors highlight this open concept home with great porches. Nice plan and located near The Links golf course. Garage too! **\$106,900 #10183**



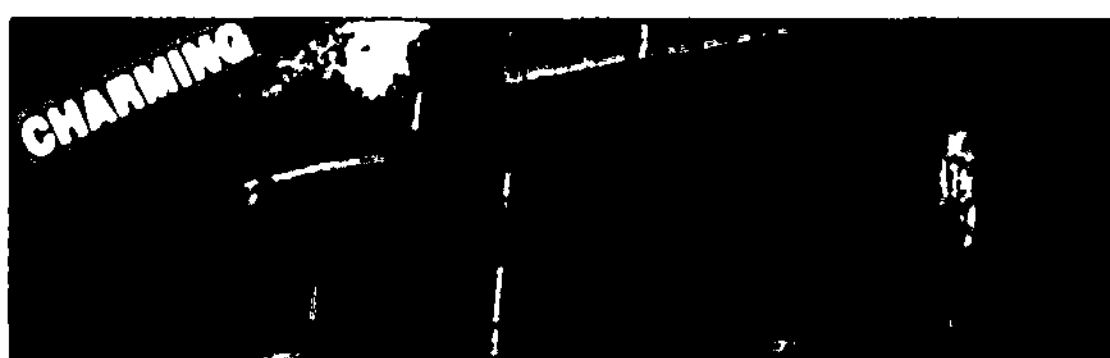
FABULOUS MOUNTAIN HOME ON QUIET CUL-DE-SAC

This beautiful home w/ white pine interior is tucked amidst the tall pines in the heart of town. Impeccable condition. Adjacent lot available. Fabulous setting. Great room can be converted back to lap pool easily. Unique & desirable. **\$299,500 #98267**



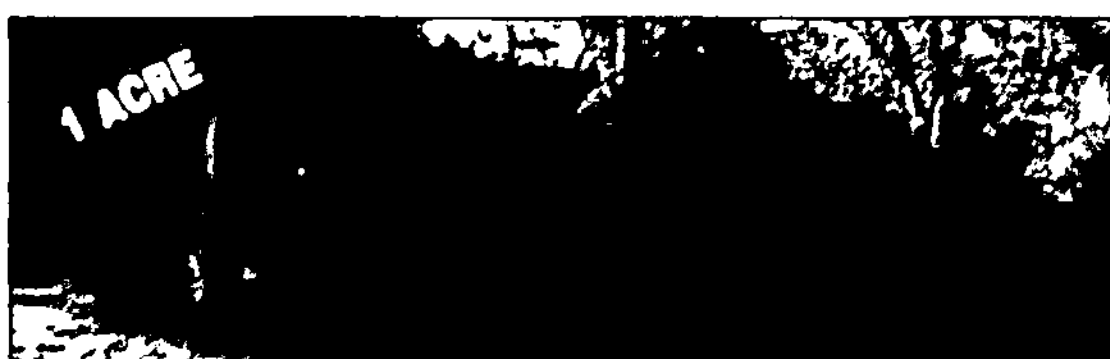
QUALITY, PRESTIGIOUS CUSTOM-BUILT HOME

You'll love this one-level stucco beauty on a picture-perfect lot. Tile roof and professional landscaping complete this wonderful home. Great patios, 2 fireplaces and Sierra Blanca view, too! **\$419,500 #98862**



GREAT 3 BR. IN THE DOWNS

You'll love the fantastic view of Ruidoso Downs from this home. 3 baths are a bonus. Proximity to track is an excellent feature for horse enthusiasts, but you don't have to be one to love this house! **\$118,500 #10095**



SECLUSION IN THE HEART OF TOWN!

Great views from this one level with spacious living and dining area! Situated on approx. 1 ac. featuring an English brick and beamed kitchen. 3 bay windows for watching the deer. Large deck and carport too! **\$169,500 #99924**



4 BR. IN THE TALL, COOL PINES!

A corner lot is the perfect place for this great 4 br. plan w/ living & family room. Garage and furnished too! Just bring your suitcase and start to enjoy mountain living. **\$249,000 #99421**



A REAL BARGAIN AND SB VIEWS TOO!

Value and views are both yours in this spacious 5 Br. 3 Ba contemporary beauty. Upstairs den, 2 car garage, and additional workshop make this a spacious plan you'll love. Check out the \$ per sq ft! **\$275,000 #98356**



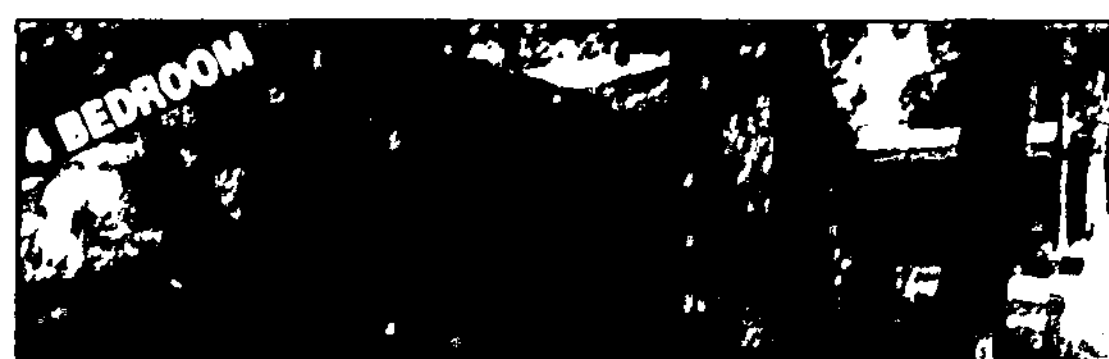
SIERRA BLANCA VIEW!

Charming 1 level, stucco, 4 bedroom home. Corner lot, water well. Covered patio for entertaining & sunroom too! A must see! **\$234,000 #99222**



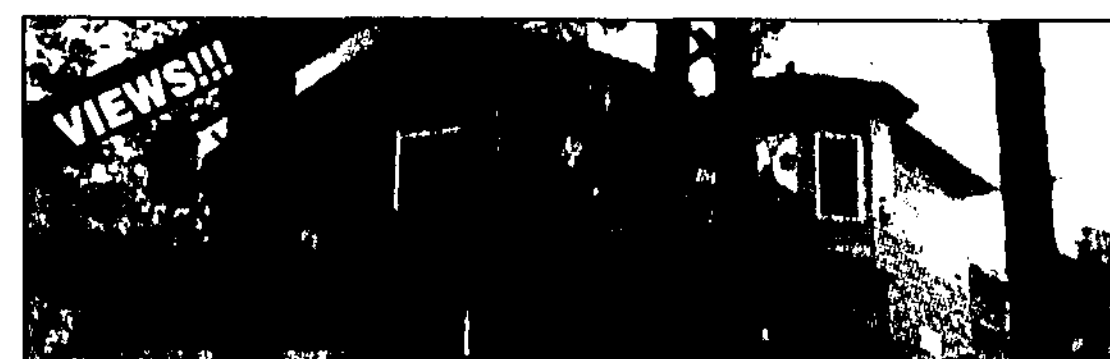
GREAT HOME WITH CREEK FRONTAGE!

You'll love the setting of this desirable home with oak floors, expansive windows, and vaulted ceilings. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Great setting, garage, and covered deck. A must see! **\$264,000 #10021**



CHARMING ONE LEVEL ON CORNER LOT!

Practicality and charm are yours in this 4 Br. home located in a nice neighborhood close to town. Living room w/ fireplace insert, and den w/ wet bar. Convenient one level. Carport too! **\$168,500 #99683**



OUTSTANDING SIERRA BLANCA VIEW HOME

This well-arranged 4 br. home is situated on a great corner lot, and has 2 master suites. Wonderful decks. Living and den areas. Partially fenced. A very appealing home! **\$395,000 #99821**



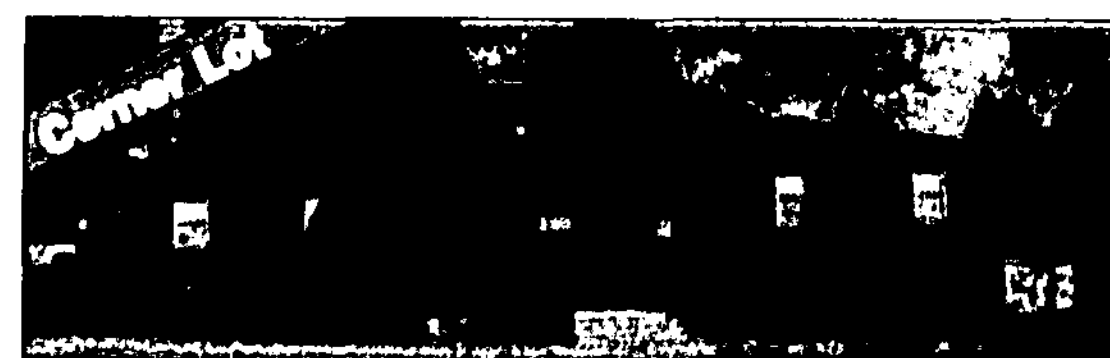
EXCITING HOME AT AN AMAZING PRICE PER SQ.FT.!

This 4 br. home is in beautiful condition, and has a living area plus a den/library, 3 car garage & great Sierra Blanca view!! Master w/ adjacent hot tub area. Very nice. **\$359,000 #10049**



GREAT VIEW HOME ON .99 ACRES!

You'll love the location of this unique home in Indian Hills. Nicely remodeled. New windows too. Large decks, lofty ceilings, dog run, and workshop too. **\$216,500 #99430**



CHARMING HOME WITH EXCEPTIONAL PLAN!

On a great corner lot in the heart of town is this wonderful 3 br. home with easy, level access. Lots of storage. Great deck! RV parking just an exceptional setup! Must see. **\$249,500 #10358**



CHARMING STUCCO WITH COURTYARD UNDER \$300,000

New Mexico living made easy and stylish. This 3200 sq. ft. beauty features an appealing courtyard, 3 fireplaces, and a rustic ambiance that defines New Mexico chic. **\$299,999 #10151**



GREAT CONDO IN WHITE MOUNTAIN

This 2 Br. condo is located in a really scenic area close to The Links golf course, and walking path surrounding it. Furnished and under \$100K! Close to dining and shopping. won't last long! **\$98,500 #10079**

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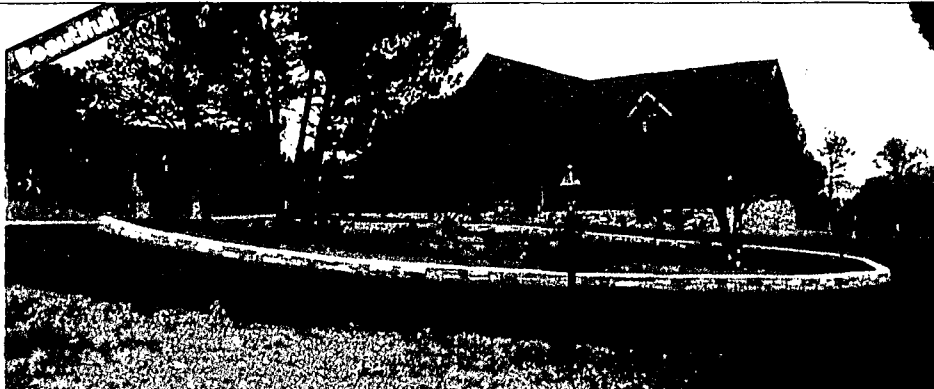
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SPECTACULAR HOMES WITH ACREAGE

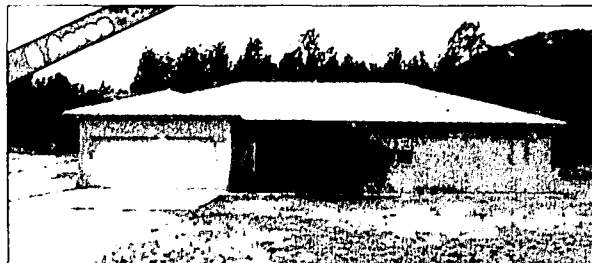
ELEGANT MOUNTAIN HOME ON 61 ACRES

Live beautifully in this custom oak and Tennessee limestone home with commanding views in every direction. Gourmet kitchen. lofty ceilings. Tasteful in every way. Luxurious New Mexico home for you and the horses too. (Qualified buyers only) \$1,975,000. #98232



HORSE RANCH WITH SPACIOUS HOME ON 6.3 ACRES!

This sprawling Rancho Ruidoso home has beautiful mountain views and is only 30 minutes to track! Has great facilities to breed, foal, and raise your winners! Apartment for guests or help. Adjacent acreage available too! \$675,000 #92024



EXCEPTIONAL STUCCO HOME ON ACREAGE

This attractive one-level home on approx. 5.13 acres in Shangrila has it all - a serene setting and a great floor plan! 4th bedroom can be a study. Lusciously large master suite is the perfect retreat after a long day. This home is a must see! \$389,000 #97590



SPECTACULAR CUSTOM HOME IN SONTERRA!

Over 5000 sq ft. of luxury and style. 3 fireplaces, big views, and fully furnished too! Upscaled kitchen of course! 3 car garage. On over 5 acres! \$799,950 #99380



SECLUSION, COUNTRY CHARM AND ACREAGE TOO!

This horse property is ready to go. Approx. 17.25 acres w/ great views. Old West style barn, w/ pipe runs, tack room, and 3-bay workshop. Fenced! Nice home too! \$495,000 #93526

COMMERCIAL



1.53 ACRES COMMERCIAL IN THE HEART OF TOWN

Now operating as the Blue Spruce RV Park. 24 RV spaces with individual meters. 3 additional rentals. Walk to downtown or Rio Ruidoso. Great potential! \$695,000 #99072



GREAT COMMERCIAL PROPERTY W/ HWY FRONTAGE

Real estate only! Approx. 2.24 acres w/ approx. 569 ft. Hwy frontage. Approx. 2,500 sq ft. building w/ office, shop, grease pit, two 16 ft. overhead doors & storage. Excellent, multipurpose commercial location. \$225,000 #93288

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